

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:416

ANSWERED ON:21.12.2005

ACQUISITION OF ARTIFACTS

Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai;Singh Shri Sugrib

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the institutions engaged in acquisition, preservation and restoration of art objects of historical importance;
- (b) whether functions of most of these institutions overlap and there is no synergy among them;
- (c) if so, the details and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government contemplates to chalk out any policy in respect of acquisition of artifacts;
- (e) if so, the details in this regards;
- (f) whether the Government has made any investigation into the theft of a fifth century Buddha head from the Sarnath Museum in December, 2004;
- (g) if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) the action taken by the Government against the persons responsible for the said lapse?

Answer

MINISTER FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) to (h) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (h) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.416 FOR 21.12.2005 BY SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL AND SHRI SUGRIB SINGH REGARDING 'ACQUISITION OF ARTIFACTS'

(a) to(c) : The main institutions under the Ministry of Culture engaged in acquisition, preservation and restoration of art objects of historical importance are National Museum, New Delhi; Archaeological Survey of India, New Delhi; National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi and Mumbai; National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property, Lucknow; Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad; Allahabad Museum, Allahabad; Indian Museum, Kolkata; Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata.

Some activities of these organizations are of a similar nature like exhibition, display, seminar, publication, training etc.. However, these do not overlap as the nature of collections and hence areas of functioning are different. Work is undertaken as per their objectives set down for each institution.

(d) to (e) : All these organizations are governed by their respective Acts, Rules, Regulations and Bye-laws and they also have separate policies and Art Acquisition Committee for acquisition of artifacts in consonance with their existing collections.

(f) to (h) : Although no incident of theft occurred in Sarnath Museum in December, 2004, one sculpture named 'Buddha Head (Sarnath)' was found missing from the Archaeological Gallery of Indian Museum, Kolkata on 29th December, 2004. The matter has been referred to the Kolkata Police for investigation. After the incident the entire security system of Indian Museum has been further strengthened and additional CCTV have been installed with recording facilities. The matter is under investigation by the CBI, and Interpol has also been alerted.