

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2466
ANSWERED ON- 18/12/2023

MOU TO BRING BACK INDIAN ARTEFACTS

2466. SHRI HEMANT TUKARAM GODSE:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:-

- (a) the details of the ancient items smuggled to various foreign countries which have been brought back to the country during the last five years;
- (b) whether the Government has taken concrete steps to prevent smuggling of Indian Cultural artefacts out of the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with many countries to bring back the smuggled ancient remains; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE, TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

- (a) 314 antiquities have been repatriated during last five years. Country-wise list is as below:-

Country	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
USA	-	-	158	-	105	263
UK	1	5	1	1	7	15
Australia	1	3	-	29	2	35
Italy	-	-	-	-	1	1
Total	02	08	159	30	115	314

- (b) to (d) Yes, whenever theft of an antiquity is reported, FIR is lodged in concerned police station and 'Look Out Notice' is issued to law enforcement agencies including Custom Exit Channels to keep vigil to trace stolen antiquity and prevent its illegal export. In case, antiquity is traced, case is pursued by concerned law enforcement agency in coordination with the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) for recovery.
- (e) & (f) No such MoU has been signed.
