

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TOURISM AND CULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4449  
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2002  
THEFT OF ARTEFACTS FROM ASI MONUMENTS  
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

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

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a news-item under the caption `ASI sleepless over stolen idols, more security at sites` appearing in Indian Express dated March 14, 2002;
- (b) if so, whether a large number of artefacts have been stolen from monuments protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI);
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the circumstances under which artefacts were stolen;
- (e) whether an inquiry has since been made and responsibility fixed; and
- (f) the steps taken to step up security at the sites protected by the ASI?

**Answer**

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) & (c) Information in this regard for the last three years is given in the Annexure.
- (d) A variety of factors including inadequate police cover in remote areas, inability to provide watch and ward in each monument and poor communication facilities have encouraged the thefts.
- (e) Action taken has been indicated in the Annexure.
- (f) Armed Guards in addition to private security have been deployed at the selected centrally protected monuments and museums under the ASI.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARA (b), (c) & (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4449 TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.04.2002.

Statement showing the number of thefts cases during the last three year (State-wise from 1st January, 1999 to till date)

S.No.	Name of State	Name of Monument/ Sites & the District	Description of the Objects	Date of theft	Status of the Case	Action Taken
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Gandikota Fort, Gandikota, District	Cuddapah Top portion of metal kalasa with crescent fixed on the top of southern minaret of Great Mosque in the fort.	3.5.1999	FIR lodged	Complaint lodged with the police
2.	-do-	Gandikota Fort, Gandikota, District	Cuddapah Metal crescent. It is located atop the metal kalasa fixed on the northern minaret of the great mosque.	1.6.1999	do	-do-

3. -do- >From the compound of Mutilated statue of 27.11.2000 Recovered -  
Museum building, Buddha, Lime stone  
Ghantasala, Distt.  
Krishna
4. -do- Sh. Bhavanarayanawamy 4-5.2.2001 FIR lodged Case was registered  
temple, Bapatla and investigated by  
District Guntur Lime stone pillar with S.P.Guntur, no clues  
carvings of a five found so far.  
hooded snake and stupa  
motifs and inscriptions
5. Bihar Jain temple Vaibhav Three sculptures 15.8.2001 FIR lodged Under investigation  
Hills, Rajgir (1) standing Mahavir and out of  
(2) standing Mahavir three, one  
(3) Parasnath has been  
recovered
6. Delhi Tomb of Princess Jahan  
Ara, Nizamuddin,  
New Delhi An ornamental Jade  
piece, 1681 AD 13.09.1999 FIR lodged Matter has been  
reported to the CBI  
for investigation.
7. Gujarat Open Sky Museum, Patan,  
District Mehsana Two idols  
(1) Standing Ganesha  
(2) Brahma 9.11.2001 do Enquiry conducted  
and responsible  
Monument attendants  
suspended.
- 8 Karnataka Bhoganandiwarra temple,  
Nandi, Distt. Kolar Stone kalasa 2.10.1999 do FIR lodged
9. -do- Ruins of Hampi,  
District, Bellary Lower left hand of  
Sasivekalu Ganesh 9.7. 2001 do do
10. Madhya Pradesh Group of temples,  
Bateshwar, District  
Morena Carved stone slab,  
8-9th century 17.2.1999 do FIR lodged, the concerned  
staff suspended & transferred.
11. -do- Somnath temple, Budgaon,  
District Katni Head of Vishnu(stone), 22.8.1999 do do  
11-12th cent. AD  
Bust of Lakshmi,  
11th-12th Century AD;  
Male Deity probably  
Vishnu, 11th-12th  
Century AD; and A  
portion of door jamb  
containing a human  
figure, 11-12th  
Century AD
12. -do- Shiv Temple, Kadwaha,  
District Guna Seventeen heads of  
sculptures, 11th-12th  
Century AD 18.9.1999 Out of seventeen do  
only four have  
been recovered
13. Madhya Pradesh Chausath Yogini,  
Bheraghat, District  
Jabalpur Four sculptures 7.3.2000 All the four -  
sculptures have  
been recovered
- 14 -do- Jain group of temples,

- Budhi Chanderi,  
Distt. Guna Head of Tirthankar  
(Shantinath) 19.5.2000 FIR lodged. do
15. -do- Johilla temples at  
Amarkantaka, District  
Shahdol Image of deity  
probably Vishnu 8.9. 2000 do do
16. -do- Mohaj Mata Temple,  
Terahi, Distt. Shivpuri One sculpture of  
Ganesha 15.9. 2001 -do- -do-
17. -do- Shiva Temple (Kakanmath  
Temple) at Sunahia,  
District Morena One sculpture i.e  
image of Apsara 20.12. 2001 -do- -do-
18. -do- Inside the temple,  
Garhi Surwaya at  
Surwaya, District  
Shivpuri 1. Heads of both images  
of Lakshminarayan  
2. Fixed image of  
shiv-parvati 24.1. 2002 -do- -do-
19. -do- Rukmani Math locally  
known as Ambabai temple,  
Kundalpur, District  
Sagar Standing couples of  
Jain God and Goddess 5.2.2002 -do- -do-
20. -do- Sculpture shed ,  
Gyaraspur, District  
Vidisa 1. Head of female  
2. Icon of Jain  
Tirthankar Mahavir 2.3.2002 -do- -do-
- 21 -do- Temples at Amarkantaka,  
District Shahdol Image of Vishnu 22.3. 2002 Recovered -
- 22 Orissa Mahadev Temple, Pali,  
Distt. Korba, Chhatisgarh Three sculptures 26.8.2000 FIR lodged Punishment imposed  
on concerned staff  
as per enquiry report.
- 23 Orissa Lingaraj Temple ,  
Bhubaneshwar Theft of jewellery 5.11.2001 -do- The State Government  
of Orissa has referred  
the matter to the State  
Crime Branch.
- 24 -do- Jagannath Temple, Puri Two idols  
i. Madanmohan  
ii. Narayan 11.11.2001 One recovered  
i.e. Madan mohan -do-
25. Rajasthan Sas-Bahu Temple,  
Nagda, District Udaipur Two stone sculptures  
of Surasundari, first  
quarter of 11th  
century A.D. 30.1.1999 FIR lodged An enquiry was conducted  
and disciplinary action  
was taken against the  
concerned staff.
- 26 -do- Ruins of Garhganj,  
Atru, District Baran Two stone female figures  
standing apsarasses 21.9.1999 -do- -do-
- 27 -do- Ancient Ruins and  
Structural Remains,  
Krishnavilas, District  
Baran Two no. Jain Tirthankars 24.9.1999 -do- -do-
- 28 -do- Sas Bahu Temple, Nagda,  
Distt. Udaipur One stone Surasundari  
sculpture 7.1.2000 -do- -do-
- 29 -do- Ancient Ruins and  
Structural Remains,  
Krishnavilas, District  
Baran Four armed standing  
stone figure holding  
varadaksha, mongoose  
and kamandalu 7.1.2000 Recovered -
- 30 Rajasthan Ruins of Char Khamba 31.1.2000 FIR lodged -do-  
Temple, Krishnavilas,

- District Baran Female dancer and musician carved on a stone.  
Four armed standing deity probably Bhairavi-Shiva.  
Four armed standing Dikpala probably Varuna
- 31 -do- Sas-Bahu Temple, Nagda, District Udaipur Four bracket female figures from the ceiling of the Bahu sabhamandapa of the temple 17.2.2000 -do-; one -do- sculpture has been recovered
- 32 -do- Mandleshwar Temple, Arthuna, District Banswara One bracket female figure carved out on stone 3.3.2000 Recovered -
- 33 -do- Bawandeori Jain Temple, Kumbhalgarh, District Rajsamand One bracket female figure from the ceiling of sabhamandapa 29.2.2000 Recovered -
- 34 -do- Ancient Temple Kanerki-Putli, Distt. Bhilwara One stone sculpture of Bhairava 10.6.2000 -do- -do-
- 35 -do- Ancient Ruins and Structural Remains, Krishnavilas, Distt. Baran Two sculptures of dwarapalas 20.5.2000 -do- -do-
- 36 -do- Old Temple near Chandrabhaga at Jhalrapatan, Distt. Jhalawar Three stonesculptures 28.6.2000 Recovered -
- 37 -do- Ancient Ruins and Structural Remains, Krishnavilas, Distt. Baran Two no.stone sculptures of dwarapala 11.11.2000 Recovered -
- 38 -do- Ancient Ruins Kalyanpur Distt. Udaipur Three stone sculptures 21.12.2000 FIR Lodged -do-
- 39 Rajasthan Kumbhalgarh Fort, Distt. Rajasamand One standing female figure holding a child 28.12.2000 -do- -do-
- 40 -do- Ashtamata temple, Badoli, Distt. Chittaurgarh Two female figures carved on pilaster 27.1.2001 -do- -do-
- 41 -do- Undeshwar temple, Bijolia, Distt. Bhilwara One stone sculpture 24.2.2001 -do- -do-
- 42 -do- Ancient Ruins and Structural Remains, Krishnavilas, Distt. Baran Broken head of Vishnu 10.11.2001 -do- -do-
- 43 Tamilnadu JayamKondam, Ariyalur, Distt. Image of Jaina of Tirthankara. 09.1.1999 Recovered -
- 44 -do- Fort Ranjangudi Distt. Perambalur A stone idol of Ganesha 15.7.2000 FIR lodged Necessary action is in progress
- 45 -do- Fort Museum, Chennai Five medals in the gallery IV in the museum 16.7.2001 FIR lodged -do-
- 46 -do- Siva Temple, Velikanthapuram, Distt. Perambalur Five bronzes 02.3.2002 FIR lodged; Vishnu bronze recovered -do-
- 47 Uttar Pradesh Skandgupt Pillar and

- excavated Remains,  
Bhitari, Distt. Gazipur Stone sculpture 24.07.1999 FIR lodged FIR lodged
- 48 -do- Hakim's House, Fatehpur  
Sikri, Distt. Agra Seven ornamental red  
sandstone jali, 16th  
century A.D. 31.8.1999 Recovered -
- 49 Uttaranchal Shiva Temple,  
Lakhamandal, Distt.  
Dehradun Three sculptures from  
sculpture shed 24.2.2001 FIR lodged FIR lodged, matter  
referred to the CBI
- 50 -do- Rudramath Temple,  
Gopeshwar, Distt.  
Chamoli Silver image 19.3.2002 Image recovered -do-
- 51 West Bengal Basudev Temple,  
Bansberia, Distt. Hoogly Six Terracotta Plaques 9.12.2000 FIR lodged Enquiry conducted,  
no official found  
guilty
- 52 -do- Basuli Devi temple,  
Nanoor, Distt. Birbhum Image of goddess  
Bishalakshmi 17.3.2001 FIR lodged -do-
- 53 -do- Lalji Temple within  
Rajbari temple complex  
Kalna, Distt. Bardhaman Idol 25.8.2001 Recovered -