

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2207
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2004
SMUGGLING OF OLD STATUES AND ARTEFACTS
Das Gupta Shri Gurudas

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been substantial increase in the smuggling of old statues and artefacts from various parts of India and particularly Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to curb and also to ensure the safety of such places of archaeological importance?

Answer

MINISTER FOR INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) & (b) There is no increase in the smuggling of old statues and artefacts from the centrally protected monuments. However, as reported by the Rajasthan Police, 786 antique objects have been recently seized and 25 culprits have been arrested in this connection.

To ensure the security of the old statues and artefacts, round the clock watch and ward staff, armed police guards and private security guards are deployed by the Archaeological Survey of India at the centrally protected monuments.