

**15.05 ¾ hrs.**

**Title:** Statement regarding development of Prithviraj's Qila Rai Pithora/Lal kot in South Delhi , laid on the Table by the Minister, Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation.

**SHRI JAG MOHAN (NEW DELHI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement regarding 'Development of Prithviraj's Qila Rai Pithora/Lal Kot in South Delhi'.**

An hon. Member of this august House had raised during 'Zero Hour', on December 19, 2000, the issue regarding development of Prithviraj Chauhan's Qila Rai Pithora in South Delhi and occupation of the land, earmarked for it, by the Delhi Development Authority Golf Course. Subsequently, yesterday, a memorandum signed by about 25 Members of Parliament has been received by me.

In this connection, I wish to make it clear that the Government attach great importance to the project and development of Qila Rai Pithora complex which was conceived by it in November, 1999. It was inaugurated by Union Home Minister, Shri L.K. Advani.

Located at the most strategic part on the Aravali range at the entrance of Delhi, the Qila was a witness to many ups and downs of history of India. It was built with thick rubble stone and was also known as 'Lal Kot', which, in fact, is the first city of Delhi. The ramparts of the fort were 30 feet in thickness and 60 feet in height from the bottom of the ditch, which surrounded the fort. The width of the ditch varied between 18 feet to 35 feet.

Qila Rai Pithora/Lal Kot constitutes an inspiring saga of our past. Here, history speaks through bricks and battered stones; heritage stares in our eyes through heavy but broken and sunken walls; and herein can also be heard the voices emanating from our past omissions, when we did not fully remember that if we were not cohesive and concerned, then things could go wrong, despite the great and glorious strands of our culture and civilisation.

The project has two basic objectives in view. First, to preserve, protect and strengthen our architectural and cultural legacy. Secondly, to weave history and heritage in the new urban fabric that is being presently spun in Delhi and to develop a large park around the Qila Rai Pithora/LalKot complex and create a glorious backdrop of Rajput style of garden that it deserves. It would attract lakhs of people from all over the country, particularly the youth and acquaint them with the great acts of valour of our leaders.

An equestrian statue of Samrat Prithviraj Chauhan, 18 feet high, mounted on a four feet high pedestal, is being set up at the terrace of the Conservation Centre which is a part of the overall development of the complex. This complex would also serve as vast area of community green for a large population of low and middle income group people living in the neighbourhood.

It is unfortunate that some senior functionaries of the Delhi Development Authority, without informing me, have caused occupation of huge lands, which had been earmarked for the park, for building and expanding the Golf Course, which, in any case, it has no powers to do, particularly with regard to the lands acquired through the revolving fund under the scheme of 'Large Scale Acquisition, Development and Disposal of Lands in Delhi'.

I have ordered inclusion of the entire area, excluding the area of the 9-Holes Golf Course, in regard to which, too, I am having the matter looked into in consultation with the Finance, separately.

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**1506 hours**

**MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Matters under Rule 377 listed for the day may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

*...(Interruptions)*