

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- †2589**  
ANSWERED ON- 17/03/2025

**REPATRIATION OF ARTEFACTS THROUGH CULTURAL PROPERTY AGREEMENT**

†2589. SMT. ROOPKUMARI CHOUDHARY:  
SHRI P P CHAUDHARY:  
SMT. APARAJITA SARANGI:  
DR. K SUDHAKAR:  
DR. HEMANT VISHNU SAVARA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:-

- (a) the number of looted or stolen artefacts which have been repatriated during the last decade from various countries;
- (b) whether any agreements is being planned for repatriation of more Indian artefacts from foreign countries, private collectors and others, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of looted or stolen artefacts that are expected to be repatriated under the Cultural Property Agreement to prevent illicit Trade of Antiquities agreement between India & USA during the last decade from various countries;
- (d) the details of the time-line for bringing them back;
- (e) whether the Government plans to collaborate with international organisations or other nations to further strengthen its efforts in recovering stolen antiquities, if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the agreement includes provision for enhancing bilateral cooperation in heritage conservation, museum exchanges, or technical training in cultural preservation, if so, the details thereof;
- (g) the details of the major cultural or religious places of Chhattisgarh where from artefacts have been stolen so far;
- (h) whether efforts have been made to recover these artefacts, if so, the details thereof;
- (i) whether the State Government of Chhattisgarh has taken any specific step to secure the cultural heritage and check the incidents of theft and if so, the details of the steps taken in this regard; and
- (j) whether the Government is considering opening up of more Archaeological and religious sites for workshop, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM  
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)**

- (a) Total 642 antiquities have been retrieved from various countries during the last decade.
- (b to d) No such agreement is under consideration; however, a Cultural Property Agreement (CPA) has been signed with the United States of America (USA) to prevent smuggling of Indian antiquities. Agreement, being preventive in nature, no such numbers has been targeted.
- (e) India collaborates with different International organisations including UNESCO and INTERPOL as per requirement.
- (f) The CPA has provision for fostering cooperation and mutual understanding in the matters of technical assistant, illicit trade and pillage of Cultural property.
- (g) Total 27 antiquities have been stolen from Chhattisgarh as detailed in 'Annexure A'.
- (h & i) Archaeological Survey of India is committed for protection of monuments, sites and antiquities under its jurisdiction. Besides regular watch and ward staff of Archaeological Survey of India, Private Security Guards and Central Industrial Security Force have been deployed as per requirement. Whenever any theft of antiquity is reported, FIR is lodged in concerned police station and 'Look Out Notice' is issued to law enforcement agencies including Custom Exit Channels to keep vigil to trace stolen antiquity and prevent its illegal export.
- (j) No such proposal is under consideration.

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**Annexure A**

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART- (g) LOK SABHA UNSTARRED  
QUESTION NO. 2589 for 17.03.2025

**Details of stolen antiquities from Centrally Protected Monuments under the jurisdiction of  
ASI, Raipur circle.**

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date of theft	Case detail/FIR	Remark
1.	One seated stone image of a Naga deity which was locally known as Laxman Murty from Laxman temple, Sirpur, Distt. Mahasamund	13/10/2005	F.I.R.Lodged.  F.I.R. No.249/05.dt 14/10/2005	Stolen sculpture was recovered by the C.G. Police within a week and handed over to A.S.I.
2	Seated stone image of Hariti from the excavated site known as Padmapani Monastery,Sirpur, Distt. Mahasamund	22-23/6/2005	F.I.R.Lodged.  F.I.R. No.155/05.dt 23/6/2005	Stolen sculpture was recovered by the C.G. Police within a week and handed over to A.S.I.
3	One Shiva (Natraj) Dancing pose ,and  One Seated Brahma, Mahadev temple Pali, Distt. Korba	31/08/2012 & 01/09/2012 Intervening Night	FIR Lodged  FIR No. 188/12  Dt. 01/09/2012	Not recovered
4	Merchant Image Excavated Tivardev Monastery, Sirpur Distt. Mahasamund.	17/03/2013	FIR Lodged  FIR No. 336  Dt . 18/03/2013	Not recovered
5.	One Bhairav image, Bhairavbaba temple, Dantewada &  One Bhairav image, ruined temple, Jiyapara, Dantewada, Distt.	06/07/2016  & 07/07/2016 Intervening Night	FIR Lodged  FIR No. 63/16  Dt . 07/07/2016	Not recovered

	Dantewada			
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**Details of stolen antiquities as provided by the Department of Archaeology, Archives and Museum, Raipur, Chhattisgarh**

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date of theft	Case detail/FIR	Remark
1.	Images of Vaishnavi, Ardhanarishvar & Four-armed Shiv, Dipadih (Shankargarh) District Sarguja State Protected site	08-09/01/2003	08-09/1/2003/Pra.Kra.3/03 Dated 9/1/2003	Not Recovered
2.	Garudasina Vishnu (Registered), Sirpur (Tumgaon) District Mahasamund Unprotected site	08-09/06/2001	08 09/6/2001/Pra.Kra.74/2001 Dated 09/06/2001	Not Recovered
3.	Parvati, Dulhara (Ratanpur) District Bilaspur Unprotected site	14-15/01/2003	14-15/1/2003/Pra.Kra.14/03 Dated 15/01/2003	Recovered (21/11/2005)
4.	Garuda (Bhanvar Ganesh), Pali (Masturi) District Bilaspur Unprotected site	26-27/01/2004	26-27/01/2004/Pra.Kra.30/04 Dated 27/01/2004	Recovered (14/02/2003)
5.	Garuda(Bhanvar Ganesh), Pali (Masturi) District Bilaspur Unprotected site	20-21/04/2006	20-21/04/2006/Pra.Kra.123/06 Dated 21/04/2006	Recovered (12/03/2007)
6.	Brahma, Kirarigodhi (Bilha) District Bilaspur Unprotected site	17/07/2005	17/7/2005/Pra.Kra.56/2005 Dated 17/07/2005	-
7.	Vishnu, Kirarigodhi (Bilha) District Bilaspur Unprotected site	09-10/11/2006	09-10/11/Pra.Kra.157/2006 Dated 10/11/2006	Not Recovered
8.	Surya(Moti Barahiya),Kalcha (Udaypur) District Sarguja	24-25/03/2007	24-25/3/2007/Pra.Kra.20/2007 Dated – 25/03/2007	Not Recovered

	State Protected site			
9.	Mavali Mata (Rajapurusha), Rampur (Balodabazar) District Balodabazar Unprotected site	-	Pra.Kra.29/04	Recovered (16/02/2004)
10.	Chandi (Jain Tirthankar), Chouha (Masturi) District Bilaspur Unprotected site	27-28/06/2010	27-28/6/2010	-
11.	Chouha (Masturi) District Bilaspur Unprotected site	-	218/1996	-
12.	Mahaveer Swami Ganesh, Baghnadi District Rajnandgaon Unprotected site	16/07/2005	Pra.Kra.69/05 Dated 16/07/2005	Recovered (16/07/2005)
13.	Garuda (Siva Statue), Garhsivani (Tumgaon) District Mahasamund Unprotected site	20-21/12/2006	20- 21/12/2006/Pra.Kra.306/06 Dated 21/01/.2006	Not Recovered
14.	Shivalinga , Maheshpur (Udaypur) District Sarguja Excavated site	20/08/2009	20/8/2009/Pra.Kra.108/2009 Dated 20/08/2009	Recovered
15.	Harihar, Maheshpur (Udaypur) District Sarguja Excavated site	21-22/03/2011	21- 22/3/2011/Pra.Kra.35/2011 Dated 25/03/2011	Not Recovered Case eliminated (26.05.2011)
16.	Uma-Maheshvar (03 Nos.) ,Maheshpur (Udaypur) District Sarguja Excavated site	08-09/02/2013	08- 09/2/2013/Pra.Kra.27/2013 Dated 09/02/2013	Not Recovered