

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3167
ANSWERED ON 15.03.2021

PROTECTION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL PLACES FROM THEFT

†3167. SHRI RODMAL NAGAR:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether incidents of theft have been reported from places of archaeological importance and protected monuments;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any criteria has been fixed for protection of places of archaeological importance; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government to check such incidents?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CULTURE & TOURISM

(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) The details are at **Annexure I.**
- (c) As per the criteria specified under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, a monument or site should be of historical, archaeological or artistic interest and not less than 100 years old.
- (d) Archaeological Survey of India is committed towards protection of the monuments, sites and antiquities under its jurisdiction. Besides regular watch and ward staff of Archaeological Survey of India, Private Security Guards, State Police Armed Guards, and Central Industrial Security Force have been deployed as per requirement. Whenever any theft of antiquity is reported, FIR is lodged in concerned police station and 'Look Out Notice' is issued to law enforcing agencies (like CBI, police, etc.) including Custom Exit Channels to keep vigil to trace stolen antiquity and prevent their illegal export.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY PART (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED
QUESTION NO. 3167 FOR 15.03.2021**

Annexure I

- **Statement giving details of theft of antiquities from Centrally Protected Monuments/Sites/Museums maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India in the year 2017.**

1.	Andhra Pradesh	Theft of a Nandi idol from Sri Anadavalli Ammavaru Temple, Parasurameshwara Swamy Complex, Gudimallam, Chittoor district	Stone	5-10-2017	F.I.R Lodged	Not recovered
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- **No theft is reported from Centrally Protected Monuments/Sites/Museums maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India in the year 2018 and 2019**

- **Statement giving details of theft of antiquities from Centrally Protected Monuments/Sites/Museums maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India in the year 2020**

1.	Karnataka	Theft of <i>Kalasa</i> fixed to the <i>shikhara</i> of Sadashiva Temple, Nuggehalli, Taluk Chennarayapatna, District Hassan, Karnataka	Copper	25-02-2020	F.I.R Lodged	Not recovered
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- **Statement giving details of theft of antiquities from Centrally Protected Monuments/Sites/Museums maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India in the year 2021.**

1.	Uttarakhand	Theft of Shiva Linga from Bhairav Temple, Mrityunjay Temple Complex, Dwarahat, District Almora	Stone	10.02.2021	F.I.R Lodged	Police has caught the thief and the stone Shiva linga has been Recovered.
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