

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2866
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2010
IDOL STOLEN
Ramasubbu Shri S.

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has ceased large number of idols worth several crores of rupees as per the estimates of ASI;
- (b) if so, the details of the last three years;
- (c) whether there are also reports of stolen idols during the above period;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the value therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to protect the valuable idols from being stolen?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes, Sir. Law Enforcing Agencies such as Police and CBI have seized a number of idols / antiquities / artifacts during the past years. The Archaeological Survey of India has not estimated the value of the seized objects.
- (b) Details are given at `Annexure I'
- (c) Nine cases of thefts (14 sculptures) have been reported from different States.
- (d) Details of the thefts are given at "Annexure II" However, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has not estimated the value of the objects.
- (e) To ensure protection of the ancient sculptures and artifacts in Centrally protected monuments, sites and museums, watch and ward staff have been deployed. Their strength has been supplemented by deployment of private security guards, State Police guards and Central Industrial Security Force.