

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: May I know, Sir, if it is a fact that investigations were made by four maritime U.S. experts who were here and that they made a report to the Government or the Prime Minister? If so, what is that report?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: That report has been placed in the Parliament Library, and I have also given a gist of the recommendations in the statement placed on the Table of the House.

SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR: There were reports recently in papers that there was labour trouble in the United States also. If it is a fact, are our food imports going to be affected by the trouble there?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Fortunately that strike has not come off. The matter has been settled there.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know, Sir, if these four U.S. Maritime experts came on their own, on behalf of the Government of the United States or on an invitation from the Government of India?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: We asked for their services.

DEVELOPMENT OF AURANGABAD AS A TOURIST CENTRE

*705. SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the average number of Indian and foreign tourists visiting Aurangabad each year to see Ellora and Ajanta Caves;

(b) the number of tourists who visited Aurangabad by Railway last year; and

(c) the steps taken by Government so far to develop Aurangabad as a tourist centre and the steps proposed to be taken during the remaining period of the Third Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) It is estimated that approximately 83,000 visitors including 4,000 foreigners visit Aurangabad each year to see Ellora and Ajanta caves.

(b) Approximately 80,000 visitors are estimated to have visited Aurangabad by rail in 1963.

(c) A Tourist Bungalow (Class II) has been built at Aurangabad at a total cost of Rs. 2,29,218, 50 per cent. of which was met by the Central Government. A proposal for the improvement of the air-field at Aurangabad is under consideration.

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: May I know, Sir, whether in view of the inadequate accommodation for tourists, has the Ministry of Transport any scheme of constructing retiring halls for the large number of students or guest houses near the Railway Station and at Ajanta Caves?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: That matter may be taken up with the Railway Ministry and I hope they will attend to it. But the question is so far as we are concerned, we have already put up some accommodation for tourists as I have just now indicated in the reply.

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: Is it not a fact that a change of train at Manmad due to metre gauge is causing great hardship to the tourists? Will the Ministry of Transport suggest to the Railway Ministry to convert the gauge from metre gauge to broad gauge?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: It is true that there is difficulty in the matter of communications for the tourists so far as the change, sometimes at midnight, at Manmad is concerned. But we want to overcome that difficulty by road transport as far as possible, and for that purpose we have got certain proposals under consideration.

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: Looking to the large number of tourists and the hardship caused to them and the very short mileage of about 70 or so from Manmad to Aurangabad, is it not necessary that the gauge should be converted?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: This question will have to be considered by the Ministry of Railways keeping in view the total passenger traffic and the total good traffic available and the return from that and the possible need for conversion of the gauge. This is a matter which should be addressed to the Ministry of Railways.

SHRIMATI SHAKUNTALA PARANJPYE: May I know, Sir, if any fees are charged for having a look at these Caves of Ellora and Ajanta?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: So far as I know, no fees are charged.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know, Sir, if the Ministry of Transport has asked the Railway Ministry to introduce a fast and convertible train like the Taj Express on the route from Manmad to Aurangabad.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: That is a suggestion, Sir. We will take it up with the Railway Ministry.

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: May I know, Sir, if there are any plans of the Transport Ministry to develop the Pitalkhera Caves discovered at about 40 miles from Aurangabad?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I am sorry I am not aware of the Caves.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: In view of the great number of middle class people and students going there, will the Ministry think of having some arrangement for their stay like students' hostels or some such thing which is very necessary at Ellora as well as Ajanta?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: During the course of the formulation of the Fourth Plan proposals we shall cer-

tainly bear such requirements of accommodation, etc. in mind fully.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: In view of the fact that there has been a scheme in operation according to which Youth Hostels or Youth Centres are established at beauty spots and tourist centres, may I know, Sir, why no Youth Hostel for students and young men has been established at this place?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The question refers to the Ministry of Education. We are all anxious to have Youth Hostels.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: May I know whether adequate guide facilities have been arranged? My own impression is having visited these caves once the guide facilities are not adequate. I would like to know whether Ministry is thinking of making enough of these facilities available to the visitors, or even to the common people?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: My impression, so far as this subject is concerned, is different. I think there are a number of guides and they are quite enough for the requirements but if there is any deficiency, we shall certainly review the position and see what can be done about it.

FARMS UNDER NATIONAL SEEDS CORPORATION

*706. **SHRI OM MEHTA:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the farms under the National Seeds Corporation;
- (b) the yearly expenditure on these farms;
- (c) the total produce from these farms; and
- (d) the quantity of seeds which are given to the States, which need them?