

Shri Sonavane: May I know by what time this integrated price for the farmers would be determined, declared and put into operation?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I am told these studies would take another one or two seasons. Perhaps when the studies covering the coming kharif and rabi seasons are over, we may be able to get some data with regard to the fixing of the price.

श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद : श्रीमन्, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार नीति निर्धारण करते हुए इस बात को ध्यान में रखेगी कि जो लोग नौकरी करते हैं, जो लोग रोजगार करते हैं, वे साधारण तौर पर जीवन निर्वाह के लिये अपने रोजगार से, पेशे से धामदनी पाते हैं, उसी प्रकार से किसानों को स्थिर मूल्य मिल सके और उनका जीवन निर्वाह स्थिर रूप से हो सके ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Yes, Sir; there has got to be parity between what they earn in the industrial occupation and what they earn in the agricultural occupation. This parity will have to be kept in mind and on that basis alone the prices will have to be fixed.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: May I know what remains of the Agricultural Prices Commission? The Chairman has gone and the other member resigned earlier. Does it exist now?

Shri C. Subramaniam: It is functioning. We have got an acting Chairman. We are trying to get another Chairman who will have the status and stature as far as the Commission is concerned.

श्री क० ना० तिवारी : क्या रातवाला कमेटी ने कोई इन्टेरिम रिपोर्ट दी है ? यदि दी है, तो क्या सरकार उसको टेबल पर रखने के लिये तैयार है और उसकी वेव रिक्मेण्डेन्स क्या हैं ?

524 (A) LSD—2.

Shri C. Subramaniam: I thought we had already placed the Commission's Report on the Table. It is only on that basis the prices have been fixed. With regard to the fixing of prices, there are two aspects. What the Commission has recommended is a price below which the prices should not be allowed to go. That will be under normal conditions. But when there are scarcity conditions due to failure of monsoons etc., the recommendation of the Commission is, leaving alone the support price which has no meaning under the present conditions, we must fix a sufficiently high purchasing price, and that is how now we are fixing price, in all the States, the purchasing price, which is Rs. 5 to Rs. 7 more per quintal than what has been recommended by the Agricultural Prices Commission.

Shri Bishwanath Roy: In view of the usual smuggling of foodgrains on the inter-State borders owing to differences in prices in different States neighbouring those borders, may I know whether any uniformity is under consideration to be enforced to that that sort of differences in prices might be removed?

Shri C. Subramaniam: This is also one of the matters which is being considered by the Committee which has been appointed, and the recommendations of the Committee will be taken into account with regard to fixing of zones or removal of zones.

Development of Tourist Centres

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- *1450. **Shri Linga Reddy:**
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:
Shri Lakshman Chaudhry:
Shri M. R. Krishna:
Shri E. S. Pandey:
Shri E. Barua:
Shri Rameshwar Tanti:
Shri Himmatlingka:

Will the Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have proposed to develop some

tourist areas in the country under its integrated tourist development scheme;

(b) if so, when and the names of tourist areas to be developed;

(c) the main features thereof; and

(d) the total amount of expenditure on the schemes?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Aviation (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) Yes.

(b) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6201/66].

Shri Linga Reddy: With regard to the places to be taken up on a 50-50 basis by the Central and State Governments, about item No. 19 of the statement—Hassan, Belur and Halebid area—may I know the scheme that has been formulated for its development as a tourist centre, its estimated cost and when it will be executed?

Shri C. M. Poonacha: The integrated programmes of development relate to the establishment of hotels, restaurants, development of roads, medical facilities, administrative quarters, improving the landscape and beautifying the place and, if necessary, installing flood-lights to highlight the importance and beauty of the monuments existing there. These are the broad programmes of the integrated development of centres or areas of tourist importance. As for the particular question the hon. Member has asked, while these are the various things which have now been proposed, we are now working out the detailed schemes in consultation with the State Governments because in this particular case it is a scheme which comes under Scheme (2) wherein the expenditure is shared between the Centre and the State Government on a 50:50 basis and the State Government, to start with, will provide the first working programme for the development of this area and thus we will further examine the scheme. The

matter is at the present moment engaging the attention of the State Government.

Shri Linga Reddy: May I know the reason for the shortfall in expenditure on the tourist programmes and the consequent fall in the foreign exchange earnings?

Shri C. M. Poonacha: There has not been any shortfall as such, but due to the disturbances that we had during the Indo-Pakistan conflict, there was a decline in the rate of tourists coming into India at that time. It is now picking up. We are happy to note that the tourist traffic is picking up and it is on the steady increase.

श्री लहटन चौधरी : जो लिस्ट टेबल पर रखी गई है, उस में जो नाम प्राये हैं, उन में एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण और प्राचीन सांस्कृतिक केन्द्र का नाम नहीं है। वह है बिहार के अन्तर्गत "महिषी" स्थान, जो महा पंडित मण्डन मिश्र जी का जन्म स्थान है, जिनका जगतगुरु शंकराचार्य जी के साथ शास्त्रार्थ हुआ था।

उसके सम्बन्ध में हममें कोई चीज नहीं है। क्या सरकार उसके सम्बन्ध में विचार करना चाहती है तथा जांच पड़ताल करके उसके डेवलपमेंट के लिये कोई कार्यवाही करना चाहती है ?

Shri C. M. Poonacha: The list that is before the House indicates a few areas and centres which we propose to take up for immediate development. It is not as if there are not other centres which are of equal tourist importance. There are a large number of them. To start with, we are now trying to develop these on a phased programme. Later on, we would certainly take up other areas which are equally important. But all of them could not be taken up simultaneously in view of the various limitations we are faced with.

Shri M. R. Krishna: May I know why Nagarjunkonda which contains

some of the world famous relics has not been taken in the Central Project but has been left over to the State? May I also know whether Kovalam in Kerala which could be developed as a world swimming spot will be completed in the Fourth Five Year Plan period?

Shri C. M. Poonacha: So far as Nagarjunasagar and other areas round about Hyderabad are concerned, they come under Scheme No. 2. Of course, it is quite important. But at the moment, it is under Part 2 of the Scheme. So far as Kovalam is concerned, we have already taken action. We have acquired the palace, the hotel is there and the beach-line is being improved. Then, we are acquiring some more area to make it more pleasant. The road is also being laid and the drainage and water facilities are being attended to this year. We have already provided Rs. 10 lakhs for this particular work in Kovalam. Apart from taking over the palace and improving the place, we are constructing a canteen also there.

Shri R. Barua: The Kanjivanga sanctuary is an important one. But in recent years, it is seriously threatened by erosion of the Brahamputra. The investment will be much bigger than what is planned. May I know whether the Government will take particular interest to protect it from the danger of erosion of the Brahamputra?

Shri C. M. Poonacha: Yes, Sir, We are aware of it and we will pay special attention to that.

Shri Rameshwar Tantis: What was the total number of tourists last year and may I know whether our income was on the declining side or on the increase as compared to the year before?

Shri C. M. Poonacha: Last Year's overall tourist traffic did decline by 5 per cent. I have given the reasons why it happened so. Now it is picking up. So far as the foreign exchange earnings are concerned, I would like to look into the matter. I cannot say

precisely by how much our foreign exchange earnings went down.

Shri Priya Gupta: May I know if the name of Bikaner in Rajasthan has got a place in this list and, if not, is it because the Chief Minister over there is not taking a sympathetic view of the area because most of the legislators are from the non-Congress side? Even when the foreign tourists come upto Sikar, a place very near it, they are stopped by Government officials and they are told not to go to Bikaner because there is no hotel or restaurant there to get even food. Not only that, posters and other things for promoting tourism cannot be pasted there as there is no provision for places and employees for the purpose for want of funds and they are sold to *bidiwalas* and *panwalas*. May I know the attitude of the Government towards this?

Shri C. M. Poonacha: The questions relates to a particular attitude of the Government of Rajasthan. I do not admit that such a thing would have happened. Anyhow, I would like to collect the information for the benefit of the hon. Member.

Shri Narendra Singh Mahida: There is the famous Salarjung Museum in Hyderabad and it is contemplated to construct a new building. When will it be ready.

Shri C. M. Poonacha: Hyderabad, Nagarjunasagar and Visakhapatnam are the places which have been selected in Andhra Pradesh for the development of tourism and Salarjung Museum in Hyderabad is also included in that.

National Highways

*1461. **Shri Linga Eddy:** Will the Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of the National Highways in the Country with its State-wise break-up;

(b) the reasons for the disparities among the States;

(c) the steps taken to remove the imbalance amongst the States; and