

**Theft of Idol at Garuda Temple**

4852-B. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA:  
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESO-  
URCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to  
state :

(a) whether Lord Garuda Idol which  
was fixed at a Garuda Temple Pillar was  
found missing;

(b) if so, whether any arrest has  
been made in this respect;

(c) whether Government are aware  
that the idols from our temple are being  
stolen and exported to other countries;

(d) if so, the number of such theft  
reported to the Government and the  
number of persons arrested; and

(e) steps taken for the safeguard of  
the idols ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE (SMT. SUSHILA  
ROHATGI) : (a) According to available  
information, an idol of Garuda has been  
stolen from Gundicha Mandir, Puri which  
is not a centrally protected monument.

(b) to (d) The information is being  
collected.

(e) Several measures have been taken  
for the safeguard of the idols and to pre-  
vent thefts in centrally protected  
monuments as indicated in the statement  
attached.

**Statement**

1. Armed Guards have been posted  
in some of the centrally protected monu-  
ments and museums administered by the  
Archaeological Survey of India, in addi-  
tion to strengthening of watch and ward  
arrangements in other monuments/sites.

2. Construction of sculpture-sheds at  
important sites to house loose and uncared  
for sculptures, their documentation and  
establishment of archaeological site muse-  
ums.

3. Promulgation of the Antiquities  
and Art Treasures Act, 1972 to regulate  
the export trade in antiquities and art  
treasures, to provide for the prevention of  
smuggling and fraudulent dealing in  
antiquities; to provide for the compulsory  
acquisition of antiquities and art trea-  
sures for preservation at public places.

4. Creation of Investigating Unit  
(Antiques) in the Central Bureau of In-  
vestigation to investigate cases concerning  
theft of antiquities.

5. Maintenance of a computerised  
data bank of the cases of theft and reco-  
veries of certain important cultural pro-  
perties (sculptures, idols and paintings)  
containing information about crimes,  
criminals and cultural property in the  
Central Bureau of Investigation.

6. Coordination between the Central  
Bureau of Investigation, the Archaeologi-  
cal Survey of India, State Police, Cus-  
toms and Checkposts for prompt reporting  
of crimes, criminals, thefts concerning  
cultural property and smuggling of  
objects.

7. Assistance of Interpol is also sou-  
ght where necessary for investigation of  
such cases.

MEMBER SWORN

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIYA  
(Churu)

RULING RE : LAYING ON THE  
TABLE REPORTS BY PRIVATE  
MEMBERS

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : On 4th December,  
1985, I had given my ruling withholding  
permission asked for by Prof. Madhu  
Dandavate to lay on the Table of the  
House the Report of the Jyotirmoy Bosu  
Committee with regard to the High Rate  
of Mortality at the Central Sheep and