

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 214
ANSWERED ON 29.11.2021**

RETURNING OF ARTEFACTS AND IDOLS FROM ABROAD

214. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH

DEO:

SHRI PARTHIBAN S.R.:

SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR:

SHRI BHOLA SINGH:

DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR:

DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY:

SHRI VIJAYAKUMAR (ALIAS) VIJAY

VASANTH:

SHRI RAJA AMARESHWARA NAIK:

SHRI THIRUNAVUKKARASAR SU:

SHRI RAVNEET SINGH BITTU:

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

Will the **Minister of Culture**

संस्कृति मंत्री

be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any data on the number of stolen/smuggled artefacts and antiquities over a period of time from 2015-2021 in various States of the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has successfully brought back many idols and artifacts from across the world including the idol of Goddess Annapurna which were taken 100 years ago and if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps taken by the Government to bring back stolen antiques/artefacts/idols to India;

(c) the details of artefacts and the countries from where it was returned during the last twenty years, year-wise and country-wise;

(d) whether the Government has handed over the Annapurna idol and other idols and artefacts to the Kashi Vishwanath Temple, Varanasi and other temples and places from where it belonged originally;

(e) whether the Government of Australia and the USA has handed over 157 artifacts related to Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism during the recent visit of Prime Minister to USA and if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether the Government is taking any measures to strengthen the vigilance and monitoring system to ensure minimization of thefts of such antiquities in the country and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM, CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) Yes, Sir. The State-wise details of stolen artefacts and antiquities during the period from 2015 to 2021 are at Annexure I.

(b)&(c) Yes, Sir. 107 antiquities including the idol of Goddess Annapurna have been brought back during the last 20 years from different countries. The details of country-wise number of antiquities repatriated are at Annexure II.

(d) Government of India has handed over the Annapurna idol to Government of UP. Details of other antiquities returned back to their original places from where they belonged are at Annexure III.

(e) The USA has handed over 157 antiquities related to Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism during the recent visit of Prime Minister to USA. Out of 157 antiquities, first lot of 63 antiquities has reached India. Nine antiquities have been retrieved from Australia.

(f) The Archaeological Survey of India is committed towards the protection and safety of antiquities at protected monuments, sites and museums. For the purpose, watch and ward staff is deployed and their strength have been augmented by deploying private security guards, State Police armed guards and the Central Industrial Security Force.

Annexure -I

Statement giving details of data on number of stolen aretefacts and antiquities over a period of time from 2015-2021 in various states of the country, in reply of part (a) of LOK SABHA Q. No. 214

Sl. No.	State	Year of theft	Total number of artefacts
1.	Karnataka	2015	2
		2016	1
		2020	1
2.	Odisha	2015	2
3.	Maharashtra	2015	2
4.	Bihar	2015	1
5.	Rajasthan	2016	1
6.	Chhattisgarh	2016	1
7.	Andhra Pradesh	2016	2
		2017	1

Annexure II**Statement giving details of data on Antiquities retrieved from foreign countries from 2001 to 2021, in reply of part (b) & (c) of LOK SABHA Q. No. 214**

S. No	Year	Country	No of Antiquity
1.	2001	Holland	01
2.	2013	France	01
3.	2014	Australia	02
4.	2015	Canada	01
5.	2015	Germany	01
6.	2015	Singapore	01
7.	2016	USA	11
8.	2016	Australia	03
9.	2017	USA	08
10.	2017	UK	01
11.	2018	USA	02
12.	2019	UK	01
13.	2019	Australia	01
14.	2020	Australia	03
15.	2020	UK	05
16.	2021	UK	01
17.	2021	Canada	01
18.	2021	USA	63

Annexure III

Statement giving details of data on Antiquities retrieved from 2001 to 2021 and their present location in reply to part (d) of LOK SABHA Qn. No. 214

Sl. No.	Name	Provenance/ State	From	Year	Present location
01.	Retrieval of Yogini Vrishanana	Uttar pradesh	France	2013	National Museum, New Delhi.
02.	Nataraja	Tamil Nadu	Australia	2014	Idol Wing, Tamil Nadu
03.	Ardhanareeswar	Tamil Nadu	Australia	2014	Idol Wing, Tamil Nadu
04.	Parrot Lady	Madhya Pradesh	Canada	2015	Archaeological Museum, Khajuraho, MP
05.	Durga (Mahishmardini)	J&K	Germany	2015	SPS Museum Sri Nagar, J&K
06.	Uma Parameshwari	Tamil Nadu	Singapore	2015	Idol Wing, Tamil Nadu
07.	Bronze image of Saint Manikkavachaka	Tamil Nadu	U.S.A	2016	Idol Wing, Tamil Nadu
08.	Metal image of Ganesha	Tamil Nadu	U.S.A	2016	Idol Wing, Tamil Nadu
09.	Metal image of Bhoodevi	Tamil Nadu	U.S.A	2016	Idol Wing, Tamil Nadu
10.	Metal image of Chakkarathalwar	Tamil Nadu	U.S.A	2016	Idol Wing, Tamil Nadu
11.	Seated Buddha	Mathura region, Uttar Pradesh	Australia	2016	National Muséum, New Delhi
12.	Panel of Devotees of Buddha	Andhra Pradesh	Australia	2016	National Museum, New Delhi
13.	Stone image Pratyangira	Tamil Nadu	Australia	2016	Idol Wing, Tamil Nadu
14.	Bodhisattva Head	Andhra Pradesh	U.S.A	2018	Nagarjunakonda Museum, Andhra Pradesh
15.	Idol of Bronze Nataraja	Tamil Nadu	Australia	2019	Idol Wing, Tamil Nadu
16.	Metal statue of Rama	Tamil Nadu	UK	2020	Idol Wing, Tamil Nadu
17.	Metal statue of Sita	Tamil Nadu	UK	2020	Idol Wing, Tamil Nadu
18.	Metal statue of Lakshmana	Tamil Nadu	UK	2020	Idol Wing, Tamil Nadu
19.	Devi Annapurna	Uttar Pradesh	Canada	2021	Govt. of UP

