

RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 16th July 1996/25th Asadha
1918 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock. Mr.
Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Target fixed for arrival of Tourists

*81. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION
AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the tourist arrival target fixed for the
years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 in the
country in general and for the eastern state in
particular;

(b) the actual achievements made in the
country in the above three years (year-wise
and state-wise); and

(c) the programme drawn up by Gov-
ernment with regard to development of
infrastructure in order to increase the visits of
tourists into the country?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY
AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF
TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a)
to (c) A Statement is laid on the table of the
Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) The targets and achievements
of international tourist arrivals for the year
1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 are as given
below:—

Year	Tourist , Target	Arrivals Achievement
1993-94	2,000,000	1,871,262
1994-95	2,000,000	1,907,320
1995-96	082,152	2,190,334

*Target modified based on arrivals during
the previous year.

Central Department of Tourism does not
fix any targets for the States/Union
Territories.

(c) The development of tourism infras-
tructure is a continuous process and is
achieved by providing financial assistance to
State/Union Territory Governments

and- by providing the necessary support
facilities and incentives to private sector.
Assistance to State/UT Governments are
provided under different schemes on the basis
of specific proposals received from them.
The schemes include construction of tourist
complexes/tourist lodges, wayside amenities,
motels/cafctcrias/restaur-ants, tourist
reception centres, provision of mini buses
and jeeps for wild life viewing, cruise boats
and ferry launchers for water transport. In
order to assist the private entrepreneurs, the
Department of Tourism has set up an
"Investment Facilitation Cell" apart from
providing incentives like interest subsidy, tax
exemption, etc.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Sir,
India, including the eastern sector with its
forests and natural attractions and continuous
history spread over several centuries has
unbeatable credentials as a tourist destination.
As replied to the question by the Minister, the
target fixed for a year is sometimes being
achieved and sometimes it is not being
achieved. As for the State-wise targets, the
Minister has said that the Central
Government does not fix any target for the
States. Sir, India accounts for 0.4 per cent of
the world's tourist arrival. Sir, when the tour-
ist arrival during the year 1994-95 has
crossed two million mark, the increase was
very negligible. In order to exploit the tourist
potential especially in the eastern sector, I
would like to know from the hon. Minister
whether creation of special tourism area is a
strategy to increase the destination-tourism
and whether any area has been selected in the
Eastern States for this purpose. If so, what
steps have been taken to expedite this project
and by when will it be completed? Sir, as it
would be the finest centre, I would like to
know whether the Government of India will
extend all help for this project?

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Sir,
yesterday you clubbed Question Nos. 61 and
62 ...(*Interruptions*)... Sir, I would like to
suggest that Question No. 86 may also be
clubbed with this Question. ...

(Interruptions)... That question also relates to development of tourism projects. ... (Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think it should be a separate question because Karnataka is unique. ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: It relates to Karnataka only. ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Sir, for the year 1993-94, the target was two million and the achievement was 1.8 million. For the year 1994-95, ... (Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Sir, all these figures are already given in the statement. ... (Interruptions)... I am asking about separate tourism areas ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: You can have some understanding on the subject. ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: As for special tourism areas, we have a national strategy for tourism development. The strategy paper was circulated among various States, and also among various sectors and departments for their opinion. This strategy paper is still under the consideration of the State Governments. We are waiting for their comments. ... (Interruptions)... I will also be happy to circulate the national strategy paper on tourism development and after getting responses from different State Governments, we will ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, he should be specific ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Sir, I am coming to the specific point. ... (Interruptions)... Recently the Director General of Tourism visited the STA in Orissa, Puri, Konark and Bhubaneshwar and had long discussions with the tourism department of Orissa Government and they have formulated certain plans and they are yet to get a final set.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: I would like to know when it will be completed.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: I will need your cooperation.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: We are very eager to know. The Central Government should extend all help.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: The Central Government will cooperate. (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: The site has already been decided between Dayanadi and Harachandi.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: There are certain problems, environmental problems.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: That site was already rejected and another site was selected between Dayanadi and Harachandi.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Exactly, I am coming to that. About 3500 acres of land is to be acquired by the State Government and a special authority in the special cell has to be opened by the State Government. The moment the State Government is ready, we are also ready.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Is there any programme to bring chartered flights from foreign countries to eastern areas to increase tourist arrival? If so, what are the details thereof?

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: The Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism has been bifurcated recently.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: But your Ministry should pursue this matter.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: The Ministry of Tourism is, in fact, pursuing and we will consistently pursue this aspect so that I get the right kind of cooperation from the Civil Aviation Ministry so that more tourists come to India.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: But we are worried about the arrival of tourists. So it is your job to pursue it.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: I fully agree with you that the Tourism Ministry should take the initiative and take the

initiative in a proper direction so that the Civil Aviation Ministry responds positively.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Mr. Chairman Sir, I think along with Orissa, West Bengal also is a part of the eastern sector. So I would be raising some specific questions about how in this entire strategy for tourism development in the eastern sector, West Bengal can also be clubbed. Here the question relates to the special tourism area with regard to Puri, Bhubaneshwar and Konark. I would like to know whether it will be extended to include the Sunderbans and the Darjeeling Hills as well in the entire master plan.

My (b) part of the supplementary is, we are seeing that there is an increase in the scope of tourists coming from Eastern Asia and Japan and even China. For that, the tourists who are coming to Nepal can be brought to this part of the country by opening an international airport or international facility in the Bagdogra airport. Will the Government consider actively and pursue having such an international airport at Bagdogra?

I am given to understand that the West Bengal Government is proceeding to develop a master plan on forest tourism in the Dooars area. In what way can the State be helped in conducting a study for developing that master plan and subsequently participating in the project?

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Sir, recently the Tourism Minister of West Bengal met me and we had initial discussions and the West Bengal Government are preparing a master plan, not only connecting Konark and Puri with Sunderbans and again connecting the entire circuit of Darjeeling but they are also preparing a master plan on Sunderbans. They have not yet finalised the master plan but I hope the West Bengal Government's tourism department

will soon send the master plan so that we can get a view of that.

Sir, the hon. Member is quite right. If Konark, Puri and the coastline up to Sunderbans is connected up to Darjeeling, it can be a good circuit. There can

be a Special Tourism Authority and tourism can be developed in that sector. The only thing is the problem of communication, i.e., the rail and the air communication. Bagdogra Airport is under the control of the Defence Ministry and if it is opened for tourist purposes, I hope, it will be a good proposition in the sense that a number of tourists, Japanese tourists and Chinese tourists, can come.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Now that circumstances have totally changed, I would like to know whether the Tourism Ministry will take it up with the Defence Ministry to have the defence clearance.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: After having discussions with the Prime Minister, I have already taken note of this. I will take it up with the Defence Ministry and others concerned.

श्री महेश्वर सिंह: सभापति महोदय, यह बात सर्वविदित है कि हिमाचल प्रदेश का मनाली उत्तर भारत का एक सबसे भ्रमण पर्यटक स्थल है और वह देश के बाकी भागों के साथ राष्ट्रीय मार्ग 21 से जुड़ा हुआ है। गत वर्ष भारी वर्षा के कारण कुल्लू और मनाली के बीच दस किलोमीटर सड़क बह गई थी जिसके कारण स्वदेशी और विदेशी पर्यटकों की संख्या में निश्चित रूप से कमी आई है तो मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या वह भूतल मंत्री से बात करके उस सड़क की मरम्मत के लिए अधिक से अधिक धन हिमाचल प्रदेश की सरकार को उपलब्ध करवायेंगे, जिससे सड़क ठीक हो सके?

श्रीमती कमला सिन्हा: सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से यह जानना चाहूंगी कि सरकार ने अभी मूल प्रश्न के उत्तर में उड़िसा के आसपास के कुछ इलाकों के विकास के बारे में चर्चा की है। महोदय, आप जानते हैं कि भगवान बुद्ध को बुद्धत्व बोधगया में प्राप्त हुआ था। बोधगया न केवल भारत का बल्कि सारी दुनिया का प्रसिद्ध स्थान है। सारी दुनिया के बुद्धिष्ठ वहां आते हैं और साथ ही यह हिन्दुओं का भी बड़ा तीर्थ-स्थल है। मरने के बाद वर्ष में एक बार कोई न कोई हिन्दु जाता ही है वहां। और हिन्दू भी वहां पर जाकर अपने पुरखों को तर्पण देते हैं। चाहे वह मारीशस का रहने वाला हो, चाहे अमरीका का रहने वाला हो या कनाडा का रहने वाला हो, सभी वहां पर आते हैं।

महोदय, मैं जानना चाहती हूँ कि क्या मंत्री महोदय बिहार के टूरिज्म डेवलपमेंट विकास के लिए राजगीर के विकास के लिए, क्योंकि आज से ढाई हजार साल पहले

पहली बुद्धि संसद वहां हुई थी और बोधगया, राजगीर और वैशाली में जहां भगवान बुद्ध हमेशा जाया करते थे, को बढ़ावा देना चाहती है? अपने आप्रपाली का नाम सुना होगा और पढ़ा भी होगा, आप्रपाली वहां की थी। दुनिया में सर्वप्रथम गणतंत्र नगर बुद्धि नगर था, तो क्या सरकार वैशाली बोधगया, राजगीर को बुद्धि सर्किट के साथ जोड़कर विकास का काम करेंगी?

मेरे प्रश्न का दूसरा हिस्सा यह है कि क्या सारनाथ और श्रावस्ती आपस में बौद्धि सर्किट में आवेगा, जो कि भगवान बुद्ध के जीवन के साथ जुड़ा हुआ है? सारनाथ में भगवान बुद्ध ने पहला प्रवचन किया था और साथ ही साथ गंगटोक और सिक्किम को भी इसमें जोड़ना चाहिए तो मैं इसका मंत्री महोदय से जवाब चाहती हूँ।

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Sir, Buddhist circuit is major tourist attraction for India, particularly, for Chinese tourists. They prefer to go to these places. Sir, for the Buddhist circuit development in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh including Bodh Gaya, Vaishali and Saranath a sum of Rs. 284 crores was sanctioned for the project and the project will be completed by 1997.

I hope both the Bihar and the Uttar Pradesh Governments will take care of this. After this project is completed, after getting the infrastructure ready, I hope we can get Buddhist tourists from abroad.

श्रीमती कमला सिन्हा: सभापति जी, सिक्किम के बारे में कोई जवाब नहीं आया। विश्व प्रसिद्ध गोम्पा, पूरा सिक्किम बौद्धि स्टेट है, उसके बारे में आपने कोई चर्चा नहीं की।

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Sir, as far as Sikkim is concerned, the whole State is a place of tourist attraction not only for the Buddhist tourists; it is a place of tourist attraction for other tourists as well.

Again, Sir, the problem is one of communication—air link. Unless we get the Bagdogra Airport opened for the tourists, it is very difficult to link Sikkim. In this connection, the Chief Minister of Sikkim met me recently. He had proposed that, at least, the Bagdogra Airport should be opened for tourists so that

the tourists can go up to Sikkim. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am giving chance to a new Member who had not put any question before. Shri Prem Chand Gupta.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, most of my points have been covered by Shrimati Kamla Sinha, however, since I am rising for the first time, I would like to say something about the tourism problem in Bihar. Sir, I know that lack of infrastructure is causing a major setback to tourism in the eastern sector of the country. But Sir, it is the dream of every Buddhist to visit the holiest place of his religion, namely, Bodh Gaya; and of every Jain, Rajgir. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to explore the possibility of operating chartered flights from places like Singapore, Bangkok, Hong Kong and Taiwan. Apart from this, if these places are well connected by Indian Airlines* flights, I am sure tourism would grow. This, in turn, would contribute to the development of the local area and also earn us precious foreign exchange.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Sir, I fully agree with the hon. Member's suggestion. I was just having a look at the figures. I find that China got 43 million tourists last year, whereas, the arrivals in India were only two million. What we are lacking is in the kind of infrastructure that is required so that more number of tourists could come to India. In addition to infrastructure, all the monuments have to be maintained properly: they have to be decorated and maintained properly.

We need to do many things. That is why Sir, a Strategy Paper has been circulated. I hope the hon. Finance Minister would agree with me. The tourism sector is the third largest foreign-exchange-earner for India. We earned Rs. 9,500 crores of foreign exchange through tourism last year. Therefore, it has to be given more emphasis. Infrastructure is one of the areas in regard to which the different Ministries and all the State Governments have to play a major

role. When the Strategy Paper is finalised, I hope many things can be sorted out.

Vulgarity in Indian Cinema

*82 SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of increasing vulgarity in the Indian Cinema particularly in dancing gestures and using double meaning words in the songs;

(b) if so, whether any assessment has been made of its adverse impact on our young generation and findings thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what measures have been contemplated to check this trend?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CM. IBRAHIM): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Complaints/press reports about increase in vulgar scenes in films are received by Government from time to time.

(b) and (c) It has been decided recently to entrust a study on "Sex and violence in films and its impact on society" to the Indian Institute of Mass Communication.

(d) In accordance with the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952, all films are exhibited only after clearance by the Central Board of Film Certification. The Board, while certifying films, *inter alia*, ensures that the medium of films remains responsible and sensitive to the values and standards of society without unduly curbing artistic expression and creative freedom. I

SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the bureaucratic reply which has been given reminds me of an old proverb: *Nero was fiddling when Rome was burning*. Sir, the fact of life is, parents all over the country are warned about the future of their children—college-going and even

school-going children. Newspaper are full of such heinous crimes as teenaged girls being raped by older people, murder and other crimes. In this connection, (a) part of my first supplementary is whether the Government is aware of the judgement of the hon. Supreme Court, delivered by hon. Judges Mr. Justice Jaichandra Reddy and Mr. Justice G.N. Ray, in which they have observed as follows—I quote...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ask the question.

SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: But this is the relevant part of the observation—very important—in this regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You summarize it and ask the question.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: The Minister cannot reply since he does not know about the judgement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will reply.

SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: In that case...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Summarize it.

SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: It is only a few lines, Sir. If you please permit me, I will read it out.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right.

SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: "Whether it is compulsory that a heroine should invariably appear on the screen with accentuated angularities, depend depressions and exaggerated protuberances of body"? This is just the first paragraph. Now, in view of this observation of the hon. Supreme Court, I would like to know whether any action has been taken by the Government. This is part (a) of my first supplementary. Part (b) of my first supplementary is whether the Government is aware that financing of the film industry is mostly being done by smugglers and mafia, from within the country and outside, to destroy the basic fibre of our society under a long-term strategy? If so, what action does the Government propose to take in this regard to save the society and the younger generation?