

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:249
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2006
DEMOLITION OF HINDU TEMPLE IN MALAYSIA
Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a 60 year old Hindu temple in Malaysia has been demolished recently as reported in the Hindi daily Navbharat Times dated June 12, 2006;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard;
- (c) whether the Union Government has lodged any protests in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the reaction of the Malaysian Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. On June 8, 2006, the Municipal Corporation of Kuala Lumpur demolished a 60 year old Hindu temple. Notices had been given to the temple authorities to relocate the temple but the temple authorities had refused to accept the alternative plot of land offered for the temple. The Municipal authorities maintained that the temple stood on Malay reserved land and the land was needed for the future development in the area. The Malaysian Indian community has been actively pursuing the issue of demolition of this temple with the Malaysian Government.

(c), (d) & (e) The Government is of the view that it is the duty of the Government of Malaysia to protect the rights of its citizens including those belonging to the minority communities.