

want to raise an inter-regional controversy and did not want to refer to it.

To say that we are developing Mangalore at the cost of Cochin would be false.

**SHRI S. C. SAMANTA :** What will be the overall foreign exchange component required for the completion of this scheme and is any attempt being made to avoid incurring this foreign exchange, as has been done in the case of Haldia ?

**DR. V. K. R. V. RAO :** That is what we are trying to do. That is why we are placing orders with the Garden Reach Workshop, but of course they will require some foreign exchange component for constructing the dredgers.

**SHRI S. C. SAMANTA :** I asked about the overall foreign exchange component required.

**DR. V. K. R. V. RAO :** I cannot give a detailed answer, but I can certainly tell him that we are trying our best to see that the overall foreign exchange component is minimised to the maximum possible extent.

**SHRI SHIVAJI RAO S. DESHMUKH :** I think the House very well appreciates that the paucity of funds for the alleged development of Cochin port arises out of lack of earnings by the Port Trust itself. The port of Bombay has so far accumulated Rs. 40 crores out of its own earnings and it caters for almost 50 per cent of the import-export trade. There has been an insistent and consistent demand for the establishment of an auxiliary port at Nhava Sheva. What comes in the way of establishing such a port out of Bombay Port's own earnings ?

**MR. SPEAKER :** I disallow it ; Cochin to Bombay is a long way.

**SHRI VISWAMBHARAN :** The Minister just now said that the programmes submitted by the Port Trust amounted in cost to Rs. 33.53 crores and the working group has reduced it to Rs. 15.54 crores.

These proposals are said to be under the consideration of the Planning Com-

mission, and then the Government have to consider these proposals. So, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the consideration of the Planning Commission is to further reduce the amount, and whether Government will see that it is not further reduced ?

Secondly, till a few years ago, passenger steamers used to call at Cochin port, but now due to lack of transit shed facilities, passenger steamers are not stopping at Cochin. May I know from the hon. Minister whether adequate transit shed facilities will be made available at Cochin port so that passenger steamers may also call at that port ?

**DR. V. K. R. V. RAO :** Regarding the first question, I am afraid Government is not in a position to tell the Planning Commission what it should do when it considers proposals. Of course, Government always has the right to take its own decisions on the recommendations of the Planning Commission.

Regarding the second question, this has been discussed for a long time. We have asked the Port Trust as well as the Government to give us recent revised traffic estimates to show whether it will be economic or not. The information available so far does not appear to show that it is economic, and passenger vessels do not want to call there, but because of the interest of the public in the matter, we have asked for a fresh enquiry about the estimated traffic.

**SHRI THIRUMALA RAO :** We are told there are two dredgers, Lord and Lady Willingdon. I want to know by what criteria they have fixed the sex of these dredgers.

**DR. V. K. R. V. RAO :** I have to ask for notice of that question.

Ashoka Hotels Ltd., New Delhi

+

\*581. **SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD :**

**SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH :**  
**SHRI MEETHA LAL MEENA :**

**SHRI D. N. DEB :**

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been invited to a press report in the 'Organiser' Weekly of the 28th September, 1968 regarding functioning of the Ashoka Hotels Ltd., New Delhi ;

(b) whether in the report serious allegations of wastage, corruption, maladministration have been made against the management ; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRIMATI JAHANARA JAIPAL SINGH) :** (a) and (b). Yes, sir.

(c) The management of the hotel has examined the various points made and taken remedial action wherever called for.

**SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD :** What was the honorarium paid to the former Chairman, Mr. HimmatSingji, and what are the details of the other facilities given to him, and how much loss had to be sustained by the Ashoka Hotel ?

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) :** There was no honorarium given because it was an honorary job, but certain expenditure was incurred. He was given free board and lodging, food and so on. He was a person who resided normally in Bombay, and as Chairman—he is not Chairman now—when he came to Delhi, he was put up at the Ashoka Hotel and his expenses there were met.

**SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD :** What were the other facilities given to him ?

**DR. KARAN SINGH :** The facilities were board and lodging, food, laundry, telephone and newspapers.

**SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD :** May I know whether the former Chairman had anything to do with the proposal regarding the erection of the revolving tower and the factors responsible for the delay in the final execution of the project ?

**DR. KARAN SINGH :** The revolving tower idea really dates back from before the time of the previous Chairman. The work was held up as result of certain strictures passed by a Committee of Parliament. An enquiry was instituted by Government and the report of the enquiry has been received by us about two or three weeks ago. We are now processing that report, and I am anxious that we should take a decision with regard to the tower as early as possible.

**श्री बिसूति मिश्र :** यह जो रिवाल्विंग टावर बनाया जायेगा उस पर कितना खर्चा प्रायेगा और उससे कितनी आमदनी होगी और भारत जैसे गरीब देश के लिए उसकी क्या आवश्यकता थी ?

**डा० कर्ण सिंह :** जहाँ तक खर्च का सवाल है टोटल कास्ट रिवाइज्ड 47 लाख रुपये की है। उसमें से 8 लाख 37 हजार रुपया खर्च दिया गया है। जो घूमने वाला इन्विपमेंट है वह जापान में बन कर तैयार है। उसे हमें यहाँ लाना है और ला कर उसके ऊपर और 10 लाख रुपये हम को खर्च करने पड़ेंगे, तब वह पूरा होगा।

**श्री बिसूति मिश्र :** आमदनी क्या होगी ?

**डा० कर्ण सिंह :** माननीय सदस्य वहाँ जा कर भोजन करेंगे तो हमारी आमदनी बढ़ेगी।

**श्री बिसूति मिश्र :** जब आपने इसको बनाने का विचार किया था तब कुछ तो प्रदाया लगाया होगा कि इतनी हमारी आमदनी बढ़ जायेगी। इतना आपने फारेन एक्सचेंज खर्च किया है। क्या कोई अनुमान नहीं लगाया है कि इतनी प्रापकी आमदनी बढ़ेगी ?

**डा० कर्ण सिंह :** वहाँ एक रेस्टोराँ होने वाला है। हम चाहते हैं कि उस में भोजन बढ़ा स्वादिष्ट मिले और क्योंकि वह रेस्टोराँ घूमेगा इस लिए हमारी आशा यह है कि बहुत लोग वहाँ जायेंगे। एक आकर्षण होगा जो उनको वहाँ ले जायेगा। वहाँ के जायेंगे। भोजन

जितना अधिक लोग वहां लायेंगे इतनी अधिक हमारी आमदनी होगी। इस समय इसके बारे में कुछ कहना कठिन है।

**श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :** खाना लायेंगे या चक्कर लायेंगे ?

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** Apart from having a revolving tower they want to compare it with Oberoi or Skylark. I would like to know whether it is a fact that a big conference room which was constructed during the UNCTAD Conference here is actually lying vacant and nobody takes that room because the rent for a day is exorbitant. I would like to know how this recurring financial loss really to maintain that hall is going to be stopped and whether the rate will be reduced so that conferences can be held in that particular hall.

**DR. KARAN SINGH :** It is not correct to say that this beautiful hall is lying vacant. In fact I spent last night three hours there listening to some very excellent Indian classical music. This conference hall is one of the best, in fact, the best hall in Delhi. It was used just recently for the geographers' conference. On three successive days there were cultural performances there. It is an additional asset to the capital.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** What about reducing the rent ?

**DR. KARAN SINGH :** I do not know exactly what is the rent for the hall. But I can say that it is being used and it is a source of income to us because we hope that international conferences will be held there in future also.

**SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR :** In this article it was alleged that the occupancy record of this hotel is only 25%. In answer to a previous question, the figure was reported to be somewhat higher. But it was still unsatisfactory. May I know the reason why the occupancy figure of this hotel is so low ? Is it due to the high tariff rate or for some other reason ?

**DR. KARAN SINGH :** The latest

occupancy figure that I have is that in the first 15 days of November it was 56%. As I said in the House before we are not fully satisfied with the occupancy of Ashoka and therefore the new management is taking active steps to improve it in every way and I am hopeful that within the next 6 or 8 months we will see a marked improvement.

**SHRI R. K. AMIN :** The Minister said that the Chairman is given lodging and boarding when he is here. Am I to understand that only on that day the room was given and it was not reserved for him permanently for all the 365 days in a year ?

**DR. KARAN SINGH :** I do not have the information.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Already 44% are vacant.

**SHRI R. BARUA :** Having spent a lot of money on the revolving tower, the construction was stopped in the midway. Now nothing is being done. How is it that the Government went on with the work without a complete plan and a complete concept of the whole thing ? How is he going to explain the losses sustained on account of the stoppage ?

**DR. KARAN SINGH :** As I submitted there was a complete project. But the work was stopped because a committee of Parliament made certain recommendations, certain strictures about it. We thought that before we should proceed with it, it has got to be looked into completely. But now that the report has been received, we are actively processing it and I am hopeful that we should be able to restart work there.

**SHRI M. L. SONDHU :** During the incumbency of the previous Chairman, the outstanding bills in the hotel mounted up, and certain expensive consultancy services were purchased and labour relations deteriorated. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he accepts the principle that the Chairman should be held responsible for these essential aspects of administration and whether he has provided any guidelines to the new Chairman to avoid the serious mistakes made by the last Chairman ?

**DR. KARAN SINGH :** Certainly, attempts are being made by the new management to look into all the lacunae that exist in the hotel, whether those lacunae were found in the time of the previous Chairman or even before that. We are trying to look into them.

---

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

**Highways in Mysore**

\*571. **SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :**  
**SHRI A. SREEDHARAN :**

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) the steps the Government of India have taken to improve the National Highways in Mysore State during 1966-67; and

(b) the financial allocation made for the purpose during that year ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (SHRI BHAKT DARSHAN) :**  
(a) Seventy-one works, whose estimated cost comes to 1.68 crores of rupees, were in progress. In addition to them, four new works, estimated to cost rupees ten lakhs, were sanctioned during the year 1966-67.

(b) A sum of rupees 34.83 lakhs was allotted to Mysore State for the improvement of National Highways during that year.

**Demand for Autonomy for Hill Areas of Darjeeling**

\*577. **SHRI B. K. DASCHOW-DHURY :** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a serious development in the hill areas of Darjeeling on the question of autonomy of these areas ;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the demand for autonomy was strengthened after the recent decision regarding the Assam reorganisation ;

(c) if so, whether Government are considering the demand ;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ;

(e) whether people have started agitating on this question ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) :** (a) to (e). In October, 1966 some deputations had met the Prime Minister and raised the question of autonomy for the hill areas of Darjeeling on the lines recommended for the Hill Areas of Assam by the Pataskar Commission. The Prime Minister, while appreciating the need for development of this area, did not consider the suggestion feasible. The demand for autonomy is occasionally voiced in this area at public meetings but Government's views in the matter remains as before.

**मोटरगाड़ियों पर नम्बर प्लेटों के बारे में मोटर गाड़ी अधिनियम का संशोधन**

\*578. **श्री राम स्वल्प विद्यार्थी :**  
**डा० सुशीला भंडार :**

क्या परिवहन तथा मौबहन मंत्री 2 अगस्त, 1968 के तारंकित प्रश्न संख्या 288 के उत्तर के संबंध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) मोटर गाड़ियों की नम्बर प्लेटों के संबंध में वर्तमान मोटरगाड़ी अधिनियम में आवश्यक संशोधन करने के प्रश्न पर विचार किया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो प्रस्तावित संशोधन का व्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो बिलम्ब के क्या कारण है और उक्त अधिनियम में किस तिथि तक संशोधन किये जाने की संभावना है ?

**परिवहन तथा मौबहन मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री जगत बर्दान) :** (क) से (ग). मामला अभी भी विचाराधीन है, क्योंकि राज्य सरकारों के विचारों पर ध्यान देना है और अन्तर्विभागीय परामर्श की भी आवश्यकता है ।

**Air India**

\*579. **SHRI PREM CHAND VERMA :** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) in which year the Air India was