

the statistics to find out the percentage of foreign tourists who had stayed in your four-star and five-star hotels out of the total number of foreign tourists, and if the number is meagre, what steps have you taken to cater to their needs?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: Sir, a survey of this kind was carried out some time back to find out what exactly was the preference of the tourists and, Sir, it pointed out that nearly 41 per cent of the tourists who came to our country preferred to stay in four-star or five-star hotels.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

Future Tourist Traffic

*392 SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI :
SHRI JAGDISH JOSHI :† SHRI
KHURSHED ALAM KHAN :

Will the MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:—

(a) whether it is a fact that latest trends in tourist traffic indicate that future tourist traffic is more likely to be in the age group of twenty and thirty;

(b) whether this trend will necessitate any re-orientation of Governments' policy in the matter of infrastructure and publicity; and

(c) if so, what are Governments' plans to meet this new requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) No, Sir, According to compilations made by the Department of Tourism, the share of foreign tourists in the age group of 17—30 years in total tourist arrivals accounted for 31.6 per cent in 1972, 32.6 per cent in 1973 and 33.4 per cent in 1974. The share of this age group during January-September 1975 remained at 33.9 per cent as during the corresponding period of 1974. It does not necessarily follow from this that future tourist traffic is more likely to be in the age group of twenty and thirty. The tourists in the age group of 31—50 years still predominate accounting for about 40 per cent of the total.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Jagdish Joshi.

(b) and (c) The Government has been taking active interest in promoting youth traffic to India. Among the steps taken to increase such traffic are introduction of youth fares, promotional activities in the universities and colleges by Government of India Tourist Offices abroad, building up of inexpensive accommodation for youth groups i.e. youth hostels.

श्री जगदीश जोशी : माननीय मंत्री जी ने यह तो कहा कि साहब, कोई ऐसा इंडिकेशन नजर नहीं आ रहा है, और उनके द्वारा बताए गए आंकड़ों से साफ जाहिर है कि हर साल प्रति शत बढ़ रहा है, जिस एज ग्रुप की बात मैंने कहा है उसका प्रति शत हर साल बढ़ रहा है; और ज्यादा भी बढ़ सकता है। मेरा प्रश्न है कि इस संभावना को मद्देनजर रखते हुए जो मुख्य टूरिस्ट आकर्षण के केन्द्र हो सकते हैं—क्योंकि टूरिस्ट तो केवल शिविरों में घूमने-फिरने नहीं आएगा, वह देश की और भी बहुत सी चीजों को देखने आता है—तो ये जो ऐसे आकर्षण के केन्द्र हैं, खजुराहो है, भुवनेश्वर है, जहाँ इस देश की अद्भुत कलाएँ हैं और इस प्रकार के प्राचीन इतिहास के अवशेष हैं, वहाँ पर आप सस्ते आवास के साधनों के लिए कितने कमरों का प्रावधान रखे हुए हैं?

श्री सुरेन्द्र पाल सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस बात को तसलीम करता हूँ कि उनकी तादाद बड़ी आहिस्ते आहिस्ते बढ़ी है परन्तु उनकी तादाद इतनी नहीं बढ़ी है जिससे हमारी पालिसी में किसी किस्म का कोई परिवर्तन आए। लेकिन यह बात सही है कि इस बात का ख्याल रखते हुए कि आयन्दा ट्रैफिक बढ़ेगा, इस बात की पूरी कोशिश की जा रही है कि इन लोगों के लिए सूटेबिल एकमोडेशन पैदा किया जाए। हमारे डिपार्टमेंट की ओर से यूथ होस्टल बनाने की कोशिश की जा रही है

और साथ ही साथ टूरिस्ट लोज, फारेस्ट लाज में भी सप्लीमेंटरी एकमोडेशन की व्यवस्था की जा रही है ताकि यूथ वहां पर आकर ठहर सकें। इस बात की भी कोशिश की जा रही है कि इस तरह की जो भी एकमोडेशन हो वह सस्ती हो।

जहां तक खुजराहो का सवाल है उसके लिए कोई खास स्कीम नहीं है। लेकिन जहां तक यूथ होस्टल बनाने का सवाल है 11 यूथ होस्टल अभी तक बन चुके हैं, जो जयपुर, पंचकुला, डलहोजी, भोपाल, अमृतसर, मद्रास और औरंगाबाद में हैं। इसी तरह के अगले साल 1976-77 में तीन यूथ होस्टल बनाने का प्रस्ताव है, जो हैदराबाद, गांधी-नगर और नैनीताल में बनाए जाएंगे। 6 टूरिस्ट बंगले बनाए जा रहे हैं और इस तरह 'कटिगरी' के जो एकमोडेशन प्लेट हैं, उनको जगह जगह पर बनाने की कोशिश की जा रही है।

श्री जगदीश जोशी : जहां सारे पश्चिम और यूरोप में इतना ब्लू-फिल्मों का रिवाज है, वहां हमारे यहां भारत में वात्सायन के कामसूत्र का पूरा उल्लेख खुजराहो और कोणार्क में मिलता है। इस तरह के जगहों पर यूथों को आकर्षित करने के लिए क्या इंतजाम है? मैंने खुद देखा है कि खुजराहो और कोणार्क में जो यूथ देखने के लिए आते हैं, वे बेचारे पटरियों में पड़े रहते हैं। मेरा तजुर्बा है कि यूनिवर्सिटियों के जो लड़के आते हैं वे मंदिरों की पटरियों में सोए हुए पड़े रहते हैं। तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि इन सब चीजों को मद्देनजर रखते हुए इस तरह के यूथ होस्टल बनाने की योजना पर विचार करेंगे?

श्री सुरेन्द्र पाल सिंह : इस पर जरूर ध्यान रखा जाएगा।

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN : Sir, our statistics are normally entirely

different from the prevailing trends and I must say that our youth hostels are a problem for the management. May I therefore know whether this definite trend in the tourist traffic is more indicated these days and whether there is more likelihood of increase of traffic in this age-group? Obviously, this class of tourists will be mainly economy class tourists and we will have, therefore, to find out suitable outfit and gear up our infrastructure in order to meet these requirements. I would like to know the details of schemes and time-bound programmes that are under consideration in this regard. Will the hon. Minister kindly indicate these?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH :

Sir, the Government of India has decided to provide accommodation for middle-income group and low-income group tourists and also take care of the requirements of youth and students. With that end in view every effort is being made to create low-income group accommodation like youth hostels, tourist lodges and forest lodges. I might repeat for the information of the hon. Member—as I have already said before—that in future we have plans to construct three youth hostels, six tourist bung'lows and five forest lodges—out of which one has already been commissioned and one is likely to be commissioned very shortly. Three more forest lodges will also come up very shortly. These are the various plans that we have on our hands at the present moment. We are fully aware and conscious of the fact that in future traffic of this category might increase and we will take care of it.

श्री रामलाल डी० पारिख : मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूं कि जो सारे प्रवासियों को आकर्षित करने का प्रयास किया जा रहा है वह केवल पैसे वाले और बड़े-बड़े उद्योग धन्धे वालों को ही आकर्षित करने का प्रयास कर रहा है।

यूरोप, अमरीका और एशिया के देशों में नौजवान लोग जानते भी नहीं हैं कि हिन्दुस्तान में क्या सुविधाएं मिल सकती हैं। वहां यह बात प्रोजेक्ट हो चुकी है कि हिन्दुस्तान में पैसे वाले टूरिस्ट्स को बुलाया

जाता है, बाक़ी के लिए वहाँ अवकाश नहीं है, जगह नहीं है। क्या हमने सोचा है कि जो कम साधन वाले वहाँ के लोग हैं, कम पैसे वाले हैं उनके लिए भी सुविधा बढ़ानी चाहिए? क्या हम चार स्टार और पाँच स्टार वाले होटलों को प्रायोरिटी न देकर कम साधन वाले लोगों के लिए जगह बढ़ाने को प्रायोरिटी देने का निश्चय करेंगे और जो पब्लिसिटी और प्रोमोशन है उसको भी इस तरह से मोड़ देंगे जिससे वहाँ के नौजवान और कम साधन वाले लोगों को पता लग जाए कि यहाँ उनके लिए भी अवकाश है?

श्री सुरेन्द्र पाल सिंह : मुझे नहीं पता माननीय सदस्य कहां से इस तरह का इम्प्रेसन ले आए हैं। हम पूरी कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि हमारा प्रोमोशन गियर अप हो जाए। हम तो सभी को बैलकम करते हैं पैसे वालों को और कम पैसे वालों को। इस बात को मद्देनजर रखते हुए कोशिश की जा रही है कि जहाँ एफ्लूएन्ट कन्ट्रीज हैं आने वालों को एकोमोडेशन मिले वहाँ कम साधन वाले लोगों को भी एकोमोडेशन मिले। 41 परसेंट ऐसे यात्री होते हैं जो एफ्लूएन्ट कन्ट्रीज से आते हैं और 60 प्रतिशत ऐसे होते हैं जो कम साधन वाले होते हैं।

श्री रामलाल डी० पारिख : आपकी सुविधाएँ कम साधन वालों की दृष्टि से नहीं हैं। आप होटलों की जो सुविधा बढ़ा रहे हैं, उनका रेट बढ़ा रहे हैं वह कम साधन वालों को दृष्टि में रखकर नहीं बढ़ा रहे हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has replied. The facilities are for all. That is what the Minister has stated.

SHRI JANARDHANA REDDY : Sir, I am of the opinion that this Ministry of Tourism is merely concentrating on star hotels and guest houses etc., which is also, of course, necessary. Our country is an

ancient country with its cultural heritage. We are sorry that we are unable to attract foreign tourists as we expect to. Is the Ministry planning to have any master plan to exhibit our rural cultural activities by constructing rural artisan villages etc., so that we could attract more foreign tourists? We are exhibiting only some dances in the star hotels; except that we are not able to do anything.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That suggestion may be taken into consideration.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : Foreign tourists are attracted by our snow peaks of the Himalayas, our wild life, our flora, our cultural heritage, monuments, our life style and in that my friend should also know that people go and mix up with the people in the villages.

SHRI S. W. DHABE : Has the Ministry at any time considered the question of accommodation for tourist at place of Mahatma Gandhi, that is, Sevagram? Are there any facilities nearabout? Will the hon. Minister consider the proposal that the foreign tourists could stay with the middle-class families in order to promote tourism? These foreign tourists can certainly stay with some families here. Has the Ministry taken steps in this regard?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : I am happy to say that the proposal for constructing accommodation for the visitors visiting Sevagram has been under consideration and I am in a position to say that we will very shortly sanction it and we shall try to build it up as soon as possible.

SHRI HAMID ALI SCHAMNAD : Has it come to the notice of the Government that at Kovalam where an enclosure has been made for the foreign tourists to take bath and all that, the local tourists from Kerala are not allowed to enter? That complaint has been made by the local tourists.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : That problem is in my knowledge and I would say that there is no ban on the entry of our own people in the surrounding areas to approach Kovalam. It is also a fact that when the foreigners come they also want to have some privacy which has to be respected and, therefore, I am happy to say that the State

Government has already undertaken to build up accommodation and facilities for home tourists and also local people a little away from the Kovalam complex.

SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON : Is it a fact that in the Kovalam Beach hotel, changing rooms are now being charged at the rate of Rs. 25 for the use of the visitors whereas previously, Re. 1/- was charged ?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : Our prices have to have some relationship with the prices of similar facilities obtaining in other countries. Our prices are the cheapest compared to those prevailing in other countries, in countries of Europe and America from where most of the tourists come.

DR. RAJAT KUMAR CHAKRABARTI : In the context of part (b) of the question relating to infrastructure and publicity, may I know from the hon. Minister what positive steps have been taken so far and what publicity materials have been produced so far to have an effect on the foreign tourists. So that Calcutta is no more a dreadful city ? Secondly, what positive steps have been taken to persuade the foreign airlines to touch Dum Dum airport ? These are two very simple things. What publicity materials have been prepared to dispel the impression that Calcutta is a dreadful city and what positive steps have been taken to ask the foreign airlines to touch Dum Dum airport ?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : Sir, this question was raised a few days ago also, let me assure him that we are giving due emphasis to the question of publicity in relation to the Eastern Region including Calcutta, Assam and Orissa. I will make it a point to send him the bunch of literature that we have produced and distributed among the foreign tourists.

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA : Generally, the foreign tourists coming to India are very old people who want to roam about the country and see for themselves. The number of tourists in the age group of 20—30 may be very low. Will the hon. Minister give us the figures as to the number of hippies in this age group who have visited this country ?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH :

Sir, we do not keep separate figures in our country for the hippies. But I can certainly give the figures about the number of people in different age groups who have visited our country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already given the figures.

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA : Most of the people in this age group 20—30 are hippies.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : Hippies are very few.

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA : Sir, the tourist department is making a fundamental mistake in regard to the survey. In other countries, survey is a continuing thing and it is not done once a year. Development of tourism depends more on surveys. In this country, we have to provide more facilities to the foreign tourists. In other countries, development of tourism is linked with other facilities. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has any plan in this regard. My friend, Mr. Oberoi, has got a golf course attached to his hotel. This is very important. People do not come here to see shrines and temples. They come here to enjoy and play. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India would be assisting the State Governments to provide at least swimming pools in all the hotels which they are contemplating to construct.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : We are keeping that aspect in view. Therefore, we are developing places for mountain trekking and so on and we are also making arrangements for golf course. I am very happy that a hotel in the private sector has provided for it. We are also doing something to take care of cricket.

श्री ओशम प्रकाश त्यागी : जो पर्यटक विदेशों से आते हैं उन में भारत मुलक प्रवासी पर्यटक के रूप में नहीं बल्कि दूसरी भावना लेकर भी यहां आते हैं, वे भारत के धार्मिक और सांस्कृतिक दर्शन करने भी आते हैं। जैसे और लोग मक्का मदीना और रोम जाते हैं, उसी तरह की भावना को लेकर वे यहां आते हैं। क्या

उनकी उस भावना को और बढ़ाने के लिए और उनके हृदय में भारत वर्ष से सम्बन्ध स्थापित करने के लिए क्या था दिल्ली राजधानी में ऐसा प्रवासी भवन बनाने का विचार कर रहे हैं जहाँ इस प्रकार की लाइब्रेरी हो और भारतीय संस्कृति का वातावरण हो ताकि वे यहाँ से अच्छी भावना लेकर जाएँ ?

श्री राजबहादुर : इस भावना से हम लोग अवगत हैं। हमारे बहुत से बुद्धिस्ट भाई इसी भावना से आते हैं, प्रवासी भारतीय भी आते हैं। जो प्रवासी भारतीय विशेषकर पासपोर्ट लेकर आते हैं उनको पर्यटक में गिनते हैं। उनकी विशेष सुविधा के लिए भवन के निर्माण की जो बात आपने कही है उस पर यथासमय जो धनराशि उपलब्ध है उसको देखते हुए विचार किया जाएगा।

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : There are, in this country, thousands of foreign students who spend long holidays in the universities, I think, not being able to tour round the country sufficiently because of lack of sufficient funds. I would like to know whether the Ministry has any plans by which some cheap package tours for foreign students in the country to see more of India during their vacations have been considered or whether any of them exist at all.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : Sir, we have a provision of concessional fares for foreign students coming to our country from outside and I presume that the same facilities are available to foreign students within the country also. But I have not got the details.

Indo-British Joint Committee

*393 DR. V. B. SINGH :

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI : **SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the broad features of the agreement signed between India and United

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Sardar Amjad Ali.

Kingdom for establishing the Indo-British Joint Committee for Economic Cooperation and Trade; and

(b) whether it is likely to help India secure from the E.E.C. the special facilities given by it to African, Caribbean and Pacific countries under the Lome Convention ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA) :

(a) and (b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

An arrangement by way of Exchange of Letters was signed by Mr. Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade and Prof. D.P. Chattopadhyaya, Minister (Commerce) establishing an Indo-British Economic Committee with a view to consider and recommend ways and means of promoting economic/industrial cooperation between the two countries. Two sub-Committees have also been set-up, the first being concerned with issues of bilateral economic relations and the second with industrial co-operation technological collaboration and investment.

The Joint Committee could discuss bilateral or other issues of interest including the securing of U.K.'s support for furthering the process of globalising the initiatives taken by the EEC in respect of certain developing countries under the Lome Convention.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Sardar Amjad Ali.

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI : No, Sir. Mr. Malaviya will ask.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : Sir, the Generalised Scheme of Preferences accepted by UNCTAD-II in New Delhi in 1968, envisaged increased export earnings for developing countries like India to promote industrialisation and accelerate the rate of economic growth. India took a leading part in taking this decision and I would like to know how far this object as laid down by UNCTAD-II will be advanced after the creation of the Indo-British Joint Committee and also as to what facilities the Lome Convention gives to the countries of Africa in the EEC.