

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3220

ANSWERED ON:13.12.2011

IRREGULARITIES IN NATIONAL MUSEUM

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

- (a) whether any irregularities have been reported in the functioning of the National Museum at Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the remedial action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether some galleries in the said museum have been closed for years;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the National Museum has a policy of rotating art objects for display;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to preserve the valuable artifacts and antiquities in the museum?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): During the course of audit inspection of National Museum for the year 2010-11, Director General of Audit has made certain observations about shortcomings in the maintenance of art objects and antiquities pertaining to areas like their acquisition, accessioning, photo documentation, preservation, digitization, computerized documentation, display, storage, physical verification, handing over and taking over etc. as also about closure of galleries. National Museum has initiated remedial actions to address these issues.

(c) & (d) Eight galleries are presently closed for different reasons. A statement indicating the reasons for the closure of these galleries is enclosed at Annexure.

(e) & (f) Selected exhibits are displayed for education/propagation of culture depending upon the availability of display area. This practice is followed by all international museums as the collections available are far too large to be entirely displayed. Objects on display in different galleries are rotated from time to time, both to enable visitors to see different objects and also for preventive conservation of the objects. Besides this, there are arrangements for display of 'Object of the Month' and 'Gallery of the Month' where displayed objects are rotated at regular intervals.

(g) National Museum follows internationally accepted practices for preservation and storage of art objects. The Museum has a Conservation Laboratory for giving preventive and curative treatment to the art objects. Facilities for keeping temperature and relative humidity at optimum level are available in the galleries and reserve storage. The preservation and proper storage of objects is a continuous process.