**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

**MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

**RAJYA SABHA**

**STARRED QUESTION NO.92**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.07.2015**

**SRAVANA 7, 1937 (SAKA)**

**AMENDMENT TO THE ANTIQUITY ACT**

**\*92. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL:**

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

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| (a) | whether it is a fact that any artifact/furniture, etc. which is more than 100 years old falls under the purview of ‘Antiquity’ and needs to be registered under the Antiquity Act; and |
| (b) | whether Government is considering any amendment to the Antiquity Act considering that there are millions of such items in the country and it is almost impossible to register them with Government? |

**ANSWER**

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

**(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)**

(a) to (b) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (b) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.92 FOR 29.07.2015 REGARDING AMENDMENT TO THE ANTIQUITY ACT**

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| (a) | Under the provisions of Section 2 of Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 , the definition of antiquity includes:-  ‘(I)(i) any coin, sculpture, painting, epigraph or other work of art or craftsmanship;  (ii)any article, object or thing detached from a building or cave;  (iii) any article, object or thing illustrative of science, art, crafts, literature, religion, customs, morals or politics in bygone ages;  (iv) any article, object or thing of historical interest;  (v) any article, object or thing declared by the Central Government, by notification in the Official Gazette, to be an antiquity for the purposes of this Act, which has been in existence for not less than one hundred years; and  (II) any manuscript, record or other document which is of scientific historical, literary or aesthetic value and which has been in existence for not less than seventy-five years;’  No Sir. All objects more than 100 years old need not be registered under the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972. The Central Government may, from time to time, by notification in the Official Gazette specify those antiquities which shall be registered under the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972. |
| (b) | Amendment of the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 is under examination. |