

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1287
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.07.2022**

Bringing back heritage objects

1287 Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao Mahadik:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a substantial increase in bringing back heritage objects during last five years and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to bring remaining heritage objects back to country;
- (b) whether Government is implementing National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA) for preparing a National Register on Antiquities;
- (c) if so, the details thereof including the salient features of NMMA;
- (d) whether NMMA has achieved the objective for which it was set up; and
- (e) the manner in which the National Register on Antiquities will be beneficial to the people in the country?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF CULTURE, TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH
EASTERN REGION
(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)**

(a) Yes, Sir. There is a substantial increase in bringing back heritage objects during the last five years. Only 13 objects were returned till 2013, and, thereafter till date, 229 objects have been brought back between 2014 and 2022.

Government of India is committed to bring back the antiquities of Indian origin which were taken out illegally. Whenever any such antiquity of Indian origin surfaces in any location abroad, ASI takes up the matter with the Embassies/Missions abroad through MEA for their retrieval.

(b) & (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of India had launched the National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA) in 2007 to prepare national registers on monuments and antiquities. Documented data and other information is available at NMMA website: <http://nmma.nic.in> A note on NMMA is attached at Annexure 1.

(d) & (e) Yes, Sir. Under the Mission, data of 16.83 Lakh antiquities and 1.84 Lakh built heritage and sites, beneficial to the public including students, colleges, researchers, administrative personnel etc. has been collected. It is the endeavour of the Govt. to have a comprehensive database of antiquities and monuments.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) & (c) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1287 for 28.07.2022

DETAILED NOTE ON NMMA, ITS SALIENT FEATURES, OBJECTIVES, ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR AND HOW THE NATIONAL REGISTER ON ANTIQUITIES WILL BE BENEFICIAL TO THE PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY

NATIONAL MISSION ON MONUMENTS AND ANTIQUITIES

The National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities was launched by the Hon'ble Culture Minister on 19th March 2007, with following objectives:

1. Documentation and creation of suitable database on built heritage and sites through primary survey for information and dissemination to planners, researchers, etc. and for better management of such cultural resources.
2. Documentation in a uniform format developed by NMMA, of all antiquities that are available in different formats in the form of Registered Antiquities, Catalogued Antiquities with Central as well as State Governments, Private museums and Collections, Universities, etc.
3. Promote awareness and sensitize people concerning the benefits of preserving the historical and cultural aspects of built heritage, sites and antiquities.
4. Extend training facility to the concerned State Departments, NGOs, Universities, and Museums etc.
5. Help in developing synergy between institutions like Archaeological Survey of India, State Departments, concerned Institutions and NGOs to generate close interaction.
6. Publication and Publicity.

Bench mark documents have already been created with 21 points on antiquities and built heritage and sites (BHS). These documents are available at the NMMA web site.

National registers of Antiquities and Built Heritages will help the Government at the Centre as well as administrative authorities up to the local level in many fronts.

These will be helpful in controlling the movement of antiquities and their illegal trafficking

Fresh planning of urban settlements and re orientation of new structural edifices with a special emphasis on heritage and tourism sector - which can be a boost to any remote township with few avenues to earn foreign currencies and revenue.

These will create thematic maps, state- specific cultural indices.

These will be helpful in further research and many unseen opportunities for the posterity.

Built heritages and Sites:

Sl. No.	Nature of Data	Estimated No (in lakh) approx.	Data Available with NMMA (in lakh)
1.	Data on Archaeological Sites & Remains	1.0	1.8 (from different sources)
2.	Data on Built Heritage	3.0	
	Total	4.0	1.8 (11,406 templates published at the Web site of the NMMA)

Antiquities:

Sl. No.	Name of Agency	Estimated No (in lakh) approx.	Data Available with NMMA (in lakh)
1.	Archaeological Survey of India	15.0	16.83 (from different sources)
2.	National / State / Govt Museums	25.0	
3.	Universities	10.0	
4.	Private Collections / Individuals etc.	8.0	
	Total	58.0	16.83 (12,59,912 templates published so far)