

की नियुक्तियों से सम्बन्ध रखता है कि वहाँ बह होने चाहिए या नहीं होने चाहिए और इसका उत्तर शिक्षा मंत्रालय दे रहा है तो यह जरा एक आश्चर्य की बात लगती है कि शिक्षा मंत्रालय इसका उत्तर कैसे दे रहा है ? लेकिन चूंकि प्रश्न पूछना है इसलिए प्रश्न भी पूछ लेना चाहता हूँ कि विदेशों में भारतीय दूतावासों में शिक्षा सम्बन्धी कितने विभाग आप ने स्थापित किये हैं या जो अभी वहाँ पर कार्य कर रहे हैं उनकी प्रगति क्या है ?

श्री भागवत झा आजाद : प्रश्न कर्ता के पहले भाग के पहले प्रश्न का तो उत्तर यह है कि विदेशों में चूंकि यह भारतीय दूतावासों में विज्ञान सम्बन्धी शिक्षा शिक्षा मंत्रालय से सम्बन्धित है इसलिए मैं इस प्रश्न का उत्तर दे रहा हूँ। सवाल के दूसरे हिस्से के लिये मुझे निवेदन करना है कि उसकी जानकारी देने के लिए माननीय सदस्य अलग से सवाल का नोटिस भेजें तब मैं यह सूचना दे सकूंगा कि बाहर भारतीय दूतावासों में कहाँ कहाँ ऐसे शिक्षा सम्बन्धी विभाग स्थापित किये गये हैं।

श्री ओम प्रकाश त्यागी : मैंने प्रश्न यह किया है कि आप ने शिक्षा सम्बन्धी कितने विभाग विदेशी दूतावासों में स्थापित किये हैं वह भी मैं जानना चाहता हूँ।

श्री भागवत झा आजाद : माननीय सदस्य ने शायद मुझे ध्यानपूर्वक सुना नहीं। ने मैं उसका जवाब दे दिया है कि इसके लिए वह अलग से सवाल का नोटिस भेजें और जहाँ तक शिक्षा मंत्रालय द्वारा इस मूल प्रश्न का उत्तर देने का सवाल है वह भी मैंने बतला दिया है कि चूंकि विज्ञान सम्बन्धी शिक्षा शिक्षा मंत्रालय से सम्बन्धित है इसलिए हम उसे डील कर रहे हैं।

श्री ओम प्रकाश त्यागी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री महोदय मेरा तात्पर्य समझे नहीं हैं। मैं थोड़ा संकेत कर दूँ। क्या कोई एक सांस्कृतिक और शिक्षा सम्बन्धी सम्बन्ध

है ? मैं उस सम्बन्ध में एक बात यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जिस प्रकार से विदेशी दूतावासों में यू० के० की कैम्ब्रिज शिक्षा का और उसके इम्तिहानों की व्यवस्था है क्या उसी तरह से आप ने भारतवर्ष के हायर सेकेंडरी स्कूलों की जहाँ भारतीय लोग रहते हैं वहाँ इस प्रकार के स्कूल स्थापित करने की और उसकी परीक्षाएँ देने की अनुमति दी है या नहीं।

श्री भागवत झा आजाद : मौजूदा प्रश्न भारतीय दूतावासों में वैज्ञानिकों की नियुक्तियों से सम्बन्धित है और माननीय सदस्य के इस प्रश्न से कोई सम्बन्ध नहीं है।

CONTROL ON HOTELS

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*393. SHRI S. C. SAMANTA :
SHRI D. C. SHARMA :
SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for the transfer of control of the Government-owned hotels like Janpath and Ashoka from the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply to his Ministry;

(b) whether the new hotels which are being constructed or likely to be constructed shall be controlled by his Ministry; and

(c) what advantages or gains are likely to accrue as a result of the change ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI-MATI JAHANARA JAIPAL SINGH) :
(a) The administrative control of the Government-owned hotels was transferred to the Ministry of Tourism & Civil Aviation on the recommendation of the Administrative Reforms Commission.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Administrative control of all central public sector Hotel Projects by one Ministry will facilitate coordination and planning for our much needed hotel development.

SHRI S. C. SAMANTA : Is it not a fact that in the Boards of Directors of Janpath and Ashoka Hotels this Ministry was represented and, if it is a fact, may I

know whether that was not sufficient for the Ministry to do what they want to ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : No, Sir; it was not sufficient.

SHRI S. C. SAMANTA : May I know whether other hotels managed by private persons will also be controlled by the Ministry ?

DR. KARAN SINGH : No, Sir. I think it will be useful if I give the background. The Central public sector hotels were so far under the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply. There were two corporations—the Ashoka Hotel Corporation and the Janpath Hotel Corporation under which Janpath, Ranjit and Lodi Hotels were there. The Administrative Reforms Commission recommended, rightly in our opinion, that these hotels should be under the Ministry of Tourism because that is the ministry which deals really with hotel development, etc. For that reason, these hotels were recently transferred to this Ministry. As far as private hotels are concerned, there is no question of this Ministry running them. But we are the administrative Ministry dealing with their requirements like loans, etc.

SHRI THIRUMALA RAO : Apart from the reasons mentioned by the hon. Minister for transferring the hotels to the Tourism Ministry, is it also one of the considerations which weighed mainly with the Government that there is too much work for the Works, Housing and Supply Ministry and less work for the Tourism Ministry ?

DR. KARAN SINGH : I am hardly competent to comment on that.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : After the transfer of these hotels to the Ministry of Tourism, we read in the papers that it was being considered to appoint certain retired Colonels, Brigadiers or such army people to the senior executive posts of some of these hotels. I would like to know whether it is correct, whether any such appointments have been made and whether the Minister considers that military personnel are necessarily the most efficient hoteliers or does he want to sort of militarise the hotels ?

DR. KARAN SINGH : As the hon. Member is aware, in certain categories of posts, the retired military officers also are in the pool. We want to spread our net as

wide as possible. It was just because one or two military officers happened to be in the running at that time that the news item came that we were looking for Generals. It is not as if I am particularly anxious to get a General to run the hotels. But we feel that when we spread our net wide and look around, if there are suitable persons from the defence services—they have gone through a certain discipline and they have a certain background—if we find them suitable, they may be considered.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Have any such appointments been made ?

DR. KARAN SINGH : No new appointment has been made.

SHRI P. G. SEN : Sometime back there was a news item that the Ashoka Hotel management has been shifted to some other hands and the income as well as the management of that hotel has deteriorated. Is it correct ?

DR. KARAN SINGH : I do not think the management really shifted to any other hands. Certainly in the last year or two, there has been a drop in the occupancy ratio for various reasons. For the UNCTAD conference, a new annexe was put up with 300 beds. Whereas previously the occupancy was worked out on the basis of 450 beds, now it is being worked out on the basis of 750 beds. Otherwise also, we have received some reports that the management is not perhaps as efficient as it should be. I am looking into this matter very carefully.

SHRI K. M. KUSHIK : It was reported sometime back in the papers that the catering in Ashoka Hotel was the worst ever found and I drew the attention of the minister to this through an unstarred question. The reply to that was that they are making enquiries. Has any enquiry been made and may I know the nature of the difficulties that that gentleman experienced before making such a remark ?

DR. KARAN SINGH : I am not aware of the specific complaint which the hon. member has made.

SHRI K. M. KUSHIK : I had tabled an unstarred question on that.

DR. KARAN SINGH : We have received from time to time complaints regarding the standard of catering. But I do not think

it is correct to say that the catering in Ashoka Hotel is the worst in the country. Maybe one day he might have run into a bad omelette. But that does not mean that the whole hotel should be condemned. But I agree there is considerable room for improvement and we are looking into it.

SHRIMATI ILA PALCHOUDHURI : May I know whether, in view of the fact that now these Hotels have been taken over by the Ministry of Tourism, they are going to furnish them with all the Indian handicrafts goods as far as possible, because it has been reported that many of the things that are in the Ashoka Hotel were brought from foreign sources ?

DR. KARAN SINGH : As the hon. lady Member, I am sure, is aware fairly recently, the whole of the main lounge of the Ashoka Hotel was re-furnished and it was done entirely in an Indian decor with Indian fabrics and Indian beautifications. I think it is a very good idea that we should use Indian goods, as much as possible, particularly in textiles and any other such requisites. It would be absurd for us to import from abroad when we can produce better things in the country.

SHRI TENNETI VISWANATHAM : We have adopted the Ashoka Chakra as the emblem on a matter of ideology. Has Ashoka Hotel anything to do with this Ashoka ideology or is there any single Ashoka tree in Ashoka Hotel ?

DR. KARAN SINGH : I think, the only thing I can say is that the name Ashoka is, by no means, the monopoly only of a tree. We wanted to name a Hotel after one of our great rulers.

SHRI M. N. NAGHNOOR : It is our normal experience that with the change of management of an organisation, the cost increases. Will the hon. Minister assure this House that there will be no additional or unreasonable extra cost in the management of these hotels ?

DR. KARAN SINGH : By cost, I assume, the hon. Member means tariff rate.

SHRI M. N. NAGHNOOR : I mean the maintenance of hotels.

DR. KARAN SINGH : I can only give the assurance that we will try and run the Hotel as profitably and as efficiently as possible. I cannot give any other definite assurance.

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN : I would like to know whether it is a fact that some management consultants have been appointed even without consulting the board of directors to advise in the matter of management of the Ashoka Hotel. I would also like to know whether, after taking over all these Hotels, they have been considering to have a sort of uniform administrative set-up in all these Hotels.

DR. KARAN SINGH : The question of management consultancy is really something which falls within the realm of the Corporation. I do not immediately have the information which the hon. Member has asked for. It cannot really be uniform because the Ashoka Hotel is a five-star Hotel, the Janpath, at present, is a three-star Hotel, the Ranjit is a two-star Hotel and the Lodhi Hotel is a one-star Hotel. Therefore, naturally, the standards of management will vary. But we want to have, as far as possible, uniform efficiency in all these Hotels.

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN : Is the Minister prepared to give the information about that ?

DR. KARAN SINGH : I will inform him about it.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "CASTASIA"
TO BE HELD IN NEW DELHI

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*394. **SHRI MAHANT DIGVIJAI NATH :**
SHRI G. S. REDDI :
SHRI HEM BARUA :

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that an International Conference known as 'Castasia' is to be held in New Delhi in August, 1968;

(b) if so, how many countries are expected to participate in it;

(c) whether this conference has been called by the Government of India or UNESCO; and

(d) the subjects which will be discussed at the Conference ?

शिक्षा मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मागबल ना आजाद) : (क) जी हाँ, दिल्ली में ऐन्टिक्वेशन आफ साइंस एण्ड टेक्नालोजी