

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1959
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2000
ARTEFACTS AND RELICS TAKEN AWAY FROM DARBAR SAHIB IN 1984
SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the artefacts, relics and other valuable texts which were taken away by the Indian Army officials during the attack on 'Darbar Sahib' in June 1984;
- (b) the steps taken by the Defence forces to preserve these heritage articles; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government against the erring officials who vandalised their Religious Reference Library?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (c): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1959 FOR 3.8.2000

The Army had removed certain items from the premises of Golden Temple, Amritsar in 1984. These included passports, office files/documents, books/booklets, pass books, identity cards, cheque books, diaries, registers, 'shastras' (traditional weapons), gold and golden ornaments, silver and silver ornaments, precious stones, semi-precious stones, pearls, currency notes, coins, FDRs and office stationeries besides certain items of non-historical value. Of these, the Army had handed over items like passports, office files/documents, books/booklets, pass books, identity cards, cheque books, diaries and registers to the Central Bureau of Investigation in July, 1984 itself. Some other items of historic value, mostly 'shastras' (traditional weapons) were handed over by Army to the Curator, Museums, Government of Punjab while the valuables, such as, gold and golden ornaments, silver and silver ornaments, precious stones, semi-precious stones, pearls, government currency notes worth Rs. 30,93,926/-, coins and FDRs were handed over to the Officiating Treasury Officer, Amritsar on 30th June, 1984 against proper receipt. The Army had also recovered certain items of non-historical value which were kept in the Golden Temple Complex itself and later disposed of on orders of the late Shri Bhan Singh, the then Secretary, SGPC. The Army is now not holding any books or documents. The Army HQs have reported that the army had not vandalised the Reference Library. Hence, no action was taken against any army official.