

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is a matter of policy. We are getting into big questions. Next question.

CENTRAL TOURIST TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*1261. **Shri L. J. Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether there is a Central Tourist Traffic Advisory Committee in India?

(b) If so, what are the functions of the Committee?

(c) How many tourist traffic centres are in India and what are their names?

(d) What is the income from the foreign tourist traffic in India during the year 1952-53?

(e) What are the development schemes for expanding the tourist traffic centres in India?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). Yes. This Committee advises Government on all matters relating to the promotion of tourist traffic in India.

(c) In a country of India's size with a wealth of archaeological monuments the number of places of tourist interest is not inconsiderable. Presumably the hon. Member wants information in respect of places which are generally visited by tourists to this country. If so, the places generally included in their itineraries are Agra, Ajanta-Ellora, Banaras, Bombay, Calcutta, Darjeeling, Delhi, Jaipur, Kashmir, Madras, Mysore and Sanchi.

(d) On the basis of sample surveys conducted by the Reserve Bank of India, the tourist spendings for 1952 have been computed at Rs. 2.5 crores. Figures for January, February and March 1953 are not yet available.

(e) Development of a tourist centre depends upon its accessibility and accommodation facilities available. The provision of these amenities is, however, the concern of the State Governments and the Government of India are at present concentrating only on co-ordination and publicity. The Government of India have, however, in certain special cases subsidised the construction and improvement of roads to important key tourist centres.

Shri L. J. Singh: May I know, Sir, how many foreign tourists visited India in 1952, and how many of them were Americans, how many Russians and how many Chinese?

Shri Alagesan: As far as 1952 is concerned, the total number of tourists was 25,448 of which Americans were 4,889. I do not have just now the figures relating to the other countries, but I can supply them to the hon. Member.

Shri L. J. Singh: May I know whether it is a fact that a tourist office has been opened in New York, and if so, what are the activities of this office?

Shri Alagesan: Its activities are mainly publicity and doing propoganda for seeing our places of tourist importance.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know, Sir, whether there are such offices in countries other than the U.S.A.?

Shri Alagesan: Just now, no, Sir.

Shri Punnoose: May I know, Sir, whether Government are aware that a large number of tourists visit Cape Comorin, and may I know whether it is included as one of the tourist centres?

Shri Alagesan: Cape Comorin is such a beautiful place. Some of them go. But generally the tourists come here on a visit of seven or ten days, and it is not possible to include all these places of interest.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: The hon. Minister has just mentioned that special facilities are made available in Ellora, Ajanta and such other places. May I know what special facilities are made available and also whether any efforts are being made to start dust-proof roads in that area where a large number of tourists come?

Shri Alagesan: I know, Sir, the roads leading to Ajanta and Ellora are not quite good. I hope the State Government will take it up.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know if Government have any special schemes for the development of hill stations for tourist traffic and if they are giving any subsidy for local tourist offices opened in the hill stations?

Shri Alagesan: The development of hill stations as tourist centres was one of the subjects which were considered at a recent conference held with the representatives of the various State Governments. The question of giving subsidy, of course, did not figure, but it is very much under the consideration of the Central Government and the State Governments as well.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know, Sir, if the road from Puri to Konarak

to see the Konarak temple is being subsidised or built entirely by the Government of India?

Shri Alagesan: It is being subsidised to a very great extent. The subsidy is even much more than what we give to others.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What amount of foreign exchange did this industry earn for us in 1952?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It has been given in the answer. Rupees two and half crores.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know if Government consider the advisability of giving a regular cleaning to the stations before the tourist season starts, and renewing posters advertising places of interest in the stations?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: These are all suggestions for action. Everything will be considered by Government.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know, Sir, why, when Trivandrum is connected by air, no places of archaeological interest in Travancore-Cochin are included?

Shri Alagesan: It is not as if they are not included. I only said that the stay of these foreign tourists is rather short and they are not able to visit all the places. We have brought out publicity material regarding Travancore-Cochin and other places as well. It is for them to choose the places where they will go. Of course, we give our advice.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether the tourist organization has got any activities regarding visitors to Kashmir also?

Shri Alagesan: Yes. The Kashmir Government is co-operating with us, and they have opened a tourist centre, and we are providing all publicity and encouragement.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Mettur Dam in Salem District is one of the

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Are we going into all the important places in India?

Shri Punnoose: Are the Government aware that Ooty and Kodaikanal, the two leading hill stations in the South have recently deteriorated due to neglect?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): Tourists do not want to go there.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Already, the hon. Minister has stated that he is

considering the question of hill-stations with the State Government. We cannot go into every one of them in detail here.

Shri L. J. Singh: May I know whether there has been any sitting of the Regional Travel Commission for Asia and the Far East, and if so what were the main items discussed about?

Shri Alagesan: I could not catch the question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member is a little too rapid for us. Will he repeat his question?

Shri L. J. Singh: May I know whether there has been any sitting of the Regional Travel Commission for Asia and the Far East, and if so what were the main items discussed about?

Shri Alagesan: I should like to have notice.

मध्य प्रदेश में छोटी सिंचाई परियोजनाएँ

*१२६२. श्री जांगड़े : साहू तथा कृषि मंत्री बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने वर्ष १९५३-५४ के बारे में अपने राज्य की छोटी सिंचाई परियोजनाओं की सूची केन्द्रीय सरकार को दे दी है ; यदि हाँ, तो सरकार ने उस पर क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): Yes. Four of the schemes have been considered and accepted for financial assistance involving a loan of Rs. 23,45,119 and a grant of Rs. 1,49,665. The fifth is for a programme of special minor irrigation schemes for which a loan of Rs. 1 crore has been asked for. This includes 67 schemes of which 23 have been approved in 1952-53 and a loan of Rs. 44.45 lakhs sanctioned. For the remaining schemes, necessary details showing the economics and productivity have not yet been furnished on receipt of which these will be considered.

श्री जांगड़े : क्या मैं यह जान सकता हूँ कि जिन छोटी योजनाओं के लिये मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने आप के पास में अनुदान या सहायता मांगी है उन योजनाओं से कुल कितने एकड़ जमीन की सिंचाई हो सकेगी ?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I would like to have notice.