

रुपये का घाटा प्रति दिन वहाँ पर जो प्रोसेसिंग निकलते हैं उन प्रोसेसिंगों के द्वारा ट्राम ठीक न चलने देने के कारण होता है, इस के बारे में क्या गवर्नमेंट ने विचार किया है?

श्री भक्त दर्शन : श्रीमत्, माननीय सदस्य की यह सचना बहुत-कुछ ठीक मालूम होती है।

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON: May I know from the Government whether the Commission has found out that large amounts of funds were transferred abroad illegally by this Tramways Company, thus creating some sort of fictitious losses and all those things, and in view of these activities of the Company, may I know whether the Government proposes to take legal action against the Company and also to quickly acquire the Company?

PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO: Sir, I have answered that question. I shall get the necessary information from the West Bengal Government and place it on the Table of the House.

*693. [Transferred to the 30th August, 1968].

SETTING UP OF A HOTEL PROJECT IN BOMBAY

*694. SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a Rs. 80 lakhs hotel project in the private sector in Bombay; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRIMATI JAHNARA JAIPAL SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of the project sponsored by Sarvashri B. H. Shahani, John Voyantzis and Kali H. Mody for a Hotel at Santa Cruz with 198 beds are :—

Rs. in lakhs

Estimated cost -80

(i) Shri B. H. Shahani (Voyantzis Hotel Pvt. Ltd. and Shri Kali H. Mody).

(ii) Shri G. D. Morarka with 10 associates and friends.

(iii) Preference shares by LIC 5

(iv) Long term borrowings— 40 Hotel Development Loan Fund.

(v) Advance from TWA . 15

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: In view of the fact that the Government is also proposing to put up a hotel at the Santa Cruz airport in the public sector, may I know whether it will permit this particular hotel there in addition to that? May I also know what is the exact position with regard to the Government's proposal to put up a public sector hotel there, have they finalised it and, if so, when it will be ready?

DR. KARAN SINGH: Sir, Air-India is actively considering building a hotel at Santa Cruz in Bombay. In fact because of that we have had some hesitation in approving this particular project, because we always want to give priority to the public sector and we are anxious that if a public sector undertaking is going to put up a hotel, then there should not be any unnecessary difficulty. Subsequently, Sir, there have been more discussions on this and now a new proposal has come, that instead of building a hotel, they are now planning to put up a flight kitchen. A flight kitchen is a place where these delicious meals which are served in flight are prepared and given when the planes arrive.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: They are not delicious.

DR. KARAN SINGH: Sir, I am sure that the hon. Member who has travelled on Air-India will agree that the meals are in fact very delicious. These flight kitchens are for international flights.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: In Air-India it is all right but not in the Indian Airlines.

DR. KARAN SINGH: This has got nothing to do with the Indian Airlines. This flight kitchen is essentially for international flights.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You can have Maharaja kitchens.

DR. KARAN SINGH: Yes, in addition to the Maharaja service, there are other international airlines which are serving there, and now we are reconsidering this matter in the light of the new proposal.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: Sir, the hon. Minister has not replied to my question. What is the position about that project which the Government is going to put up in the public sector, whether it has taken any shape and, if not, how much time will it take?

DR. KARAN SINGH: Sir, the plans for that project are ready. Some delay took place because as a result of the Tata Committee Report on the international airports the placement of the hotel actually had to be postponed, because they are planning, as you know, a comprehensive development of the entire airport area. But that report has now been received. The plans for this hotel have been completed and it is likely that Work on this hotel will start next year.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: In view of the fact that the Government is planning through Air-India to put up a hotel at Santa Cruz Airport, may I know whether there is any proposal to put up such hotels at Calcutta and Madras, which are also international airports in this country?

DR. KARAN SINGH: Yes, Sir. The necessity to have airport hotels at our four international airports, Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras is certainly there and that necessity will grow with the introduction of the Jumbo Jets in the early 70's Which, as you know, will carry 350 to 400 passengers on a single plane. Therefore we are now actively considering other proposals to build airport hotels at the three airports also.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: Till now this hotel business is being managed either by the capitalists or others taking money from the Government on loan or on aid basis or by the Government themselves. May I know whether the Government will also encourage if the trade unions and the workers want to run these hotels on a cooperative basis?

DR. KARAN SINGH: It is a very good idea indeed if such an organisation would also be interested in the hotel business.

We have set up a Hotel Loan Development Fund and if we get any proposals from the trade unions or from such organisations, we will certainly consider them very carefully.

SHRI M. H. SAMUEL: These hotels that are being set up in Bombay and other place, are they entirely Government projects or is the Government thinking in terms of any collaboration with any Indian hotel management organisations or any foreign hotel organisations?

DR. KARAN SINGH: The projects are going to be essentially that of Air-India and in some cases the ITDC. These are the two public sector undertakings which are going to be interested. There is no question of any foreign collaboration and also there is no particular proposal for any collaboration with any Indian interests.

SHRI M.H.SAMUEL: Is there no idea of asking the latas to be interested?

DR. KARAN SINGH: No, except that Mr. Tata is the Managing Director of Air-India but not as the Tata concern. They have a separate programme of having a Tata Green at Apollo Bunder which we are processing separately but not at the air-port.

SHRIM. K. MOHTA: As regards this hotel, is there any foreign collaboration involved and, if so, may I have the details?

DR. KARAN SINGH: According to the proposal which has been received which has not yet been approved, an assistance from the TWA of Rs. 15 lakhs, they say, they are going to get and that is going to be not in the nature of any share-capital or anything but as assistance against the services which they will render to the TWA in the form of preparation of meals and booking of their crew overnight. Our impression is, technically you cannot call this collaboration but this matter of course is being closely looked into.

SHRI S. D. MISRA: Seeing the difficulty of hotel accommodation in the country there was a proposal to have a Hotel Loan Development Fund. Has the Fund been created? May I know how much of it has been utilised and whether money has been given? Secondly how many beds there are in this hotel for the tourists and what plan is the Minister having for

the next 5 years? What happened to the Varanasi project which the Minister himself visited probably and he was contemplating having a big hotel at Varanasi?

DR. KARAN SINGH: The Member has raised three points. Firstly with regard to the Hotel Loan Development Fund, I am happy to say that at long last the fund has started functioning. The fund has been created and the Board of the Fund has had 2 or 3 meetings and some applications have also actively been processed. I do not think any actual loan has so far been given because they have asked for certain details but the Fund is now actually functioning and we hope that in the course of the current financial year certain loans will be given.

With regard to the Varanasi Hotel, certainly Varanasi is a very important tourist attraction. Originally there was a proposal that the ITDC and the Maharaja of Banaras should collaborate upon a hotel programme. At that stage the idea was that there would be equity participation, the Maharaja giving the land and the ITDC giving the money. But when the new Board took over, they took a policy decision that they did not like the idea of collaboration. With private parties and that they would much rather buy the land and start it in the public sector than have collaboration. When that happened, the Maharaja was not prepared to sell this particular land. So that has so far not materialised. Meanwhile the Maharaja on his own, was thinking of putting up a hotel in that land and he wrote to me asking for certain information with regard to how we could help and we have made that information available and we are hopeful that this hotel would come up if the Maharaja's proposal materialises.

Regarding the third question, it is true that our bed capacity is woefully inadequate at present. I do not have the exact figures with me but my recollection is we have only 7000 beds in the three, four and five star category and we will require at least 21,000 beds by 1972-73 and therefore we are exploring the possibilities.

SHRI Z. A. AHMAD : Connected with this question may I know from the Minister whether in view of the fact that the hotel trade, at least the big hotel trade, is highly lucrative and that the owners of these big hotels charge very heavily, would the Government be prepared to restrict the charges or control them in the interest of the consumers?

DR. KARAN SINGH: I am not sure whether it is really correct to say that the hotel business is extremely lucrative because, firstly, it has a long gestation period. It takes a long time to begin in this business until the project really materialises; it takes several years. Certainly once the hotel gets established and starts functioning, then it makes good deal of money, but perhaps as compared to other types of investments—I am not an expert on business—it is not so lucrative and that is why we had to give certain special tax and fiscal concessions. If the Member will remember, in the last Budget certain tax holidays were given to encourage the people to build hotels but the point about the charges is also a valid one except that I must remark that our charges still on the international standards, are much lower than in other countries.

SHRI Z. A. AHMAD: The services rendered here are also lower

DR. KARAN SINGH : I am talking of the international tourist who goes round the world—for him, the charge for the service he gets, is less than in other countries.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I am surprised at this comparison. Do you know how much a waiter gets in America or in England? Why do you compare this? Because, the cost of running a hotel is much less in India than in many other countries? The things we consume also cost less. It is a Maharaja's comparison, I must say.

RETIREMENT AGE OF VICE-CHANCELLORS

*695. PROF. SHANTILALKOTARI:

SHRI R. P. KHAITAN:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in pursuance of the recommendation of the Education Commission, Government have decided to fix the retirement age for Vice-Chancellors of Universities at 65 years;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the State Governments to this decision; and

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the house by Shri R. P. Khaitan.