

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

11.02 hrs.

Friday, August 19, 1983 / Sravana 28, 1905
(Saka)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

Construction of Yatri Niwas at Puri

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

***370. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:**
Will the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation be pleased to state :

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Shri Sunkan Achalu, who was a Member of Lok Sabha during 1952-57 representing Nalgonda constituency of the then Hyderabad State.

An agriculturist, Shri Achalu had special interest in social work and public service.

He was associated with Scheduled Castes Federation, Nalgonda and Hyderabad for a number of years.

Shri Achalu passed away at Nalgonda (Andhra Pradesh) on 9th August 1983, at the age of 59 years.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure that the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

The House may stand in silence for a short while to express its sorrow.

- (a) Whether Government have a proposal for the construction of a Yatri Niwas at Puri in Orissa;
- (b) if so, the cost estimated for the construction of such Yatri Niwas; and
- (c) the details of the programme taken up by Government to provide accommodation to large numbers of tourists coming to Puri ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL
AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT :
(a) and (b) The current Five Year Plan of
ITDC does not envisage any proposal for
the construction of a Yatri Niwas at Puri.

(c) The ITDC has decided to set up a 50 roomed 3-star hotel at Puri at an estimated cost of Rs. 134 lakhs in collaboration with Orissa Tourism Development Corporation. In addition, the Bharatiya Avas Vikas Samiti is planning to put up a dharamashala, with funds of their own supplemented by financial assistance from the Central and State Governments.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :
Puri the abode of Lord Jagannath, is famous as a place of religious importance, and also as a place of tourist attraction. The reason is well known, viz. its religious importance, and the architectural and sculptural value of the temple, and a very beautiful sea beach. Puri is included in the Triangle. Hence the flow of tourists is very high. Mostly middle class tourists are coming in a large number to Puri. Of course, the Minister has replied that Bharatiya Avas Vikas Samiti is going to construct a *dharmasala*; but that also is very inadequate for the middle class tourists. May I know from the Hon. Minister : what is the plan of the Government of India to cater to the needs of the middle class tourists ? Does Government of India propose to construct a middle class hotel for such tourists in a place like Puri ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : It has already been mentioned that a 3-Star hotel is being constructed at Puri. Three-Star hotels normally cater for middle class tourists. They are not for high-spending tourists. Besides, I would also like to mention that at present, at Puri, a capacity of 977 beds is available for the various categories of tourists.

There appears to be no shortage. Of course, in due course, there are further plans to provide additional accommodation for tourists. One of the private sector chains has already taken over 25 acres of land a little outside Puri where they propose to provide about 40 cottages for tourists who would be visiting Puri on various occasions. I quite appreciate and understand the importance of this place. I also know that in 1981 about 6.48 lakh tourists visited Puri; in 1982, 11.65 lakh tourists visited this place. So, there is no shortage of accommodation in Puri; and the requirements of various categories of tourists are met adequately.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :
Some time back, the Hon. Minister had laid the foundation stone of the joint sector hotel project in the Raj Bhavan premises at

Puri. What steps have been taken to expedite the project ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : There is a railway hotel also.

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN :
I am really grateful to Prof. Madhu Dandavate for reminding me that there is a railway hotel also. Of course, the accommodation of the railway hotel is also included in 770 bed capacity which I mentioned. As the Hon. lady Member has asked about expediting the joint sector venture hotel, I assure her that every possible step is being taken and we want to see that this hotel is constructed within one year's time if nothing unusual happens during the period.

SHRI JAIDEEP SINGH : The question is asked regarding yatri niwas. I am under the impression that yatri niwas is a concept which is different to that of a three star hotel. Is there a plan to make a yatri niwas at Puri or not ? You have answered to say that it is a three-star hotel. But I think the two concepts are different. The concept of a yatri niwas is supposed to be the one where people with low income group could perhaps make use of it.

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN :
In the reply given, it was mentioned that "the current five year plan of ITDC does not envisage any proposal for the construction of a yatri niwas at Puri.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : The Hon. member has asked a question about the yatri niwas which the Hon. Minister has not replied properly. In the 6th Five Year Plan, he is denying it. You told that the Orissa people should not have the monopoly. Based on this, the occupancy ratio in 977 beds at Puri is always more than 80 per cent. The yatri niwas which was constructed in Delhi behind my house is not occupied by the middle class people or Indian origin people or the low income group people of India; it is always occupied by the foreigners. Will the Minister lay down certain criteria for reservation in the yatri niwas in Delhi and at the same time

consider the construction of a yatri niwas at Puri ? The occupancy ratio, throughout the year is more than 80 per cent. If there is no money in the 6th Five Year Plan, will he give special attention to this aspect and cut some budget from other five-star hotel or eight-star hotel and spend that money for this yatri niwas specially for Indian tourists only ?

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN : I have always mentioned in this House that the tourism in this country is not all five-star culture. We have the lower category of accommodation more than five-star hotel.

As regards the construction of the Yatri Niwas at Puri, I am sorry, it will not be possible to say anything because we are making an experiment with the pilot project in Delhi and unless we are sure about the success of that pilot project we will not be able to extend it further.

It is not possible for us to make any reservation for any particular class or particular type of people there.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : I want to know from the Hon. Minister the number of foreign tourists who come to Puri and the action taken by the Government to accommodate these foreign tourists at Puri, since the development of the surroundings of Puri, like construction of Marine Drive etc., are being taken upon by the State Government and are being completed. So, it will naturally attract more foreign tourists there. So, may I know what action the Government is going to take to accommodate those foreign tourists who are going to visit Puri and thus more foreign exchange can be earned? What is the programme of the Government to accommodate them ?

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN : In the first instance, I would like to mention that we maintain the statistics of foreign tourists on an all India basis. It is not possible for us to keep those statistics on State-wise basis. But, however, some rough idea we have got that about ten to fifteen thousand foreign tourists do visit Puri during one year. As I have already mentioned,

there is a Railway Hotel and there are other hotels also of various categories. Besides, there is a private chain which is going to construct forty cottages for foreign tourists, which will provide additional accommodation for foreign tourists.

Complaint Cell in Nationalised Banks

*371. **SHRI K. PRADHANI :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have set up any complaint cell for registering cases of refusal of bonafide loan facilities including insisting of collateral security by nationalised banks ;

(b) whether Government have extended facilities for the small marginal farmers particularly in rural area of Orissa where drought situation is prevailing and financial position of farmers is not sound ; and

(c) if so, the details regarding the directions issued by Central Government to the State Bank of India and other nationalised banks for grant of loans to farmers as well as grant of loans for setting up of small scale industries ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE : (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Recently the Government have decided to set up District Level Sub-Groups which will oversee the grievances of the borrowers and seek redress of such grievances to the extent possible. The Sub-Group shall consist of Lead District Officer, District Planning Officer, Lead Bank Officer and one or two representatives of farmers cooperatives, dairy farmers' cooperatives, small industries' association, associations of the cooperatives of artisans and craftsmen etc. along with one or two non-officials to be nominated by the State Government.