

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1399
ANSWERED ON- 11.12.2025

SALE OF FOSSILS

1399. SMT. SAGARIKA GHOSE:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken cognisance of reports that India's palaeontological fossils, including ammonites, ancient marine species, and rare vertebrate remains, are being sold through storefronts and international auction houses;
- (b) if so, the details of fossil thefts, illegal excavations, and cases registered in India during the last five years; and
- (c) status of the draft plan on national fossil repository: reasons thereof if delayed?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b) Geological Survey of India (GSI) is aware of few such incidents through print media/social media available in public domain. As per its charter of operations, GSI recognizes and declares specific sites of geological importance known as National Geological Monuments or Geoheritage sites in India. Some of these sites are maintained by GSI and for other sites GSI provides technical support, wherever sought.

(c) There is no such plan with GSI.
