

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5996

ANSWERED ON:05.05.2005

SMUGGLING OF IDOLS

Kanodia Shri Mahesh Kumar;Solanki Shri Bhupendrasinh Prabhatsinh

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether smuggling of rare Idols from the country is on the increase;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to take steps to check these incidents; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER FOR INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

- (a) The information received does not indicate any notable increase in the smuggling of rare idols from the country.
- (b) The Customs Department maintains strict vigil to curb smuggling. The measures include preventive checks, nakabandi, collection of intelligence and night patrolling in association with Police and Directorate of Revenue intelligence. Alert notices and other related information on smuggling of idols received at the headquarters, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and other agencies are circulated to all field units for keeping strict vigil.
- (c) The Customs Department has confiscated 47 objects in 11 cases on smuggling of idols during the last three years. Details are annexed at 'A'.

ANNEXURE 'A'

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5996 FOR 5.5.2005.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF CASES AND OBJECTS SEIZED BY CUSTOMS

S. No. Name of Custom Office Year 2002-03 Year 2003-2004 Year 2004-05

	No. of cases seized	No. of idols seized	No. of cases seized	No. of idols seized	No. of cases seized	No. of idols seized
1. Chief Commissioner Patna	-	-	1	1	-	-
2. Chief Commissioner Kolkata	-	-	2	6	3	3
3. Chief Commissioner Hyderabad	-	-	-	-	1	5
4. Chief Commissioner New Delhi	-	-	-	-	1	1
5. Joint Commissioner Mumbai Zone	-	-	-	-	1	1
6. Chief Commissioner Preventive, Delhi	1	28	1	2	-	-
TOTAL	1	28	4	9	6	10