

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-347
ANSWERED ON- 28/11/2024

BRINGING BACK THE ARTIFACTS AND ANTIQUITIES FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES

347. **SHRI N.R. ELANGO**

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Government is taking effective steps to bring back the artifacts and antiquities from various countries; and
- (b) the steps taken by Government to retrieve the copper plates (Velvikudi plates) of Pandya Kings that are in London Museum and the copper plates (Laden Plates) of Rajendra Chola are in Leiden Museum, which have a great historic value?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) Government takes appropriate action as per provisions of Antiquities and Art Treasure Act 1972 to bring back the antiquities which were unlawfully taken outside the country in the past. Whenever any such antiquity of Indian origin surfaces abroad, Archaeological Survey of India takes up the matter with the Indian Embassies/Missions abroad through Ministry of External Affairs for their retrieval. A Cultural Property Agreement (CPA) has also been signed with USA.
- (b) No proposal of repatriation of Velvikudi plates is under consideration. Regarding the matter in respect of Chola copper plates lying in Leiden University, besides the bi-lateral dialogues, the matter was raised in the UNESCO Inter-Governmental Committee for promoting the Return of Cultural Property to the Country of its origin (ICPRCP) on 30th May, 2024.
