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Title: Need to review the decision to construct the office of Income Tax in the foreground of the Belgaum Fort in Karnataka.

SHRI SURESH C. ANGADI (BELGAUM): Thank you, Madam, for permitting me to raise an issue of public importance.

For over 1000 years, the Belgaum Fort in Karnataka has been at the very centre of every episode of Belgaum's history. It was built by a Jain Queen in 970 A.D. and it was ruled for long periods by Jains, Hindus, the Adil Shahi Sultans and the British. The temples which are within the Fort are exquisitely carved and the lone mosque – the Safa Masjid – represents a beautiful blend of the Indo-Saracenic form of architecture. The State Government of Karnataka intends to declare the Belgaum Fort as a protected heritage monument and its surrounding area is a "protected area", declared by Karnataka State.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : सुरेश जी, पढ़ते नहीं हैं। शून्य काल में पढ़ना नहीं है, एक मिनट में बात हो जाती है।

SHRI SURESH C. ANGADI : Madam, the Government of Karnataka has many a times requested the hon. Finance Minister as also the Department of Income Tax not to construct its building just opposite this heritage (Fort) building. The State Government is prepared to give alternate better land to the concerned Income Tax Department in Belgaum city but the Department is not agreeing to it.

Therefore, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to direct the concerned authorities immediately in this regard, in the interest of residing public of my parliamentary constituency and to ensure peace and tranquility in the city.