

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 735
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07/02/2022**

SMUGGLING OF ANTIQUITIES

735. PROF. SOUGATA RAY:

Will the Minister of CULTURE
संस्कृति मंत्री
be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of steps taken so far to prevent large scale smuggling/export of valuable antiques from the country;
- (b) whether the Government has stepped up vigilance/checking in all ports and other stations in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of antiques returned from foreign countries since the last three years?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF CULTURE, TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH
EASTERN REGION
(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)**

- (a) to (c) The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is committed towards protection and safeguard of antiquities at centrally protected monuments and sites. For this purpose, watch and ward staff is deployed and their strength is augmented by deploying private security guards, and Central Industrial Security Force. Information on any theft is shared with Central Bureau of Investigation and Customs authorities. ASI officials also assist the Custom officials at Custom exit channels to prevent smuggling of antiquities and also to verify antiquities brought for export.
- (d) The details are at Annexure-I.

Annexure - I

Statement giving details of antiques returned from foreign countries since the last three years (from 2019 to 2021), in reply of part (d) of LOK SABHA Unstarred Qn.No.735 for 07/02/2022:-

2019	UK	01
	Australia	01
2020	Australia	03
	UK	05
2021	UK	01
	Canada	01
	USA	157
Total - 169		