

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು
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EAC defers nod for Parliament revamp

Apex environmental panel cites petitions pending before the Delhi HC

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NEW DELHI

An apex environmental screening committee has deferred a decision on clearance to the Parliament redevelopment project. This has been done on the grounds that there was a dispute, being heard in the Delhi High Court, regarding the land on which some of the proposed structures were to come up, a person privy to the meeting told *The Hindu*.

The petitioner in the Delhi High Court has pleaded that no environment clearance be given, as the alterations which are proposed will involve land-use change not in conformity with Delhi's Master Plan.

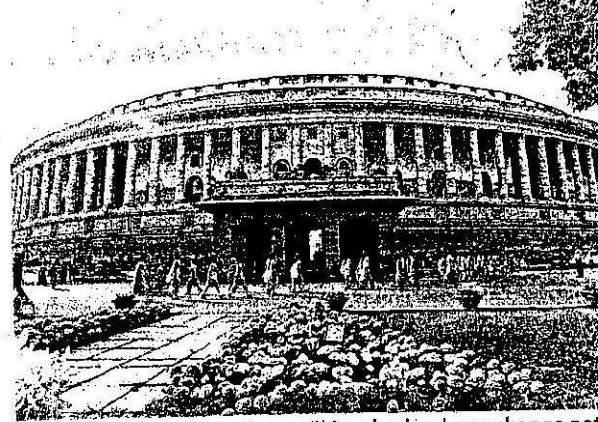
The petitioner also prayed

that no permission be granted to cut trees for the expansion and renovation of the Parliament building, which is part of the Central Vista Redevelopment project and involves redeveloping the 3km stretch from Rashtrapati Bhavan to the India Gate in Lutyens' Delhi.

CPWD's stance sought

Justice Rajiv Shaktiher issued notice to the Ministry of Housing and the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) seeking their stand on the petition and ordered that the decision of the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) be conveyed to the court "as soon as possible".

The revamp, which was announced in September,



Legal tangle: The alterations will involve land-use change not in conformity with Delhi's Master Plan. • FILE PHOTO

envisages a new triangular Parliament building that is targeted to be constructed by August 2022, when the country will be celebrating its 75th Independence Day.

The CPWD applied to the environment ministry on February 12 as part of a formal

process. The department sought permission to fell 194 trees and plant 250 new trees as compensation.

The department had also asserted that there were no court cases pending against the project and/or the land.

However, two petitions

have been filed in the Delhi High Court against the Delhi Development Authority's proposed land use change of several plots, including for the new Parliament.

Resolutions needed

One of the plots had been earmarked for recreational use in the Master Plan for Delhi-2021, and the Delhi Development Authority had proposed changing it to "Parliament House" on December 20, 2019.

"The land use dispute has to be resolved before the EAC can take a decision," the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said.

"However we don't see a problem regarding the trees, given that the plan involves making good the losses," the person added.

(With inputs from Damini Nath)