

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2834
ANSWERED ON- 07/08/2023

RECOVERY OF MISSING ANTIQUES

2834. SHRI KUMBAKUDI SUDHAKARAN
SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA
SHRI T.N. PRATHAPAN

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:-

- (a) the number of antiques from Jammu & Kashmir, registered under the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act of 1972, that are currently reported missing or stolen;
- (b) the details of investigations that are reported 'closed' by police and central investigation agencies;
- (c) whether the Government plans to recover the antiques that are still missing; and
- (d) the number and details of museums and collections in other countries who have agreed to return missing or stolen antiques to India?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE, TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

- (a) & (b) Total 1204 antiquities have been registered in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir under the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972, out of which, one antiquity was reported missing in the year 1983. The case is under investigation.
- (c) & (d) Government is committed to recover the antiquities that are still missing. Whenever, theft of an antiquity is reported, FIR is lodged in concerned police station and 'Look Out Notice' is issued to law enforcement agencies including Custom Exit Channels to keep vigil to trace stolen antiquity and prevent its illegal export. In case, antiquity is traced, case is pursued by concerned law enforcement agency in coordination with the Archaeological Survey of India for recovery.
Whenever any such antiquity of Indian origin surfaces abroad, Archaeological Survey of India takes up the matter with the Indian Embassies/Missions abroad through Ministry of External Affairs for their retrieval. Archaeological Survey of India has retrieved back 251 antiquities from foreign countries from the year 1976 to 2023, of which 238 antiquities have been retrieved since 2014. No agreement has been made for the return of missing or stolen antiques to India with any museum abroad.
