

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2610

ANSWERED ON:04.12.2009

CONSERVATION OF HERITAGE OF NORTH/ SOUTH BLOCK BUILDINGS

Sarvey Shri Sathyanarayana

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is making any moves to conserve the heritage of the colonial era buildings of the North and South Block on Raisina Hills; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA ROY)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): Ministry of Urban Development has issued detailed guidelines to conserve the heritage of North Block and South Block. These guidelines inter-alia provide that:

i) In future all addition-alteration works including repair works involving changes in the original specifications in these buildings will be carried out either by CPWD or after obtaining concurrence of CPWD. A `Special Advisory Committee on Conservation and Protection of North/South Block has been constituted to advise CPWD in such matters. The Committee shall also review all the addition / alterations already carried out by various Ministries and advise the Government on remedial action to be taken towards restoration of the building to its original status and architecture.

ii) To ensure adherence to the guidelines, a Conservation Audit of North Block and South Block would be undertaken each year by a team chaired by Chairman, DUAC and assisted by DG, ASI and DG, CPWD. In addition, a bi-annual Conservation Audit would also be undertaken by a team consisting of three professional experts in addition to 3 member team.

iii) It shall be the responsibility of the Secretaries of the user Ministries housed in North Block and South Block to ensure that the guidelines are adhered to.