

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3049  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2019

PRIVATE COLLECTION OF HISTORICAL OBJECTS

3049: SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of posts lying vacant in Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) since 2014 and the details of steps taken to fill the said vacancies;
- (b) the number of privately owned museums in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the details of steps taken for ensuring maintenance and restoration of antiques held in private museums;
- (d) the number of cases regarding illegal trade of antiquities registered during the last three years and the current year and the steps taken to combat the same;
- (e) the Government's policy with respect to private collections of historical objects, since they are part of the wider community's history which are accessible to only a handful of wealthy individuals;
- (f) whether the Government proposes on obligating private collectors to display artefacts to general public for a minimum number of days per year and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (g) the number of monuments in the country which were more than 75 years old demolished since 2014?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CULTURE AND MINISTER  
OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) The vacancies which have arisen in ASI since 2014 have been filled up from time to time and at present there are 1653 vacancies. ASI is taking concerted efforts to fill up the vacancies as and when they arise through UPSC, SSC and by holding meetings of Departmental Promotion Committees.
- (b) & (c) The private museums do not come under the purview of Ministry of Culture.

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- (d) Archaeological Survey of India has not registered any case of illegal trade of antiquities during the last three years and the current year. The various Enforcing Agencies under the control of State/UT governments are empowered to combat the same.
- (e) Presently, ASI do not have any Policy with respect to private collection of historical objects. As per provisions of the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 certain antiquities are registerable and can be retained in private ownership.
- (f) The antiquities are dealt under the provisions of Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972. There is no provision that the antiquities are to be displayed for general public by private collectors for a minimum number of the days.
- (g) No monument declared as protected monument under the provisions of AMASRA Act 1958 has been demolished.