

Shri L. B. Shastri: The Regional Commission has so far not done much. It is now proposed to take definite steps to expand the work.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, what are the countries that are represented on this Commission?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Australia, Cambodia, Ceylon, India, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Burma, Hong Kong, Malaya, Singapore, Thailand and a few other countries.

Shri Punnoose: May I know, Sir, the total expenditure that the Government have to bear for this Conference?

Shri L. B. Shastri: About Rs. 8,000.

TOURIST TRAFFIC ORGANISATION

*1586. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred by Government in running the tourist Traffic Organisation and connected offices and Committees during the years 1949-50, 1950-51 and 1951-52;

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to assess the result of setting up of these organisations and Committees;

(c) whether the sample surveys in respect of tourist earnings undertaken by the Reserve Bank of India have been completed; and

(d) if so, what are the findings of the surveys made?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) The total expenditure incurred on the Tourist Traffic Organisation and on Advisory Committees during 1949-50, 1950-51 and 1951-52 was Rs. 1,500, Rs. 1,05,935 and Rs. 1,25,750 respectively.

(b) Periodical reports are called for from the Regional Tourist Officers, Honorary Regional Tourist Officers and Indian Missions abroad. Occasionally reports are also received from individual tourists regarding their impressions about tourist facilities in India. Special arrangements have also been made to collect statistics of tourist arrivals in India through the agency of the Collectors of Customs. These statistics show an upward trend in the flow of tourist traffic.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, whether the hon. Minister is in a position to state the number of tourists that visited India during these periods?

Shri L. B. Shastri: About 20 thousands.

Shri B. Shiva Rao: With reference to part (a) of the question, how much of this expenditure has been incurred on the opening of Centres in New York?

Shri L. B. Shastri: We have so far opened no special Centre in New York. But the other day we have decided to open a new Centre in New York.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether all the tourist officers contemplated to be appointed, have been appointed?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Yes, they have been appointed.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether the tourists travelling in India are exempted from the prohibition rules?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Yes.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What was the amount of exchange earned on account of this industry?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Sample surveys are being made by the Reserve Bank of India and we have not received the report of the Reserve Bank so far.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know if there are any other agencies in Europe to encourage tourist travel in India besides the centre contemplated for New York?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Our missions abroad are doing considerable work in this connection and they have been helping us a great deal.

INDO-PERSIAN AIR TREATY

*1587. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed Indo-Persian Air Treaty talks have come to a close;

(b) if so, with what result; and

(c) the personnel of the Indian delegation sent and the expenditure incurred for the talks?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). The hon. Member's attention is invited to the replies given to parts (b) and (c) of Dr. Ram Subhag Singh's Question No. 661 on the 10th June 1952. There has been no further development.