

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2235  
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2009  
SMUGGLING OF INDIAN ARTIFACTS  
Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar

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

- (a) Whether cases of smuggling of Indian artifacts, which are mostly stolen from archaeological sites, have been increasing in the country in the recent past;
- (b) If so, whether the Government has proposed to set up antiques data base in the country;
- (c) If so, the details thereof;
- (d) Whether the Government has set up any Committee of experts for preparation of antiques data base in the country;
- (e) If so, the details thereof; and
- (f) The time by which the antiques data is likely to be completed?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (Sh. V. NARAYANASAMY)

a) No, Sir.

b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Archaeological Survey of India has launched "National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities" (NMMA) on 19th March, 2007 which has the mandate of documenting archaeological resources, including antiquities, throughout the country.

(d) The NMMA has set up State Level Implementation Committees (SLIC) in about 20 States and & in the remaining states setting up of SLICs is in the offing. These SLICs comprise of heritage

(e) experts, State and Central Government officials. They, with the help of a large number of documentation centres across the country are required to prepare data base of monuments and antiquities.

(f) The NMMA is given 5 years time-frame ending in March 2012 to accomplish the task.