

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6466
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2013
DATABASE ON CULTURAL HERITAGE
Gaddigoudar Shri P.C.

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to prepare a database of India's cultural heritage and evolving of a mechanism involving checks and balance for preservation/prevention of antiquities from falling into the hands of illegal exporters;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefore?

Answer

MINISTER OF CULTURE SRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH

(a) to (c) Yes Madam. National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA) was launched in 2007 with the objective to prepare a National database on built heritage, sites and antiquities from secondary sources. The Antiquities and Art Treasures Act of 1972 has been enacted with the objective to regulate the export trade in antiquities and art treasures, to provide for the prevention of smuggling of and fraudulent dealings in antiquities, to provide for the compulsory acquisition of antiquities and art treasures for preservation in public places and to provide for certain other matters connected therewith or incidental or ancillary thereto.