

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3825

ANSWERED ON:23.08.2004

IMPACT OF CONSTRUCTION OF AKASHARDHAM MANDIR ON ENVIRONMENT

Singh Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that `Akashardham` Mandir is being constructed on 25 acres of land along the banks of river Yamuna near Nizamuddin bridge in Delhi;
- (b) if so, the total area of the land alongwith the same of the organisation which allotted it indicating the objectives thereof;
- (c) whether the said construction in flood-prone catchment area of river Yamuna is justified from environmental point of view;
- (d) if so, the extent thereof; and
- (e) the details of its likely impact on environment?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) An area of 23.5 ha was allotted to Bochanwasi Akshar Purshottam Sansthan (BAPS) by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) for the construction of `Akashardham` Mandir along the banks of river Yamuna, near Nizamuddin bridge in Delhi and this Mandir is under construction.

(c), (d) and (e) As per the information obtained from the Delhi Development Authority, permission for construction of the temple has been granted by them after examining the environmental implications based on the Environmental Impact Assessment study conducted by National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur and obtaining No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Yamuna Standing Committee of Central Water Commission. However, no environmental appraisal of the impacts of construction of the said temple has been conducted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.