

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2148
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2015
Trafficking of Antiquities
Innocent Shri

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2148.
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.08. 2015
SHRAVANA 12, 1937 (SAKA)

TRAFFICKING OF ANTIQUITIES

2148. SHRI INNOCENT:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the illegal trafficking in antiquities in the country;
- (b) if so, the number of cases reported during the last two years; year-wise;
- (c) the corrective steps being taken to combat trafficking in antiquities;
- (d) whether the National Mission in Monuments and Antiquities will be able to combat the trafficking in antiquities; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE, CULTURE AND TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) AND MINISTER OF STATE, CIVIL AVIATION

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a)
&

(b) The available data does not indicate increasing illegal trafficking in antiquities. The number of cases of antiquity thefts reported during the last two years is at Annexure.

(c) Under the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act 1972, provisions exist for regulating the trade in antiquities and for registering specific categories of antiquities.

India is also a signatory to the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Trafficking in cultural property

The provision for security at museums and protected monuments by deploying State Police, Private Security Guards and also CISF in selected places exists. Strict vigil is also maintained by the Customs Department at all airports and seaports and other law enforcing agencies like the CBI, DRI and the State Police

(d)
&

(e) The National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities would document the antiquities and prepare a national database, which would help in establishing provenance in the retrieval of smuggled antiquities. The Mission would also promote public awareness, concern

and participation in safeguarding of antiquarian wealth.

Annexure

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2148 TO BE ANSWERED ON 3.8.2015

Statement giving details of theft of antiquities from Centrally Protected Monuments/Sites/Museums maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India during last two years from 2013-2014 and current year upto May, 2015.

YEAR 2013

Sl.

No. State Name of Monument/Sites & District Description of object

Date of theft Action taken Status

1. Karnataka Fortress & Renuka Devi Temple, Chandragutti Soraba Taluk, District Shimoga, Karnataka The stone sculpture of eight handed Mahisasuramardini made of chloritic schist, standing in tribhanga posture. 12.01.2013 F.I.R. lodged Not recovered
2. Karnataka Sri Vaidyeshwara Temple, Talakad District, Mysore The Sculpture of four handed Dakshinamoorthy made of granite with Prabhavali, seated upon a lotus throne in ardhpariyanka mudra. 03.2.2013 F.I.R. lodged Not recovered
3. Chhattisgarh Excavated Tivardev Buddha Monastery, Sirpur, District Mahasmunda, Chhattisgarh It is seated image in lalitan posture built on the soft stone. The left hand of the image is straightly kept on the left knee whereas right hand is holding a bowl. 17.3.2013 F.I.R. lodged Not recovered
4. Karnataka Mallikarjuna Temple, Basaral, District Mandya. Shivalinga 13.5.2013 F.I.R. lodged Not recovered
5. Karnataka Bucheswara Temple, Koravangala, Hassan Taluk, Hassan District. Seated Chaturbhuja Ganesha in Hoysala style of art datable to late 12th century AD. Ganesha is in Ardha lalitasana, four armed bearing danta, ankusha, pushpa and modaka patra . The sculpture is exuberantly decorated with jewellery. 11-12-10-2013 F.I.R. lodged Not recovered

YEAR 2014

Sl.

No. State Name of Monument/Sites & District Description of object

Date of theft Action taken Status

1. Karnataka Theft of one Durga Sculpture from the premises of Panchalingeswara Temple, Govindanahalli, K.R.Pete Taluk, Mandya district, Karnataka.
The stone sculpture of eight armed Mahishamardini (Durga). The deity bears trident, sword, chakra, arrow, bell, shield and bow as weapons. She is shown pushing the human form of demon in her lower left hand. The sculpture is made of grey soap stone. 07.03.2014 F.I.R. lodged Not recovered
2. Karnataka Theft of one broken granite Shivalinga from Shiva temple, Thimmalapur, Hospet taluk, Bellary Dist, Karnataka, a centrally protected monument- reg.

Broken Stone (granite) Shivalinga 18th-19th .06.2014 F.I.R. lodged Not recovered

3.

Gujarat Theft of two wooden carved Brackets from Vitthalbhai Haveli at Vso, Dist. Kheda

Two wooden carved Brackets 23.6.2014 F.I.R. lodged

No look out notices were issued Recovered back by police authorities

4. Karnataka Theft of one black granite stone Nandi fixed to the Bharateswara subshrine of Ramalingaeswara temple complex Avani, Mulbanga taluk, Kolar district, Karnataka, a Centrally Protected Monument one black granite stone Nandi 18-19.07.2014 F.I.R. lodged

Not traceable yet.

5. Bihar Theft of one sculpture of Jain Tirthanker (Mahavira) made of stone (granite) from the premises of Jain Shrine Temple Rajgir a centrally protected monument sculpture of Jain Tirthanker (Mahavira) 30-31.07.2014 F.I.R. lodged
- Not recovered

6. Karnataka Theft of Two Schist Stone Sculptures from Nageswar temple, Mosale, Hassan taluk, Hassan district Karnataka, centrally protected monument.

Two Schist Stone Sculptures of Mahisasuramardini and Sarasawati 13-14.09.2014 F.I.R. Lodged Not recovered

YEAR 2015

1. Karnataka Theft of one schist stone Yaksha sculpture from Bhimesheshwara temple at Neelgunda, Harappanahalli Taluk, Davangere district, Karnataka a centrally protected monument. schist stone Yaksha sculpture 26 April 2015 F.I.R. Lodged Not recovered

2.

Orissa Theft of one sculpture of Trivikrama (Locally called Bali Vamana) from the premises of Varahanatha temple, Jajpur, Orissa, a centrally protected monument.
sculpture of Trivikrama (Locally called Bali 18 May 2015 F.I.R. Lodged Not recovered

