

RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 5th August, 1980/the
14th Shravana, 1902 (Saka)

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 181.

Janata Hotel in Ahmedabad

*181. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH:
Will the Minister of TOURISM AND
CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to
state:

(a) whether the Central Govern-
ment have received any proposal from
the Government of Gujarat for estab-
lishing a Janata Hotel in Ahmedabad:

(b) if so, when and what are the
details in this regard; and

(c) what action has been taken by
the Government of India so far in this
regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING
AND TRANSPORT AND TOURISM
AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P.
SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In
their letter dated 2nd January, 1979
the Government of Gujarat had *inter-
alia* proposed the construction of a
600-bed Janata Hotel at or nearby
Ahmedabad and suggested an outlay
of Rs. 100 lakhs in the Central Sec-
tor for this project.

(c) The construction of Yatri Nivas
(Janata Hotel) in the Central Sector
will be taken up only after watching
the operational results for 2-3 years
of the Ashok Yatri Niwas project at
Delhi, which is a pilot project.

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह : श्रीमन्, सभापति
जी, आप 12 बजे बाद आप जाने की
कोशिश मत कीजिएगा।

श्री सभापति : एक मिनट ठहर जाइए
रामेश्वर सिंह जी । मुझे मालूम है, मैंने सुना
हूँ ब्राडवाणी जी, आपको और सबको । आज
मैं 12 बजे जाने से पहले आपको सब बता
दूंगा । आप लोग भरोसा ही नहीं रखते ।
किसी पर भरोसा नहीं है । मुझ पर तो कम से
कम भरोसा करिए ।

PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH: Sir, be-
fore I could ask the supplementary,
I want to draw your attention to
the fact that according to the rules,
we are entitled to see the answers at
the Notice Office at 10.30, so that we
can formulate our questions, unless
we are given a statement. Today I
went to the Notice Office and the
answer to this question was not dis-
tributed by then and so I was de-
prived of formulating the questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you are rais-
ing a point of order....

PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH: This is
not a point of order, I must draw
your attention, and I must make a
submission that according to the rule
half-an-hour before, answers to ques-
tions must be at the Notice Office. It
is so every day; today it is not so. It
is for you to inquire.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will look into
this very carefully.

PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH: Then I
come to my question. Sir, I am sur-
prised by the answer to part (c) of
my question that they would wait for
two or three years to see the opera-
tional results of the Ashok Yatri Ni-
was (Janata Hotel) in Delhi. But
this was not the decision earlier one
taken by the Consultative Committee
of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and
Tourism of which I was a member;
and I knew that the decision to con-
struct Janata Hotels was taken prima-
rily to meet the requirements of a
large number of middle income group
tourists who are coming from all
over the world and from all other
parts of the country also, who are un-

able to afford these five-star or four-star or three-star big hotels which have become absolutely inaccessible to the common people. What is to be seen in the operational examination? I do not understand what is to be examined. Here the simple point is this: The number of tourists is increasing; particularly in Gujarat the number of tourists from among the common people from other States as well as from other countries of the world is increasing every year and there is tremendous shortage of accommodation; accommodation is severely short because tourists are coming to see Mahatma Gandhi's Sabar-mati Ashram; they are coming to see the Gir Forest, the only place where you can see the lions and 'date with the lions' so to say. And also there is Mahatma Gandhi's birth place at Porbandar. Therefore this proposal had been put by the Government of Gujarat that this Janata Hotel should be constructed soon because other types of hotels cannot meet the requirements of the common tourists. Therefore I put a specific question to the hon. Minister whether he would consider this in view of shortage of accommodation there. Sir, this is very inexpensive, even for the Government to consider it and even for the people to avail of it. Then what are the reasons? Why he is delaying the consideration of construction of this Janata Hotel at Ahmedabad? I am asking a specific question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I wish you would please shorten your question. The answer is already given, that they want to gain some experience.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: That is right, Sir. I think you have answered the question on my behalf. That is the main....

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have not answered it. It is already there.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: Sir, the hon. Member just now has put the same question again and my answer is

again the same, that we have to wait for the evaluation of the Yatri Niwas which is being constructed at New Delhi and then only will we think of setting up such types of hotels in three other metropolitan cities, Calcutta, Bombay and Madras. Ahmedabad will not come into picture even then.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, there is one question which Mr. Parikh can ask but which he has not asked, about the one which you are constructing.

PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH: My question was pointedly raised and it has not been answered. That was, if you are delaying the construction of the Janata Hotel, in the intervening period how are you going to meet the increasing number of tourists in Gujarat? Are you constructing some other hotels? It seems to me that you are perhaps allergic to the name 'Janata'. If it is so, you can change the name. But you have to meet the requirements of the tourists whose number is increasing. And have you assessed the requirements?

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: The name can be changed to 'Sharma Hotel'.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: Sir, I have not to change the name. The name has already been changed to 'Yatri Niwas'. I am trying to explain to my hon. friend and to the House that at the initial stage the decision was taken to set up Yatri Niwas, which was earlier named as Janata Hotel, at four metropolitan cities. Ahmedabad was never under consideration. Ahmedabad came into the picture only because in the year 1978 there was a conference of the State Tourism Ministers and in that conference it was suggested that every State should send proposals for all such schemes. It was not for hotels only. In that scheme other things were also included for development of tourism. In that conference, the Government of Gujarat had suggested this. But I have already said

that it is not under the consideration of the Government. First we have to cover the metropolitan cities after evaluation of the Yatri Niwas at Delhi. Then after that any other proposal will be considered.

PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH: What steps are you taking to meet the rush of tourists, whether it is through the Janata Hotels or other types of hotels? The hon. Minister must answer it. I asked a pointed question, namely, what other measures the Ministry is considering to meet the shortage of accommodation for meeting the requirements of the increasing number of tourists who are coming to Gujarat, whether it is through this type of hotels or any other type of hotels? What are you going to do about it? Please enlighten us on that.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: If there is any such necessity as the hon. Member is pointing out, that is for the State Government to consider. The Central Government is not going to meet the necessities of the State Governments. If the State Government wants to construct a hotel like this, they can do it.

PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH: But the Tourism Department have also a duty to perform.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is no use. Mr. Banerjee.

SHRI B. N. BANERJEE: It was made clear some time back during the time of the previous Government that they would construct Janata Hotels in metropolitan cities. Now the Government has started the one at New Delhi. Am I right in understanding that the Government of Gujarat wants the Central Government to finance and set up a Janata Hotel at Gujarat? If the Government of Gujarat had said that it wanted to start a Janata Hotel at Ahmedabad and had asked for some assistance from the Central Government, while the cost would have been borne by

the Government of Gujarat, possibly the Government's reply would have been different. Is it correct? The objection is that the Central Government cannot finance this because they have not yet seen the results of the Hotel which is being started at New Delhi. But if the State Governments want to start one in their State capitals and with their own finance, the attitude of the Government of India will be quite different.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: Yes, it will be. We have no objection if any State Government wants to start such hotels in their own respective places. On the contrary, if a State Government constructs such a yatri niwas at its own cost, the Centre will give certain suitable assistance like designing and other things.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: It is a fact that hotels are one of the infrastructures of tourism in the country. It is also a fact that there is an acute shortage of hotels and hotel beds in the country for the tourists. Would it be possible for the Centre to construct janata hotels and meet the requirements of 5-star and 4-star and 3-star hotels also? Is it also not necessary that there should be some division of this work between the State Governments and the Central Government? Naturally the States should finance construction of janata hotels in their States. In view of this fact, will the Government consider advising the Gujarat Government and other State Governments also that they should take up such projects in their States. Of course, they should be given necessary facilities and assistance which are available with the Centre.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: Sir, I quite appreciate the anxiety of my hon. friend. I have already said that if any State—why talk of only the Gujarat Government—wants to construct yatri niwas on their own, we will be too happy. We will also see. I have said, that in respect of design etc. we will be giving them assistance also.

SHRI U. R. KRISHNAN: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware that the previous Government, the Janata Government, was planning to construct a janata hotel at Madras and that even the land was acquired for that purpose. I would like to know about the stage of the hotel.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: Sir, I have already said that for the present we are constructing a yatri niwas in New Delhi. The construction of any yatri niwas in the Madras metropolitan city will depend upon the result of the evaluation of the janata hotel in New Delhi. It is a fact that the land was acquired, but no further progress has been made.

SHRI U. R. KRISHNAN: When the Delhi janata hotel you will like to construct, we do not know and then only he will be coming to other States.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That question has not been asked.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: Sir, on the inauguration day I will invite the hon. Member to visit the yatri niwas in Delhi.

श्री हरी शंकर भाभड़ा : सभापति महोदय, मंत्री महोदय जनता होटल को बार बार 'यात्री निवास' के नाम से पुकारते हैं। जहां तक मेरा ख्याल है प्रारम्भ में इनका नाम 'जनता होटल' ही देने की योजना थी। मैं मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहता हूं कि यह नाम 'यात्री निवास' कब परिवर्तित हुआ, किन कारणों से हुआ और उनको क्या 'जनता' के नाम से एलर्जी है?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: Sir, as far as I know, we have not brought about any change in the name. This is already there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right. The last question. Mr. Rameshwar Singh, there will be another question.

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह : श्रीमान्, अगर मुझ को मोका दें।

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, I will give you.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY: Sir, from the reply of the hon. Minister I understand that they are making a class distinction between the metropolitan cities and other places in the different States of India. Since the entire tourism revenue is mopped up by the Centre, may I know the *raison d'être* for the Government to discriminate against the States by imposing upon them that they should construct the janata hotels or the yatri niwas when the Central Government itself is constructing these hotels in the metropolitan cities? There seems to be a distinction. What is the *raison d'être* for this distinction?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: This was a decision taken earlier, and we stand by that decision. The only change made for the present is that we will wait for the evaluation of the yatri niwas at Delhi and then we will go to other places.

श्री लाडली मोहन निगम : 'पथिका आश्रम' उसका नाम रखेंगे क्या?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rameshwar Singh. The last question.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : 'य' की जगह 'त' नहीं सम्झिए, 'पतिता' नहीं 'पथिका'...

(Interruptions)

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह : ऐसा लगता है कि मंत्री जी जब इस तरफ बैठे थे तो इन्होंने जनता होटल के नाम पर विरोध किया था जब भूतपूर्व सरकार ने जनता होटल नाम रखा था। तो मंत्री जी से मैं यह जानन चाहता हूं कि क्या भूतपूर्व सरकार ने जो भी अच्छे काम किए हैं, क्या आपने निर्णय कर लिया है कि उसको हम नहीं मानेंगे?

दूसरी बात, क्या इसको शर्मा होटल के नाम से भी परिवर्तन करने की बात आप सोच रहे हैं क्योंकि सरकार ने, मंत्री जी ने जो उत्तर दिया है भाभड़ा साहब को, यह उत्तर सदन के लिए संतोषजनक नहीं है। मंत्री जी ने कहा कि पिछली सरकार ने ही जनता होटल नाम नहीं रखा था, और हम लोगों की जानकारी है कि आप सदन को गुमराह कर रहे हैं। भूतपूर्व सरकार ने जनता होटल के नाम से ही इसका नामकरण किया था। तो अब किन परिस्थितियों में आपने इसका नाम परिवर्तन करने का निर्णय किया है।

श्री अनन्त प्रसाद शर्मा : उभापति महोदय माननीय मंत्री जी, बुद्धिमान आदमी हैं और मैंने जब जवाब दिया तो मैंने उसमें यह नहीं कहा था कि पिछली सरकार ने ही नाम चेंज कर दिया था, बल्कि इन्होंने खुद अभी कहा है और मेरी जानकारी में जो यह कह रहे हैं, वह बिल्कुल ठीक है। हम लोगों ने इसको चेंज नहीं किया है। लेकिन अगर इनको फिर भी कोई शक है, तो मैं इस बात का पता लगा कर के बता दूंगा कि इन्होंने चेंज किया था या हमने किया है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

*182. [The questioner (Shri Kalraj Mishra) was absent. For answer vide col 32-34 infra]

Appointment of General Sales Agents by Air India in USA

*183. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the original proposal to appoint General Sales Agents in the United States of America by Air India has been dropped;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the contract for the appointment of a General Sales Agent for Delhi/Faridabad has been given to those persons who were tipped for such appointment in the U.S.A. under changed names;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government propose to issue letters of intent to some different party for the U.S.A. agency; and

(e) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT AND TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) At present Air-India is not proposing to issue letter of intent to any other party for GSA in USA.

(e) Does not arise.

SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, may I ask the hon. Minister under what circumstances, during the Janata Party's rule in 1977, the same group of persons, having dubious records, could retain the General Sales Agency of Air-India in Delhi or Faridabad by merely changing the name of their company?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: Sir, I do not think this question arises out of this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: Because, Sir, the question of the hon. Member is regarding the "same persons". I do not know which persons he is referring to. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just a minute. I will rule very strictly on the relevancy of the question because, in view