

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS**Non-appointment of Verifying Officer at Safdarjung Tomb**

†*1. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether verification of NOC issued by National Archaeology Department, Delhi to build the house is pending due to non-appointment of competent officer at Safdarjung Tomb since last seven months;

(b) by when this appointment will take place;

(c) the competent authority to verify NOC at present;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the number of matters related to NOC pending?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) No Sir. . For the National Capital Territory of Delhi, Special Secretary Urban Development, Government of NCT was specified as Competent Authority vide Gazette Notification S.O. 2854(E) dated 24.11.2010. However, that officer demitting office on 21st May, 2012. The Government of NCT of Delhi nominated the Additional Secretary (ACL)-cum-Director (Archaeology), on 5.7.2012. The notification appointing him as Competent Authority for Delhi was issued by the Central Government on 06.08.2012.

As per Section 20(D), of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment) Act, 2010, the Competent Authority is authorized to grant permission for undertaking repairs/renovations in prohibited area or construction in regulated area of centrally protected monuments/sites (100 meters and a further 200 meters respectively) on the basis of recommendations of the National Monuments Authority. However, as per proviso of Section 20D(2), the Competent Authority, under powers delegated vide Rule 8 of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Framing of Heritage Bye-laws and Other Functions of the Competent Authority) Rules, 2011, may dispose off applications for minor repairs of residential buildings in prohibited area and repairs and renovations to existing constructions in the regulated area.

(e) As per information provided by the National Monuments Authority there are 36 pending applications pertaining to grant of NOC for constructions near centrally protected monuments in Delhi.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi