

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1227
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06/12/2021**

Special Campaign for Registration of Antiquities

1227. SHRI HIBI EDEN:

Will the **Minister of Culture**
संस्कृति मंत्री
be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has been asked to probe the validity of the antiques found at the residence of fake antiquities dealer Monson Mavunkal an accused in the antique fraud case and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the ASI has found that the copper plate manuscript on Sabarimala recovered from the residence is fake and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the ASI has conducted any special campaign for registration of antiquities in the possession of private entities in the country and if so, the details including the outcome of the campaign; and
- (d) whether a campaign is also being carried out to ensure that the antiquarian treasures are protected in the form of antiquity and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

- (a) & (b) Yes Sir, the Archaeological Survey of India has been asked by the Crime Branch Central Unit-II, Ernakulam to examine the objects which were in the possession of Monson Mavunkal, the process for which has been initiated.
- (c) & (d) The Archaeological Survey of India had conducted a special campaign for registration of antiquities from 13th to 28th September 2019. Since then, a total of 4,509 antiquities have been registered till date. Registering Officers have been nominated at each Circle offices of ASI to register the antiquities. Registration of antiquities by ASI is a regular process.