

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.59
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.04.2016.**

RECOVERY OF STOLEN ANTIQUITIES

59. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken steps to recover stolen antiquities from India that are presently abroad and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has an estimate of the number of antiques that are currently illegally being smuggled outside the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether in the past three years these stolen antiquities have been returned to India and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether during the past three years cases of smuggling of Indian antiquities have been recorded and if so, the details thereof along with the cases reported during each of the last three years ?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE, CULTURE AND TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
AND MINISTER OF STATE, CIVIL AVIATION**

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) Archaeological Survey of India is making all efforts to recover stolen antiquities from abroad. Till date the Archaeological Survey of India has recovered eighteen numbers of antiquities from various countries. Annexure I.
- (b) Presently there is no estimate available with the Archaeological Survey of India, for the number of the antiquities that are currently illegally being smuggled outside the country, however, Central Bureau of Investigation has registered one case in connection with Indian antiquities stolen and sold in foreign countries since 2000 to 2016.
- (c) Six numbers of antiquities have been recovered from abroad during the last three years. Annexure II.
- (d) Presently there is no estimate available with the Archaeological Survey of India, for the number of the antiquities that are currently illegally being smuggled outside the country, however, Central Bureau of Investigation has registered one case in connection with Indian antiquities stolen and sold in foreign countries since 2000 to 2016.

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY PART TO (a) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.59 FOR 25.04.2016
LIST OF RETRIEVAL OF ANTIQUITIES FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES.**

Sl. No.	Description of object	Provenance	Country from which retrieved	Date/ year of Retrieval	Means of Retrieval	Present location
1.	Sawn stucco Head	Nalanda, Bihar	U.K. and France	1976	Voluntarily returned by British Museum, London and Madam Krishna Robound of France	Patna Circle
2.	Nataraja of Chola period	Sivapuram Tamil Nadu	U.S.A.	1986	Through Court Case in U.K and U.S.A.	Tamil Nadu Government
3.	Terracotta Yakashi of Tamluk	West Bengal	U.K.	1986	Court case was instituted in London but out of Court settlement was reached for retrieval	CAC, Purana Qila, N. Delhi
4.	Nataraja of Chola period	Tiruvilakkadi, Tamil Nadu	U.S.A	1986	Kimbell Art Museum returned the idol after Indemnity agreement was signed by the GOI on 12.8.1985	
5.	Nataraja of Chola period	Pathur, Tamil Nadu	U.K.	1991	Retrieved through Court case instituted in London High Court and appeal in Royal Court of Justice at London.	Tamil Nadu Government
6.	Terracotta figures from Bhitargaon	Utter Pradesh	U.S.A	1991	The figure was returned voluntarily by Los Angeles Country Museum.	CAC, Purana Qila, N. Delhi
7.	Amin pillars	Amin, Haryana	U.K	1979-80	Voluntarily returned	National Museum, New Delhi
8.	Image of Buddha	Bodhgaya, Bihar	U.S.A	1999	Voluntarily returned without seeking any monitory compensation by Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York	CAC, Purana Qila, N. Delhi

9.	Sculpture of Krishnajanma	Dhubela Museum Chattarpur (M.P.)	U.S.A	1999	Returned through the mediation of Consulate General of India, New York.	Dhubela Museum, Chattarpur (M.P)
10.	Paintings	i) Chandigarh Museum ii) Chandigarh Museum	U.S.A U.S.A	10-1-1990 4-3-1979	Voluntarily returned Voluntarily returned	Chandigarh Museum Chandigarh Museum
11.	Image of Lakulisa	Jageswar	U.S.A	2000	Voluntarily returned after negotiations by the Consulate General of India, Chichgo with Mrs. Marilyn Alsdorf.	CAC, Purana Qila, N. Delhi
12.	Decorative Wooden panels (7 nos.)	Rajasthan	Holand	2001	Voluntarily returned	CAC, Purana Qila, N. Delhi
13.	Yogini Vrishanana	----	Paris	2013	Return on initiative of the then Minister of Culture	National Museum
14.	Nataraja	Tamil Nadu	Australia	2014	Voluntarily returned	Under the custody of Idol Wing Tamil Nadu
15.	Ardhanariswara	Tamil Nadu	Australia	2014	Voluntarily returned	Under the custody Idol Wing, Tamil Nadu
16.	Parrot Lady	Madhya Pradesh	Canada	2015	Voluntarily returned	CAC, Purana Qila, N. Delhi
17.	Mahisamardini	J&K	Germany	2015	Voluntarily returned	CAC, Purana Qila, N. Delhi
18.	Uma Parameshwari	Tamil Nadu	Singapore	2015	Voluntarily returned	CAC, Purana Qila, New Delhi

ANNEXURE II**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY PART TO (C) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.59 FOR 25.04.2016
LIST OF RETRIEVAL OF ANTIQUITIES FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES DURING LAST THREE YEARS 2013-2015 AND
CURRENT YEAR UPTO 31st MARCH, 2016**

Sl.No.	Description of object	Provenance	Country from which retrieved	Date/ year of Retrieval	Means of Retrieval	Present location
1.	Yogini Vrishanana	----	Paris	2013	Return on initiative of the then Minister of Culture	National Museum
2.	Nataraja	Tamil Nadu	Australia	2014	Voluntarily returned	Under the custody of Idol Wing, Tamil Nadu
3.	Ardhanariswara	Tamil Nadu	Australia	2014	Voluntarily returned	Under the custody of Idol Wing, Tamil Nadu
4.	Parrot Lady	Madhya Pradesh	Canada	2015	Voluntarily returned	CAC, Purana Qila, N. Delhi
5.	Mahisamardini	J&K	Germany	2015	Voluntarily returned	CAC, Purana Qila, N. Delhi
6.	Uma Parameshwari	Tamil Nadu	Singapore	2015	Voluntarily returned	CAC, Purana Qila, N. Delhi