

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3344

ANSWERED ON:19.08.2004

SMUGGLING OF STATUES AND ARCHITECTURAL REMAINS

Renge Patil Shri Tukaram Ganpatrao;Shandil Dr. (Col.) Dhani Ram;Singh Shri Brij Bhushan Sharan

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

- (a) the number of items related to the cultural heritage of statues and architectural remains of temples smuggled out to foreign countries;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to stop theft of such statues and architectural remains;
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to bring back these statues and architectural remains; and
- (d) the success achieved by the Government by through such steps?

**Answer**

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

- (a) According to the report received from CBI, one stone antique image of Sun God was smuggled out of the country.
- (b) Under the provisions of the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972, steps have been taken by the ASI in consultation with the law enforcing agencies like the CBI, Customs, DRI and State Government Police to prevent thefts of antiquities and smuggling by stepping up vigilance and intensifying checking at the customs exit channels.
- (c) & (d) The image of Sun God was seized by the US Customs and later restituted to India.