

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.212
ANSWERED ON 21/07/2025

STATUS OF STOLEN INDIAN ARTEFACTS

212. SHRI PUTTA MAHESH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any survey/study regarding the theft of Indian artefacts during the last five years;
- (b) if so, the details of the list of stolen artefacts during the last five years and their present status, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the details of the total number of artefacts recovered, still missing and unaccounted for over the last five years, State/UT-wise;
- (d) the details of the list of stolen Indian artefacts recovered from other countries during the last five years, country-wise; and
- (e) whether the Government has undertaken any steps for increasing awareness regarding stolen Indian artefacts and their recovery and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a)to(c) Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) maintains up to date data of theft cases in respect of protected monuments, sites and museums under its jurisdiction. Details are annexed as '**Annexure I**'.
- (d) Country wise details of the antiquities retrieved during last five years are annexed as '**Annexure II**'.
- (e) Government conducts awareness programmes, exhibitions and workshop for increasing awareness regarding stolen Indian artefacts and their recovery. Special programmes are conducted on various occasions for increasing awareness among the people.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 212 FOR 21.07.2025

DETAILS OF STOLEN ANTIQUITIES DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS

S. No.	State	Name of Monuments/Sites (from where the antiquities were stolen and location)	Name of object stolen	Year of theft	Status
1.	Karnataka	Sadashiva Temple, Nuggehalli, Taluk Channarayapatna, District Hassan.	Copper Kalasa	2020	-
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Golingeswara group of Temples, Biccavolu, District East Godawari.	Nandi sculpture	2021	Recovered
3.	Uttarakhand	Bhairav Temple, Mrityunjay Temple Complex, Dwarahat, District Almora.	Shiva Linga	2021	Recovered
4.	Jharkhand	Sitagarha Archaeological Excavation Site, District Hazaribagh.	Two sculptures of Buddha in bhumisparsha mudra	2021	Recovered
5.	Karnataka	Ganpati Amma Shrine of Lakshminarasimha Temple, Marehalli, District Mandya.	Stone idol of Ganpati	2022	-
6.	Bihar	Village Dattina, P.S Vikram, District Patna.	Image of Vishnu	2022	-
7.	Tamil Nadu	Parthasarathi and Krishna Temples, Parthivapuram, Vilavancode, District Kanyakumari.	Idol of Vishnu	2024	Recovered

ANNEXURE II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF LOKSABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 212 FOR 21.07.2025

COUNTRY WISE DETAIL OF RETRIEVAL OF ANTIQUITIES

Country	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Australia	3	-	29	2	-	34
Canada	-	1	-	-	-	1
Italy	-	-	-	1	-	1
Thailand	-	-	-	-	1	1
UK	5	1	1	7		14
USA	-	157	-	105	297	559
						Total- 610