

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5057
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.03.2018.**

ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING OF CULTURAL PROPERTIES

5057. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:

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

- (a) whether any valuable articles have reportedly gone missing/smuggled from various museums across the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of cultural properties/antiquities illegally trafficked from India during the last ten years alongwith their value in rupees;
- (c) whether the Government maintains or proposes to maintain an inventory of all the items of archaeological importance;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to amend the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act of 1972 in order to prevent smuggling of antiquities and if so, the time by which such an amendment is likely to be made?

ANSWER

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

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) As per the record available 179 articles have been reported missing from the museums of Ministry of Culture including Archaeological Survey of India site museums.
- (b) Information on cultural properties/antiquities illegally trafficked from India is not captured in the data of Ministry of Culture.
- (c) Inventory of the artefacts are maintained by the Museums with detailed to documentation of each object displayed in Museums or kept in reserve
- (d) collection.
- (e) The Antiquities, Art Treasures Regulation, Export and Import Control Bill has been drafted to replace the existing Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972. Comments have been sought from various stake holders and same are under process.