

(b) The main aims and objects of the proposed Company would be to provide a Central Body representative of the Senior Officers for the purpose of developing and promoting the traditions, efficiency and the interests of the Merchant Navy and also to raise the status of Merchant Navy Officers.

#### TOURISM

\*1615. **Dr. Rama Rao**: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Government has sent in any proposals or request for the development of tourism in Andhra;

(b) the steps the Central Government have taken for the development of tourism in Andhra; and

(c) the number of tourist offices opened by the Government in Andhra and where?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan)**: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Guide to South India (Madras and Andhra) brought out by the Ministry of Transport in March 1954, gives a detailed description of all the tourist centres in Andhra. Certain proposals to promote tourist traffic to Andhra are also being considered for inclusion in the Second Five Year Plan.

(c) The Government of India have not opened any tourist office in Andhra.

**Dr. Rama Rao**: In view of the forthcoming Buddha Jayanti celebrations, may I know what steps the Government are taking to encourage tourist traffic to Nagarjunakonda and Amravati in Andhra?

**Shri Alagesan**: If I remember aright, the question is being put for the 12th time, and I have already answered on prior occasions that the centres that are chosen for the purpose of pilgrimage by foreign Buddhists all lie in the U. P. and Bihar areas. No other centre has been chosen for this purpose.

**Shri B. S. Murthy**: May I know whether the Andhra State has made any representation as regards Nagarjunakonda being included in the places to be visited by the foreign visitors during the Buddha Jayanti and, if so, what action has been taken on that representation?

**Shri Alagesan**: The criterion was that the places with which Lord Buddha himself was connected when he was alive are chosen—Nagarjunakonda and places similar to Nagarjunakonda—were not connected with the life of Buddha, as such. They are important places where the Buddha's disciples and other leaders of Buddhism lived.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### RAILWAY OUT-AGENCIES

1585. **Chaudhuri Muhammed Shafie**: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the nature of complaints received by Government against the Railway Out-agencies in India in 1955; and

(b) the action taken by Government in this connection?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan)**: (a) Complaints received during 1955 against the Railway Out-agencies related to irregularities in the booking of passengers, goods and parcels and delivery of goods and parcels and pertained largely to aspects such as irregular bus services, pilferage from consignments, demand for illegal gratification, collection of charges in excess, rude and objectionable behaviour of the out-agency staff and the inconvenient situation of the out-agency offices.

(b) The complaints were examined and where substantiated or justified suitable remedial action was taken.