

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 236
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2017**

GUIDELINES TO ACCESS GENUINENESS OF ARTEFACTS

236. SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to State:

- (a) whether there is any method or guideline to assess genuineness of precious artefacts stored in museums across the country;
- (b) If so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ;
- (c) The steps taken by Government in last three years to have uniform guidelines to preserve and secure the artefacts in museums; and
- (d) The further steps taken by Government to check siphoning of valuable artefacts from central museums to the international markets?

ANSWER

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

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) There are no specific guidelines for verifying the genuineness of precious artefacts stored in museums. However, for assessing genuineness, there are 2 types of detection methods viz. relative and absolute. Generally, Curators/Historians use a combination of the two.
- (b) In relative method, identification is done on the basis of styles, textures, pigments material, period, chiseling, cutting, legends written on the objects, writings on the objects etc. In the absolute method, carbon dating, potassium argon dating, emission technique, N.M.R. techniques, X-ray technique, absorption spectroscopy, Ring Owen techniques are the methods employed for ensuring the identity/genuineness of the artifacts housed in the Museums.
- (c) The Govt. has issued instructions to preserve and secure the artefacts in museums through control of temperature, humidity, dust etc. in galleries, modernization of lighting, setting up or upgradation of conservation laboratories and modeling workshops, periodic circulation of the displayed artefacts, maintenance of accession register, physical verification, photo-documentation and digitization of objects etc. Government of India has also formulated a comprehensive Security Policy for all Museums under its control for ensuring safety and security of Museums and its artefacts.
- (d) Further steps taken by the Government to check siphoning of valuable artefacts from museums are periphery lighting, personal frisking & baggage screening, 24 hours close circuit TV monitoring, RFID tagging and Induction of CISF in the museum security area.