GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.: 1843 (To be answered on the 9th December 2021)

THE MAHARAJA COLLECTION OF AIR INDIA

1843. SHRI GURJEET SINGH AUJLA

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

be pleased to state:-

(a) whether it is a fact that 'The Maharaja Collection' of Air India have more than 4000 artworks which includes paintings, scriptures, artworks, etc.

(b) if so, the complete details with the estimated price of such assets thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that many of these collections have been lost, stolen or damaged by Air India; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

(GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))

- (a) and (b): The collection of art work includes approximately 4840 paintings and 2390 other objects. No exercise for estimating the value of these items has been done.
- (c) and (d): One painting "Flying Apsara" was found stolen/misplaced, which was subsequently recovered and a FIR in the case was registered with Delhi Police. Further, as per records of Air India, 19 paintings were destroyed in various fire incidents, 02 were scrapped, 01 was broken and few were not traceable. Presently, the Art and Artifacts of Air India are kept in the Air India Building in Mumbai under 24 x 7 CCTV surveillance, which is supervised by Air India security.