

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.19
ANSWERED ON 20/07/2023

DEVELOPMENT OF NAWADA AS A PLACE OF AN ANCIENT, CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL HERITAGE

19 # SHRI RAKESH SINHA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that Goddess Sita had spent 12 years at Nawada district of Sitamarhi in Bihar as per people's belief/faith and folk memories and there is an ancient cave also at this place;
- (b) whether Government would develop this place as a place of an ancient, cultural and spiritual heritage;
- (c) whether ASI would conduct a survey and preserve this place of ancient heritage and center of the public faith; and
- (d) whether Government would consider connecting it to the Ramayana Circuit since this place is related to the story and the life-incidents of Lord Ram?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE, TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

- (a) A rock-cut cave or chamber is mentioned in the Bengal list, Grierson as well as in the District Gazetteer. The cave was first noticed by Buchanan in about 1812. Beglar describes the cave and compared this to polished caves in Barbar and Nagarjuni Hills. Two small images were noticed to exist inside the cave by Buchanan, while Beglar later saw here a number of images. Local belief associates the cave with the story of Sita and her two sons, Lava and Kusa, who it is believed, resided in this cave for some time.
- (b)& It is not a centrally protected monument and at present there is no such proposal under consideration.
- (c)
- (d) Ramayana Circuit launched in January-2015 by the Ministry of Tourism under Swadesh Darshan Scheme includes two projects namely:-
 - (i) Development of Chitrakoot and Shringverpur and
 - (ii) Development of Ayodhya.
