

[21 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

last budget of NABARD for the entire country. Sir, The State Governments are sending proposals for a number of projects. I would mention the case of Karnataka just as an example. Sir, in the year 1994-95, a provision of Rs. 143 crores was made ...*(Interruptions)*... I am just giving an example. Sir, in the year 1999-2000, it has come down to Rs. 8 crores only. Even though the amount for minor irrigation projects has been raised this year ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question about Khuga Dam in Manipur? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Sir, my question is very simple. I would like to know whether there is any machinery to monitor the implementation of these projects whether they are in Manipur or any other State. Why is the provision being reduced? Even though the State Governments are sending their proposals, the Central Government, particularly, the NABARD, is taking a lot of time in clearing those projects. Why?

DR. CP. THAKUR: Sir, actually, this is not my subject.

SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTUDU: Sir, the delay has become a routine practice for implementing agencies in our country. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government propose to fix the responsibility on any one for the delay in implementing this particular project, which should have been completed ten years ago, and at a much lower cost. The delay has caused a heavy expenditure to the national exchequer.

DR. CP. THAKUR: Sir, the hon. President, in his address to both the Houses of Parliament, indicated that all the delayed projects should be reviewed and an attempt should be made to see that they are completed. With regard to this particular project in Manipur, you are aware of the problems which are faced by the Government of Manipur, and some delay has been caused because of that also.

Development of Tourism in Kanyakumari

*323. SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from the State of Tamil Nadu for development of tourism in Kanyakumari;

(b) the number of proposals cleared till 30th November, 1999 and the details thereof;

(c) the number of proposals pending and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of funds which have been provided for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM
(KUMARI UMA BHARTI): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) One project proposal for development of tourism in Kanyakumari has been received from the State Government for the year 1999-2000.

(b) Nil.

(c) One. The proposal has been received on 26.11.1999 and is under consideration in the Ministry.

(d) 4 proposals at an estimated cost of Rs. 148.00 lakhs have been prioritised for the development of tourism in Kanyakumari for the year 1999-2000 in consultation with the State Government.

SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Thank you, Mi. Chairman, Sir. My question is, Kanyakumari is a historical place and pilgrims and tourists go there in a very large number everyday. Sir, my question is about the number of proposals received from the State of Tamil Nadu for development of tourism in Kanyakumari. The reply given is, "One project proposal for development of tourism in Kanyakumari has been received from the State Government for the year 1999-2000." What I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, is this. As far as the project in Kanyakumari is concerned, there is a restriction from the Government of India. There is a ban order. If the Government of India sanctions any project, the State Government or the Chairman of the concerned Municipality is not able to implement that because there is a ban. As a result, they are not able to carry out any construction work within the 500 mtrs area from the sea. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when the ban would be lifted. We are facing a lot of problems to carry out any project sanctioned, either by the

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Government of India or the State Government, at Kanyakumari because of this ban. This is my first supplementary.

KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Sir, as far as my Ministry is concerned, we are not aware of any such ban order because the ban order is not issued by our Ministry. So, I am ready to reply the second supplementary.

SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: It is the order of the Government of India. Because of this order, we are not able to implement any project sanctioned by you.

KUMARI UMA BHARTI: What I am saying is, as far as my Ministry is concerned, we have not issued any ban order. So, I cannot comment on this ban order.

SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM. I put a question, in this very House, on 5th August, 1997. The reply given was, "There was a project for a view-tower at Kanyakumari at a cost of about Rs. 30 lakhs." I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this project has been implemented or not. This amount was sanctioned in 1997, but till date, you have not taken any action because of this ban order. I would like to know from the Minister when this view-tower project is going to be implemented.

KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Sir, as I told you and, through you, to the hon. Member, my department is not aware of the ban order. The hon. Member asked a specific question regarding the construction of the project with that ban order. I would like to convey to the hon. Member that I will get the details and inform the House.

SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: The amount was sanctioned in 1997 by your Department for construction of a view-tower at Kanyakumari. We have been pursuing this for the last three years. We are meeting the Collector of the district and the Department of Tourism, but, so far, your department has not constructed this tower. Why?

KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Sir, the hon. Member has asked about 1999-2000 ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Sir, I am asking about 1997 and onwards. ...*(Interruptions)*...

KUMARI UMA BHARTI: But the specific question that you asked was regarding 1999-2000. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: No. I am asking about 1997 and onwards. The State Government has not been utilising the amount since 1997.

KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Sir, the restriction is still there by the Ministry of Environment. The Ministry of Tourism is having talks with the Ministry of Environment. But nothing clear has come out of it as yet. Sir, whenever we will get a clear order from the Ministry of Environment, the project will be taken up again.

SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: The present Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has constructed the world famous 'Vivekananda Rock' in Kanyakumari. Now, in the next millenium, i.e., on 01.01.2000 ... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Don't divert the subject. ... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Shri Sundaram, if I commit something wrong, the Minister of Tourism is here to rectify it. You kindly sit down. Sir, in the next millenium, i.e., on 1st January, 2000, the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu is going to unveil a 133-feet-high statue of Shri Thiruvalluvar, the great poet of Tamil language. There is also a famous Vivekananda Rock. Even with the small fund at its disposal, the Government of Tamil Nadu is taking all the necessary steps to grab the tourists from within and outside the country. Sir, in one's life, scenes of sun-rise and sun-set are really worth seeing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are grabbing the tourist. Are they grabbing them?

SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Sir, from all over the world, tourists are coming and viewing the great scenes of sun-rise and sun-set. Now, I would like to know from the hon. Minister: Whether she will allocate more funds to the Tamil Nadu Government to improve the quality of the tourist centres in Tamil Nadu?

KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Sir, there are two questions. One is regarding the first January of the coming millenium. We appreciate and admire whatever the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu is doing for the development of tourism in Tamil Nadu. We always give financial assistance to any projects. The process is that the scheme has to come from the State Government. If a scheme comes, my Department and the Department of Tourism of the State sit together. The State

Government prioritises the scheme, and after that, the proposal comes; and then we take over the proposal. If any proposal comes regarding that particular spot, and if it is prioritised, we would really like to take that.

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Sir, I know this question is definitely regarding Kanyakumari. Now, Mr. Chairman, Sir, may I put a question from the hon. Minister regarding my own State?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No.

PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: I understand that in the National Action Plan for Tourism, 25 circuits and destinations have been identified for development. Looking at the scheme, I find that at item No. 15, the areas namely, Cochin, Thekkadi, Madurai and Rameshwaram are mentioned for development under this scheme. So, I want to know from the hon. Minister as to why such an important place as 'Kanyakumari' has been left out of the circuit. Sir, I do not want to explain to the hon. House how important 'Kanyakumari' is. It is surrounded by three seas, it is on the tip of India, the Gandhi Memorial is there, and of course, the famous Vivekananda Rock is also there. Now, part (a) of my question is : How has that place been left out of the circuit? Part (b) is, the hon. Minister has mentioned about four proposals that are under consideration and have been prioritised for 1999-2000. I would like to ask the hon. Minister : Does any one of these proposals include extending or involving the local people? Sir, I am putting this question, particularly, because—I do not want to mention any other State—Mahabalipuram is one of the most unique places in India. I visited it a few years ago. It is very dirty. The local people should be involved in maintaining the places. Apart from creating awareness among them, we must make arrangements for giving them some benefits so that they are interested in maintain. The places, historical

places and tourist centres. That is to say, not only should awareness be created, but also some special, concrete benefits should be given to them. Do any of the proposals include this? Or will the hon. Minister consider giving special benefits to the local people to make them interested in protecting and preserving our heritage?

KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Sir, I want to tell the hon. Member, through you, that tourism is a State subject. Tourism is not in the Concurrent List. It is in the State List. So, only the proposal for any spot, which has been declared important by the State, can be taken up -by the Central Government. As you have seen in the proposal, the State Government of Tamil Nadu is giving due importance to Kanyakumari.

The other question you are asking is about involvement of the local people in any proposal or any construction or festival or anything else. That is to be done totally by the State Government. We always give suggestions to the State Governments to involve the local people because we are looking forward to tourism for the solution of the unemployment problem also. Even the last month, on the 22nd November, we held a meeting of the State Ministers of Tourism. We suggested this to them, and we have decided together that we would use tourism to solve the problem of unemployment also. Therefore, there should be involvement of the local people, and, I think, all the State Governments are aware of that.

PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I come from Kanyakumari. Therefore, I cannot follow the answer given by the hon. Minister. Part (a) of the question is:

"the number of proposal received from the State of Tamil Nadu for development of tourism in Kanyakumari."

The answer given in the statement is:

"One project."

That project includes the tower that has to be constructed near the seashore where the three seas, the Arabian Sea, the India Ocean and the Bay of Bengal, meet. The three seas meet there. To have a view of the three seas, the State Government has given a proposal to erect a tower, and that is pending. Nothing has been given in the Statement relevant to that.

Part (c) of the question is:

"the number of proposals pending and the reasons therefor."

There is no clear answer to this from the Minister. I want to know this.

Another question is regarding the Vivekananda Rock. A committee, under the chairmanship of hon. Shri Solipeta Ramachandra Reddy, visited Kanyakumari. That committee has made wide-ranging recommendations to improve the tourism industry because it is one of the best tourist centres available in India, and it can attract many foreigners and fetch foreign to our Government.

KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Sir, there are many questions put together. Through you, I want to inform the Member that the Tamil Nadu Government with the approval of the Central Government has prioritised these four proposals. The first stage is that the scheme comes to the Central Government from the State Government. In the second stage, the Centre and the State sit together and prioritise the scheme. After that, in the third stage, the proposal comes from the Central Government. So far, these four schemes have been prioritised for Kanyakumari. Out of these, one was proposed. It has come in the shape of a proposal from the State Government. The other three proposals are still under consideration, because, sometimes, some small mistakes are left, then the proposal goes back, again when it comes back and if some mistake is there, it goes back. That is why I have been requesting ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Sir, the hon. Member has put a very specific question. (*Interruptions*) He has referred to the recommendation of the Committee on Government Assurances. He has stated that the Chairman of the Committee on Government Assurances, Shri Solipeta Ramachandra Reddy, has recommended Rs. 50 lakhs for the maintenance. So, you kindly answer that question.

KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Sir, the hon. Member has put four questions. (*Interruptions*) Sir, I will request the hon. Member, through you, not to get excited. He has asked four questions. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: I am getting excited because of your answer, the way you have answered the question. You have been briefed by the official gallery. (*Interruptions*)

KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Sir, I am sorry to hear the remarks of the hon. Member. I would request him to come to my desk and see for himself as to what information they have given me and what answer I am giving. It is not that I am reading out from the papers. I am sorry to say so. I will not take this laying down. (*Interruptions*) Sir, the hon. Member has asked four questions and I have to answer every question. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Sir, we are putting a very specific question. (*Interruptions*)

KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Sir, I am answering his questions.

PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Sir, I want to simplify the matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please hear the reply of the Minister. Thereafter, you can put a question. Let her complete her reply.

KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Sir, the hon. Member has put a question about the view-tower. In the connection, I would like to inform the hon. Member that whatever assistance was needed from the Central Government, we have given that. Now, it is up to the State Government to complete it. From our side, from the side of the Central Government, whatever financial assistance was needed for that particular project, has been given by the Central Government. Now, it is up to the State Government to complete it.

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम : सभापति मोहदय, मैं एक छोटा सा सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ और छोटे से मामले की तरफ मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। कन्याकुमारी में, जैसे कि कहा गया तीन समुद्र देखने जाते हैं और यूनीक स्पॉट है जहाँ से सन-सेट और सन राइज़ दोनों देखते हैं। जब विवेकानंद रॉक देखने जाते हैं तो सन राइज़ सब देख लेते हैं लेकिन जब सन सेट देखना होता है वेस्टर्न घाट की तरफ जाते हैं। हर रोज हजारों लोग जाते हैं। न तो वहाँ पर कोई पाथ-वे हैं, न कोई रूट है, न कोई रास्ता है, लोग दौड़ते-भारते रहते हैं, वहाँ पर बालू की पहाड़ी है, बालू को घेर कर गंदगी से लोग जाते हैं। आप बताएँ कि वह लोकल म्यूनिसिपैलिटी का मामला है या स्टेट गवर्नमेंट का मामला है। लेकिन यह इंटरनेशनली नोन डेस्टीगेशन है, हजारों टूरिस्ट आते हैं। 52 साल हो गये, आजादी के बाद, अब तक रास्ता पत्थर लगा कर

के नहीं बना पाए जबकि वहां पर आजू-बाजू में पत्थर भी हैं, स्टोन मौजूद हैं, पत्थर की पहाड़ी भी है। यह एक छोटी सी स्कीम है, छोटा सा प्रोजेक्ट है लेकिन

Your concern for the tourists will show that. क्या आप इसके लिए कुछ करने जा रहे हैं, क्या ऐसी कोई योजना बनाएंगे। ऐसे कई स्पॉट हैं लेकिन मैंने यह स्पेसिफिक कहा है।

कुमारी उमा भारती : सर, मैं फिर से वहीं से शुरू करूंगी। Then the hon Member will get very much excited मेरी प्रॉब्लम क्या है कि हमारे डिपार्टमेंट ने पिछले महीने 22 नवम्बर को टूरिज्म मिनिस्टर्स की मीटिंग बुलाई थी। उसमें सब से रिक्वेस्ट की थी। जब तक वह प्रॉपोजल नहीं भेजते हैं, कई बार जैसे कि सलीम भाई ने हमारे नोटिस में यह बात लाई है या ऐसे कई स्पॉट हैं जो हमारे नोटिस में आ जाते हैं तो फिर राज्य सरकार को रिक्वेस्ट करते हैं, मैं उनको रिक्वेस्ट करूंगी कि वे अपनी संसद निधि में से मैचिंग ग्रांट कर दें तमिलनाडु स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को और एक बार यह स्कीम वहां से आ जाए तो हम सेंटर की तरफ से जितना भी परस्यु कर सकते हैं कर के जितनी हो सकेगी उतनी फाइनेंशियल अस्सिस्टेंस देंगे। मैं माननीय सलीम साहब की तकलीफ को समझती हूँ क्योंकि मैंने भी कन्याकुमारी में देखा है। जिस जगह का वह जिक्र कर रहे हैं, उसकी जिक्र मुझे है। लेकिन जब तक इस प्रॉपोजल को स्टेट गवर्नमेंट नहीं भेजेगी, उस प्रॉपोजल के बारे में हम अपनी तरफ से इनिशियेटिव नहीं ले पाते हैं। इसलिए मैं अनुरोध करूंगी कि यदि ऐसे कोई और स्पॉट जो उनके ध्यान में हैं, वह संसद सदस्य निधि में से मैचिंग ग्रांट दे कर के यहां पर भेज सकते हैं।...(व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति : आप बैठ जाइये। When the Minister is speaking the Member should not stand

कुमारी उमा भारती : मैं माननीय सदस्य की चिंता को समझती हूँ। इसके बारे में हम स्वयं इनिशियेटिव लेकर स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को लिखेंगे, कहेंगे कि वह इसके बारे में स्कीम बना कर भेजे।...(व्यवधान)

सरदार बलविन्दर सिंह भुंडर : सर...(व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति : देखिए मैंने आनरेबुल मेम्बर मिरी जी को बुलाया है।

सरदार बलविन्दर सिंह भुंडर : कंसलटेटिव कमेटी की 50 लाख रूपए की रिकमेंडेशन इमीडिएटली थी। हम सब कह रहे हैं कि जो क्वेश्चन था उसमें कमेटी की तरफ से 50 लाख की रिकमेंडेशन आई है इमीडिएटली to save the temple of Kanyakumari, of Swami Vivekananda. A report has already come here one month before. Please take action immediately.

श्री सभापति : अच्छा, मिरीजी।

श्री गोविन्दराम मिरी : सभापति महोदय, कन्याकुमारी कितना महत्वपूर्ण स्थान है इसको बताने की आवश्यकता नहीं है। देशी और विदेशी पर्यटक वहां काफी संख्या में जाते हैं और इसका अपना एक स्थान है। मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या नागर विमानन मंत्रालय की तरफ से इस एयरलाइन्स से जोड़ने का प्रस्ताव भेजा गया है? यदि नहीं तो क्या मंत्री जी इस संबंध में कुछ विचार रखती है क्योंकि अभी त्रिवेन्द्रम से वहां बाई रोड जाना पड़ता है?

कुमारी उमा भारती : सभापति जी, यह क्वेश्चन भी मेरी परिधि से बाहर का है क्योंकि जो सवाल पूछा गया है। वह तमिलनाडु के 1999-2000 के प्रोजेक्ट्स के बारे में और कन्याकुमारी के 1999-2000 के प्रोजेक्ट्स के बारे में था। इसलिए जब 1997 के प्रोजेक्ट्स की बात आई तो या तो मैं पूरा पेपर देखूं जो नीचे कहीं लिखा हुआ होता है और उसमें सदन का समय खराब करूं। आपने जो सवाल किया है उसके बारे में अगर कोई मैटर इस तरह का हुआ होगा ...**(व्यवधान)** एविएशन से हम तो खुद चाहते हैं क्योंकि टूरिज्म मिनिस्ट्री अपने आप में ऐसी मिनिस्ट्री है जिसके हाथ पांव होते ही नहीं हैं। हमें एविएशन का मुंह देखना पड़ता है, हमें रेलवे का मुंह देखना पड़ता है, हमें सरफेस ट्रांसपोर्ट का मुंह देखना पड़ता है और सबसे बड़ी बात है कि कानकरेंस में नहीं होने के कारण हमें राज्यों का मोहताज होना पड़ता है कि वे हमें पहले स्कीम बनाकर भेजें। माननीय मेम्बर न जो बात कही है। इसके बारे में मैं जानकारी करके उन्हें सूचित कर दूंगी।

दिल्ली और कलकत्ता के बीच भागलपुर के रास्ते से विमान सेवाएं चलाया जाना

***324 श्री जर्नादन यादव :** क्या नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगी कि :-

(क) क्या सरकार ने दिल्ली और कलकत्ता के बीच बरास्ता भागलपुर विमानन सेवाएं चलाने की किसी योजना को स्वीकृति दी है,

(ख) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि भागलपुर एक व्यापारिक स्थान होने के नाते वहां से दिल्ली और कलकत्ता आने वाले व्यक्तियों की संख्या बहुत ज्यादा है, और

(ग) यदि हां, तो सरकार द्वारा दिल्ली से कलकत्ता बरास्ता भागलपुर विमान सेवाएं कब तक प्रारंभ किये जाने की संभावना है, और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं

नागर विमानन मंत्री (श्री शरद यादव) : (क) से (ग) जी नहीं। सरकार ने देश के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों की विमान परिवहन सेवा संबंधी आवश्यकता की बेहतर सेवा की दृष्टि से मार्ग