

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4760
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2014
SMUGGLING OF INDIAN ARTEFACTS
Pal Shri Jagdambika

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cases of smuggling of antiques are on the rise in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases reported during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether India is turning into a regional hub for organised movement of smuggled antiques;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE, CULTURE AND TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) AND MINISTER OF STATE, CIVIL AVIATION (Dr. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) to (b) The available data is not indicative of any regular smuggling of priceless antiques and sculptures out of the country. However, Central Bureau of Investigation, New Delhi, has informed on 16.12.2014 that two cases were registered in EOU-V/EO.II Branch during the year 2011 and 2012.

(c) to (d) No, Madam.

(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.