

TOURISTS

***703. Shri Amjad Ali:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a rest camp in the Kazirenga Forests Game Sanctuary of Assam for tourists to see the rare species of animals; and

(b) what facilities are now provided to tourists in Assam to see various places of interest in that State?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) There is a furnished Inspection Bungalow at Baguri near Kazirenga where visitors to the Sanctuary can stay.

(b) The important places of tourist interest in Assam are Shillong, where good hotels exist, the Kazirenga Wild Life Sanctuary, where there is an Inspection Bungalow nearby, and the Manas i.e. the North Kamrup Game Sanctuary where suitable arrangements for the stay of visitors are made if advance notice is given to the State Forest Department.

Shri Amjad Ali: Arising out of part (a) of my question, what are the rare species of animals that tourists are expected to see in the Kazirenga Game Sanctuary of Assam?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid this is going much beyond the scope of the question.

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: I can tell him.

Mr. Speaker: He may tell him; but it is not within the scope of the question.

Shri Amjad Ali: It is specifically mentioned in my question 'to see the rare species of animals'.

Mr. Speaker: It does not mean—as I could read the language—giving a whole list and a description.

Shri Amjad Ali: May I know what facilities in the nature of pamphlets, books and other propaganda leaflets

—as has been done in the case of Kashmir and Kulu—have been provided with regard to the State of Assam to give the tourists an idea of what objects of interest they can see in Assam and for development of tourist trade in the country?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: I believe no specific literature is being published in respect of sanctuaries in Assam, but there is a general type of pamphlet that is published in regard to various places of interest, particularly for those who are interested in seeing wild life.

Shri Amjad Ali: Has there been any attempt to build tourist trade in that side of the country?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): The Assam Government is taking interest in that matter. If they want any help from us regarding literature, etc., we will be most willing to give it.

SLEEPING TABLETS

***704. Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) what kinds of sleeping tablets are in use in India;

(b) how many of these are manufactured in India and how many are imported from other countries; and

(c) whether the habit of taking these is on the increase or on the decrease?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) The following kinds of sleeping tablets are commonly used in India:

- (1) Barbiturates and
- (2) Alkaloids of opium.

(b) Barbiturates are imported. Alkaloids of opium are manufactured in India.

(c) It is not possible to express any definite views in the matter. The imports, however, show a progressive decline and no complaints have been

received by Government that this habit is on the increase.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know, Sir, if the WHO is contemplating to conduct an enquiry into the use of sleeping tablets in India as they have done in Europe?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: I have no information, Sir.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know, Sir, if the sleeping tablets that are in use in India have been analysed by any research laboratories?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: All the drugs are analysed.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know, Sir, if the Minister is aware of the fact that the use of sleeping tablets is like addiction to drugs and whether the Ministry is going to educate the public about the pernicious effects of these tablets?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: These tablets are issued to the public only under medical practitioner's certificates.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Are Government aware that drugs like Gardinal are sold free to people and there have been cases already of over-dosage and death. Especially, when people want to commit suicide such drugs are used.

Mr. Speaker: Order. order.

RAILWAY PORTERS

*705. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what action Government have taken on the representation made by the Delhi railway porters on the 5th of August, 1953?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): The hon. Member is presumably referring to

the representation headed "A Memorandum on the demands of the licensed porters working in Delhi for consideration of Members of Parliament" submitted by the Railway Coolie Union, Delhi, a copy of which was sent to the Minister for Transport and Railways. A statement indicating the results of the examination made of the various demands of the Railway Coolie Union, Delhi Jn. is placed on the Table of the House with reference to an undertaking given in reply to one of supplementary questions asked in connection with Starred Question No. 1088 on the 7th September, 1953. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 3.]

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know, Sir, if the railway porters are not railway servants, under what category do they come?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: They are not railway servants; they are licensees.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know, Sir, what is the difference between a railway servant and a Licensee, as my hon. friend is trying to make out?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): He is engaged by a contractor; therefore, he is not a railway employee. He is not directly paid by the railway.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know, Sir, whether Government are aware of the evil effects of the contract system under which these railway porters are engaged?

Shri L. B. Shastri: We are aware of that. We consulted several unions at different places and they have not favoured the proposal of the contract system being dropped and the decasualisation system being introduced.

Shri D. C. Sharma: What efforts are Government making to overcome the evil effects of the contract system?

Shri L. B. Shastri: It is for the coolies to agree first.