

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2071  
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2010  
MEASURES TO SAFEGUARD ANTIQUITIES  
Basavaraj Shri Gangasandra Siddappa

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

- (a) whether the recent Interpol alert on six most wanted art objects include one such item missing from India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is laxity in the existing safeguard measures of antiquities resulting in incapability of handling the job;
- (d) whether the Indian Treasure Trove Act, last amended in 1949, is obsolete as it defines any art object worth more than Rs. 10.00 and found hidden in the soil is treated as treasure;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act has the necessary mechanism for vigilant enforcement; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) Details annexed `Annexure A`.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) No. Sir.
- (e) Question does not arise.
- (f)& (g) Yes, Sir.

Provisions exist under the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 for regulation of export in antiquities and art treasures and for prevention of their illicit trafficking such as registration of dealers, registration of specified categories of antiquities, prosecution of offenders etc. The Government has launched a National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities for documentation of the monuments and antiquities.

Annexure A

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2071 FOR 10.03.2010.

The information furnished by Central Bureau of Investigation is as follows:-

An architectural member having beautifully carved and minutely ornate sculpture of male and female deity, standing under a canopy supported by two pillars. Male standing in tri-bhanga posture on the right side of the female. He wears a highly ornate crown, big ear rings, necklaces, armlet, kada, waist band, anklets along with a long garland coming down up to ankles. His right hand is resting on right thigh while his left hand is in vitarka mudra. Female is standing cross legged, holding a book in her left hand while her right hand is in the back of male and holds an indistinct gada like object. She wears a dhoti up to ankles and bedecked with earrings, one Kanthahar with pendant, a mala coming up to waist through the breast, kada in both hand, armlets, waist band and anklets while pellets of hair with a bun on the back is visible. A dwarf figure is depicted near the right leg of male figure. A leogryph (Shardula) on elephant with a standing lady figure holding lotus flower are depicted on either side. Upper part of the sculptures is decorated with detachable three tiered chaitya window.

Material- Sandstone,  
Measurement approximately- Ht. 90 cm x Width 56 cm

Total height including upper decorated part - 130 cm.

FIR NO. 262/09 dt. 19.09.2009 was registered at PS Atru, Dist- Baran, Rajasthan. The theft was committed from Gargach Temple Atru, Dist- Baran (Rajasthan) on the intervening night of 18th/19.09.2009. This Idol was having identity No. IMG 22/29.04.2009. These particulars were conveyed by Superintending Archaeologist Jaipur circle Jaipur vide his letter No. 1/1/JPR/Theft/T&A/2009 dt. 25.09.2009.