

(b) whether the Indian Treasure Trove Act, last amended in 1949 is obsolete as it defines any art object worth more than Rs. 10.00 and found hidden in the soil is treated as treasure; and

(c) whether the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act has necessary mechanism for vigilant enforcement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Details are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) Provisions exist under the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 for regulation of export in antiquities and art treasures and for prevention of their illicit trafficking such as registration of dealers, registration of specified categories of antiquities, prosecution of offenders etc. Besides the Government has launched a National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities for documentation of the monuments and antiquities.

Statement

Indian Treasure Trove Act, 1878

Indian Treasure Trove Act, 1878 (Act No. VI of 1878) An Act to amend the law relating to Treasure Trove (As modified upto the 1st September, 1949) is implemented by the State Governments through the District Collectors as per the provisions of the Section 3 of the Act. The Act effective enough as it is still in force particularly to safeguard antiquities as the provisions clearly provide for compulsory acquisition against compensation in case the Governments deems to preserve any such treasure for posterity.

Maintenance of Jantar Mantar

2170. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Archaeological Survey of India has failed to maintain Jantar Mantar, the world famous astronomical observatory built in 1724 in the heart of Delhi, as its condition is deteriorating;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for proper maintenance and security to the monument?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The monument is maintained properly and it is in a good state of preservation.

(c) Essential conservation work at the monument is attended regularly depending upon the availability of resources and need of repairs at the site. Appropriate watch and ward staff have been engaged for the security of the monument.