

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4157  
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2012  
AUCTION OF WRIST WATCH  
Yadav Shri Om Prakash

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government is aware that an old wrist watch belonging to Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of the republic has been auctioned in Switzerland;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the family members of Dr. Prasad have alleged that the said watch was stolen from them; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to stop the auction of this national heritage and bring back the same to the country?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR)

- (a)&(b) The Government is aware that a wrist watch belonging to Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of the Republic was to be auctioned in Switzerland on November 13, 2011 by Sotheby's.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) At the intervention of the Government of India through the Indian missions in Switzerland and the U.K., Sotheby's agreed to postpone the auction of the wrist watch to enable the Indian authorities to carry out investigations into the circumstances under which the watch was taken out of India.