

RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, 28th February, 1956

The House met at eleven of the clock. MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*140. [For answer, vide cols. 856-857 infra.]

*141. [For answer, vide cols. 857-858 infra.]

AMENITIES FOR TOURISTS TO AJANTA CAVES

*142. SHRI D. NARAYAN: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state whether Government propose to provide any amenities to tourists visiting Ajanta Caves for their lodging and boarding near the Caves?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): It is proposed to provide a canteen-cum-bus station near the Ajanta Caves and to expand the existing rest house at Fardapur which is only about four miles from the caves.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: May I know, Sir, if any dharmasala is likely to be built just near the cave for the use of ordinary people?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: No dharmasala is proposed.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: May I know whether the present rest house is not 4 miles away from the caves and so it is of no use for the ordinary or middle class people, especially as there are no transport arrangements for taxis or things of that kind from the rest house to the caves?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The question of transport may be considered; but this rest house has been there for a long time and people have been

using it. I do not know whether any site nearer than the present one is available.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: Oh yes, there are, just near the foot of the caves. How many people took advantage of this rest house during the last year?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I do not have that detail.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: Is there any plan to have a garden set up at the foot of the caves?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes, there is a scheme to have a garden just near the foot of the caves.

SHRI RAGHAVENDRARAO: Is it not a fact that this guest house is meant only for government guests?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: No, it is for all.

SHRI GOPIKRISHNA VIJAIVAR-GIYA: Is it not desirable to think of constructing a waiting hall or dharmasala, as he calls it, nearer the place?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: A suggestion for action.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Jagjivan Ram, you are assuming the duties of the Chair.

श्री नवाबसिंह चौहान : क्या सरकार ने इस बात की जांच कराई है कि हज़ारों की तादाद में जो यात्री लोग वहाँ जाते हैं, उनको बड़ी कठिनाई होती है क्योंकि वहाँ पर कोई रेस्ट हाउस या रुकने की जगह नहीं है। अगर नहीं, तो क्या भविष्य में कगने का कोई इगदा रखती है ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I think it is for that purpose we are trying to extend and improve the present rest house. It is for that purpose.