

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:329

ANSWERED ON:20.03.2013

ARTIFACTS IN POSSESSION OF BRITAIN

Ganeshamurthi Shri A.;Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the list of priceless artifacts which were taken away during the British rule;
- (b) whether India has requested Britain to return these priceless artifacts including Kohinoor diamond;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the response of the British Government thereto;
- (d) whether India intends to join the international campaign with the support of UNESCO in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/being taken by the Government thereon?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID)

- (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 329 REGARDING "ARTIFACTS IN POSSESSION OF BRITAIN" TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.03.2013

(a) to (e) Government is aware of the whereabouts of some precious artifacts and objects like the Kohinoor diamond. Government has been in touch over the years with concerned authorities in the British Government through our High Commission in London on this matter. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has informed that such items are not covered under the UNESCO Convention 1972 dealing with the restitution of cultural property.