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Parliament building will be put to alternative use'

Puri clarifies on Central Vista project

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Housing and Urban Affairs
Minister Hardeep Singh Puri
told the Rajya Sabha on
Wednesday that once the
new Parliament building is
ready, the existing one will
have to be repaired and
made available for alternative use but no comprehensive thought has been given
on what use it should be.

He said no historical or iconic building in Lutyens Delhi would be demolished for the Central Vista project but a few buildings would have to be demolished "only when alternative offices have been constructed".

The Centre wants to redevelop the three-km stretch from the Rashtrapati Bhavan to the India Gate known as the Central Vista project. The plan involves constructing a triangular Parliament building adjacent to the one built in the 1920s by the British, demolishing the post-Independence office buildings and replacing them with 10 multi-storey office complexes to house all Ministries.

To a query from Ami Yagnik of the Congress, Mr. Puri said: "The only decision taken so far is that 90 acres of hutments of 1942 variety are being removed and the offices there are being relocated. All those people in those substandard offices since 1947 will be moved."