

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2315
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.07.2019.**

Theft of Idols

2315. Shri Devusinh Jesingbhai Chauhan :

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

- (a) the number of theft cases of rare idols/artifacts reported during each of the last three years and the current year and the action taken to recover them during the said period, State /UT –wise;
- (b) whether the Government has taken steps to prevent such incidents and provide proper security at these temples to protect such artifacts/idols; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE, (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CULTURE AND TOURISM

(PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

- (a) Six cases of theft of antiquities have been reported from the centrally protected monuments / sites / site museums managed by the Archaeological Survey of India across the country during the last three years and the current year. Details are at Annexure-I. When any theft of antiquity is reported, First Information Report is lodged in concerned police station and look out notice is issued to law enforcing agencies including custom exit channels to keep vigil to trace stolen antiquity and prevent illegal export.
- (b) and (c) Yes Sir. Archaeological Survey of India is committed towards the protection of monuments, sites and museums under its jurisdiction. Besides regular watch and ward staff of Archaeological Survey of India, Private Security Guards, State Police Armed Guards, Central Industrial Security Force have been deployed as per requirement.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2315 FOR 08.07.2019

List of theft cases of Antiquities reported from Centrally Protected Monuments/Sites/Site Museums under the Jurisdiction of Archaeological Survey of India during last three years and Current Year

Sl. No.	Year	State	Location /Antiquity/ Material	Date of Theft	Action Taken	Status
1.	2016	Rajasthan	Theft of three stone sculptures namely standing figure of Siva and Parvati (two nos.), and Lakulisha, from the Ancient Ruins Kalyanpur, District Udaipur	3 / 4 February 2016.	F.I.R. Lodged and look out notice issued.	Yet to be recovered
2.	2016	Chhattisgarh	Theft of two Bhairava stone sculptures from Dantewada	06/07. July 2016.	F.I.R. Lodged and look out notice issued.	Yet to be recovered
3.	2016	Andhra Pradesh	Theft of a stone Nandi sculpture from Sri Kumaraarama Bhimeswara Swamy temple, Samalkot Mandal of East Godavari District.	24 / 25 November 2016	F.I.R. Lodged and look out notice issued.	Yet to be recovered
4.	2016	Karnataka	Theft of one stone sculpture of Ganesha fixed in the open mandapa of Vigneswara Shrine of Ramalingeswara temple complex Avani, Mulbagali taluk, Kolar District	26 / 27 November 2016	F.I.R. Lodged and look out notice issued.	Yet to be recovered
5.	2016	Andhra Pradesh	Theft of stone sculpture of Nandi	12/13 Decemb	F.I.R. Lodged	Stolen antiquity

			from the Veerabhadra Temple, Motupalle, Chinaganjam Mandal, Parakasham District.	er 2016	and look out notice issued.	recovered by local police on 18 th December 2016.
6.	2017	Andhra Pradesh	Theft of a stone sculpture of Nandi from Sri Anadavalli Ammavaru Temple, Parasurameshwara Swamy Complex, Gudimallam, Chittoor District	26 / 27 Novem ber 2017	F.I.R. Lodged and look out notice issued.	Yet to be recovered
7.	2018		NIL			
8.	2019		NIL			