

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5348
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2015
. BILATERAL TALKS TO RETRIEVE ANTIQUITIES
Sundaram Shri P.R.

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any initiatives and have bilateral talks with other countries to retrieve the looted antiquities from Indian Museums;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the achievement made so far in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As per records available, there are no such antiquities in foreign countries looted specifically from Indian Museums. However, there are eight cases of antiquities illegally trafficked abroad from different monuments/sites in India. As per the procedure, whenever, any antiquity surfaced abroad, the issue of its retrieval is taken through Indian Mission in respective country.

(c) There are thirteen cases of retrieval of antiquities from abroad as detailed in the annexure. Government has approached the foreign countries through our Missions abroad for the retrieval of antiquities in eight cases.