

**Effect of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological
Sites and Remains Act, 1958**

*33. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received a complaint by the persons residing near ancient site known as 'Nalagarh Kothi' at Rupnagar, Punjab because of stringent provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and its Amendment Act, 2010;

(b) whether Government proposes to further amend the Act to provide relief to the residents, who are suffering due to stringent provisions of the Act; and

(c) whether Government proposes to amend the definition of 'Ancient Monument'?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) With regard to the representation received from residents of Rupnagar through the office of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab regarding alleged stringent provisions of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958 and AMASR Amendment Act, 2010, it is pointed out that the stipulations relating to 'prohibited' and 'regulated' areas in the proximity of monuments and sites declared as of national importance, have been in vogue since 1992 when the Notification No. F.8/2/90-M dated 16 June, 1992 was published under the provisions of AMASR Act, 1958.

Under the provisions of the AMASR (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010, an institutional mechanism has been provided for, to deal with the applications for grant of permission to undertake repairs/renovation/re-construction or construction in the 'prohibited' and 'regulated' areas. The mechanisms include establishment of Competent Authorities (26 such Notifications have been issued); setting up of a National Monument Authority and formulation of heritage bye-laws based on drafts prepared in consultation with the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) and other notified national-level heritage bodies.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government, at this stage, to further amend the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 or the definition of 'ancient monument' under the Act.

Construction of additional flats in Games Village

†*34. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of additional flats constructed in the Games Village;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the action taken against the company and officers found guilty for the construction of additional flats;

(c) whether it is a fact that these flats have been constructed covering an area which is larger than the Floor Area Ratio (FAR); and

(d) the persons found guilty for the same?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has informed that when the Project Developer submitted the completion plan it was revealed that the Project Developer constructed 17 flats in the upper basement unauthorizedly.

(b) DDA has demolished the 17 flats constructed unauthorizedly.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) DDA has further informed that the construction of excess FAR came to their notice when a joint team of the Project Developer and DDA carried out the actual measurement of FAR constructed at site. Action for compounding 5% of the excess FAR over above and the sanctioned plan has been taken by DDA. For further excess FAR, DDA has sent a proposal to the Ministry of Urban Development for regularizing the excess FAR.

The proposal of DDA is being submitted for the consideration of the Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted to consider the views expressed by the concerned Ministries/ Departments/Governments on the findings and recommendations of the High Level Committee (HLC) constituted to look into issues relating to organizing and conduct of the Commonwealth Games 2010, as one of the terms of reference of the GoM is to recommend the future course of action on each of the recommendations of the HLC which would include disciplinary, criminal and civil action against persons/agencies/contractors indicated in the reports of the HLC.

Treatment of official language Hindi

†*35. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hindi has been granted the status of official language in the country;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government issues directions from time to time to use English words as alternative words in Hindi to make official language simple and natural; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.