

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4010
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.03.2020**

STOLEN STATUE

**4010. SHRI S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN:
SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI:
DR. T.R. PAARIVENDHAR:
SHRI A.K.P. CHINRAJ:**

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian High Commission in London has received a report from Tamil Nadu Police that 15th century bronze statue of Tamil poet 'Tirumankai Aalvar' which was reportedly stolen from a temple in Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu and was replaced with a fake one and that the stolen idol is the same one that is with Ashmolean Museum in Oxford;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Indian High Commission, London on this report?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN]**

- (a) & (b) Yes. High Commission of India, London has received the report about the stolen idol of Tamil poet 'Tirumankai Aalvar' from Tamil Nadu Police.
- (c) The Indian High Commission has taken up the matter with Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.
