

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: From time to time we invite their attention to the need for doing that but it all depends upon the road conditions, particularly the condition of bridges and culverts on any particular highway, national or State.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether this question was considered in the Conference of Transport Controllers and Commissioners and whether any assurance was forthcoming from them that they would fall in line with this suggestion?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I am sure that the State Governments themselves are quite anxious to allow vehicles up to the given weight, but as I said, it all depends upon the road conditions. This particular position is taken into account in the various conferences.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether it is a fact that in certain States there are restrictions on registered laden weight and yet trucks of heavier weight are passing through the so-called weak culverts and bridges?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Infringement of the rules does take place despite the restrictions placed but because of road conditions, it is of importance that due observance of these rules is ensured.

ISSUE OF NOTIFICATION REGARDING CARRIAGE BY AIR WITHIN INDIA

*53. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 533 in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th September, 1958 and state:

(a) whether any decision has since been taken to issue a notification envisaged in section 4 of the Indian Carriage by Air Act (XX of 1934) applying the rules contained in the first schedule to carriage by air within India; and

(b) if so, when the notification is likely to be issued?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN): (a) and (b) A decision in principle has been taken to extend the provisions of the Indian Carriage by Air Act to non-international carriage by air, but certain details regarding exceptions, adaptations, modifications have yet to be settled. It may, therefore, take some time before a notification under section 4 of the Act is issued.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether it is a fact that this question has been pending consideration of the Government for the last two years—I raised this point for the first time two years ago—and that it has not been possible for Government to take a decision for all these years?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: Yes, Sir, this has been under consideration for some time. The last time the hon. Member raised this question was on the 16th September, 1958. I expect that this question will be expedited.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know by what time the notification is now likely to be issued?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: I have just now stated, Sir, that I hope to expedite the issue of the notification.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

*54. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the main recommendations made at the Shillong meeting of the Tourist Development Council held in September, 1960; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to implement these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) The main recommendations made by the Tourist Development Council, which is an advisory body, at its meeting held at Shillong on the 15th and 16th September, 1960 were that—

(i) Government should grant licences to medium-sized cars to operate as luxury taxis.

(ii) The facility of self-driven taxis should be made available for foreign tourists.

(iii) Mileage restrictions imposed by the Railways on the breaking of journey should be relaxed in the case of foreign tourists.

(iv) Beggar nuisance at important tourist centres should be checked.

(v) Liquor permits should be issued by Indian Missions abroad and by the Directors of the Government of India Tourist Offices in India, and all the State Governments should accept them as valid permits.

(vi) Government land should be made available to hoteliers at reasonable market rates for building much-needed hotels and motels.

(vii) Road-side motels should be provided on important national highways.

(viii) The Regional Tourist Advisory Committees should be reorganised on a zonal basis.

(ix) Indian entertainment should be introduced in hotels.

2 The Council *inter alia* decided to appoint—

(i) an *ad hoc* Committee consisting of seven of its members to meet the Planning Commission in a deputation and urge for the increase of the present allocation of Rs. 5.00 crores for Tourism under the Third Five-Year Plan; and

(ii) another *ad hoc* Committee consisting of seven of its members for the survey and general appraisal of tourist publicity and its impact on foreign tourists

(b) The State Governments and the other authorities concerned will shortly be asked to initiate suitable action on the recommendations made by the Council.

As regards the *ad hoc* Committees referred to in para 2 (ii) of the above statement, this Committee met the Member 'Industry', Planning Commission on the 23rd November, 1960 and were informed that the allocation of Rs. 1.50 crores for expenditure by the State Governments on Tourism had since been increased to Rs. 3.50 crores. The total allocation for Tourism under the draft of the Third Five-Year Plan is, therefore, now proposed to be increased to Rs. 7.00 crores.

Regarding the *ad hoc* Committee referred to in para 2 (i) of the above statement, the preliminaries regarding the specific purpose and scope of the Committee are being finalised. The first meeting of this Committee will be convened shortly.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: In the statement, it is stated that the beggar nuisance should be checked at important tourist centres. May I know as to what steps are being taken in that direction?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Several proposals are under consideration in this connection, and one of them is to segregate the places of tourist importance so that by proper police or security arrangements they can be made out of bounds for beggars and

mendicants, people of such type. It is more a social problem to be tackled by the State Governments at their own level.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: It has been stated against item VI that lands should be made available to hoteliers for constructing hotels. May I know whether it is proposed to construct hotels in the public sector or in the private sector?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: As far as possible, we would like the private sector to invest in hotels and expand existing hotel facilities. If there is any gap, the Government might come in by some suitable arrangement.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: May I know whether Government's attention has been drawn to a letter that had appeared in the "Statesman" of 28th November, making serious allegations about the existing policy of the Government which acts as a hindrance to the development of tourism?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I would be grateful if the exact point that has been taken up in the particular press reference is indicated to me. I cannot say which particular hindrance is referred to.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: It makes an allegation that the baggage of a tourist was held up for nearly five months, and after five months he was threatened that his baggage would be sold out.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: That does not arise out of this particular question but I would only say that in certain cases where the customs officials find something which they have to check with a particular tourist, they do take some time but we are taking this matter into active consideration in order to eliminate all these irksome experiences that the tourist is often confronted with.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: May I request the hon. Minister to go through this letter and then look into the matter and do something to remove these difficulties of the tourists?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will carefully look into the matter.

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: I would like to add this to what my hon. colleague has said. The hon. Member who asked the supplementary question should also realise that there has been a good deal of smuggling during the last year and so the Government has got to take great care to see that this does not take place.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: I admit that there has been a great deal of smuggling but in this case it is apparent that there was no case of smuggling and the customs people deliberately held up the baggage.

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: In such cases it is impossible for the customs authorities to know who is who and so they have got to take great care.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: Does it take five months for the authorities to search a baggage?

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether the question of developing some other tourist centres then those existing was ever considered in the Tourist Development Council?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The question of development of any place as a tourist centre depends upon its importance, upon the attraction it offers to foreign visitors as also to home tourists. Essentially we would like to develop such tourist facilities at places which are important from the point of view of foreign tourists and we would like to pay due attention to the needs of the home tourists also.