

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION 1226
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2023

DEMOLITION OF NATIONAL MUSEUM COMPLEX

1226. SHRI MANISH TEWARI:

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

- (a) the rationale behind the proposed demolition of the National Museum Complex;
- (b) the rationale behind the shifting of museum to North and South Blocks, especially when these buildings are older and reportedly not seismic proof, raising concerns about the safety of the artifacts;
- (c) the manner in which the Ministry proposes to ensure the safe packing, storage, and preservation of the two lakh objects within the tight timeline to vacate the existing National Museum by the year-end;
- (d) the security measures and storage facilities in place for artifacts during the transition;
- (e) whether the Government has taken any expert's advice or have engaged with stakeholders and experts before considering the demolition of the National Museum and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) whether the Government has provided any assurances regarding the careful handling and preservation of artifacts, especially during the relocation process in view of the past incidents of breakages during museum revamps and if so, the details thereof ?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE, TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN
REGION

(G.KISHAN REDDY)

- (a) & (e) No decision has been taken regarding demolition of the National Museum, at present.
- (b) South and North Blocks (Grade-I heritage buildings) will be adequately renovated and refurbished to serve as the National Museum.
- (c) & (d) Adequate standard protocols with respect to packaging, storage, preservation and safety will be taken care off as per the requirements by the experts.
- (f) Government is apprised of its responsibility and will be mindful, with respect to all standard protocols regarding packaging, storage, preservation and safety as per the requirements.