

material is not available and it is not set up at a place where raw material is available. I had sought information in this regard during the last Session also. At that time, Government had stated that factories had been set up at other places. Factories are located in developed areas and Government is trying to meet their requirements insofar as raw material is concerned. Government should accede to my request so that I am in a position to discharge my duties as a representative of my constituency.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN : This is my reply in regard to the units already set up. The suggestion given by Hon. Member will be fully taken care of at the time of sanctioning any fresh capacity in future.

SHRIMATI USHA VARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a proposal to set up a paper mill in Lakhimpur-Kheri has already been accepted, but no follow-up action has so far been taken. I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether it has been reviewed.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMOD KHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have no information available with me about it.

SHRI MANVENDER SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the policy of the Government is to set up industries in each district to promote industrialisation in rural areas and provide jobs to more and more people. An oil refinery has been set up in Mathura, but most of the jobs available in the refinery were of technical nature as a result of which the chances of employment of the local people in the refinery have been reduced. I request the Hon. Minister to set up job-oriented industries in the area so that more and more people can be provided employment.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Government is interested in rapid industrialisation particularly in backward areas. Government also want that

production should gradually increase so that more and more people can be provided employment. If any definite suggestion is made by the Hon. Member, that will also be considered.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Raw material required for manufacturing paper is available in abundance in Achhempet taluka of Mehboobnagar district in Andhra Pradesh and it is sent to other places from there. I would like to know whether Government propose to set up a paper factory there ?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Government has no such proposal at present.

MR. SPEAKER : I have recollected something. Before Question No. 59 relating to Ratnagiri is taken up, I would like to know from the Professor as to when he is going to fulfil his promise ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I have once fulfilled; now again I will fulfil it.

MR. SPEAKER : That has already been digested.

[English]

Central Assistance for Development of
Tourist Centres in Maharashtra

*59. **PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri Districts of the Konkan region of Maharashtra with their beautiful natural surroundings of the West Coast, provide an ideal site for tourist centres; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to give assistance to develop tourist centres in this region that are expected to fetch foreign exchange through growing tourism ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Ganapatipule in the Ratnagiri District of Maharashtra is one of the centres identified by the Maharashtra Government for development in a phased manner.

The State Government has already constructed some residential accommodation for pilgrims and a restaurant at Ganapatipule. At present the Central Government has no proposal for the development of Sindhudurg.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : This question is regarding the tourist centres to be set up on beautiful sites of Konkan area, particularly Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri districts. If you go through the reply that is given, you will find that the question relates to centres of natural beauty and all that. The answer is so dry and prosaic and I object to the manner in which the reply is given.

MR. SPEAKER : Make it more beautiful next time.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Let the reply be beautiful. And the implementation should be more beautiful.

Sir, as far as these two districts and for that matter, the entire Konkan Region is concerned, the reply says that Ganapatipule in the Ratnagiri District of Maharashtra is one of the centres identified by the Maharashtra Government for development in a phased manner. Again, there is no reference to central assistance at all. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether he is aware of the fact that especially in the district to which I have made a reference in this question, there are a

number of sites near the sea coast which are known for their natural beauty. As a result of that, a number of films, Hindi as well as Marathi, have chosen these sites as the ideal places for screening the films.

MR. SPEAKER : Shooting or screening ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I am sorry, shooting. Screening is done in the theatre and the theatre is equally beautiful. Fortunately we have in our House, Shrimati Vyjayanthimala and other artists also. You can ascertain from them whether what I have stated is a fact or not.

MR. SPEAKER : I should also propose some sort of film company there!

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Since a number of films are shot on this Western Coast Sir, in addition to that, very fine resorts can be built in this area and as a result of that we are likely to get a good deal of foreign exchange. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister, in view of the fact that the State funds and resources are not adequate for developing such tourist centres in such a beautiful area, will he re-examine the issue and try to give better financial resources to develop these tourist centres.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT : Mr. Speaker Sir, the Hon. Member must be aware of the fact that Planning Commission had expressed the opinion that it was not possible for the Tourism Department to develop all the tourist centres at a time in a vast country like ours. It was, therefore, decided that the schemes relating to development of places which attracted domestic tourists will be taken up by the concerned State Governments and the schemes relating to the development of spots which attracted foreign tourists and which were of national importance

will be taken up by the Tourism Department of the Central Government. Taking all these things into consideration, our Department conducted a survey of the entire country in 1981-82 with the co-operation of the State Governments. On the basis of the survey, 61 travel circuits were created. I think the Hon. member will be aware of it. These travel circuits identified 441 spots for development.

One of the travel circuits is known as Bombay-Murad-Janjira-Ganapatipule Vengurla Travel Circuit. When the State Government sent us any proposal duly approved by the Travel Circuit, our effort was to give priority to only those proposals which were of national importance and in which we could be of some help to them. That is why we have stated in our reply to the question that no such proposal is pending with us for consideration at present.

In spite of this, I would like to inform the Hon. Member that Tourism Development Corporation of Maharashtra Government proposed to construct a holiday resort at Vengurla and Sumantwala and they intend to start work on the project very soon. Private Sector is also being encouraged and efforts are being made to construct a motel in Kudal. It is also situated in Sindhudurg. The State Government is taking up some such schemes. Moreover, if any proposal is sent to us, we will consider it sympathetically keeping in view the feelings expressed by the Hon. Member.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister has stated in his reply that State Government is responsible for developing new centres which attracted domestic tourists but for development of those centres which attracted foreign tourists mainly the Central Government will be responsible. I would like to point out for the information of the Hon. Minister that insofar as Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg are concerned, fortunately the new Prime Minister has

recently visited this area. I want to apprise him of the fact that this area and the district is situated adjacent to Goa and like Goa this area also attract many tourists from abroad. I would like to know whether, keeping this fact in view, the Hon. Minister will provide more funds for developing the area on the basis of guidelines laid down in this regard and whether an expert committee will be set up with a view to developing the area at least from the point of view of tourist centre although this area has been backward industrially also. I want to know whether this work will be taken in hand by the Tourism Department of the Centre.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, once earlier also I had submitted that our area was best suited for mango plantation. Research should be carried out to promote mango plantation there. You had once expressed your wish to taste the mangoes grown there, and I had sent you the same. If you want to see the natural beauty of that place, I am prepared to take you to my constituency.

MR. SPEAKER : Mango is grown there and I want to go there to taste it.

Hon. Minister, you have listened to him and now please listen to me also. The natural beauty of Lakshmangarh and Fatehpur in Sikar is worth seeing and people come from outside to see these places. Steps should be taken to develop these places also.

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, now I know where the flaw is ! The Hon. Member sent a basket of mangoes to you and I did not have a chance to taste the same. I am, therefore unable to give my opinion about it.

The suggestions made by the Hon. Member including the one about setting up a committee have been noted. We will write to the State Govern-

ments in this regard and seek full details from them.

I would also like to point out that our Prime Minister is in charge of this Ministry. He is also interested that our domestic tourism should grow. Our Ministry is, therefore, seriously considering over it. We will try to help the State Government in developing other beauty spots also in the State.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The state Government has the sense of beauty but no resources.

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT : We hope that our plan allocations in the future will be about three times more than the allocations in previous years and as such we will be able to pay more attention to the proposals of the State Governments.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you go to see Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg on the sea-coast from Bombay to Goa stretching over 400 miles, you will find Ganapatipule in Sindhudurg district at a distance of about 100-150 miles from Bombay. The Sindhudurg Port on Bombay-Goa sea coast was built by Chhatrapati Shivaji. This port has submerged in the sea. The stones used in the port are so heavy that they cannot be lifted by our cranes. It is surrounded by both salt and sweet water. This is the wonder of the world. It is dotted with coconut and other trees. It is a historical monument and also beautiful. I am telling this from my personal experience because I had been living there. I would like to know whether Government propose to develop Sindhudurg also and whether Government will spend some money on the development of these places also as suggested by Prof. Madhu Dandavate. Both these places are beautiful tourist spots. I want to know whether Government intend to allocate some funds with a view to developing these places as tourist spots keeping in view the high esteem in which Shivaji is held by

the people of Maharashtra and Goa ?

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT : As far as the suggestions given by the Hon. Member are concerned, I have already stated that a scheme will be formulated to see that the entire area is developed in phases.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, decision has since been taken to develop and beautify places of natural beauty. Will similar arrangements be made to beautify places where big industrial complexes have come up like Mirzapur where power generation plant with a capacity of 10 000 megawatts is being set up and where power generation to the extent of 5,000 megawatts has already started, because people from the various countries of the world with which we have collaboration visit these project sites ? I want to know whether any special provision will be made in the Seventh Five Year Plan for the beautification of these places and to make them tourist spots particularly in view of the fact that the project authorities did not set apart funds for beautification of these places ?

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT : The suggestion given by the Hon. Member is perhaps not covered by the main question because he is asking about some industry which was being set up there... ..(Interruptions)...

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : I have mentioned Obra and Renukoot.

[English]

SHRI MANIK SANYAL : I would like to know from the Minister of Tourism regarding our North Bengal District where many beautiful spots are there, and if tourism is developed I think it would not only attract the tourists but it would also earn some foreign exchange. In this respect I would like to know whether Government will consider this to develop tourism.