

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:222
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2003
LEGISLATION AGAINST THEFT OF ANTIQUES
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

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

- (a) whether the Government have decided to amend the law to check theft of antiques;
- (b) if so, the main features of the proposed amendment Act;
- (c) whether the Act proposes to provide punitive power to CBI to carry out search and seizure operations on its own;
- (d) by when the said legislation is likely to take effect;
- (e) whether the CBI has over 15000 antiquities lying with it; and
- (f) if so, the efforts being made by the Government to recover these antique items?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

- (a) to (d) The amendments to the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 are under process. These include empowering CBI to carry out search and seizure operations, etc.
- (e) As per information given by CBI, 536 antiquities are lying with them.
- (f) Since these are court properties, these can be taken over by the Government only after court cases are over.