

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:386  
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2005  
TRAFFICKING OF CULTURAL PROPERTY.  
Purandeswari Smt. Daggubati

**Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Indian cultural history under threat: Trafficking of cultural property estimated at 6 million dollars a year" appearing in The Hindu dated September 13, 2005;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check illicit trafficking of cultural property?

**Answer**

MINISTER FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. However, there had been no estimate of the yearly value of the cultural property involved. In order to ensure the security and protection of the ancient sculpture, idols and artifacts in the centrally protected monuments, sites and museums, the number of watch and ward staff has been augmented through deployment of private security guards, CISF personnel, State Police and home guards. The Government is also considering the amendment of the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act 1972 to firmly deal with illicit traffic in antiquities.