

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3337
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2009
AUCTION OF LETTERS OF MAHATMA GANDHI
Meghe Shri Datta Raghobaji

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the letters written by Mahatma Gandhi and certain other items used by him were recently auctioned in London;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the efforts made by the Government to bring back these items to India and ensure the such items are not auctioned in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING & PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a) & (b) Recently a bunch of letters, written by Mahatma Gandhi, and a piece of Khadi cloth, woven by him, were put up for auction in London. These items were purchased by two NRIs viz. Shri Nathu Ram Puri and Sir Gulam Noor. However, these have since been presented to Hon'ble President of India during her visit to United Kingdom on 28th October, 2009.

(c) A Committee comprising of eminent Gandhians and representatives of Gandhian Institutions has been constituted in the Ministry of Culture to examine the works/letters/manuscripts of Mahatma Gandhi coming up for auction and also to recommend the course of action to be adopted in case of auction of such articles. The response of the Government of India is decided on case to case basis.