

**"Discover India" Scheme**

\*427. SHRI R. NARASIMHA REDDY: f SHRI B. RACHAIAH; SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI; SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY;

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourists who visited India during the last autumn under the "Discover India" scheme; and

(b) whether Government plan to repeat the scheme during the tourist season also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) During the period September 1975 to November 1975, 517 persons travelled in India under the "Discover India" scheme.

This is a continuing scheme.

SHRI R. NARASIMHA REDDY: Sir taking into account the number of tourists and the foreign exchange earned, it can be said that even a small country like Sri Lanka has attracted more tourists and earned more foreign exchange than India. May I know from the honourable Minister what the reason for this is and what steps will be taken by the Government to improve our position in this regard?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: Sir, this is a question which is not connected with the main question that has been asked. The main question is about the "Discover India" scheme. It is true that the number of tourists

fThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri R. Narasimha Reddy.

to Sri Lanka has increased considerably during the last two or three years. However it is not correct to say that the number of tourists to India has not gone up, because we have been able to maintain a growth rate of nearly ten per cent throughout the previous years and this year the prospects are very good and we are hoping that the growth rate will be nearly fifteen per cent. We have taken a number of steps to encourage tourism in our country and this is not the occasion on which I should spell out the details. But I do assure, the House that we are taking every possible step to improve tourism in our country. "T»

SHRI B. RACHAIAH: What further encouragement has been given to the people to visit this country during the current year and in the coming year? 1

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: I have said in the reply to the main question that this is a continuing scheme..

SHRI B. RACHAIAH: No, no. I am asking what further encouragement you are going to give in addition to what you have given already.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: A number of concessional schemes are there and concessions are given to foreign tourists and this is one of them and we can work out further schemes for the future also.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Sir, I would like to know whether the Government, is considering the question of introducing excursion trips from Europe to India and from the Far East countries including Japan and Australia to India so that we can get more tourist traffic and earn more foreign exchange.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: Sir, I agree with the honourable Member in one way that there is need for reducing air fares if we want to develop tourism in our country and

if we want to encourage people to come to this country. Everything is being done by Air-India to reduce the fares and on a number of routes such fares have already been introduced particularly between India and America and this is a continuing process.

**Recruitment of candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in public sector banks**

\*428. SHRI AHMAD HOSSAIN  
HONDAL;

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA  
BURAGOHAIN: f SHRI  
PRASENJIT BARMAN:

Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the course of the last 2-3 years, interviews were held in the public sector banks, such as the State Bank of India and Union Bank of India Ltd., to clear the backlog in the quota of posts reserved for persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, but no appointments have been made against any of those posts; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what action Government propose to take to clear the backlog?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

Annexure to this statement, [See Appendix XCVII Annexure No. 83] which indicates the recruitment made and the number among them belong to

fThe question was actually asked on the floor of the HJouse by Shri Nabin Chandra Buragohain.

the Scheduled Caste/Tribe in the 14 nationalised banks and the State Bank of India in the various categories of staff during the years 1973, 1974 and 1975, would show that these banks are making earnest efforts to recruit Scheduled Caste/Tribe in increasing numbers. While some of the banks select candidates according to their existing manpower requirements and offer appointment to all selected candidates in a bunch, others prepare waiting lists of selected candidates for meeting their existing and future requirements.

Union Bank of India has reported that all candidates belonging to the Scheduled Caste/Tribe who have been interviewed and selected have been appointed in regular vacancies of the bank. The State Bank of India have reported that most of the Scheduled Caste/Tribe candidates who had qualified in the written test and interview have been appointed in the bank's services except in Bombay, where interviews are likely to be completed by the end of September, 1976.

12.00 NOON

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN: Sir, the north-eastern region is an economically backward region and is inhabited mostly by tribals. May I know from the hon. Minister the total number of people belonging to the Scheduled Tribes working in the nationalised banks in this region?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Sir, I could not follow the suggestion made by the hon. Member. I am sure whatever suggestion he has made, it will be taken into consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour | is over.