

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1302

ANSWERED ON:07.12.2015

Development of Balirajgarh

Choudhary Shri Birendra Kumar

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Balirajgarh under Bahubarhi block in Madhubani district of Bihar which is located on thousands of acres of land is considered as famous tourist place and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has started excavation work at the said place which has been stopped and if so, the details along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to develop and beautify the said place from tourism point of view; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be developed?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) and (b): Declaration of tourist places is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.

Ancient Fort and Garh locally known as Raja Balika Garh at Balirajgarh in Bahubarhi block, District Madhubani, Bihar is a centrally protected site of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) covering 122.31 acre of land. ASI carried out the excavation during 1962-63 followed by State Archaeology, Government of Bihar in 1972-73. Further excavations were carried out by the ASI during 2013-14.

The excavation revealed evidence of fivefold cultural period (Northern Black Pottery Ware, Sunga, Kushana, Gupta followed by Pala Period. The findings included remains of rampart in three different phases, structural remains of burnt bricks laid in mud mortar, and some other structures of residential building have been brought to light. Among the antiquities are terracotta objects like animal and human figurines, beads; semiprecious stones beads, sealings etc.

(c) and (d): Development and promotion of tourism and tourism related infrastructure is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financials Assistance (CFA) to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. No such proposal for development and beautification of the said place from tourism point of view has been received in the Ministry of Tourism. ASI also informs that no such proposal is under their consideration.
