

Monday, December 19, 1960/Agrahayana 28, 1882 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MEMBER SWORN

Shri Vaddepalli Kasiram (Nalgonda—Reserved—Sch. Castes).

Mr. Speaker: Hereafter, when a Member is to be sworn, the Secretary will announce to the House the name of the hon. Member, the constituency from which he comes and in whose place he comes. Otherwise, hon. Members may not know.

Shri Vaddepalli Kasiram comes from Nalgonda in Andhra Pradesh and he comes in the place of Shri Devanapalli Rajiah.

Hereafter that will be the practice.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Ganga Brahmaputra Waterways

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*968. { Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
 { Shri Sarju Pandey:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1563 on the 26th August, 1960 and state whether Government have since taken decision on the recommendations contained in 70th Report of the Estimates Committee about declaration of the Ganga-Brahmaputra Waterway as a National Waterway?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): Yes. It has been 1649 (Ai) LS.—1

decided not to declare the Ganga-Brahmaputra Waterways as National Waterway at present.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know the reasons which led to this decision?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Our decision is in keeping with the recommendations made by the Inland Water Transport Committee headed by Shri Gokhale.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know the approximate length of this waterway which is used for traffic at present?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The approximate length from Calcutta to Dibrugarh might be 600-700 miles.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: This waterway runs from Buxar to Dibrugarh. May I know what will be the effect of the decision of the Government that this will not be treated as a national waterway?

Shri Raj Bahadur: So far as the effect is concerned, it does not mean that any deterioration will take place in the present level of efficiency of the maintenance etc. The fact remains that we have been contributing whatever we could by way of assistance for the conservancy and for the pilot project, etc., and I am sure that we shall try to do as best as we can within the limited finances placed at our disposal.

कारीगरों के लिए अध्ययन भ्रमण

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*९६९. { श्री भवत दर्शन :
 { श्री हेम राज :

क्या सामुदायिक विकास और सहकार मंत्री ५ अगस्त, १९६० के तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या १७९ के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि कारीगरों के अध्ययन भ्रमण संगठित

करने के प्रस्तावों के बारे में क्या निर्णय किया गया है ?

सामुदायिक विकास और सहकार उपमंत्री (श्री ब० स० मूर्ति) : तीसरी योजना में शामिल करने के लिये स्कीम तैयार कर ली गई है, और वह चर्चाधीन है ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अंग्रेजी में भी पढ़िये ।

श्री ब० स० मूर्ति : अब मैं अंग्रेजी में उत्तर पढ़ता हूँ ।

श्री भक्त दर्शन : श्रीमन्, इस स्कीम की मोटी रूपरेखा क्या है ?

The Minister of Community Development and Co-operation (Shri S. K. Dey) : The idea is that progressive artisans from the village will have an opportunity of seeing the work done by their fellow workers in the whole block; similarly the progressive workers from the block will get an opportunity of acquainting themselves with the best work in the district; from the district to the State; from the State to the country; and, eventually, from the country to the whole world.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : श्रीमन्, इस भ्रमण में जो खर्चा होगा क्या वह कारीगरों को देना होगा या सरकार उस में हिस्सा बंटायेगी ?

श्री स० ला० द्विवेदी : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस योजना के लिये तृतीय पंचवर्षीय योजना में क्या धनराशि मुकर्रर की गई है और यह काम कब से प्रारम्भ हो सकेगा ?

Shri S. K. Dey : The programme is planned during the Third Plan period. We have not taken up this programme for artisans in the Second Plan. As the hon. Member is aware, we introduced a scheme of Bharat Darshan particularly by agriculturists, and it has been an extremely successful programme. Therefore, we are trying to extend it to the field of village industries.

Shri Hem Raj : May I know whether these artisans will also be given some more training in their crafts?

Shri S. K. Dey : That programme is also under implementation concurrently.

Shri Damani : May I know whether the State Governments will also contribute to the expenditure or the Centre will bear all the expenditure?

Shri S. K. Dey : In almost all the schemes under the Community Development Programme, there is participation by the States with the Centre.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman : Will they be accompanied by interpreters, so that they can understand one another?

Shri S. K. Dey : Yes, Sir.

Shri Ranga : Do Government have any information about the numbers of these artisans in different States, or do they propose to invoke the aid of the Census operations to get that information?

Shri S. K. Dey : Well, I am quite sure the Minister of Industries and Commerce will have a broad idea of the artisans who now exist, and certainly when the Census is completed that will give us a more exact picture.

Shri D. C. Sharma : There are different types of artisans in every village. May I know if any priority has been fixed for these different types of artisans or they will be taken in a pell-mell variety?

Shri S. K. Dey : That question does not arise. We have yet not come to the stage of planning at that point of detail.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh : At the time of the World Agriculture Fair thousands of progressive farmers were enabled to come to Delhi to see that fair. This year in Bhopal the hon. Minister said that the Bharat Krishak Samaj, under whose auspices those parties were organised, is not

working properly. May I therefore know whether at the time of organising parties of progressive artisans and in their selection such care will be taken so that confusion may not arise afterwards?

Shri S. K. Dey: I do not know; I myself feel very confused with the question, because we are discussing artisans. And in any case, even when farmers were sent out for Bharat Darshan they are usually picked out by the Block Development Committee and no other organisation usually comes into the picture.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: But you yourself made the confusion.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member must get up and put the question.

Shri Ranga: The second part of the question has not been answered, whether sufficient care would be taken to see that proper people are selected among the artisans for the Bharat Darshan.

Shri S. K. Dey: I have already said that this selection will be made by the Block Panchayat Samiti and others. They are very responsible people.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: The hon. Minister said that he got confused due to the question. May I know what statement he gave at Bhopal regarding his own performance?

Mr. Speaker: He says the confusion comes in when the hon. Member tacks on to this question: failure about the Agriculture Fair and the selection made of farmers. Why should he anticipate failure here also?

Shri Tyagi: What is the total amount of money allocated for this, the total money for the five years?

Shri S. K. Dey: We have broadly planned Rs. 20 lakhs for the whole period, but we may not be able to get this much.

Shri Tyagi: Will Government take the opinion of Parliament before they

waste Rs. 20 lakhs? It is rather a waste. Have they consulted the Estimates Committee or any other body? Because, such programmes costing twenty and thirty lakhs of rupees are too much in these days of scarcity.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Austerity and economy.

Shri S. K. Dey: If I may mention, we have 120 hon. Members of the two Houses as members of the Consultative Committee. And no vital decision under the Community Development programme is ever taken without the consent and agreement of these people.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: You act on your own.

Shri Tyagi: Twenty lakhs of rupees is too much—it is the tax-payers' money.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. So far as new services of this kind are concerned, the House would be in a position to give expression to its views. If it is a small matter it does not matter. Where hon. Members are interested in seeing that from all parts similar artisans are brought and shown round, they only take exception to enormous expenditure that is proposed. If it is necessary, they will incur the expenditure. Or, if the Government does not bring up a thing, as soon as any hon. Member comes to know that a particular thing is being undertaken, what prevents him from bringing it up before the House? There is no good in merely using the Question Hour for such things. If the Government is not going to bring it up, hon. Members know how to bring it up.

Shri Tyagi: May I know if the Government considered any alternative scheme, say, by way of opening a training centre at a cost of Rs. 20 lakhs rather than waste it?

Shri B. S. Murthy: There is no training centre to be established for Rs. 20 lakhs. Secondly, this is a scheme to be included in the Third Five Year

Plan and the Third Five Year Plan will come up for discussion in this House. When the Parliament sets its seal, then only it will be taken up.

Mr. Speaker: In the meanwhile I would generally say that all scheme of a nature on which hon. Members would be in a position specially to bring to bear their consideration may be placed before the House by the Government itself. What is the harm in Government doing that? But if they do not choose to do so, as soon as any hon. Member comes to know that a particular scheme is afoot and they want to make some observations on it, I have absolutely no objection in allowing a discussion for a short period.

Legislation for Travel Agents

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*970. { Shri Vidya Charan Shukla
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 558 on the 19th August, 1960 and state the progress made in the finalisation of proposed legislation to govern the conduct of travel agents, excursion agents, shikar agents, guides and hoteliers, in their dealings with tourists?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): Proposals in respect of proposed legislation to govern the conduct of travel agents, excursion agents, shikar agents, guides and hoteliers in their dealings with the tourist, which have been drawn up in consultation with the various Ministries of the Central Government, are still being finalised. Since the problems of tourism impinge upon the work of so many other Ministries, State Governments and Travel Trade, the process of enacting an all-India legislation will inevitably take time.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: May I know if from time to time Government receives various complaints about the difficulties that the tourists

and the travel agents face at the State level and, if so, whether Government is devising any liaison organisation to remove these difficulties in future?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We are getting complaints from time to time from certain tourists about certain difficulties that they experience vis-a-vis the various sectors of the tourist industry. It is with a view to regulate the industry, namely, the hotel industry, the shikar agents, the travel trade and others concerned, that we propose to undertake this legislation. We hope that by the legislation when it is enacted we would be able to provide for the liaison that the hon. Member has referred to.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any committees to assist in that?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Yes, Sir. There are official committees and there are also committees or the various associations of the trade. For example, the travel agents have got an all-India travel agents' association, the hotels have got the federation of all-India hotels and restaurants and the shikar agents have also got their association. On the whole the entire liaison between these various wings of the industry is being provided for by the Tourist Development Council and the Regional Tourists Advisory Committee.

Mr. Speaker: These questions would not be brought up here if the hon. Ministers in charge of giving recognition to these associations insist upon those associations to make hon. Members of Parliament in that area honorary members of the association so that they may know from time to time what is happening, get notices of their meetings and try to regulate it. Such details are brought up here because hon. Members are not aware of those institutions there.

Shri Raj Bahadur: He is a member of the Tourist Development Council. We are also answering questions on the floor of the House from time to time. We are placing full information before the various committees,