

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1607
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2012
AWARD OF CONTRACTS BY NATIONAL MUSEUM
Viswanathan Shri P.

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of contracts awarded by the National Museum to private companies for handling, packing and transportation of antiques and art objects for exhibitions/shows during the period 2002 to 2005;
- (b) whether any irregularities have been reported in awarding such contracts to the said companies;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any corruption cases have been reported to the Ministry against any officials of the said museum;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard including recovery of the amount lost due to irregularities in awarding the contracts?

Answer

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

- (a) National Museum has informed that M/s Packwell & Co., New Delhi was awarded contract for handling, packing and transporting antique and art objects for 14 exhibitions organized by the National Museum during 2002 to 2005.
- (b) & (c) Yes Sir. A committee appointed by the then Director General to look at the way the contracts had been awarded/implemented, in its report, had found that there was non-observance of codal formalities in the assignment of contract to the Fine Art Handling Agent as also about payment of inflated bills submitted by the agency under various heads.
- (d), (e) & (f) Yes Sir. Based on the preliminary report of the committee, National Museum referred the matter to the Ministry and after taking advice of the CVC, charge sheets have been issued to the erring officers. In addition, the Central Bureau of Investigation is also investigating the matter. National Museum has also decided to file a suit for the recovery of overpayment made to the firm.