

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4439
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2011
IRREGULARITIES IN NATIONAL MUSEUM
Rajesh Shri M. B.

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any financial irregularity has been noticed/reported in the functioning of the National Museum at Delhi;
- (b) If so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon;
- (c) whether the post of the Head Administrator at the said museum has been lying vacant;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor, and the response of the Government thereto; and
- (e) steps taken by the Government to review and regulate the functioning of the said museum?

Answer

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

(a & b) Yes, Sir. The following two financial irregularities were brought to notice in 2005:

- (i) Overpayment made to M/s Packwell & Co. (Fine Art Handling Agent-FAHA) by passing fake bills etc. causing financial loss to the Government.
- (ii) Preparation of boxes for Brazil Exhibition without the proper approval of the competent authority in spite of the fact that the exhibition proposal had already been suspended.

The matter was examined in Consultation with CVC and as per advice received, Charge Sheets have since issued to the erring officers.

(c & d) There is no post of 'Head Administrator' at National Museum. However, a temporary post of 'Administrator' was created for one year w.e.f. 21.09.2010 and the post is currently filled up.

(e) Government has constituted a Museum Advisory Board in December, 2010, comprising of acknowledged professionals in the field of museums, to provide policy directions and guidelines to the National Museum in various aspects of its functioning. The committee has met 3 times since then.