

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Agha Khan Trust for Culture and Agha Khan Foundation on 11 July 2007 to undertake an urban renewal project in the Humayun's Tomb - Nizamuddin Basti and Sundar Nursery. The MoU is valid upto July 2012 which could further be extended for a period of five years by mutual consent of the parties.

(b) So far Rs.6 Crores has been spent on conservation of Humayun Tomb. It is anticipated that about Rs.20 Crores would be required to carry out other works in the complex. The requisite funds are provided by the Agha Khan Foundation as per the MoU.

Monuments in Sultan Pur Lodhi in Punjab

166. SARDAR TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry is aware about the historic and religious importance of Sultan Pur Lodhi in Punjab;

(b) what steps have been taken for the preservation of the old monuments and other things in this city; and

(c) whether her Ministry has recommended to the Ministry of Urban Development for keeping this in Category C and help the town under Rajiv Gandhi Urban Development Programme?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All the city monuments come under the category of State Protected Monuments. They are being protected by Department of Cultural Affairs, Archaeology and Museums, Govt. of Punjab and religious ones amongst them by Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC).

(c) No, Sir.

Illegal encroachment at monuments

167. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that several Centrally Protected Monuments are under illegal encroachment and also have unauthorized construction;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government to remove unauthorized encroachment and illegal construction to preserve and protect monuments?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) There are instances of illegal encroachment and unauthorized construction on centrally protected monuments due to several factors such as rapid urbanization, increasing pressures on land, commercialization, etc. A Statement showing the State-wise list of monuments under encroachment and unauthorized construction in protected areas is at the Statement (See below).

(c) The Superintending Archaeologists of the Circles have been delegated the powers of the Central Government to issue 'Show Cause Notice' to encroachers for removal of encroachments