

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1615
ANSWERED ON 13.03.2025

UNDERWATER EXPLORATIONS IN DWARKA

1615. DR. PARMAR JASHVANTSINH SALAMSINH:
SHRI MAYANKBHAI JAYDEVBHAI NAYAK:
SHRI BABURAM NISHAD:

Will the **Minister of CULTURE** be pleased to state:

- (a) specific objectives the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) aims to achieve through the ongoing underwater explorations off the coast of Dwarka;
- (b) the technological methods and equipment being used by the ASI team during these underwater explorations; and
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to ensure the protection and preservation of underwater cultural heritage discovered through these explorations?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) The objectives of the ongoing underwater explorations off the coast of Dwarka and Bet Dwarka are to search, document, and study submerged archaeological remains besides imparting training to archaeologists. It also aims to ascertain the antiquity of the recovered objects through scientific analysis of sediments, archaeological and marine deposits.
- (b) Present fieldworks carried-out by the Underwater Archaeology Wing of the Archaeological Survey of India included use of diving apparatus, boats for survey, and underwater digital cameras for search and documentation.
- (c) Ancient monuments, archaeological sites and remains in India, whether on land or underwater, are governed as per the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. Underwater Archaeology Wing also follows international good practices in the field of underwater cultural heritage.
