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Title: Need to expedite issuance of No Objection Certificates for construction of houses in the vicinity of protected monuments in Kerala.

SHRI K. P. DHANAPALAN (CHALAKUDY): The Ancient Monuments Preservation Act prescribes that fresh construction of any type of building and the maintenance of the existing construction within the circumference of 300 meters of the protected monuments have to get No Objection Certificate from the competent authority i.e. from the office of the Member Secretary, National Monument Authority. However, people who apply for NOC through proper channel along with necessary documents and who are eligible in all respects have to wait indefinitely for getting the same for undertaking construction activities. This leads to loss of time and money to the people who want to construct a house or any other construction and a large number of such applications are pending before the authority for consideration. Construction of a house is a dream of every household. Even though there are a number of families residing near such protected monuments especially near temples and have been residing there since long, if they wish to undertake the construction of a new house or to renovate the old house they reside owing to degeneration of the ancestral house, they have to wait indefinitely for the NOC from the authority. There are number of applications for NOC from Kerala which are pending for more than 2 years. As the prices of the construction materials increase day by day, such indefinite delay in processing the NOC applications cause much difficulty to people. Actually most of the cases under consideration are the application for constructing houses which does not involve extensive mining or piling and in no way affect the protected monuments situating nearby and most of the cases are eligible for NOC. The only problem is the delay in processing the application.

Hence I request that the Government may urgently look in to the matter and necessary steps may be taken for avoiding the inordinate delay in processing the applications pending before the authority seeking consideration and eligible applications may be issued NOC as early as possible.