

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5090
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2012
SMUGGLING OF ANTIQUES
Annayagari Shri Sai Prathap

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cases of smuggling of antiques are on the rise in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases reported during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether India is turning into a regional hub for organised movement of smuggled antiques;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) to (b) : The specific information regarding cases of smuggling of antiques is not maintained. However, the State/UT wise details of case in which cultural property including antiques was stolen during 2008-2010 are attached at Annexure.

(c) to (e) The Archaeological Survey of India has taken adequate steps to prevent thefts and smuggling of antiquities from the centrally protected monuments, sites and museums. The ward staff, private security guards, State Police armed guards and Central Industrial Police Force are being deployed round the clock. The 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. The Union of India is also a signatory to the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Trafficking in cultural property.