

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: From the attitude of the British Government it seems that our relationship with the Commonwealth is getting ornamental. This was reflected on the question of South Africa and now on this specific question. Will you, therefore, kindly reconsider whether, in view of this situation, we should continue our relationship with the Commonwealth.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, I have already submitted that we are unhappy that this has been done by the British Government to some of the countries of the Commonwealth.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next Question. Question No. 84.

*84. [*The Questioners (Shri Ram Naresh Kushawaha and Shri V. Naryanasamy) were absent. For answer; vide col 37-38 infra*].

MR. CHAIRMAN: Both are absent. What am I to do? A lot of disappointment to those who want to put supplementaries! Next Question. Question No. 85. Mr. B. Satyanarayan Reddy.

Theft of antiques

*85. **SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether investigations into the cases of thefts and attempts to send out of the country a large number of antiques in January, 1987 have been completed;

(b) if so, what is the outcome thereof and whether persons involved have been prosecuted; and

(c) what are the details of the art pieces recovered by the police?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) No. Sir. Investigations by the Central Bureau of Investigation with regard to idols and antiques recover-

ed by it on 25th January, 1987 and 4th and 5th February, 1987 are in progress. Three persons have been arrested and are now in judicial custody.

(c) 214 antique objects of various materials like black stone, sand stone, terracotta and also metals like bronze, etc. belonging to periods ranging between 2nd Century B.C. and 12th Century were recovered between 25th January, 1987 and 5th February, 1987.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Reddy.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Sir, every year valuable antiques are being stolen and they are being sent abroad and these antiques have been unauthorisedly sent out of the country and the value of these antiques comes to crores of rupees. Sir, according to the Archaeological Survey of India, many of these 214 antiques are over one thousand years old and three main sculptures, that is, a 20"-high stone idol of Goddess Kali, a 17"-high sculpture of Lord Garuda and his consort and a stone head of Lord Shankar were removed from the temple of Garwa village near Hardoi where they have been kept for some time. The other ones are believed to have been removed from the temples, monuments and excavations in and around Jhansi, Kanauj, Gwalior and Kanpur. I would like to know from the honourable Minister, apart from these, how many other temples and historical places are there where these valuable antiques are existing or how many other monuments are there from where these antiques have been removed and I would also like to know from the honourable Minister what concrete steps have been taken by the Government to protect these monuments and to recover these stolen antiques.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, with great respect, I would like to point out that I am concerned, the Ministry of Home Affairs is concerned, with this particular crime which has been detected. If the honourable Member

wants to know about the antiques which are missing and details about other temples, that question really does not come within the purview of this question. This question relates to a particular crime.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You reply only if you have any information.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have information about these antiques.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. If you have any information with regard to any crime or cases registered in respect of the other things, you can certainly give.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: With regard to this particular crime, we have been able to establish that the Garuda idol was stolen from a temple in Puri in Orissa in October-November, 1985. We have identified now some of these 214 antique objects and we have placed the period to which they belong as second century B.C. to the 12th century A.D. One of the objects has engravings in the Brahmi script. The effort that is now on is to match the recovered antiques with the cases registered by the various State police departments in respect of stolen antiques. Once we are able to do this, matching we would then be able to identify which antique came from which temple. But this effort will take some time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Reddy, you put your second supplementary.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Sir, I would like to know from the honourable Minister whether any special machinery has been created or whether the Government is going to consider setting up a special machinery or a sort of organisation by which you can prevent such theft or by which you can effectively investigate into such thefts.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: There is a Special Cell in the CBI dealing with antique thefts.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Jogi.

श्री अजीत जोगी : सभापति महोदय, मेरा पूरक प्रश्न एक विशिष्ट स्थान औरछा जो मध्य प्रदेश में है, वहां पर पुरातत्व और इतिहास की वस्तुओं की महत्वपूर्ण मंदिरों से हो रही चोरी से संबंधित है। दिसम्बर, 1986 में भगवान् कृष्ण की एक बहुत पुरानी और महत्वपूर्ण मूर्ति चोरी हुई जिसकी कीमत करोड़ों रुपए आंकी गयी है। यह चतुर्भुज मंदिर की मुख्य मूर्ति थी। महोदय, जो बात अत्यन्त गंभीर है वह यह है कि इस मंदिर की मुख्य थी। मैं 23 मूर्तियाँ होती थी जो कि पुरातत्व के दृष्टिकोण से बहुत ही महत्व की थी। इनमें से अभी तक 20 मूर्तियाँ चोरी हो चुकी हैं। औरछा में कुल 382 मूर्तियाँ पुरातत्व के दृष्टिकोण से वर्ष 1974 में महत्वपूर्ण आंकी गई थी इनमें से अधिकांश चोरी चली गई है। महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि इस प्रकार से हमारी धरोहर, जो इस दृष्टि से चोरी के माध्यम से कम हो रही है और उसे नुकसान पहुंचाया जा रहा है उस पर क्या कार्यवाही, औरछा में होने वाली चोरियों के संदर्भ में विशेष रूप से, सरकार द्वारा की जा रही है?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I share the concern of the hon. Member. We will try to find out if any of the idols reported to be stolen from Orchha match with the 214 antiques that we have recovered here. I do not know whether there is any connection. But I might say that two members of the gang were arrested at Satna in Madhya Pradesh. If there is any connection between the recovered and stolen idols, that would be established by matching the two.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Prashant.

SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like the hon. Minister to consider whether the Antiques Act of 1972 is ineffective. Particularly section 23 of this Act facilitates art lifters to get acquitted. It happens every year. It

is ineffective, with the result that every year 1000 antiques and art pieces are stolen and smuggled outside the country by these people. The Act is not so effective. That is why they are capable of carrying these outside the country and keeping them inside the country also. Is it possible to make amendments to this Act and to make it more effective?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I shall certainly examine the suggestion made by the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Abdi.

श्री हाशिम रत्ना इलाहाबादी आबदी :
चेयरमैन साहब, एन्टिक्स की चोरी किसी पार्टिक्युलर स्टेट में नहीं हो रही है बल्कि यह पूरे हिन्दुस्तान में फैली हुई है, मज और दवा की हैसियत रखते हैं। मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस विषय में वे क्या कोई खास कानूनी रियायत नहीं बल्कि कानूनी गुंजाइश पैदा कर रहे हैं ताकि वे गैंग जो शहर शहर और स्टेट स्टेट में घूमकर मस्जिदों से मदिरों से और दूसरे धार्मिक स्थानों से हमारे एन्टिक्स चोरी कर रहे हैं, उनको बाहर भेज रहे हैं, इनके साथ सिर्फ वही सलूक होता है जो कि आमतौर से बर्तन और छोटी मोटी चीजों की चोरी करने वालों के साथ होता है, तो क्या इनके लिए कोई अलग कानून बनाने का इरादा सरकार का है या कोई अलग सजा जो ज्यादा से ज्यादा कड़ी हो उसकी हैसियत पैदा करेगी उन लोगों के खिलाफ जो हमारी दौलत को बाहर ले जा रहे हैं ?

†[श्री हाशिम रत्ना इलाहाबादी]

عابدی: چہر مہن صاحب - ایلٹیکس کی چوری کسی پورٹی کلر اسٹیٹ میں نہیں ہو رہی ہے بلکہ پورے ہندوستان میں پھیلی ہوئی ہے۔

مرض اور وبائی حیثیت رکھتی ہے۔
میں آپ کے سارہم سے ملتی
جی سے یہ جائزہ چاہتا ہوں کہ
اس سلسلے میں وہ کیا کوئی خاص
قانونی رعایت نہیں بلکہ قانونی
کلچر نہیں پیدا کر رہے ہیں تاکہ یہ
کھانگ جو شہر شہر اور اسٹیٹ اسٹیٹ
میں گھوم کر مسجدوں سے ملندوں
سے اور دوسرے دھارمک استہانوں سے
ہمارے ایلٹیکس چوری کر رہے ہیں۔
ان کو بامعا بھیج دے ہیں۔ انکے
ساتھ سرف وہی سلوک ہوتا ہے جو
وہ عام طور سے برتن اور چوٹی
موٹی چھڑوں کی چوری کرنے والوں
کے ساتھ ہوتا ہے۔ تو کیا ان
کے لئے کوئی الگ قانون بنانے کا
ارادہ سرکار کا ہے یا کوئی الگ سزا
جو زیادہ سے زیادہ کڑی ہو اسکی
حکومت پیدہ کوئے کی ان لوگوں کے
خلاف جو ہماری دولت کو بامعا
لیجھا رہے ہیں۔[?]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, we shall examine the suggestion to make the law more effective. We are very conscious of this problem. That is why there is a special cell in the C.B.I., and some results have come. But we will try to make it more effective.

श्रीमती शान्ति पहाड़िया श्रीमन्,
मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि
जिला भरतपुर में वैर तहसील में भग-
वान महावीर की मूर्ति चुराई गई है
जो कि 4 करोड़ रुपये की लागत से बनी
हुई थी। मैं जानना चाहती हूँ कि क्या
सरकार की नजर में यह बात है कि उस
मूर्ति को दुबारा कैसे प्राप्त किया जाय
और उसको स्थापित किया जाय। वहाँ

पर बहुत बड़ी सख्या में लोग आते थे और वह बड़ी भारी आमदनी का वहां जरिया था।

दूसरा इसके साथ ही मैं यह भी पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जैसे हमारे राजस्थान में बाड़मेर और जैसलमेर में पाकिस्तान से लगे हुई सीमा है वहां ऊंट भर-भर कर रात्रि के समय में मूर्ति को चोरी कर ले जाते हैं तो क्या सरकार ऐसे कोई इलेक्ट्रॉनिक मशीन लगाएगी जिससे पता लग जाये कि क्या चोच ये लोग लेकर जा रहे हैं?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am not aware of this particular case. If the hon. Member could give me the information about this particular case, I will find out the position of the investigation and inform her.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And also prevent the camels from carrying them away.

श्री सत्यपाल मलिक : मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि मूर्ति चोरी के कितने मामले पिछले साल में पकड़े गये और कितने मामलों में चोरी करने वालों को सजाएँ हुई? मेरे जानकारी के मुताबिक जो मूर्ति चोरी कराने वाले और बाहर भेजने वाले गिरोह हैं वे समाज के बहुत सम्मानित लोग हैं, उनके यहां सभी लोग जात हैं, हर शहर और कस्बे में मैं देखता हूँ जैसे मथुरा, आगरा, भरतपुर के इलाके में प्रसिद्ध लोग इस काम में लग हुए हैं उनकी सामाजिक प्रतिष्ठा जब-दस्त है और वे पकड़े नहीं जाते हैं। उनके जो कूरियर्स हैं जो मूर्ति ले जाते हैं, बेचते हैं या गोदामों में रखते हैं वे लोग पकड़े जाते हैं। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि कितने लोग पकड़े गये और कितनों को सजाएँ हुई और जो इसका स्रोत है, उद्गम है जहाँ से चलता है पूरा कारोबार उनको सजा दिलाने के लिए आपने क्या कोई उपाय किये हैं या आगे आप करेंगे?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I will have to collect the information from various State Governments and place it on

the Table of the House because this is a matter of which State Police has the charge.

श्रीमती अमृता प्रीतम : सरकार मैं सिर्फ इतनी सी बात पूछना चाहता हूँ मूर्ति चोरों में जो अफसर इन्वाल्ड डाइरेक्टली या इनडाइरेक्टली, वे कैसेसेज अक्सर दबा दिये जाते हैं तो क्या उनका तरफ खास तौर पर तब्ज्जहदी जायेगा?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you any information about the involvement of officials in such cases?

SHRI BUTA SINGH: The officers who do good work in this field will also get incentive.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: There is a case from Bhopal in which a high official is reported to be involved.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: If the hon. Member gives me the name of the official, I will see that action is taken.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I am prepared to give the name here and how.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Give him the name later.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I know you won't allow.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am willing to take down the name here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It cannot be done. You write to the Minister. That is the proper way.

PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: May I ask the Minister concerned about the possibility of preventing such thefts rather than recovering them later and investigating? I believe that in most of these places the preventive mechanism is not operating and not many people are protecting our ancient heritage. I would like to know whether he will take steps to prevent rather than taking steps to recover.

The second part of my question is very important. A mention has already been made that 212 idols were recovered and that efforts are being made to match them. Now the matching can be done in a very scientific manner by taking them to the archaeological places where missing idols were there and taking samples from both these. In this manner, radioactive matching can be done. I would like to know whether scientific matching has been resorted to match them quickly and to restore them to the original places.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The answer is 'yes' to both parts of his question. We have issued guidelines to various State Governments to take steps to preserve the antiques and art objects. This includes determining the age and the period of the idol, photography and then taking steps to secure the idols. Many of these idols are brought out for worship and then they are taken back to safe rooms. As far as matching is concerned, it is being done with the most advanced technology available in the country.

Statement

(a) The balance of Indo-EEC trade during the last two financial years was as follows:—

(Rs. crores)			
	Exports	Imports	Balance of Trade
1984-85	1985.20	4186.91	2201.71
1985-86*	1945.81	5001.94	3066.13

*Provisional.

(b) The position in the current financial year (April—September) vis-à-vis the corresponding period during 1985-86 is as follows:—

(Rs. crores)			
		April-September	
		1985-86	1986-87
Exports		864.57	1152.37
Imports		2286.02	2905.05
Deficit		1421.95	1752.68

*Provisional

We are trying to match these idols with the idols which have been reported to have been stolen.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

Balance of trade position with EEC

*86. **SHRI KALPNATH RAI:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the position of balance of trade between India and EEC countries during the last two financial years, yearwise;

(b) what position is expected during the current financial year;

(c) whether the above balance of trade position has been adverse; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to reduce the trade gap with EEC countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) In order to minimise the trade gap, efforts continue to be made to increase Indian exports to the EEC countries through various trade promotion measures such as exhibitions, trade fairs, exchange of delegations especially for product development and other marketing activities besides seeking better access for Indian products in EEC markets.

श्री कल्पनाथ राय : सभापति महोदय, 1984-85 का तुलना में 1985-86 में करीब नौ सौ करोड़ का ज्यादा इम्पोर्ट हुआ है। तो क्या मंत्री महोदय बताने की