

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1182
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2013
THEFT OF SIVA AND PARVATI IDOLS
Viswanathan Shri P.

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received any report regarding the theft of Siva and Parvati idols belonging to Suthamalli and Sripuranathan villages in Tamil Nadu and taken away to the United States;
- (b) if so, the estimated value of the said idols;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry into the said incident;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the findings of the said inquiry along with the steps taken so far, to bring back the ancient antiques;
- (e) the action taken by the Government against the officials/persons involved in the said incident; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to protect the ancient antiques and idols of Hindu temples?

Answer

MINISTER OF CULTURE (SMT. CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH)

(a)to(e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(f) 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.