

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-231  
ANSWERED ON- 05/02/2024

**MOUS TO REPATRIATE SMUGGLED ANTIQUITIES**

231. SHRIMATI DELKAR KALABEN MOHANBHAI:  
SHRI HEMANT TUKARAM GODSE:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:-

- (a) the number of antiques brought back to India smuggled to different countries of the world during the last five years;
- (b) whether the Government has taken any concrete measures to curb the smuggling of cultural antiquities of India;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with several countries to bring back the said smuggled antiques; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

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

Country	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
USA	-	-	157	-	105	262
UK	1	5	1	1	7	15
Canada	-	-	1	-	-	1
Australia	1	3	-	29	2	35
Italy	-	-	-	-	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>314</b>

- (b) to (c) Yes Sir, 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.

- (d) & (e) No such MoU has been signed. Though we have attempted to address the issue of repatriation during the discussion in Culture Working Group during G-20. The subject was titled, "Re(ad)dress: Return of Treasures".

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