

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1957
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2018**

SMUGGLING OF ARTEFACTS

+1957. SHRI MANSHANKAR NINAMA :

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that smuggling of articles of utmost archeological importance is going on continuously and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is also aware that several illegal traders have their own websites and they openly auction artefacts brought stealthily; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government in this regard so far?

ANSWER

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

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) Thirteen numbers of cases of theft of the antiquities have been reported from Centrally Protected Monuments of Archaeological Survey of India during last three years from 2015-2017 and current year upto 30th June, 2018 (Annexure I).
- (b) No, Madam. At present, there is no such information available that illegal traders have their own websites for auction of artefacts. However, in the past a complaint related to online auction of a Jain idol to
- (c) by www.saffronart.com website came to light. The complaint was investigated by the CBI but could not be established.

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1957 FOR 30.07.2018**

Statement giving details of State/U.T. wise theft of antiquities from Centrally Protected Monuments/Sites maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India for last three years from 2015-2017 and current year upto 30th June, 2018

Sl. No.	State	Name of Monument/Sites/Place of origin	Period, origin and historical value of the antiquities	Date of theft	Action taken/Present status
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YEAR 2015					
1.	Karnataka	Bhimesheshwara temple at Neelgunda, Harappanahalli Taluk, Davangere district, Karnataka	Schist stone Yaksha sculpture dated 11 th -12 th century A.D. approx.	26.04.2015	F.I.R. lodged in respective police station and matter is under investigation
2.	Orissa	Trivikrama (Locally called Bali Vamana) from the premises of Varahanatha temple, Jajpur, Orrisa	Sculpture of Trivikrama (Locally called Bali) dated 11 th -12 th century A.D. approx.	18.05.2015	F.I.R. lodged in respective police station and matter is under investigation
3.	Karnataka	Bhoganandiswara temple at Nand, Chikkaballapur Talkuk Chikkaballapur District, Karanatak	Black stone kalsha dated 11 th -12 th century A.D. approx.	16.09.2015	F.I.R. lodged in respective police station and matter is under investigation
4.	Maharashtra (M.H.)	Sculpture Shed, Aam Khas Gate, Daulatabad Fort, District-Aurangabad	11 antiquities dated 16 th -17 th century A.D. approx.	16.09.2015	F.I.R. lodged in respective police station and matter is under investigation
5.	Bihar	Jain Temple, Vaibhar, Rajgir, Patna.	Stone Sculpture dated 11 th -12 th century A.D. approx.	22 & 23.11.2015	F.I.R. lodged in respective police station and matter is under investigation
6.	Orrisa	Bhairawa Ganesh and Kaumari form Chandrasekhar temple, Kapilas	Sculpture dated 11 th -12 th century A.D. approx.	25/26.11.2015	F.I.R. lodged in respective police station and matter is under investigation

YEAR 2016					
7.	Maharashtra	Kasa Fort, district Raigad, Maharashtra	Iron Canon (small size) dated 11 th -12 th century A.D. approx.	05.12.2015.	F.I.R. lodged in respective police station and matter is under investigation
8.	Rajasthan	Ancient Ruins Kalyanpur, Distt. Udaipur	Three Stone sculpture dated 11 th -12 th century A.D. approx.	3 rd & 4 th Feb. 2016.	F.I.R. lodged in respective police station and matter is under investigation
9.	Chhattisgarh	Bhairavbaba Temple, Dantewada & Ruined Temple, Jiyapara, District South Bastar Dantewada, Chhattisgarh	Two stone sculptures of Bhairava	6th & 7th July 2016	F.I.R. lodged in respective police station and matter is under investigation
10.	Andhra Pradesh	Sri Kumaraarama Bhimeswara Swamy temple, Samalkot Mandal of East Godavari District	Stone dated 11 th -12 th century A.D. approx.	24 th & 25 th November 2016	F.I.R. lodged in respective police station and matter is under investigation
11.	Karnataka	Ramalingeswara temple complex Avani, Mulbagali taluk, Kolar district, Karnataka	One stone Ganesha fixed on the open mandapa of Vigneswara Shrine dated 11 th -12 th century A.D. approx.	26 th & 27 th November 2016	F.I.R. lodged in respective police station and matter is under investigation
12.	Andhra Pradesh	Veerabhadra temple, Motupalle Chinaganjam Mandal, Prakasam dist. Andhra Pradesh	Stone Nandi idol	12th & 13th December 2016.	Recovered on 18.12.20 16
YEAR 2017					
13.	Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh	Sri Anadavalli Ammavaru Temple, Parasurameshwara Swamy Complex, Gudimallam, district Chitoor	Nandi idol stone sculpture of Nandi dated 11 th -12 th century A.D. approx.	03.11.2017	F.I.R. lodged in respective police station and matter is under investigation