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123 properties of Delhi Waqf Board belong to Centre, no question of 'seizure': Puri in House

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NEW DELHI: Union minister for housing & urban affairs Hardeep Singh Puri on Monday said that the ownership of 123 properties of Delhi Waqf Board, including mosques, dargahs and graveyards, lies with the Union government and allegations that they are being seized "does not arise".

The minister's statement was in response to a query by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Sushil Kumar Modi who sought details



Hardeep Singh Puri and Sushil Kumar Modi

of Delhi Waqf Board properties that are being seized by the Centre and the grounds for conducting the seizure.

Puri's response also came against the backdrop of Delhi Waqf Board chairman and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Aman-

atullah Khan moving the high court against the Centre's alleged move to take over 123 Waqf properties.

Puri said that the concerned properties were owned by Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and Land and Development Officer (L&DO) - which come under the Centre. "The ownership of the 123 properties already vests with the Government of India (61 with Land and Development Office and 62 with Delhi Development Authority), therefore, question of seizure of these properties does not arise. This

list of 123 Properties owned by Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and Land and Development Officer (L&DO) is at Annexure," Puri said. "Government intends to inspect all 123 properties in question. However, actual physical inspection process is yet to begin. Progress of allotment of these properties for other purposes has not been initiated," Puri said.

In a letter on February 8, the L&DO informed the board of its decision to "absolve" the latter from all matters pertaining to the concerned properties.

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Ownership of 123 waqf properties with Centre: Puri

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New Delhi: Union housing and urban affairs minister Hardeep Singh Puri told the Rajya Sabha on Monday that ownership of 123 Delhi Waqf Board properties already vests with the central government and therefore there is no question of their seizure.

In written reply to a question from BJP MP Sushil Kumar Modi, Puri said ownership of 61 of the properties vests with the Land and Development Office (L&DO) and the remaining 62 are with the Delhi Development Authority (DDA). "Therefore question of seizure of these properties does not arise," Puri said.

Puri said the government intends to inspect all the 123 properties, but actual physical inspection process is yet to begin. "Progress of allotment of these properties for other purposes has not been initiated," he said.

Last month, the L&DO had issued a letter to the Delhi Waqf Board informing it about physical inspection of the de-notified 123 properties in the capital after deciding to "absolve" the Board from all matters of these assets saying this doesn't have any stake.