

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

RAJYA SABHA

QUESTION NO 15.04.2010

ANSWERED ON

ANTIQUITIES AND ART TREASURE ACT .

2169

Shri B.K. Hariprasad

Will the Minister of COAL HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE CULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) Judging from the recent Interpol alert on six most-wanted art objects with one such item missing from India, whether our existing law enforcement measures to safeguard antiquities are incapable of doing the job;
- (b) whether the Indian Treasure Trove Act, last amended in 1949 is obsolete as it defines any art object worth more than Rs.10.00 and found hidden in the soil is treated as treasure ; and
- (c) whether the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act has necessary mechanism for vigilant enforcement ?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a)No, Sir.

(b)No, Sir. Details in Annexure `A`.

(c)Provisions exist under the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 for regulation of export in antiquities and art treasures and for prevention of their illicit trafficking such as registration of dealers, registration of specified categories of antiquities, prosecution of offenders etc. Besides the Government has launched a National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities for documentation of the monuments and antiquities.

Annexure A

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2169 FOR 15.04.2010.

Indian Treasure Trove Act, 1878 (Act No. VI of 1878) An Act to amend the law relating to Treasure Trove (As modified upto the 1st September, 1949) is implemented by the State Governments through the District Collectors as per the provisions of the Section 3 of the Act. The Act effective enough as it is still in force particularly to safeguard antiquities as the provisions clearly provide for compulsory acquisition against compensation in case the Governments deems to preserve any such treasure for posterity.