

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3159
ANSWERED ON:11.02.2014
SEIZURE OF ANTIQUE IDOLS
Pathak Shri Harin

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cases of seizure of antique idols have been rampant in the country in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases reported during the last one year and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether any particular gangs are said to have been involved in the theft of such idols;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Government to ensure the safety of antique idols in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N SINGH)

- (a) to (b): State/UT wise number of cases and value of cultural property (including antiques) stolen and recovered during 2010, 2011 and 2012 respectively is attached at Annexure. Specific data on antique idol is not available.
- (c) to (d): No such specific information is maintained centrally.
- (e): The Archaeological Survey of India is committed towards the protection and safety of antiquities at the Centrally protected monuments, sites and museums as well. For the purpose, watch and ward staff have been deployed and their strength have been augmented by deploying private security guards, State Police armed guards and the Central Industrial Security Force. Constant interaction takes place between Archaeological Survey of India, Central Bureau of Investigation and Customs authorities to share information on the smuggling or art objects. India is also a signatory to the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Trafficking in cultural property.