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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 1472

ANSWERED ON: 30.07.2003

CONSTRUCTION OF TEMPLES IN AFGHANISTAN

SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government of Afghanistan has appealed to the Government of India for the construction of Hindu temples and repair of the damaged temples in Afghanistan as reported in the Rashtriya Sahara dated May 4, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a)–(c) India and Afghanistan have discussed several areas of cooperation as part of India's humanitarian, financial and project assistance for Afghan reconstruction.

In this regard, in addition to several projects under implementation dealing with infrastructure, agriculture, health and education sectors, and on a specific request from the Government of Afghanistan, Government of India has decided, in principle, to undertake repair work at one temple, one gurudwara and one mosque in Afghanistan.