

schemes for boring and deepening of existing wells, installation of pump sets and restoration of tanks.

(ii) Likewise, preference should be given to the schemes which would readily result in increased utilisation of irrigation facilities and in substantial increase in the acreage under irrigated crops.

(iii) The State Governments should organise intensive training programmes in soil conservation and research and investigations for problem areas in the State.

(iv) The panchayats should be empowered to enforce obligations of the cultivators to maintain the contour bunds and waterways in good repair.

(c) Yes.

(d) The State Agricultural Ministers approved these measures and promised to accelerate the pace of minor irrigation and soil conservation schemes.

(e) The other items discussed in the above mentioned meeting were:—

(i) Programme of improved seeds for foodgrains, cotton, oil-seeds and jute.

(ii) Promotional campaign for utilisation of fertilisers.

(iii) Locust situation and locust operations.

(iv) Plant protection measures other than locust operations.

(v) Bio-gas plant.

The State Agricultural Ministers promised their full cooperation in taking suitable measures for increasing agricultural production.

Panchayati Raj

610. Shri Bishanchander Seth: Will the Minister of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to amend the Panchayati Raj Act governing the working of Panchayats in Union Territories;

(b) if so, the reasons for such amendment; and

(c) when it is likely to be amended?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Cooperation (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Tourist Development Council

611. { Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Narendra Singh Mahida:
Shri Himat Singka:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations of the sixth meeting of the Tourist Development Council held recently at Ootacamund for the development of tourist industry; and

(b) the reactions of Government on such recommendations?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) At its sixth meeting held at Ootacamund, on the 28th and 29th of September, 1962, the Tourist Development Council made the following recommendations:—

(i) For dealing with Tourist matters, the State Governments should create a separate Department under the charge of a full-time senior officer, designated as Director Tourism.

(ii) To ensure better management and efficient functioning of the Tourist Bungalows and Rest Houses etc., the State Governments should set up a properly manned House keeping section, within their Tourist Department.

(iii) The State Governments should furnish to the Central Government complete information regarding their achievements in the Second Plan and the targets fixed during the Third Plan for Tourism.

(iv) In stressing the need for carrying out the integrated development of selected tourist centres and/or areas, the Council recommended to the State Governments to give proper consideration to the Master Plans to be prepared by the Working Group of experts set up by the Central Tourist Department.

(v) The State Governments should provide reasonable civic amenities at local tourist centres from their own resources.

(vi) The State Governments should review the problem of promoting tourist traffic to Hill Stations with particular reference to the need of augmenting cheaper accommodation facilities for the middle income group tourists. The important measures recommended in this regard were:—

1. Staggering of holidays in schools and colleges etc.

2. Setting up a Central Accommodation Agency at each Hill Station.

3. Provision of facilities for renting accommodation for shorter periods.

(vii) The State Governments should ensure that shooting blocks are not reserved for unrecognised Shikar Outfitters, when acting on behalf of Foreign Tourists and that proper control is kept over approved Shikar Outfitters.

(viii) There should be closer co-ordination in the publicity programme of the Central Government and the State Governments.

(ix) Tourist Publicity should be carried out in a larger measure through the media of the External Services of A.I.R.

(x) The earlier recommendation of the council to license medium sized cars as tourist taxis should be implemented by the few States which had not done so as yet.

(xi) To implement the scheme to issue All India Liquor Permits to foreign tourists, necessary changes in Rules should be expeditiously carried out by those States which had not done so as yet.

(xii) The State Governments should nominate non-official members of the Tourist Development Council on their State Tourist Development Boards.

(xiii) The State Governments should set up a Tourist Development Committees at the more important tourist centres in their State and associate the local representatives of the travel trade and other local prominent non-officials with the deliberations of such committees.

(b) The recommendations made by the Tourist Development Council are regarded by Government as important and vital steps necessary for the promotion of tourist traffic in the country.

The Tourist Development Council has been constituted by Government and therefore Government is a party to its recommendations. An officer of the Tourist Department is responsible for watching the progress in the implementation of the recommendations made in each State.

Earning from Tourists

612. { Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Narendra Singh Mahida:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state the amount earned from the tourists during the Third Plan Period so far?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): The