

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4818
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2014
THEFT OF IDOLS
Kataria Shri Rattan Lal

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of theft cases of rare idols/artifacts reported during each of the last three years and the current year and the action taken to recover them during the said period, State /UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has taken steps to prevent such incidents and provide proper security at these temples to protect such artifacts/idols; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) CULTURE & TOURISM (SHRI SHRIPAD NAIK)

- (a) There are sixteen incidents of thefts of antiquities from centrally protected monuments in the country during last three years and current year (Annexure). Two of them have been recovered.
- (b) to (c) In order to ensure the security and protection of the ancient sculptures, idols and artifacts, watch and ward staff have been deployed at centrally protected monuments, archaeological sites and museums. The security has been further supplemented by engagement of private security guards and the state police.