

recommendations for revising the scales both of Librarians and Directors of Physical Training in the Delhi College of Engineering. They are now under consideration of the Governing Body.

SHR J. M. P. BHARGAVA : May I know, Sir, from the hon'ble Minister whether higher degrees are any consideration while these different colleges are expected to give the U.G.C. pay scales to their teachers ?

PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO : I do not quite follow the question.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the highest degree, D.Sc. or D. Litt. taken after the M.Sc. or M.A., are taken into consideration by the various colleges when fixing the pay of their teachers in their colleges.

PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO : Does the hon'ble Member want to know whether they give advance increments to people with higher qualifications ? I will have to get information on that.

SHRI A. D. MANI : Sir, may I ask the Minister whether the University Grants Commission is giving any grants to the Delhi College of Engineering. If so, can he advise the University Grants Commission to insist on the colleges implementing the scales whatever the Pay Commission might or might not have done ?

PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO : I speak subject to correction. The Delhi College of Engineering is not getting grants from the University Grants Commission. But I shall have to find out. In any case, as I said, the Governing Body of the Delhi College of Engineering is considering a proposal for revising the scales.

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN : May I know from the hon'ble Minister whether it is not a fact that in many of the private colleges in the various States the salary scales prescribed by the University Grants Commission are not being given and that in certain States

efforts were being made to provide matching grants by the State Government ? Some of the State Governments have not provided these matching grants. I would like to know, under the circumstances, what steps are being taken by the Government to see that the University Grants Commission scales of pay are implemented in all the colleges including private colleges ?

PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO : Sir, the hon'ble Member is covering very vast ground. I would like to ask him for notice.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Sir, is the hon'ble Minister aware—I hope he is very much aware since he has been very much in contact with affairs in Delhi—of the fact that in Delhi there are some colleges which have got evening shifts, and whereas the qualifications and the other duties required of the day classes and evening classes are exactly the same the U.G.C. have not found it possible to extend the benefit of selection grade to teachers of evening classes, and no satisfactory reason or explanation has been given ? Even when the University has been recommending this again and again, this particular proposal has been turned down without assigning and satisfactory explanation. May I know if the hon'ble Minister would be able to look into the matter and see that justice is done?

PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO : I am afraid this has nothing to do with either Librarians or Directors of Physical Education. But all the same I shall try to find out what the position is.

#### ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR TOURISM IN FOURTH PLAN

\* 33. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA :  
SHRI K. C. PANDA : SHRI M. K.  
MOHTA : SHRI S.  
S. MARISWAMY :

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

{The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Lokanath Misra.

(a) whether differences of opinion have arisen between his Ministry and the Planning Commission regarding allocation of funds for tourism during the Fourth Plan; and

(b) if so, the details of the differences in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SHRIMATI SAROINI MAHISHI) : (a) and (b) While a Working Group placed the minimum requirement of the Department of Tourism for the Fourth Plan as Rs. 40.34 crores, the Planning Commission decided that on account of financial constraints no more than Rs. 25 crores could be allotted to the Department. The plans of the Department had to be cut accordingly. This will undoubtedly affect the target of 600,000 tourists a year which the Tourist Department had hoped to achieve by the end of the Fourth Plan period.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : May I know, Sir, whether it is not a fact that the figure for tourists in India has gone up only by about 5,000 this year while there are much smaller countries compared to India with much lesser attraction for tourists, who consider tourism as the only industry of their country, they attract hundreds of thousands of tourists ? Where does the difference lie ? Why can we not also attract that much of tourist traffic to India. Now I find that the Planning Commission has cut down the figure that was pressed for by the Ministry of Tourism ? What is their justification for cutting it down ?

DR. KARAN SINGH : I cannot venture to speak on behalf of the Planning Commission. I can merely say that as far as this Ministry is concerned we had originally asked for Rs. 84 crores. The Working Group of the Planning Commission has cut it down to Rs. 40 crores. The Planning Commission, in fact, has now cut it down to Rs. 25 crores. It is true that the rate of our tourist growth has not been satisfactory at all. It is also true that potentially we are one of the great tourist nations in the world. I am sure you will agree

that unless we are prepared to invest in tourism we cannot expect gains. The Planning Commission in its wisdom, taking an overall view of the resources, has thought it fit to allot a very low priority to tourism. All I can say is that I share the distress that the hon'ble Member has expressed.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Would the hon'ble Minister, who is fortunately in charge of Civil Aviation also along with Tourism, consider the desirability of connecting all the places of tourist importance by direct flights rather than by circuitous connecting flights which cannot connect each other on many days ? And since he is giving a better look-up to the international airport in New Delhi, would he also agree that other airports of tourist importance be given that face lift, and is that possible within the resources given to him by the Planning Commission ?

DR. KARAN SINGH : Yes, Sir. Even the link-up is certainly a valuable thing. We are keeping in mind the development of airports and development of new buildings. We are keeping the tourist requirements specially in mind. For example, Agra is perhaps the biggest single tourist attraction. Apart from the four international airports, we are now immediately undertaking renovation of the building there. Similarly in Srinagar.....

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Bhubaneswar.

DR. KARAN SINGH : Bhubaneswar which the hon. Member has mentioned is also important and certainly its requirements will be kept in mind.

SHRI K. C. PANDA : May I know whether, in view of the increase in the number of tourists, instead of increasing the number of beds in the sophisticated hotels, there is any proposal for having small hotels in different places of tourist importance?

DR. KARAN SINGH : We certainly have proposals to give loans for hotel projects in places of tourist interest. We have laid down a number of places which are visited by tourists. And out of the amount of Rs. 25 crores that I

have been given, Rs. 6 crores is for loans. So as far as our department is concerned, we only have Rs. 19 crores. A sum of Rs. 6 crores is to be, given as loans for places of tourist interest.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : May I know whether it is a fact that one of the considerations for the Planning Commission to whittle down the allotment to the Tourism Department is the lack of efficiency in the use of the resources allotted to this department ? For instance, there is the example of the Ashoka Hotel which has been brought down from Grade I to Grade III hotel. And the quality of food served on I.A.C. planes is a great deterrent to tourists. So may I ask the hon. Minister what steps have been taken or contemplated to be taken to increase their efficiency ?

DR. KARAN SINGH : Sir, there is no question of misutilisation of resources. I would like to take this opportunity to point out that Ashoka Hotel has not, in fact, been downgraded.

SHRI A. D. MANI : By the public.

DR. KARAN SINGH : I would like to say that for the commercial functioning of an organisation, if constantly statements are made that it is being down-graded, it is extremely bad for the public sector undertakings. May I clarify that I am not averse to criticism? I myself realise that a great deal more needs to be done to improve the Ashoka Hotel. But to say that it is being down-graded is factually incorrect. And not only is it incorrect, but when statements like this get into the press, it has an extremely adverse effect upon the functioning of these public sector organisations.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA: Why don't you say it is a five-star hotel ?

DR. KARAN SINGH : It is a five-star hotel. It has not been down-graded. That is a wrong statement. I would submit that whereas criticism is certainly welcome, wrong statements should not be made which would affect the com-

mercial viability. When a foreigner reads it, he will think. "Oh, here are people, M.Ps, themselves, who say that it is being down-graded; let us book on the Oberoi instead."

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : May I know whether it is his contention that such questions are inspired by Mr. Oberoi ?

DR. KARAN SINGH : Not at all.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY; I am sorry to find that the hon. Minister is so sensitive about criticism of the Ashoka Hotel or any other public sector undertaking. If the defects are not pointed out in the House, where else could they be pointed out ? What is the remedy that the hon. Minister has proposed to rectify all these defects ?

DR. KARAN SINGH : Sir, as I clarified. I am not averse to criticism. A statement was made by the hon. Member that Ashoka Hotel has been down-graded from five-star to three-star. That is incorrect. That is not criticism. It is an incorrect statement. As far as criticism is concerned, certainly we are looking into all these things and I can assure this hon. House that steps are being taken to make Ashoka Hotel once again one of the great hotels in India. And if the plans to make it one of the great hotels in India succeed, as we have been able to re-do Palam, then you will see, God willing, within a year or a year and a half, that Ashoka Hotel blossoms forth as a great hotel.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Ten minutes are over. I would advise the rest of the Members to go to the Minister and have a talk with him.

श्री राजनारायण: मेरा प्वाइन्ट आफ आर्डर है। देखिए क्वेश्चन का आन्तर, प्रश्नों का उत्तर, देने समय अगर मंत्री महोदय लोग यह कहने लगेंगे कि हम इस अवसर को वस्तु-स्थिति का भाष्य करने के लिये इस्तेमाल करना चाहते हैं तो फिर उमका पूरक प्रश्न भी होगा और जब आप कहेंगे दस मिनट ओवर हो गये, तो फिर या तो मंत्री को उत्तर देना सिखाइये कि सवाल का एम्बैक्ट, एप्रोप्रि-

एट, कांक्रिट, डेपिनट उत्तर दिया करे और यदि मंत्री खुद भाष्य करेंगे और इस समय पब्लिक सेक्टर और प्राइवेट सेक्टर की तुलनात्मक व्याख्या होगी तो उसमें पूरक प्रश्न आते हैं। हम चाहते हैं व्यवस्था प्रश्नकर्ता के लिये न रखे व्यवस्था मंत्रियों के लिये रखें।

MR. CHAIRMAN : If I feel that a question is important, I shall consider whether half-an-hour's time could be given for a discussion on the matter.

DR. B. N. ANTANI : Sir . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Those who have put the questions are the most important persons. Others can take the information and if they want anything more, they can certainly meet the Minister who is always ready to meet them and do whatever he can in the matter. Next question.

#### CONTAINERISATION SERVICES

\*34. SHRI M. M. DHARIA : SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to refer to a Seminar held recently on the introduction of 'Containerisation' service in the shipping Industry and state :—

(a) the Government's policy on the introduction of such a service to boost exports economically; and

(b) what is the involvement of expenditure and source from which that can be met ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SARDAR IQBAL SINGH) : (a) Government's policy on the introduction of containerisation would be decided after the results of the studies recommended by the seminar become available. Steps are being taken to initiate the necessary studies.

The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri M. M. Dharia.

(b) The extent of expenditure involved and the source from which it can be met will be known only after these studies are completed and Government decision is taken.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, as the Fourth Five-Year Plan is now being formulated, if the decision is not immediately taken, then it is clear that this containerisation service will not take place for the next five years. Under these circumstances and also in view of the fact that the then Minister made a very fervent plea in Bombay that it should be taken up immediately, may I know what steps are being taken so that this scheme could be implemented during the Fourth Five-Year Plan ?

SARDAR IQBAL SINGH : Sir, this containerisation service is a new trend in transportation. For this a seminar was held in Bombay on December 5-7. The studies of the seminar and the proceedings of the seminar are being processed. A further study will have to be undertaken because we have to see how far we can adopt this type of transportation in our country; the road problem has to be solved; then there is the berth problem and then special ports for this service. All these require long study. After that study is completed and a decision is taken, step can be taken.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : Is the hon. Minister aware that we are paying nearly Rs. 200 crores by way of freight and that too in foreign exchange every year ? Under these circumstances, is it not a matter for urgent decision ? How long will the Government take to finalise this matter ? The seminar has made many recommendations. The then Minister, ! Dr. Rao, was kind enough to assure this conference that it would be considered immediately. Under these circumstances, will the hon. Minister assure this House that having regard to its priority, they would see that it is implemented immediately ?

SARDAR IQBAL SINGH : Sir, it is being immediately considered. But there must be time to consider all these aspects also.