

RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, 23rd September 1954

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*478. [For answer vide col. 3111-3113 infra.]

*479. [For answer vide col. 3113 infra.]

*480. [For answer vide col. 3113-3114 infra.]

VISIT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TRAVEL AGENTS

*481. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director of the American Society of Travel Agents for the New York area visited India;

(b) if so, what was the purpose of his visit and which were the places visited by him; and

(c) whether any representative of the Government of India met him; and if so, for what purpose?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) Yes.

(b) His visit to India was in the course of a world tour which he had undertaken to discuss at official and non-official levels the question of promotion of tourism. During his stay in India, he visited Bombay, Delhi, Madras, Kashmir, Bangalore, Mysore, Cochin, Trivandrum, Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, Tanjore, etc.

(c) He met some officers of the Ministry and suggested some measures

to stimulate the flow of foreign tourists to India.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: May I know the proposals that were made by him?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: As I said, he was only making suggestions with regard to better publicity and for opening more tourist offices abroad and also or making publicity arrangements in places like Saudi Arabia, etc.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Are these offices to be opened by the Government of India or by other Travel Agents?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Of course, by us.

KAZI KARIMUDDIN: How are they connected with Saudi Arabia?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: In Saudi Arabia there is a colony of Americans who are employed in the oil companies.

KAZI KARIMUDDIN: For what purpose did they want more offices?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It is not a question of more offices. It is a question of publicity there regarding India—to attract them to India. They are given compulsory leave for about a fortnight in every year; they have to go elsewhere; they go to other countries. The idea is to attract them to our country.

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE: Does the Minister feel that the closure of the better catering arrangements of the European style or of the international style in the country will be conducive to inviting foreign tourists in this country?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, it is not exactly like what the hon. Member has said. It is true that they have abolished certain European style catering establishments, but wherever it is feasible, we have asked existing

non-vegetarian refreshment room contractors to undertake the European style of catering also. It has not been abolished.

DR D H VARIAVA: May I know, Sir, whether they have received any suggestions that students should be organised as guides for foreign tourists in India?

SHRI O V. ALAGESAN: I may inform the hon. Member, Sir, that we are conducting a sort of training class for guides. It has been started in Bombay. The idea is to spread it elsewhere also. After some time there will be so many guides available and their services can be utilised for this purpose.

DR D H VARIAVA: May I ask whether students of colleges

MR DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is quite a different question, Dr. Variava. We are concerned with some gentleman who toured India.

*482 [For answer vide col. 3114-3118 infra.]

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK

*483 SHRI B C GHOSE: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state—

(a) the cost of operation per hundred rupees of deposit in postal savings banks as on the 31st March of each of the years 1952, 1953 and 1954; and

(b) whether the interest paid and the income-tax relief granted on such deposits are included in the cost of operation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) The cost of operation is based on the number of transactions (deposits, withdrawals and transfers) and not on the amounts deposited, withdrawn or transferred. The cost of operation so calculated works out

per hundred rupees of deposits, withdrawals and transfers as follows:—

For the year ending—	Rs	As.	Ps.
31-3-1952	0	6	2
31-3-1953	0	6	6
31-3-1954	0	6	2

(b) No interest paid and the income-tax relief on it are not included in the cost of operation.

SHRI B C GHOSE: Has the hon. Minister compared the cost of commercial banks in this connection and found out as to whether it is not higher?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I cannot exactly vouch for that assertion. But I think it is not higher. As a matter of fact, it was as low as seven annas per transaction up to as late as March 1954. It was raised by the Finance Ministry in April 1951. It is now ten annas per transaction.

SHRI B C GHOSE: Has not the hon. Minister stated that the interest paid on deposits is not included in this cost?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Essentially we serve as an agency, and we are not bankers as such. So we are getting our dues on the work done by way of commission.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Has the hon. Minister received any complaints from bankers about unfair competition by Postal Savings Banks?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Not to my knowledge.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Has the hon. Minister's attention been drawn to certain observations in the Shroff Committee Report about Postal Savings Banks?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: As I have already submitted, we function as an agency. Even if these questions arise, they should better be brought to the notice of the Ministry of Finance.