

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-85**  
ANSWERED ON- 03/02/2025

**ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF CULTURAL PROPERTY**

85.SHRIK C VENUGOPAL:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Government has taken necessary steps to reduce illicit trafficking of cultural property by 2030, regulate online trading platforms and raise public awareness about restitution laws and conventions;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the efforts made/being made by the Government to protect and restore cultural property?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM  
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a & b) The Government is taking necessary steps towards the prevention of illicit trafficking of cultural property. Besides regular watch and ward staff, Private Security Guards and Central Industrial Security Force have been deployed as per requirement at monuments, sites and museums. Whenever any theft of antiquity is reported, FIR is lodged and 'Look Out Notice' is issued to law enforcement agencies including Custom Exit Channels to keep vigil to trace stolen antiquity and prevent its export. A Cultural Property Agreement (CPA) has also been signed with USA on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2024 that will make easy retrieval of antiquities.

Exhibitions and workshops are organized for public awareness. Recently, exhibitions titled, "Re(ad)dress: Return of Treasures" was held during the 46<sup>th</sup> Session of World Heritage Committee Meeting at New Delhi and exhibition titled, 'Journey beyond the Borders: Return of Treasures' was organized in Chennai as a part of the workshop on 'Antiquities Trafficking Prevention'. India was also represented during UNESCO Regional Capacity Building Workshop on 'Fighting Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property'.

(c) Archaeological Survey of India is committed to the protection of cultural property. Government has retrieved 655 antiquities from foreign countries from the year 1976 to 2024, of which 642 antiquities have been retrieved since 2014.

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