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New Parliament building to be ready in 21 months: Speaker

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Construction of the new Parliament building has started and it would be completed within the next 21 months, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said on Friday.

According to Birla, the new building, part of the Central Vista redevelopment plan, will come up on a 13-acre plot opposite the existing 93-year-old Parliament building that houses the reception barracks for secretarial and security staff and a small in-house nursery.

"The total expenditure on the construction of the new building is Rs 892 crore," the Lok Sabha Speaker said.

The new Parliament building has a built-up area of ap-

proximately 60,000 sq m, as against the 8,838 sq m of the old building.

Tata Projects was awarded the tender to construct the new complex.

The project has been mired in controversy with Opposition parties such as the Congress, NCP, Trinamool and DMK terming the expenditure on the new Parliament building "wasteful", particularly at the time of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The existing Parliament building was commissioned in 1927 and ranks among the Grade-I heritage structures.

Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri rejected Opposition allegations that the project was wasteful.