

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:269
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2013
DISPLAYING OF ART OBJECTS IN NATIONAL MUSEUM
Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government proposes to rotate art objects/items for display in the National Museum;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) Whether it is a fact that out of its total collection of 2.06 lakh art objects, only 7,148 have been displayed and nine galleries out of 26 are closed;
- (d) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) The action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF CULTURE (SMT. CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. A majority of the collection is in storage, with significant and representative objects placed in display. The National Museum displays about 7% of its collection. Objects in storage are displayed in rotation by arranging temporary exhibitions from the reserve collection. National Museum organises periodic display through its "Object of the Month" and "Gallery of the Month" programmes. Materials are circulated at regular intervals. Other events which featured objects in storage are:

- 1) Inuit art exhibition – An exhibition of around 60 ethnographical art objects from the collection of Anthropology Department.
- 2) The past and present series – Art objects from miniature painting and Anthropology department were displayed in "Symphony of the desert" and "The Soul Survivors" exhibitions respectively.
- 3) At present 22 objects are being displayed in the exhibition on Amir Khusrau.

(c) Out of the total 2,06,000 objects, 15,681 (i.e. 7.61%) are displayed. As regards closure of galleries, only six galleries viz. Decorative Art, Manuscripts, Central Asian Antiquities, Thanjavur Paintings, Jewellery Gallery & Bronze Gallery are at present closed for renovation.

(d) Reasons for closure are given at annexure.

(e) Decorative Arts and Thanjavur Paintings galleries will be re-opened by the second quarter of 2013. Regular review meetings with curatorial officers are being taken for re-opening the closed galleries.