

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2351
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2013
SMUGGLING OF ANTIQUE OBJECTS
Ramasubbu Shri S.

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that there is a slump in domestic antique buying in the recent years and increasing cases of smuggling and fraudulent dealings in Indian antique objects;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto along with the losses to the exchequer as a result thereof;
- (c) whether a Committee set up by the Government has recommended amendments in the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any action/steps has been taken by the Government on the recommendations made by the said Committee; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF CULTURE SMT. CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH

- (a) & (b) There is no information available with Archaeological Survey of India to indicate that there is a slump in domestic antique buying in recent years or increasing cases of smuggling and fraudulent dealings in Indian antique objects.
- (c) to (f) Government had set up a Committee under the chairmanship of Prof. R. N. Misra on 27.4.2010 which submitted its recommendations for amendments in the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 on 29.07.2011. The recommendations of this Committee was reviewed by the Ministry of Culture and it constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of Justice Mukul Mudgal (Retired) on 2.11.2011. The Committee submitted the draft amendments to the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 on 26.10.2012 which is under consideration.