

kind of drinks that they drink, a quantity of the stuff could be kept in the rest houses and guest houses in the smaller towns. May I know whether any such arrangement has been made?

Shri Raj Bahadur: To begin with, we shall have this arrangement of additional facilities for getting their tobacco, films and other things in 15 important towns, and in course of time, as the scheme proves to be a success by experiment or experience, we shall try to extend it to other places also.

Shri C. D. Pande: One part of my question has not been answered. The real difficulty which the tourist finds and cannot understand is that drinks are not served when meals are served, and meals without drinks are not comprehensible to them.

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil): There are a number of difficulties so far as prohibition laws in the various States are concerned, and they have affected seriously our tourism. We are taking up the matter with the State Governments that within the scope of the prohibition laws, such liberty as could be given to the tourist should be given. That is our view.

Raja Mahendra Pratap: This seems to be very strange. We are speaking of tourists and their comforts, and people are dying of starvation!

Shri Hem Barua: Where do the Government propose to distribute these coupons, here or at the information centres abroad?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Through the agency of the regional tourist offices and other than tourist offices also as and when found necessary.

Accommodation for Tourists

*963. **Shri Radha Raman:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had through its tourist offices

tried paying guest accommodation for tourists in Delhi or elsewhere;

(b) if so, with what results;

(c) whether there is a proposal to encourage such schemes in other places; and

(d) whether any procedure has been laid down by the tourist offices for selecting such paying guest accommodation and fixing the scale of payment?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). The paying-guest scheme has been tried through the Government of India Tourist Offices in Delhi and Calcutta only. The results were quite encouraging in Delhi and, it is, therefore, proposed to enlarge the list of paying-guest establishments maintained by the Delhi Tourist Office. The experiment in Calcutta has not yielded any appreciable results and, therefore, the Regional Tourist Advisory Committee attached to the Calcutta Office are of the opinion that this scheme is impracticable in so far as Calcutta is concerned. There is no proposal to try this scheme at any other place for the time being.

(d) The criteria laid down for selecting the paying-guest establishments in Delhi are as follows:

- (i) Location of the house and particularly the entrance to the rooms to be occupied by the tourist(s).
- (ii) The size of the room and its furnishings, whether it has an attached bath, sufficient privacy, ventilation etc.
- (iii) Other considerations such as the general living standard of the family, number of members in the family and the suitability of the accommodation from the point of view of a foreign tourist.

The charges for paying guest accommodation are not fixed by the Tourist Office but in certain cases

where the charges are found to be a little high, the persons concerned are advised to lower them slightly. The average charge is Rs. 15 per head for bed and breakfast and for a couple Rs. 20 to Rs. 25.

Shri Radha Raman: In the statement it is mentioned that the results are quite encouraging in Delhi, and that it is proposed to enlarge the list of paying-guest establishments. May I know how many paying-guest establishments at present exist in Delhi, and how many more are to be added, and how many people took advantage of them in the past?

Shri Raj Bahadur: According to the list I have got with me, we have got 14 such establishments, but the accommodation is for 47 beds. So far as the number of people who have taken advantage of this facility is concerned, I cannot give the exact number, but it is very popular and we have got more demand than the capacity or accommodation in respect thereof. Therefore, we have invited through the columns of the newspapers by suitable advertisements more people to come in and offer themselves as hosts for these paying guests.

Shri Radha Raman: Although the statement suggests that there is no proposal with the Government for the time being to enlarge the scope or enlarge the area or the cities where the scheme is to be applied, may I know if the Government will consider Bombay and Madras also to be included in this scheme because there is sufficient scope for such a scheme to be adopted there?

Shri Raj Bahadur: In my answer to the previous question I was referring to Delhi. In regard to Calcutta, I may add that the experiment has not been quite a success. In Bombay we propose to try it. In Madras we have not yet taken it up.

सेठ ब्रजल सिंह : क्या माननीय मंत्री वह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि आगरा में ताज महल होने के कारण जो टूरिस्ट्स लोग आगरा में

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प्रगते हैं उन के बास्ते कुछ इस किस्म की वेबिंग नैस्ट एकापॉइडेयान बनाने का इरादा है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : आगरा में अगर माननीय सद.य खुद अपनी कोठी में से कुछ भान इस के लिये दे दें तो इस तरह का प्रबन्ध करने के बारे में सोचा जा सकता है ।

सेठ ब्रजल सिंह : मैं देने को तैयार हूँ ।

(हंसी)

Mr. Speaker: We shall now go the next Quesetion.

हिमाचल प्रदेश के जंगलों में अग्निकांड

* ६६४. श्री पद्म देव : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि जून, १९५८ के मास में हिमाचल प्रदेश के जंगलों में विनाशकारी अग्निकांड हुए थे, और

(ख) सरकार ने आग को बुझाने के लिये क्या उपाय किये ?

खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री (श्री प्र० प्र० जैन):

(क) जंगल की उन आगों का अग्रज जो जून, १९५८ में लगी थी, शिमले सकिल के लगभग ६४५० एकड़ में, मिरमूर सकिल के ५४०० एकड़ में और चम्बा सकिल के १०,६६० एकड़ में हुआ था ।

(ख) ये आगें जंगल के राइट होल्डरज (right-holders) और आस पास के गांवों के रहने वालों की मदद से बुझाई गई थी । जहा पर ये आगें तहसील या जिले के मुख्यालयों के पास लगी थी, वहां पर राजस्व और पुलिस कर्मचारियों की भी इस में मदद ली गई थी ।

श्री पद्म देव . क्या माननीय मंत्री यह बतलायेंगे कि यह आग लगाई गई थी या खुद जंगल में पैदा हुई ?

श्री प्र० प्र० जैन : कुछ लगाई गई थी और कुछ लग गई ।