

namely in introducing the National Language in the course of the prescribed period given in the Constitution.

TOURISTS DELEGATION FROM U.S.

*1014. **Shri Buchhikotaiah:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Study-and-Learn Tourists Delegation from U.S. had arrived at New Delhi in February, 1953; and

(b) whether they arrived on request made by Indian Government?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). Yes, fourteen leading American Travel Agents arrived in India on February 22nd on the invitation of the Government of India to make a fourteen day study tour and see for themselves the tourist facilities available in India.

Shri Buchhikotaiah: May I know what all places they visited?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: They visited Agra, Jaipur, Aurangabad, Ajanta, Ellora, Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and Darjeeling.

Shri B. S. Murthy: My I know whether they have left back any impressions about India and the toured places?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Before leaving this country they issued a press statement in which they made certain suggestions. They suggested that customs and exchange control restrictions should be relaxed, the number of forms which were to be filled by the incoming tourists were to be simplified, hotel accommodation was good in the places where they went and that the bath room facilities in hotels should be improved.

Shri Buchhikotaiah: Is it a fact that they were allowed to have indulgent photography?

Shri Nanadas: May I know whether Government has spent any money for them and whether Government has provided any facilities for them, and if so, what are those facilities and the amount of money?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The Government has incurred a little over Rs. 8,000 as overall expenses over their tour. They have spent that money here; they have spent a lot more money from their pockets.

Shri Namdhari: Do Government expect any delegation from Russia for bringing back Mr. Gopalan?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That does not arise out of this question.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know what were the special reasons, if any, for which a team of tourists have been invited from United States of America alone?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: There was no special reason for bringing Americans particularly. But, the British Overseas Aviation Company offered to bring a party of 14 American tourists. This is nothing new in this country, it is the custom in other countries, America, France, Belgium, etc., to take tourist parties to other countries and show them the beautiful things in other countries.

VITHALWADI RAILWAY STATION

*1016. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the displaced persons staying in Ulhas Nagar township (Bombay State) have made representations to Government to provide facility for booking of goods and other facilities at the Vithalwadi station;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Chief Traffic Manager in his letter No. Gw. 2561, dated the 21st December, 1951, had replied to Shri Indur Jeswani to the effect that Vithalwadi was included in the 1952-53 programme; and

(c) why there has been delay in carrying out these improvements and when they will be carried out?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) There are two reasons for the delay. Firstly, the consent of the Military Department to the removal of the Military Siding which is necessary for carrying out the improvements, has only now been received. Secondly, an alternative proposal has been under consideration for the provision of a new station between Vithalwadi and Ambernath which it is believed would be convenient for a portion of the Refugee Township. The financial implications of the alternative proposals are under examination. If it is finally decided to provide this new station then the improvements at Vithalwadi will require certain amendments.