

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2610
TO BE ANSWERED ON MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2018**

**GEOLOGICAL STUDIES OF THE FORMATION BETWEEN PAMBAN
AND SRI LANKA**

2610. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI :

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that US based TV channels are claiming that the formation commonly known as Adam's Bridge or Ram Setu which separates Gulf of Mannar and Palk Street, is man-made and not natural;**
- (b) whether Government has any proposal to conduct geological studies of the formation to ascertain the facts; and**
- (c) if so the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)**

- (a) Yes Sir, Geological Survey of India (GSI), under the Ministry of Mines is aware of such reports in the social media.**
- (b) Marine and Coastal Survey Division of GSI has already conducted studies around Mandapam, Rameshwaram, Dhanushkodi and Adam's Bridge in 2003-2004 and 2004-2005.**
- (c) The findings from the studies are summarized below:**
 - 1. Rameshwaram island is a 1,25,000 years old coral island of 27 km length.**
 - 2. Five sandy islands of Adam's Bridge is situated within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) limits of India. These islands are composed of fine to medium grained light brown sands with marine shells.**
 - 3. The island, Old Dhanushkodi was drilled upto 205m and various geological events of past around 50 lakh years (5 million annum) was reconstructed.**
 - 4. The present water depth between Adam's Bridge Island is 2-7 m. As per the radio carbon dating on the drilled samples, the sea level was at 118 m below the present sea level nearly 20,000 years ago and at 60m below present level nearly 10,000 years ago, and 17 m below present sea level nearly 6000 years ago totally exposing the sea bed between India and Sri Lanka in the past leaving few patches of shallow water pools.**
 - 5. However the field geologic observation and drilling data could not bring out any indications or evidences of manmade structures in the present day seabed or in the sub surface level between Dhanushkodi tip and Adam's Bridge island within the EEZ of India.**

The findings from the above studies could not be published as the data used in the project is 'Restricted' and the matter is subjudice [SLP(c) No. 20758/2005 - regarding Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project in the Supreme Court of India].
