

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 194
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 1st December 2015)

VALUABLE ARTIFACTS IN POSSESSION OF AI

194. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India's iconic 23 storey Nariman Point building in South Mumbai would soon house an art gallery, which would display rare artifacts and artworks acquired by the airlines over the years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Air India has since 1930's bought more than 950 paintings and bronze and stone sculptures, which had been prematurely estimated to be worth at least Rs.350 crore; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the valuable artworks had been stacked in a storeroom on the 18th floor of the Nariman Point building for many years?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Dr Mahesh Sharma)

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. However, no details have been finalized in this regard.

(c): Air India has an art collection comprising of paintings and artifacts which have been purchased / procured over the last many years . The entire collection has not been valued as it was meant for the internal use of the Company.

(d): The paintings and artifacts were / are displayed in the offices of Air India world wide including in India. Some of the artworks are packed and kept safely till they are displayed in the Art Gallery.
