

CALLING ATTENTION

CALLING ATTENTION TABLED BY SHRI PREMENDRA SHET, MLA

“Fear and anxiety in the mind of devotees/people wherein most of the Hindu religious Temple/Devasthan consist of bodies of members(Mazania) crop up dispute internally there by dictating their rights on ancient traditional Deity resulting the traditional celebration of festival (Utsav) is interrupted and the administrator within the power under article 70 of Devasthan Regulation Act are not able to resolve or celebrate this annual deities festival (Utsav) of Devasthan results in communal disharmony, resentment and hurting of religious sentiments of the devotees for not getting darshan or blessings and disappointment and frustration prevails in the villages. The steps the Government will take to empower the administrator to act in the matter”.

STATEMENT BY THE HON'BLE MINISTER FOR REVENUE

REPLY TO CALLING ATTENTION BY HON'BLE REVENUE MINISTER SHRI ATANASIO MONSERRATE ON 18/01/2023

Sir,

Devasthan Regulation was enacted in 1933 regulating the affairs of Mazania and the Devasthans. The Administrators/Mamlatdars of Talukas exercises control and superintendence over registered Devasthans within his jurisdiction.

The Mamlatdar has to watch over the execution of the regulation, bye-laws and strict discharge of duties by the subordinates.

There are instances of infight among the Mazania over the Administration of Devasthan more particularly financial matters. Instances have also come to the notice of the Government that there are litigations between Mazania and other community members in respect of claiming right as Mazania in respect of temples / Devasthan, which creates disturbance of peace resulting in law and order situation during celebration of religious festivals such as Zatra, and others.

In North Goa District, specially Shree Maya Kelbai Panchayatan Devasthan, Mayem, Bicholim, Goa and Shree Ravalnath Devasthan, Velos, and Shree Ajoba Devasthan in Sattari taluka are the instances where ongoing dispute among the Mazania, has created disturbance for celebration of religious activities. Due to these kind of disturbances, the sentiments of the devotees who have faith and devotion towards their deities are being hurt.

Though time and again the Administrators instruct the Managing Committee of the Devalaya to be cautious and diligent in ensuring celebration of religious activities in peaceful manner, however, due to lack of co-operation from the Mazanias, Administrators become helpless and are left with no option than to take police assistance to maintain law and order situation and safety of the devotees. Sometimes, religious activities are also being stopped considering safety of temple property, devotees and law and order.

The disputes which are raised are civil in nature and are required to be decided by Competent Civil Courts. However, Government will examine and explore the possibilities of instructing District Magistrate / Mamlatdars to appoint Receivers to conduct religious festivities whenever there is dispute raised by concerned Mazanias over celebration of religious festivities until the same are decided by the Civil Court. Government will further explore, if any amendments are required in this regard to the Devasthan Regulation.
