

a thought as to how far is it justified to ruin the plastic industry, which is helping the country march forward, by giving protection to the jute industry? After all, those engaged in plastic industry are also workers. It should not happen that at one place jobs are given to 2000 workers while at other place, 2000 workers are rendered unemployed.

[English]

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : The jute industry is a very old and traditional industry. It occupies a very important position in our national economy. It supports as many as four million agricultural workers and the industrial workers' number may be anything upto 2.5 lakhs. So we want that this industry should not be put at a disadvantage when compared with the packaging materials from the synthetic sector.

Of late, a large number of synthetic substitutes have appeared for packaging and the Government's view point is that a proper adjustment between the requirements of the jute packaging as well as synthetic packaging is absolutely necessary and it should be undertaken. We are proposing a legislation. We have introduced it, the Rajya Sabha has passed it to make jute packages compulsory in certain industries.

I will go further than what the Member wants. It is not a question of protecting them. We want a very integrated development of synthetic packaging sector as well as the jute sector. We have brought a legislation. It will come before this House very soon in which we will try to see what percentage of packaging in a particular industry should go to jute and other things. We are conscious of the situation and we will see that the interests of both the sectors are properly protected and coordinated.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : I appreciate that the Government is committed to diversification of jute manufacture and thus to increase the proportion of non-traditional manufactures. I would like to ask about two particular items; firstly about the possibility of production of rough paper from jute stock and secondly about the research in USA about the possibility of developing

canal lining impregnating jute fabric with synthetics. I would like to know about the possibility of manufacture of jute paper and canal lining from jute.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : I am not sure as to how much of the jute stocks which are thrown away any way or even the rough type of jute is used in the paper industry. I have no idea as to what is happening on that front.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : I would like to know whether the inner *danthal* which is burnt today can be used for paper.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : I don't think we have come to that stage where it is profitable. In any case, our research organisation has not gone in a big way in this respect. If the paper research institute goes into this, we would be very happy to help them.

As regards lining, even now we have developed very thick mesh lining for sand stabilisation, stabilisation of canal banks, railway banks and we have drawn specifications and we are trying to promote it in the various authorities. This aspect is very well before us and we have gone pretty far in that.

Projection of India as an all weather destination for foreign tourists

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434. **SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA :**
SHRIMATI JAYANTI

PATNAIK :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether different parts of India having a varied climate throughout the year offer ideal opportunities for development of all weather tourism;

(b) if so, how this tourist attraction is projected abroad to draw foreign tourists; and

(c) if the measures followed so far have not yielded results, whether any new approach is being contemplated?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SYED) : (a) Yes, Sir. With the diversity of varied weather conditions in different parts of India, the country offers ideal opportunities as an all weather destination. Accordingly, India is being promoted abroad as 'A land for all seasons'.

(b) Steps are being taken to promote India as an all weather destination by offering special packages. Efforts are also being made to promote various types of special interest tourism like winter sports, beach tourism, adventure tourism, conference and conventions etc. The continental dimension and the various attractions in different parts of the country are also being emphasised in the overseas publicity programme to project India as an all weather destination.

(c) These special on-going programmes to promote India as a year round destination with diversity of weather and climate caters to the taste of individual international tourists. The increase in the tourist arrival figures from 836, 908 in 1985 to 1080, 050 in 1986 recording an increase of 29.1 per cent itself is indicative of the favourable climate created through the promotional efforts made by this Ministry in the overseas markets.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we know the new thrust that is being given to tourism, viz., the promotional efforts are commendable. The reply speaks of special packages to project India as an all weather destination. I would like to know whether these special packages also mean special incentives for the purpose and will the Hon. Minister give us some idea of these special packages and special incentives?

MUFTI MOHD. SYED : There are some packages like 'city approachable' India where Air India and other Airlines give 20 per cent concession on tourists coming to India. At the same time the hotels in our country also offer 20 per cent reduction in tariff. There is another 'city in India on house'. Any tourist whose destination is any other country comes to Delhi, he is given one day's hospitality, free accommodation and free transport facilities. There is manifold increase in the allocation for marketing in overseas and other foreign countries.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : Sir, it would be rather naive to suggest that the general increase in tourist arrival is indicative of the success of this very concept. This general increase in the tourist arrival may be because of various other efforts that are being made. Therefore, has the Government thought of having proper statistics and collecting proper data in order to assess the success of this particular project that we have of presenting India as an all weather destination and, if so, what steps are being made in that direction?

MUFTI MOHD. SYED : No. I say in overseas and in USA effective marketing is being done through print media. We have gone for the first time into electronic media and the increase in allocation is manifold. During 1986 we spent Rs. 10 crores as far as marketing is concerned. Due to festival of India which was held in USA and other European countries we have been successful to attract tourists from all over Europe, viz., England, USA, Japan and other countries. It is because of these efforts.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : With these special on-going programmes to promote various types of special interest of tourism and also special packages what will be the increase in the tourist traffic over the existing tourist traffic and how does it keep pace with the growth of the infrastructure? I would like to know whether any special steps are being taken by the Government to bring about such a level of infrastructure.

MUFTI MOHD. SYED : Sir, due to increase in the tourist traffic, our target by 1990 is 2.5 million. As per our experience during the current year, we have no accommodation available for tourists in major destinations like Delhi, Bombay, Goa and other places. So, we have to give special incentives for building additional infrastructure for tourists. We are taking concrete measures for that.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to have some information from the Hon. Minister. A Tourist Information Centre was set up in Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh with a

view to providing facilities to the people through the Department of Tourism and to make available the information relating to the ancient places as also to preserve our culture and civilization. The said Information Centre was removed from there last year. So far as my information goes, no officer was prepared to be posted there and as such the Information Centre was removed from there in connivance with the officials. Under the circumstances, I would like to know the reason why the Centre was removed and whether there is any possibility of the Information Centre being re-opened in the near future and if so, by when?

[English]

MUFTI MOHD. SYED : I think it was a measure of economy that this was done.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not satisfied with his reply. Uttar Pradesh is a big state and a number of tourist spots are there. To say that the centre was closed as a measure of economy is not a proper reply. Therefore, I would like to know the time by which the Centre would be re-opened?

[English]

SHRI KAMAL NATH : Sir, I don't think it is merely naive as my honourable colleague just said but it is also complacent to believe that the various promotional programmes of the Government have led to increase tourism. I suppose the same analogy will apply. If these programmes were not there, that tourism would have dwindled. I don't think that is the case. It is not only naive but complacent because the increase in tourism in the country is because of other international factors prevailing in the traditional international tourist spots. There was a problem in Europe last year. There was that nuclear cloud business. So, that is why there was a major thrust of tourists coming to India. There was a problem in Sri Lanka. So for us it is difficult to believe that it is successful tourism promotion. Something, of course, would be because of that. Sir, that is one of the points.

The other thing is, the concept of only promoting our traditional tourist areas. I am sure the Hon'ble Minister would obviously like to promote Kashmir. This question is aimed at tourist spots throughout the year, like in the hills of Madhya Pradesh at Pachmarhi. Usually—it is stereotyped promotion—you go to Kashmir. Then you go to the beach in Goa. All that, I think, is over-killed and over-sold. But we must, at the same time, promote the non-traditional tourist spots in the country in all our States and not only in Madhya Pradesh. For example, I quoted Pachmarhi. All the States in the country have become beautiful areas.

So, will the Government have a special thrust for promoting non-traditional areas in the country internationally and nationally?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : Like Chitwara and Bhagalpur.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : What about the preservation of Kaziranga tourist centre in Assam? Whether the Government has taken any steps?

MUFTI MOHD. SYED : Sir, I agree there are many areas where there is great interest of tourists like Delhi, Bombay, Goa and Kashmir. We have to diversify. We have to explore new areas.

Manpower export trade

*435. SHRI KAMAL NATH :
SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi police have arrested some persons in Delhi recently for running a manpower export trade; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b) : Recently the Delhi Police busted a gang of manpower export racketeers operating from a shop under the Defence Colony Fly-over. A case under section 420/34 IPC was registered on 25.2.1987 at the Police Station Hazrat