

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 4056
ANSWERED ON -28.03.2022

THEFT AT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

4056. SHRIMATI SARMISTHA SETHI:

Will the Minister of **CULTURE** be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether any incidents of theft at sites of Archaeological importance and protected sites have come to notice/been reported during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the norms fixed for protection of Archaeological sites; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government on such incidents?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

- (a) to (d) ASI protects monuments and sites declared as of national importance in accordance with the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. Sporadic incidents of theft have been reported from some sites. Hence, Government is committed towards protection and safeguarding of antiquities. At centrally protected monuments and sites, watch and ward staff have been deployed and their strength has been augmented by deploying private security guards and Central Industrial Security Force. Information on any incidence of theft is shared with Central Bureau of Investigation and Customs authorities. Officials of ASI also assist the Custom officials at Custom exit channels to prevent smuggling of antiquities and also to verify antiquities brought for export.
