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Title: Need to impress upon the Government of Pakistan to restore the Hindu Temple demolished in Karachi and provide adequate security to the minority Hindu community.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Chairman, Sir, before I express the issue which I had given, I would like to draw your attention that during Matters of Urgent Importance, notices are considered which are international in nature, national importance, then of State interest, and then of constituency interest. But I am sorry to mention here, I want to be on record, I think, the hon. Speaker, will go through this issue and hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister also will look into this issue that today, a number of constituency issues were taken up.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You just raise your matter. I will look into it. Whatever you want, you tell, it is left to the Chair to decide whether to allow or not.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : This is of national importance and this is of international repercussion. I wanted the House to respond to this.

A century old Hindu temple in Karachi was hurriedly demolished by a builder despite a Pakistani Court hearing a petition seeking a stay on such a move. Besides raising the pre-partition Shri Rama Pir Mandir in Karachi's Soldier Bazaar, the builder has also demolished several houses near it last Saturday. Nearly 40 persons, a majority of them Hindus, have become homeless. This has been widely reported in Pakistani media, yet there is no action on behalf of the authorities. The affected families have stated that during demolition the area was cordoned off by the police and paramilitary forces called Pakistani Rangers.

Angered by the demolition, the Hindus have demanded that Pakistan Government should arrange tickets to India for them. "If you don't want us, we will go to India," this is what they have said. This was a pre-partition era temple more than 100 years old. The Sindh High Court had granted stay till 7th of this month.

The *Express Tribune* has quoted that the Military Lands and Cantonment Director has stated that the temple was evacuee property. "There was a temple", is also stated by a Canada based Islamic activist Tarek Fatah. He has said in a twitter: "I went to school in that area. I know a temple existed." This has again triggered panic among the Hindus in Pakistan.

I would urge upon the Union Government of India to impress upon Pakistan Government to restore the Hindu temples and provide adequate safety to the minority Hindu community in that country.

I request the hon. Minister also to take cognizance of this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal and Shri Chandrakant Khaire are allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab.