

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2269**  
ANSWERED ON 16.03.2021

**INDIAN ARTEFACTS SMUGGLED ABROAD**

2269. Shri Manas Ranjan Bhunia:

Will the Minister of Culture be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any steps have been taken to prevent theft of Indian artefacts which are smuggled abroad and prominently displayed in galleries across the world;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any steps have been taken to get back the artefacts already stolen and smuggled abroad to India through legal routes; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CULTURE & TOURISM

(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a) & (b) The Archaeological Survey of India is responsible for maintenance of the monuments protected under the provision of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and validation), Act, 2010 and Antiquities and Art Treasures Act 1972. All necessary steps are taken to prevent the theft of antiquities of these monuments and museums by way of providing proper security arrangement by deploying regular watch and ward staff, private security, and CISF, wherever required.

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir. All efforts are being taken by the Archaeological Survey of India to retrieve the Antiquities which have been smuggled out of country. During last five years, 36 numbers of antiquities are retrieved from various foreign countries. Details are at **Annexure.**

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY PART (c & d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA  
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**Annexure**

**ANTIQUITIES RETURNED TO INDIA FROM ABROAD FROM 2016 ALONG WITH  
DETAILS**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Description of object</b>	<b>Provenance</b>	<b>Country from which retrieved</b>	<b>Date/ year of Retrieval</b>	<b>Means of Retrieval</b>	<b>Present location</b>
1.	Bronze image of Saint Manikkavachaka	Tamil Nadu	U.S.A	2016	Voluntarily returned	Under the custody of Idol Wing Tamil Nadu
2.	Metal image of Ganesh	Tamil Nadu	U.S.A	2016	Voluntarily returned	Under the custody of Idol Wing Tamil Nadu
3.	Terracotta Female Figure (Honolulu Museum)	Mauryan period Central India	U.S.A	2016	Voluntarily returned	Purana Qila Museum, N. Delhi
4.	Male Deity (Honolulu Museum)	Madhya Pradesh	U.S.A	2016	Voluntarily returned	Khajuroho, Madhya pradesh
5.	Floral Tile, Harvan	Kashmir	U.S.A	2016	Voluntarily returned	Purana Qila Museum, N. Delhi
6.	Sri Devi, Chola Period	Tamil Nadu	U.S.A	2016	Voluntarily returned	Purana Qila Museum, N. Delhi
7.	Metal image of Bahubali	Andhra Pradesh	U.S.A	2016	Voluntarily returned	CAC Section, Purana Qila, New Delhi
8.	Metal image of Parvati	Tamil Nadu	U.S.A	2016	Voluntarily returned	CAC Section, Purana Qila, N. Delhi
9.	Terracotta Plaque	West Bengal	USA	2016	Voluntarily returned	CAC Section, Purana Qila, N. Delhi
10.	Metal image of Bhoodevi	Tamil Nadu	U.S.A	2016	Voluntarily returned	Idol Wing Tamil Nadu

11.	Metal image of Chakkarathalar	Tamil Nadu	U.S.A	2016	Voluntarily returned	Idol Wing Tamil Nadu
12.	Seated Buddha	Mathura region, Uttar Pradesh	Australia	2016	Voluntarily returned	National Museum New Delhi
13.	Panel of Devotees of Buddha	Andhra Pradesh	Australia	2016	Voluntarily returned	National Museum New Delhi
14.	Stone image Pratyangira	Tamil Nadu	Australia	2016	Voluntarily returned	Under the custody of Idol Wing Tamil Nadu
15.	Sand Stone Male Figure in Tribhanga Posture	Central India	U.S.A.	2017	Voluntarily returned	Khajuroho, MP
16.	Sand Stone Bust of a Female	Central India	U.S.A.	2017	Voluntarily returned	CAC Section, Purana Qila, N. Delhi
17.	Sand Stone broken Figure	Central India	U.S.A.	2017	Voluntarily returned	CAC Section, Purana Qila, N. Delhi
18.	Stone image of Durga	Tamil Nadu	U.S.A.	2017	Voluntarily returned	Purana Qila Museum, N. Delhi
19.	Damaged Sand Stone image of Nataraja in dancing posture.	Central India	U.S.A.	2017	Voluntarily returned	Purana Qila Museum, N. Delhi
20.	Mutilated Sand Stone Panel depicting two male Figures ( <i>vidhyadharas</i> ).	Central India	U.S.A.	2017	Voluntarily returned	CAC Section, Purana Qila, N. Delhi
21.	Stone image of a couple ( <i>mithuna</i> ) figure carved under a niche from Atru, Rajasthan.	Rajasthan	U.S.A.	2017	Voluntarily returned	Purana Qila Museum, N. Delhi
22.	Stone image of a couple	Rajasthan	U.S.A.	2017	Voluntarily returned	Purana Qila Museum, N. Delhi

	( <i>mithuna</i> ) Figure from Atru, Rajasthan.					Delhi
23.	Stone sculpture of Brahma and Brahamani	Gujarat	U.K.	2017	Voluntarily returned	Purana Qila Museum, N.Delhi
24.	Durga Mahishasurmar dini	Uttarakhan d	USA MET Museum	2018	Voluntarily returned	Purana Qila Museum, N.Delhi
25.	Bodhisattva Head	Andhra Pradesh	USA MET Museum	2018	Voluntarily returned	Nagarjunakond a Museum, Andhra Pradesh
26.	Image of Buddha	Bihar	UK	2019	Voluntarily returned	Purana Qila Museum, New Delhi
27.	Idol of Bronze Nataraja	Tamil Nadu	Australia	2019 (09/09/2 019)	Voluntarily returned	Idol Wing
28.	Nagaraja (The serpent King) Stone sculpture	Central India exact state not known.	Australia	02/01/20 20	Voluntarily returned	CAC Section, Purana Qila, New Delhi
29.	Dwarpala, stone sculpture	Tamil Nadu	Australia	02/01/20 20	Voluntarily returned	CAC Section, Purana Qila, New Delhi
30.	Dwarpala, stone sculpture	Tamil Nadu	Australia	02/01/20 20	Voluntarily returned	CAC Section, Purana Qila, New Delhi
31.	Dancing Shiva	Rajasthan	UK	10/08/20 20	Voluntarily returned	HQ office ASI
32.	Limestone pillar	Andhra Pradesh	UK	10/08/20 20	Voluntarily returned	HQ office ASI
33.	Metal idol of Rama	Tamil Nadu	UK	07/11/20 20	Voluntarily returned	Idol Wing, Tamil Nadu

34.	Metal idol of Laxamana	Tamil Nadu	UK	07/11/2020	Voluntarily returned	Idol Wing, Tamil Nadu
35.	Metal idol of Sita	Tamil Nadu	UK	07/11/2020	Voluntarily returned	Idol Wing, Tamil Nadu
36.	Navaneetha Krishna	South India	UK	02.03.2021	Voluntarily returned	HQ office ASI

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