

To,
The Chief Architect,
New Delhi Municipal Council,
New Delhi.

chief.architect@ndmc.gov.in

Sub: Objections qua the proposed removal of the Masjid Sunehri Bagh Road Roundabout, New Delhi 110011.

Sir,

I am concerned with your notice published in various Newspapers dated 24.12.2023. I am a practicing Muslim and I have a right to offer prayer in every Mosque, hence, I am an interested person as defined under Section 3(k) of the Waqf Act, 1995. Being a person interested in the captioned mosque, I am clearly interested in its protection and preservation.

As per my observations on the ground, the proposed removal of the captioned mosque on the premise that the MCD has received a reference from the Delhi Traffic Police for providing traffic engineering proposal for providing sustainable mobility in the vicinity of roundabout of Sunehri Bagh is only an excuse to remove the subject mosque. Neither the Traffic Police has asked for removal nor is the entire roundabout occupied by the said Mosque. As a matter of fact, not more than 10% of the roundabout is occupied by the said mosque, rest of the roundabout is occupied by the assets of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, a park and other sundry things including a telecom tower.

The subject mosque is significant not only from the religious point of view but also for historical, political and cultural reasons.

As a religious center it is significant because Muslim Members of Parliament, members of Muslim community working in various government offices visit this mosque for the purpose of worship and to offer five times compulsory prayers, daily.

It is a historical place because it is more than 150 years old and has survived British Raj also.

It is politically significant because eminent Freedom Fighter and activist Syed Fazl-ul-Hasan used to stay at this mosque when he was participating in Constituent Assembly's meetings as a member of Constituent Assembly. It is him who gave the slogan of 'इन्किलाब जिंदाबाद'. He was elected to the Constituent Assembly from the United Provinces on a Muslim League Ticket. After partition, he was one of the 28 members of the Muslim League who remained in India and attended the meetings of the Constituent Assembly.

Syed Fazl-ul-Hasan, who is famous by pen-name 'Hasrat Mohani' [Mohani because he was from Mohan] was, besides being an activist and freedom fighter, was a world famous poet. 'चुपके चुपके रात दिन आंसू बहाना याद है' a world famous rendition by Ghulam Ali, 'कैसे छुपाऊं राज ए गम', 'भुलाता लाख हूँ लेकिन' and other master class renditions by late Ustad Mehdi Hazan Khan Sahab and 'रौशन जमाल ए यार से है अंजुमन तमाम' a melodious rendition by the King of Ghazals late Jagjit Singh sahib are the few Ghazals penned by Hasrat Mohani sahib. Beyond that, Hasrat Mohani used to carry with him a flute and was skilled flute player. He had also written various Nazms on Shri Krishna. For example his two famous Nazms are 'मोसे छेर करत नन्दलाल' and 'मथुरा कि नगर है आशिकी का'. This makes the subject mosque culturally significant.

In any other country, such a place would have been preserved at the expenses of the State, however, it is unfortunate that New Delhi Municipal Council is trying to erase such a multidimensional place, that too without being backed by any empirical data.

This mosque is also one of the 123 Waqf Properties which are the subject matter of litigation between the Delhi Waqf Board and the Union of India. There are two Writ Petitions, WPC no. 1961 of 2022 and WPC no. 2686 of 2023 are pending before the Hon'ble Delhi High Court. In WPC no. 2686 of 2023, vide the order dated 26.04.2023 the Hon'ble High Court recognized the administration and management of those 123 waqf properties by the Delhi Waqf Board and permitted the Union of India to 'carryout inspection while ensuring minimal disruption in the day-to-day administration of the subject properties by the petitioner'. The administration of the property presupposes the

existence of the property. Hence, it becomes duty of not only the Union of India but also every agency to ensure that the properties subject matter of the Delhi Waqf Board's WPC no. 2686 of 2023 continue to exist. This applies to the New Delhi Municipal Council also.

That there is no difficulty with the traffic movement around this roundabout. The traffic is not around this roundabout.

Hence, the alleged traffic congestion is nothing but a ruse to target this Mosque, which I oppose.

Thank you,

Name:

Address:

Contact No.:

Date: