

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2915
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2018.**

**BRINGING BACK OF ANCIENT IDOLS, SCULPTURES AND STATUES FROM
FOREIGN COUNTRIES**

2915. DR. V. MAITREYAN:

Will the **Minister of CULTURE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken steps to bring back the ancient idols, sculptures and statues from Tamil Nadu which were smuggled to foreign countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) what steps have been taken by Government to bring back the ancient idols, sculptures and statues deposited in various museums across the world as well as in private possession; and
- (d) if so, the action taken thereon?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CULTURE AND MINISTER OF
STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) Yes, Sir. Twenty seven antiquities have been retrieved from foreign countries & during the last three years (2014-2017), out of which eleven antiquities are of
- (b) Tamil Nadu. Details of the antiquities retrieved from foreign countries are attached as Annexure I.
- (c) There are no records available with Archaeological Survey of India regarding & ancient idols, sculptures and statues deposited in various museums across the
- (d) world as well as in private possession. Whenever any illegally exported objects/antiquities of Indian origin surface in a foreign country, efforts are made through Indian Missions abroad for their retrieval.

ANNEXURE I**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY PART TO (a) & (b) OF RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2915 FOR 21.03.2018****Statement giving details of retrieved Indian Antiquities from Abroad from year 2014 to
2017**

S.No.	Name	Origin of State	Retrieved from	Year
1.	Nataraja	Tamil Nadu	Australia	2014
2.	Ardhanareeswar	Tamil Nadu	Australia	2014
3.	Parrot Lady	Madhya Pradesh	Canada	2015
4.	Durga (Mahishmardini)	J&K	Germany	2015
5.	Uma Parameshwari	Tamil Nadu	Singapore	2015
6.	Bronze image of Saint Manikkavachaka	Tamil Nadu	U.S.A	2016
7.	Metal image of Ganesha	Tamil Nadu	U.S.A	2016
8.	Terracotta Female Figure (Honolulu Museum)	Mauryan period Central India	U.S.A	2016
9.	Male Deity (Honolulu Museum)	Madhya Pradesh	U.S.A	2016
10.	Floral Tile, Harvan	Kashmir	U.S.A	2016
11.	Sri Devi, Chola Period	Tamil Nadu	U.S.A	2016
12.	Metal image of Bahubali	Andhra Pradesh	U.S.A	2016
13.	Metal image of Parvati	Tamil Nadu	U.S.A	2016
14.	Seated Buddha	Mathura region, Uttar Pradesh	Australia	2016
15.	Panel of Devotees of Buddha	Andhra Pradesh	Australia	2016
16.	Stone image Pratyangira	Tamil Nadu	Australia	2016
17.	Matel image of Bhoo Devi	Tamil Nadu	U.S.A.	2016

18.	Chakkarathalwar	Tamil Nadu	U.S.A.	2016
19.	Sand Stone Male Figure in Tribhanga Posture	Central India	U.S.A.	2017
20.	Sand Stone Bust of a Female	Central India	U.S.A.	2017
21.	Sand Stone broken Figure	Central India	U.S.A.	2017
22.	Stone image of Durga	Tamil Nadu	U.S.A.	2017
23.	Damaged Sand Stone image of Nataraja in dancing posture.	Central India	U.S.A.	2017
24.	Mutilated Sand Stone Panel depicting two male Figures (<i>vidhyadharas</i>).	Central India	U.S.A.	2017
25.	Stone image of a couple (<i>mithuna</i>) figure carved under a niche from Atru, Rajasthan.	Rajasthan	U.S.A.	2017
26.	Stone image of a couple (<i>mithuna</i>) Figure from Atru, Rajasthan.	Rajasthan	U.S.A.	2017
27.	Stone sculpture of Brahma and Brahamani	Gujarat	U.K.	2017