

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:422
ANSWERED ON:28.02.2008
HISTORICAL SITES OF RAMAYANA AND MAHABHARAT
Nayak Shri Ananta

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether many sites mentioned in Ramayana and Mahabharata are attractions to foreign and Indian pilgrim tourists;
- (b) If so, which are the sports / sites visited by maximum number of tourists during last one year;
- (c) the steps initiated by the Government to improve the facilities at these sites;
- (d) whether there is any proposal from the Sri Lankan Government to help them to improve the facilities of such sites mentioned in Ramayana; and
- (e) is so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

- (a) & (b) Details regarding the number of tourists visiting places mentioned in these epics are not maintained by Archaeological Survey of India.
- (c) Improvement of facilities at tourist destinations including pilgrim sites is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations. They may be financially assisted under the Scheme of Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations and Circuits, which is administered by the Ministry of Tourism. The Archaeological Survey of India provides tourists amenities at centrally protected monuments / sites according to their needs and subject to availability of resources.
- (d) The ASI has not received any such proposal.
- (e) Question does not arise.