

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2272

ANSWERED ON:10.03.2015

THEFT OF GOLD

De(Nag) Dr. (Smt.) Ratna;Rao (Avnithi) Shri Muthamsetti Srinivasa

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently received any complaint/report with regard to theft of gold and silver ornaments from Sree Padmanabhaswamy temple in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the responsible persons along with steps taken to recover such gold and ornaments;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to bring all reputed religious shrines under their control to check thefts and protect the sentiments of people;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to provide security cover to religious places in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIBHAI PARATHIBHAI CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (b): No Madam. The State Government of Kerala has informed that no such complaint/ report about theft of gold and silver ornaments from Sree Padmanabhaswamy temple in Kerala has come to the notice of the Police and necessary steps towards protection of the temple, gold and ornaments have been taken.

(c) to (e): 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and therefore, the State Governments are primarily responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime and for prosecuting the criminals through their law enforcement agencies as also for protecting the life and property of the citizens. Therefore, the responsibility for providing security to important places including places of cultural and religious importance and temples/memorials in the country is primarily that of the State Government concerned.

With a view to protect the valuable treasures of Sree Padmanabhaswamy temple the Government of Kerala have taken over the security of the Temple with effect from July 2011 and have declared that the Temple and premises as ` special security zone ` and entrusted the security of the Temple to Kerala Police and deployed additional Police Forces. Further, security equipments have been installed in and around the temple under Integrated Security Scheme (ISS) , viz installation of CCTV Cameras, Door Frame Metal Detectors, X-ray Baggage Scanners, Bullet Resistant Sentry Booths, Crash rated Bollards, Crash rated Road Blockers and high tech command and control centre inte- grating with all equipments installed, have been carried out. In addition Hand Held Metal Detectors, Hand Held Search light, Deep Search Metal Detector, Day & Night Binocular, Mobile Jammer, Portable X-ray Scanner, Portable Explosive Vapor Trace Detector, RSP Tool Kit, Bomb Blast Inhibitor, Fire Fighting Equipment (Fire Extinguisher, Fire Fighting Suit), Under Vehicle Search Mirror, Non Linear Junction Detector, Digital Public Addressing System, LED Lighting system have also been installed.