

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3101

ANSWERED ON:24.04.2012

SMUGGLING OF ANTIQUITIES

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

- (a) Whether precious antiquities are being smuggled out of various parts of the country including Rajasthan, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of FIRs filed in this regard during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) the number of stolen/lost antiquities retrieved/recovered during the said period; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard and prevent thefts and smuggling of antiquities?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has informed on 23.06.2010 that Department of Home Land Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement in New York have located one stone sculpture from ruins of Temples (Gargach Temple) Atru, District-Baran (Rajasthan) which was stolen/smuggled on 22-23 April, 2009. FIR was lodged on 23.04.2009 no.96/09.

(c) No stolen/lost antiquities have been retrieved/recovered during the last three years.

(d) The Archaeological Survey of India has taken adequate steps to prevent thefts and smuggling of antiquities from the centrally protected monuments, sites and museums. Round the clock watch and ward staff have been deployed and their strength has further been augmented by deploying private security guards, State Police armed guards and Central Industrial Security Force. Archaeological Survey of India is in close liaison with Central Bureau of Investigation, Customs authorities, Department of Revenue Intelligence and Local Police authorities to share information on the smuggling of antiquities. India is also a signatory to the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Trafficking in cultural property.