

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 1451
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 4th March 2020)**

AUCTION OF ARTIFACTS BY AIR INDIA

1451. SHRI MAJEED MEMON

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Air India is contemplating to sell through auction more than 40,000 pieces of art and other artifacts;
- (b) if so, the details of list of art and other artifacts available with Air India;
- (c) whether many of Air India's paintings have been stolen by top executives of Air India and an investigation has been ordered; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against officers to recover the expensive paintings, etc. from them?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Hardeep Singh Puri)

- (a): No, Sir. Air India Specific Alternative Mechanism (AISAM) while considering the proposals related to re-initiation of process of strategic disinvestment of Air India and its subsidiaries, inter-alia, approved to hand over the arts and artefacts of Air India to National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) free of cost.
- (b): The collection of art work includes approximately 4840 paintings and 2390 other objects.
- (c) & (d): Air India has lodged an FIR with Delhi Police in the case of stolen/misplaced painting "Flying Apsara", which was subsequently recovered.
