

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ATOMIC ENERGY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4734

ANSWERED ON:22.04.2015

AUCTION OF BUNGALOW

Raut Shri Vinayak Bhaurao;Shewale Shri Rahul Ramesh;Shinde Dr. Shrikant Eknath

**Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the bungalow of Dr. Homi Jahangir Bhabha is being auctioned and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether as per the survey Map of 1915 issued by the then Ward Officer(Estates), Malabar Hill Division, MMC, the bungalow is more than 100 years old;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Union Government has received requests from BARC, people's representatives and others to intervene in the matter and cancel the auction of the bungalow and declare it as a memorial in memory of Dr. Homi Jahangir Bhabha;
- (e) if so, the complete details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereto; and
- (f) whether any directions have been issued by the Government to the State Government in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (Dr. JITENDRA SINGH) :

(a) After death of Dr. Homi Jahangir Bhabha in 1966, his brother Shri Jamshed Jahangir Bhabha was the sole owner of the property. Before his death in 2007, Shri Jamshed Jahangir Bhabha had executed a Will on 4th September 1990 "bequeathing his estate and effects unto his Trustees upon Trust to sell, call in and convert into money the same, to be utilised in the form of a commemorative capital donation to the National Centre for Performance Arts (NCPA) on the condition that a suitable segment thereof shall bear the name Jamshed Bhabha". The said bungalow has since been auctioned by the NCPA on 18.6.2014.

(b)&(c) The matter is not within the jurisdiction of the Union Government.

(d), (e) & (f) Yes Sir. The Government of India, Department of Atomic Energy had received representations from Atomic Energy Employees Union and others to preserve the bungalow of late Dr. Homi Jahangir Bhabha as a national monument. The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) had written to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra to declare the bungalow 'Mehrangir' as a "National Monument" under the provisions of Maharashtra Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1960. DAE as Respondent No.5 in the PIL No.68/2014 on the same matter in the Bombay High Court had filed an affidavit requesting the Hon'ble High Court, Bombay to issue a direction to Respondent No.1 to 3 viz. Chief Secretary of Government of Maharashtra, Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism & Cultural Affairs. Govt. of Maharashtra and Chairman, Mumbai Heritage Conservation Committee (MHCC) to take immediate steps to list the Bungalow "Mehrangir" as a protected monument. The Hon'ble High Court, Bombay vide its Order dated 17.9.2014 disposed the PIL observing that "the purpose of the Public Interest litigation was to activate the State and Central Authorities into taking steps; Now that the authorities are alive to the situation, no useful purpose will be served by keeping this Public Interest Litigation pending any further." Subsequently, DAE had again written a letter to Secretary, Tourism and Culture Affairs Department of the Government of Maharashtra to declare the bungalow as 'Protected Monument'. The matter is pending with the State Government of Maharashtra.