

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2705
ANSWERED ON 11.12.2024

GURU NANAK DARBAR IN SHILLONG

2705. SHRI GURMEET SINGH MEET HAYER:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the historic Gurdwara Guru Nanak Darbar in Shillong's Punjabi Lane is at risk of demolition due to redevelopment plans of State Government, despite protests by the local Sikh community and national organizations such as the SGPC;

(b) if so, the immediate steps taken by the Government to ensure its protection;

(c) whether the Union Government has engaged with the Meghalaya Government to prevent actions that could harm religious structure in the area and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the measures being taken to safeguard the constitutional rights of minority communities involved in this dispute; and

(e) whether the Government has a plan to balance between urban development and preservation of such historic and religious sites and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (e) A petition dated 23.08.2024 was received in National Commission for Minorities (a statutory body under Ministry of Minority Affairs) from Shri Gurjit Singh, President Guru Nanak Darbar, Shillong regarding the State Government's order to dismantle the Gurudwara Sahib and other religious places i.e, Dera Baba Shri Chandji, three Hindu Temples, and a Church in the Punjabi Colony. National Commission for Minorities took up the matter with the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Meghalaya on 22.10.2024 and issued directions for taking appropriate action in the matter.

Further, State Government of Meghalaya has finalized a blueprint to relocate Sikh residents of Punjabi Lane/Harijan Colony, Shillong to Bivar Road, Shillong. The relocation plan is under scrutiny by High Court of Meghalaya and the matter is subjudice.
