

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) In the past one year, one request for a private function was received from Karnataka for holding marriage ceremony at Centrally protected monument.

(b) No, Sir. As per existing policy, conducting of private functions at Centrally protected monument/site is not allowed. However, the Archaeological Survey of India permits usage of specific protected areas of some selected centrally protected monuments/sites in the country for holding cultural events preferably classical music, dance and drama for which fee is charged.

**Development of historical and cultural sites in Mithila**

†2901. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plan proposal of the Government of Bihar regarding development of Punaure (Sitamarhi, Bihar), a mythological-historical-cultural heritage and birth place of Mata Sita, is under consideration of the Government for its approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the proposal would be approved soon or has been approved;

(c) the names of mythological-historical-cultural heritage sites of Mithila region in Bihar where developmental work is being carried out by the Government at present; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (d) As per information from Ministry of Tourism, Government of India that the Ministry of Tourism had launched the Swadesh Darshan Scheme in the year 2014-15 for Integrated Development of Theme-Based Tourist Circuits in the country. Ramayana Circuit is one of the fifteen thematic circuits identified for development under the Scheme. The Ministry of Tourism has initially identified fifteen destinations for development under the Ramayana Circuit theme namely Ayodhya, Nandigram, Shringverpur and Chitrakoot (Uttar Pradesh), Sitamarhi, Buxar and Darbhanga (Bihar), Chitrakoot (Madhya Pradesh), Mahendragiri (Odisha), Jagdalpur (Chhattisgarh), Nashik and Nagpur (Maharashtra), Bhadrachalam (Telangana), Hampi (Karnataka) and Rameshwaram (Tamil Nadu).

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The Ministry has received the proposal for development of Sitamarhi-Darbhanga-Buxar under Ramayana Circuit theme. The projects for development under the scheme are identified in consultation with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and are sanctioned subject to availability of funds, submission of suitable detailed project reports, adherence to scheme guidelines and utilization of funds released earlier. The Ministry of Tourism has not sanctioned any project for the development of Mithila region in Bihar under the Scheme.

#### **Achievements under cultural genres**

†2902. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state the achievements made in the different fields of cultural genres in the country in each of the last three years, details thereof, centre-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): Sir, the primary mandate of Ministry of Culture is preservation and conservation of ancient cultural heritage and promotion of tangible and intangible art and culture through its attached, subordinate and autonomous organisations. Its activities and programmes are accomplished under several broad cultural genres *viz.* Preservation and conservation of Archaeological sites, Museums and its artifacts, Public Libraries, Promotion and dissemination of Performing Arts, Buddhist and Tibetan studies, International Cultural Relation and construction of cultural complexes. The details of major achievements for the last three years are given in the Statement.

#### ***Statement***

##### *Major Achievements of Ministry of Culture and its organizations for the year ending 2016, 2017 and 2018*

1. E-ticketing- A cashless tool started for tourists at all ticketed monuments.
2. 100 Monuments Identified for Portal on "Must-See Monuments and Archaeological Sites of India".
3. Excavation at the site near Saser La Pass in Ladakh at an altitude of about 13500-14000 feet. Archaeological site development at Purana Qila (Delhi), Kalibangan and Binjor (Rajasthan), Lothal and Dholavira (Gujarat) and Sannathi (Karnataka), Conservation work outside India, in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam. The Archaeological Survey of India (Delhi Circle) of Ministry of Culture discovered

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