

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3934
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2004
THEFT IN MUSEUM
Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the theft from the Museum of Delhi are increasing;

(b) if so, the details of theft cases from museums reported with Delhi Police during the last 3 years and thereafter till date, year-wise and item-wise; and

(c) the number of cases solved and items recovered alongwith the reasons for unsolved cases?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGHUPATHY)

(a)to(c): No, Sir. Two cases of theft were reported in 2001; one case in 2003 and two cases in 2004. No case of theft was reported in the year 2002. The requisite details are given below:

2001

(i) Theft of one damaged Bronze Sculpture and part of broken piece from the National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi on 5th August, 2001. A case was registered vide FIR No.320/2001 under section 379/411 Indian Penal Code dated 7.8.2001 at Hazarat Nizamuddin Police Station and one person was arrested in connection with the theft. However, no recovery could be made as accused had disposed of the stolen article. He was convicted on 16th July, 2002.

(ii) One person was caught red handed while stealing part of a bronze sculpture from the lawns of National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi on 7th August, 2001. A case vide FIR No.320 was registered against him at Police Station, Tilak Marg and he was convicted on 22 July, 2002.

2003

(iii) Theft of a Pistol 7.65 mm Chinese No.1101011K66 make 1964 with magazine Number 3854 from the Navy Heritage Gallery of National Museum on 28th June, 2002. Despite efforts made by the Police, the case has not been solved so far. The investigation of the case is still in progress.

2004

(iv) Theft of two almirahs containing books from the Lal Bahadur Shashtri National Memorial Trust No.1, Moti Lal Nehru Place, New Delhi. Five persons, including two persons belonging to Rajasthan Armed Constabulary, were arrested and the stolen articles were recovered. The challan of the case has been prepared for being filed in the court.

(v) Theft of two brass handles and four copper pipes from the Railway Engine No.E 1R- 22 (Fairy Queen Railway Engine built in 1855) from the National Rail Museum on 28th July, 2004. One-brass handle and broken pieces of the four copper pipes were recovered from the bushes near the Shantipath Flyover. However, the accused has not been arrested so far. Efforts are being made to secure the accused.