

porting non-canalised items to a great extent and the percentage ratio is...

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** You mean non-traditional items.

**SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI:** Non-canalised. And we have improved the position to a great extent. April to September 1986 the grand total is Rs. 136.47 crores in comparison to Rs. 87.08 crores last year. That is quite an improvement and in this area we have already explored.

**SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:** I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is negotiating with other developing countries for the export of items and with how many countries they have contracted to export various items?

**SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI:** Obviously we are exploring possibilities in the international market with almost all the developing nations, but it is difficult to specify the number of the countries, because it depends on the market conditions and situation. It is also not good in the interest of the country to disclose all the information as to which country we are negotiating with and what items we are negotiating.

**SHRI LAKSHMI KANT JHA:** It seems to me that the performane of the STC has to be judged not merely in terms of the increase in the business in canalised items, because there is a certain amount of compulsion on the trade to sell those products through the STC. In fact, it has been said that very often the STC only collects the commission and the real transaction is between the exporting parties in India and the ultimate buyer abroad. Now, there are and should be items where the STC should be developing exports by its own initiative and enterprice. I wonder whether the Minister will consider the possibility of not only segregating the data on this subject, but also trying to see that the STC is really generating additional exports for the country

and the concept of canalisation, which only means, as I said, gathering some commission begins to receive less emphasis than was done in the past.

**SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI:** I entirely agree with the hon. Member's observations. We are to increase our export potential apart from the canalised items not merely on compulsions. I give you the figure here that the canalised items were exported amounting to Rs. 45.04 crores and non-canalised Rs. 90.25. So, it gives precisely a clear picture that the STC is promoting in other areas also.

\*109. [The questioner (Shri Shanker Singh Vaghela) was absent. For answer, vide cdl's. 36-37 infra.]

#### Room occupancy of ITDC hotels

\*110. **SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:**

**SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:**

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the room occupancy rate of ITDC hotels has fallen during 1986 as compared to 1985; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED):** (a) No, Sir. The overall room occupancy of ITDC Hotels during Jan-Sep. 86 has increased to 64 per cent as against 54 per cent during the corresponding period of the precious year.

(b) The Question does not arise.

श्री ब्रजलाल मनहर : मान्यवर, यहां आई. टी. डी. सी. होटलों की ओक्युपेंस में कमी या रही है जब कि प्राइवेट

होटलों की आकर्म्येसी में वृद्धि हो रही है। तो मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसका क्या कारण है? क्या इसका कारण मनेजमेंट में खामियां हैं जिनके कारण इस तरह का वातावरण पैदा हो रहा है?

**SHRI MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED:** I have said in the reply itself that in 1985-86, the occupancy of ITDC hotels was 54 per cent. During 1986-87 it has increased to 64 per cent.

**SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:** In one of the questions it has come that foreign tourists are on the increase in India. The whole question is this: in one of the questions it was replied that foreign tourists are increasing in India and it has also been asked in one of the supplementaries that the capacity utilisation by private hotels is 100 per cent and sometimes it is 150 per cent. Sir, why is it that we are rest content with only 64 per cent? I want to know from the Minister what is basically or fundamentally wrong with our ITDC hotels that they are unable to attract the income as private management hotels are doing? That is my basic question.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member says: why is that ITDC hotels don't have as much occupancy as private hotels show? Do you have any reason for it?

**SHRI MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED:** Sir, in fact, the occupancy in ITDC hotels has increased and ITDC has to do some promotional job in the areas where there is not much of tourists influx. They have to run the hotels at a loss.

**SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:** Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister what is the reason for decreasing the standard of food that is being served in ITDC hotels in

Delhi? Sir, the standard of the food is not the same what it was some years back. What is the reason for it?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** He says that standard of food is going down in ITDC hotels in Delhi?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** He said that the quality of food being served in ITDC hotels is going down.

**SHRI MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED:** Sir, I think, the quality of food is very good... (Interruptions).

**SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:** Sir, today, if you take the analysis of the occupation at the private hotels like Taj Palace, Maurya Sheraton, etc., they are all full. If you go to the Government hotels most of them are vacant. Just now the Minister himself has admitted that they are running at a loss. Yesterday I happened to visit the Ashok Hotel and I have seen in one of the rooms, where my friend was staying, cockroaches and mosquitoes. My friend was complaining that this is the standard of one of the premier ITDC hotels. Sir, you can understand the feelings of the people who go there and stay there by paying such a high amount. I was also told by him that the same room which used to cost Rs. 900 some 7 months ago is being charged at Rs. 1,500 now. In spite of that the standard and amenities remain the same. Will the Minister look into these things and improve the standard and amenities there?

**SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:** Sir, does he expect at Rs. 1,500 elephants instead of cockroaches? (Interruptions).

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Cockroaches are companies of the guests. (Interruptions) Would you like to say something?

**SHRI MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED:** Sir, don't agree with the hon. Member's point.

**SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:** Why don't you come with me, I will take you.

**SHRI MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED:** Sir, the occupancy in Ashok Hotel is 84 per cent now a days and in Samrat Hotel it is 74 per cent. So occupancy has increased.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Including cockroaches.

**MR. CHAIRMEN:** Mr. Minister what he has asked about is not occupancy, but standard of comfort, hygiene and so on.

**SHRI MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED:** Sir, because of improvement in maintaining and upkeeping of the hotels, the occupancy has increased... (*Interruptions*).

**SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:** Why don't you come with me, I will show you the condition of the Ashok Hotel or you take us.

**SHRI MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED:** Please come with me.

**SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH:** Sir, mosquitoes and cockroaches go with the opposition... (*Interruptions*)...

**SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:** They also come to complain against you.

**SHRI G. VARADARAJ:** Sir, I had the opportunity of visiting the Ashok Hotel at Bangalore as a Member of the Committee on Public Undertakings. The treatment at the hotel was excellent. But the next day when I went there it was quite opposite. Nobody bothered to look after. So this is the situation.

**SHRI MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED:** Lot of improvement has been done in the hotel.

**SHRI G. VARADARAJ:** I am talking about the last month, when I went there as a member of the Committee on Public Undertakings. The

treatment was so good that every half-an-hour they used to ring up: Are you comfortable, Sir? the third day when I went there, nobody bothered to look at me at all. That is now a normal traveller is dealt with in ITDC hotels.

Also, if you go the Bangalore airport ITDC restaurant, you will not get anything there. I would like to know what action the Ministry proposes to take to improve the facilities at Bangalore and other airport restaurants.

**SHRI MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED:** We are trying to improve.

**SHRI LAKSHMI KANT JHA:** May I suggest an advertising slogan for the Minister to consider? That is, 'walk in any time, no reservation needed'. I think that will attract more people.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** It is a very valuable suggestion and the hon. Minister has noted it.

The Question Hour is over.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Foreign tourist traffic

\*103. **SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA:**

**SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:**

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the volume of foreign tourist traffic has been significantly higher this year as compared to last year;

(b) if so, what are the comparative figures for 1984, 1985 and so far in 1986, indicating the rise in percentage; and

(c) what further steps are being by Government to increase the foreign tourist traffic in future?