

in Saurashtra where the trains are delayed by 4 hours. Now they are taking 8 hours. The reason given is that the track is not safe and that sleepers are to be replaced. Now this is going on for the last one year. Has the Ministry any scheme to rectify this position and make the time normal as it was before?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That does not arise from this question.

SHRI D. A. MIRZA: Is it because of the condemned locomotives that the trains are not reaching the destination in time?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I would like to answer this question. We don't use any condemned locomotive anywhere. Once they are condemned, they are condemned and they are never put on the line again.

SHRI D. A. MIRZA: Then why are they not reaching the destinations at the scheduled time? They never reach in time.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: There are various factors which contribute to the delay in the arrival of trains and why they have not been able to maintain 100 per cent. punctuality. I am sure during the course of the discussion on Budget I will be able to give the details of those factors which contribute to the delay of trains.

FOREIGN TOURISTS TO AJANTA CAVES

*92. SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign tourists who visited the Ajanta Caves during the period from May 1956 to March 1957;

(b) the number of such tourists who visited the Caves from Jalgaon and took advantage of the Guest House at Ajanta and the rest rooms at Jalgaon Railway Station; and

(c) whether Government have received any communications from the

tourists complaining of inconveniences experienced by them there or at the Caves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) 2,224.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

638 tourists, including Indians, stayed at the Railway Retiring Rooms at Jalgaon and 72 foreign tourists stayed at the Fardapur Guest House near Ajanta.

Some complaints were received from the tourists. To remedy these, the following measures have been taken:—

- (i) The first class Government rest house at Fardapur, which is about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the Ajanta Caves, has been improved and the accommodation increased from eight beds to sixteen beds.
- (ii) The Bombay State Transport buses plying between Jalgaon and the Ajanta Caves have commenced operating via Fardapur rest house.
- (iii) To provide drinking water and lodging at the foot of the Caves, the place has been surveyed by the engineers and the architects of the C.P.W.D. who are preparing plans and estimates for putting up a canteen with two retiring rooms including the sinking of a tubewell to serve as a source of water supply.
- (iv) The Department of Archaeology have appointed two wholetime Guide Lecturers at the Caves. It is also proposed to hold a Guide Training Course at Aurangabad to provide a nucleus of private trained guides.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: My question part (b), has not been replied to. It says:

"the number of such tourists who visited the Caves from Jalgaon...."

That has not been replied in the statement.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I have got number of foreign tourists. Our resources in staff and funds are such that it is not possible for us to collect the details which the hon. Member wants.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: The statement says that 630 tourists, including Indians, stayed at the Railway Station. Does this not show that more tourists visit the Ajanta Caves from Jalgaon than from anywhere else?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Sir, the inference is clear.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: If it is so, will the Government consider the desirability of constructing one Dharmashala at the Caves for common people?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a suggestion for action.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: It is not a suggestion. It was suggested last year by the Minister.

SHRI SONUSING DHANSING PATIL: Does the Government know that there are difficulties of communications in the sister group of caves, Ellora? Through traffic is cut off because of the unfordable nature of the river.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Ellora is accessible from Aurangabad so far as I know, because I have visited Aurangabad.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Looking to the number of visitors from Jalgaon side, is it not necessary to have a tourist guide office opened

in Jalgaon than to have it in Aurangabad?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Sir, that suggestion also will be kept in mind.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: May I know the guest house and rest room rates?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I have not been able to get the exact rates because they may differ from place to place and from hotel to hotel.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Sir, which is the foreign country that sends the most number of tourists and is the number of foreign tourists going up or down?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: As I have mentioned at the very outset, limitations of staff as well as of funds do not make it possible for us to keep a very good statistical account of this particular aspect of tourism but we started.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: I am talking about foreign tourists.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I am also talking about the foreign tourists.

We started collecting statistics only as late as January 1956. The conclusions from first year's result will shortly be out. We are collecting the statistics for 1957 and I think we shall be in a position, by October or November, to assess the results.

DR. P. C. MITRA: What are the inconveniences cited by the Minister?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: If the hon. Member means the difficulties complained of by the tourists in regard to the cave temples, they pertained to non-availability of drinking water, lack of sufficient light arrangements, lack of facilities for keeping the luggage of tourists who come by bus from Jalgaon, absence of canteen, paucity of English speaking guides, etc.