

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF CULTURE**  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1721**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.07.2023**

**RETURNING OF ARTEFACTS**

1721. SHRI GAUTAM GAMBHIR:  
DR. MANOJ RAJORIA:  
SHRIMATI RANJEETA KOLI:  
SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:  
SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARASWATI:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any new proposal for the maintenance and conservation of monuments and antiquities brought by the Indian Government in the recent years;
- (b) if so, the number of heritage items brought back to India from other countries during each of the last nine years and the current year along with the names of the countries from which the heritage items were brought back to India;
- (c) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to bring the remaining heritage items back to India;
- (d) whether the Government of India is implementing any programme namely National Missions on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA) to prepare a database of antiquities and if so, the salient features thereof; and
- (e) whether any programme is being implemented under the NMMA to spread cultural awareness amongst people by way of preserving heritage sites in other States of the country including Rajasthan and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF CULTURE, TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION  
(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

- (a) Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) undertakes conservation & maintenance of monuments from the budget provided to ASI as per requirement and availability of resources.
- (b) The antiquities brought back to the country are authenticated and subsequently handed over to the respective agencies/states. Remaining antiquities are displayed/kept in safe custody by the ASI for upkeep. 238 antiquities have been retrieved in last nine years. A year-wise detail is given at Annexure-I.
- (c) Government of India is committed to bringing back antiquities of Indian origin which were taken away from India. Whenever any such antiquity of Indian origin surfaces abroad, ASI takes up the matter with the Indian Embassies/Missions abroad through MEA for their retrieval.
- (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has established the National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA) in 2007 to prepare two national registers on monuments and antiquities, which will be beneficial to the public including students, researchers, administrative personnel, etc.
- (e) No, Sir. NMMA is not separately involved in promoting cultural awareness in any part of the country other than conducting training programmes and workshops on documentation of monuments and antiquities.

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1721 FOR 31.07.2023.**

**LIST OF ANTIQUITIES RETRIEVED FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES SINCE 2014 TO TILL DATE**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>No. of Antiquity</b>
2014	Australia	2
2015	Canada	1
	Germany	1
	Singapore	1
2016	USA	11
	Australia	3
2017	USA	8
	UK	1
2018	USA	2
2019	UK	1
	Australia	1
2020	Australia	3
	UK	5
2021	UK	1
	Canada	1
	USA	157
2022	Australia	29
	UK	1
2023	Australia	2
	UK	7
		<b>Total - 238</b>

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