

Special cells for fraudulent companies

†740. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a special cell has been constituted to investigate such companies who have duped the hard earned maney of small investors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this special cell has started investigation of such companies who have duped the money of investors and have vanished; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Smuggling of old status and artefacts from Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh

741. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been substantial increase in the smuggling of old status and artefacts from various parts of country particularly Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government to curb and also to ensure the safety of such places of archaeological importance?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no substantial increase in the smuggling of old statutes and artefacts from any part of India. In case of Maharashtra, no such theft has been reported in the recent past in Chhattisgarh, two theft have occurred, one in June, 2003 and another in October, 2005. But in both the cases the sculptures are recovered.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

In order to ensure the security and protection of the ancient sculptures, idols and artifacts, watch and ward staff have been deployed at centrally protected monuments and archaeological sites. The security has been further supplemented by engagement of private security guards and the State police.

Development and maintenance of cultural importance places

†742. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any new schemes for development and maintenance of various places of cultural importance in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the amount allocated to the States during the last three years by Government in this regard;

(d) whether State Governments have fully utilized the amount allocated by Centre; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The existing Schemes are being updated from time to time. There is no new scheme under which amounts are allocated to State Governments for this purpose.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

Smuggling of antiques

743. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the economy of Chandraketugarh, 40 kms., northwest of Kolkata in rural Bengal is booming due to highly lucrative business of smuggling priceless antiques, including ivory and gold objects and exquisite terracota art out of country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.