

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO : 102
Answer Date: 25.07.2022**

NATIONAL MISSION ON MONUMENTS AND ANTIQUITIES

*** 102. SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:**
SHRIMATI MANJULATA MANDAL:

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

- (a) the number of heritage objects that have been brought back to India from other countries during each of the last eight years;
- (b) whether there is a substantial increase in bringing back heritage objects during the last five years, if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to bring remaining heritage objects to India;
- (c) whether the Government is implementing any programme called National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA) for preparing a National Register on Antiquities and if so, the details thereof including the salient features of NMMA;
- (d) whether NMMA has achieved the objective for which it was set up and the manner in which the National Register on Antiquities will be beneficial to the people in the country; and
- (e) whether activity of promoting cultural awareness among people through protection of heritage sites in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu is going on under NMMA and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) To (e) : A statement is laid on the table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY PART (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA
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- (a) Total number of 229 antiquities have been retrieved from other countries since 2014. Details may be seen at **Annexure “A”**
- (b) Yes, Sir. There is a substantial increase in bringing back heritage objects during the last five years.
Government of India is committed to bring back the antiquities of Indian origin which were taken out illegally. Whenever any such antiquity of Indian origin surfaces in any location abroad, ASI takes up the matter with the Embassies/Missions abroad through MEA for their retrieval.
- (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of India had launched the National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA) in 2007 to prepare national registers on monuments and antiquities. Documented data and other information is available at NMMA website: <http://nmma.nic.in> . A note on NMMA is attached in **Annexure “B”**
- (d) Yes, Sir. Under the Mission, data of 16.83 Lakh antiquities and 1.84 Lakh built heritage & sites, including 9998 in Maharashtra & 15009 in Tamil Nadu, beneficial to the public
- (e) including students, colleges, researchers, administrative personnel etc. has been collected. It is the endeavour of the Govt. to have a comprehensive database of antiquities and monuments.
National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA) promotes awareness and sensitizes people about the benefits of preserving monuments and antiquities through its publications and their publicity.

Annexure A

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 102 FOR 25.07.2022

ANTIQUITIES RETRIEVED FROM OTHER COUNTRIES DURING THE LAST EIGHT YEARS (FROM 2014 TO TILL DATE)

Year	Country	No. of Antiquity
2014	Australia	2
2015	Canada	1
	Germany	1
	Singapore	1
2016	USA	11
	Australia	3
2017	USA	8
	UK	1
2018	USA	2
2019	UK	1
	Australia	1
2020	Australia	3
	UK	5
2021	UK	1
	Canada	1
	USA	157
2022	Australia	29
	UK	1
		Total - 229

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 102 FOR 25.07.2022

NATIONAL MISSION ON MONUMENTS AND ANTIQUITIES

The National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities was launched by the Hon'ble Culture Minister on 19th March 2007, with following objectives:

1. Documentation and creation of suitable database on built heritage and sites through primary survey for information and dissemination to planners, researchers, etc. and for better management of such cultural resources.
2. Documentation in a uniform format developed by NMMA, of all antiquities that are available in different formats in the form of Registered Antiquities, Catalogued Antiquities with Central as well as State Governments, Private museums and Collections, Universities, etc.
3. Promote awareness and sensitize people concerning the benefits of preserving the historical and cultural aspects of built heritage, sites and antiquities.
4. Extend training facility to the concerned State Departments, NGOs, Universities, and Museums etc.
5. Help in developing synergy between institutions like Archaeological Survey of India, State Departments, concerned Institutions and NGOs to generate close interaction.
6. Publication and Publicity.

Bench mark documents have already been created with 21 points on antiquities and built heritage and sites(BHS). These documents are available at the NMMA web site.

National registers of Antiquities and Built Heritages will help the Government at the Centre as well as administrative authorities up to the local level in many fronts.

These will be helpful in controlling the movement of antiquities and their illegal trafficking

Fresh planning of urban settlements and re orientation of new structural edifices with a special emphasis on heritage and tourism sector - which can be a boost to any remote township with few avenues to earn foreign currencies and revenue.

These will create thematic maps, state- specific cultural indices.

These will be helpful in further research and many unseen opportunities for the posterity.

Antiquities:

Sl. No.	Name of Agency	Estimated No (in lakh) approx.	Data Available with NMMA (in lakh)
1.	Archaeological Survey of India	15.0	16.83 (from different sources)
2.	National / State / Govt Museums	25.0	
3.	Universities	10.0	
4.	Private Collections / Individuals etc.	8.0	
	Total	58.0	16.83 (12,59,912 templates published so far)