

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:986

ANSWERED ON:02.03.2015

THEFT OF ANTIQUE ARTICLES FROM MUSEUMS

Chaudhary Shri P.P.

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of priceless antique artifacts are kept in open air in different museums of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) the number of cases of theft in these museums as reported during the last five years, year-wise and museum-wise;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to amend the guidelines to preserve /prevent these antiques from theft; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) CULTURE & TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) Yes, Madam

(b) Museum-wise details of artifacts kept in the open air along with details thereof is at Annexure – A.

(c) Three cases of theft were reported in respect of Archaeological Site Museum at Hazarduari Palace Museum, Murshidabad (West Bengal) in 2010, Indian War Memorial Museum, Red Fort (Delhi), in December, 2012 and Residency Museum, Lucknow (UP) in January, 2010. This apart, Government of Gujarat has reported two cases of theft one each from Watson Museum, Rajkot in August, 2011 and Museum and Picture Gallery, Vadodara in October, 2014.

(d) & (e) Yes, Madam. A Committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Administrator, National Museum, New Delhi for reviewing the security requirements and parameters with respect to various museums under the Ministry of Culture and Archaeological Survey of India and for framing a comprehensive Security Policy for implementation in all the Museums uniformly.