

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6528  
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2013  
SMUGGLING OF ARTIFACTS  
Choudhary Shri Harish

**Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether it is a fact that ancient artifacts are being smuggled to foreign countries through theft or other means;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of cases reported and the action taken by the Government during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government so far to bring back these artifacts from the foreign countries; and
- (d) the other steps taken by the Archaeological Survey of India through the Indian High Commission to bring back the ancient artifacts from overseas at present?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF CULTURE SRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH

- (a) & (b) As per the data for 2011-13 available with archaeological Survey of India(ASI) there have been artifacts reported to have been stolen and smuggled out. The details on smuggled out and theft of antiquities during the last three years and the current year are at Annexure I & II
- (c)&(d) ASI has taken appropriate steps with law enforcing agencies to bring back the artifacts from foreign countries. The details on retrieval of antiquities are at Annexure III.