

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3416
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2011
SMUGGLING OF ANTIQUES
Majumdar Shri Prasanta Kumar

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that priceless antiques and sculptures are being regularly smuggled out of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to prevent theft and smuggling of antiques in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA)

(a) &(b) The available data is not indicative of any regular smuggling of priceless antiques and sculptures out of the country. However, National Central Bureau, Interpol, New Delhi, has informed on 23.06.2010 that Department of Home Land Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement in New York have located one sculpture stolen from the Temple Atru in Rajasthan.

(c) The Archaeological Survey of India is committed towards the protection and safety of antiquities at the Centrally protected monuments, sites and museums as well. For the purpose, watch and ward staff have been deployed and their strength have been augmented by deploying private security guards, State Police armed guards and the Central Industrial Security Force. Constant interaction takes place between Archaeological Survey of India, Central Bureau of Investigation and Customs authorities to share information on the smuggling or art objects. India is also a signatory to the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Trafficking in cultural property.