

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.45
ANSWERED ON 20/07/2026

REPATRIATION OF ANTIQUITIES AND CULTURAL OBJECTS

45.SMT. SHAMBHAVI:
DR. LATA WANKHEDE:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:-

- (a) the details and number of antiquities and cultural objects reported stolen during the last five years, year-wise;
- (b) the details and number of such antiquities traced and recovered during the last five years, year-wise;
- (c) the details of the number of antiquities presently under investigation or being pursued for recovery;
- (d) the details of the countries from which antiquities and cultural property have been repatriated during the last five years;
- (e) the details of the specific measures taken by the Government to strengthen tracing and recovery of stolen antiquities; and
- (f) the targets fixed for recovery and repatriation of antiquities and cultural property and the details of progress achieved thereunder?

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

- (a)to(c) The details of theft cases from the Centrally Protected Monuments are given at Annexure-I.
- (d) Details are given at Annexure 'II'.
- (e) The government takes necessary steps towards prevention of the theft of antiquities. Besides regular watch and ward staff, private security guards and Central Industrial Security Force have been deployed as per requirement at Monuments of National Importance, Sites and Museums. Whenever any theft of antiquity is reported; FIR is lodged and 'Look out Notice' is issued to the law-enforcement agencies including Custom Exit Channels to keep vigil to trace stolen antiquity and prevent export.
- (f) The repatriation of antiquities is a continuous process. The process of repatriation takes place with the help of Ministry of External Affairs, (MEA) and Indian Embassies/Missions, as and when any antiquity is traced or surfaced abroad.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 45 FOR 20.07.2026

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.	Andhra Pradesh	Golingeswara group of Temples, Biccavolu, District East Godawari.	Nandi sculpture	2021	Recovered
2.	Uttarakhand	Bhairav Temple, Mrityunjay Temple Complex, Dwarahat, District Almora.	Shiva Linga	2021	Recovered
3.	Jharkhand	Sitagarha Archaeological Excavation Site, District Hazaribagh.	Two sculptures of Buddha in bhumisparsha mudra	2021	Recovered
4.	Karnataka	GanpatiAmma Shrine of Lakshminarasimha Temple, Marehalli, District Mandya.	Stone idol of Ganpati	2022	Not Recovered
5.	Bihar	Village Dattina, P.S Vikram, District Patna.	Image of Vishnu	2022	Not Recovered
6.	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 LOK SABHA UNSTARRED
QUESTION NO 45FOR 20.07.2026

DETAILS OF THE RETRIEVAL OF ANTIQUITIES DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS
(UPTO 30 JUNE, 2026)

Year	Name of the Country	Number of Antiquities
2021	UK	01
	Canada	01
	USA	157
2022	Australia	29
	UK	01
2023	Australia	02
	UK	07
	USA	105
	Italy	01
2024	Thailand	01
	USA	297
2026	Australia	11
	USA	02
Total		615
