

LOK SABHA

Friday, July 16, 1892/Asadha 25, 1904
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

अध्यक्ष महोदय : श्री एम. वी. चन्द्रशेखर मूर्ति नहीं है । हवाई जहाज में सवार करा दिया, क्या ? इन्होंने टिकट दे दिया होगा ।

Shri Navin Ravani... He is also not here.
Shri Ram Gopal Reddy.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:
Q. No. 124.

MR. SPEAKER: How you happen to be here?

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:
How can I miss this opportunity?

Progress in Construction of Hotels for Asiad

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*124. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL
REDDY:

SHRI NAVIN RAVANI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) what progress has been made so far in the construction of hotels for the tourist traffic during the Asian Games in 1982 at New Delhi;

(b) when they are likely to be completed and ready for use;

(c) for how many tourists, the arrangement is being made;

(d) whether the booking for tourists to attend Asian Games has started; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

To meet the requirements of the participants and officials and in addition a number of spectators expected to visit Delhi in connection with the Asian Games, 1982, a decision was taken that besides the existing number of hotel rooms of 3,801 as on January 1981, 2,500 extra rooms were to be constructed. For this purpose the 2 hotels of the ITDC, namely, Yatri Nivas and Kanishka were to be speedily completed and got ready by September 1982. Besides this, expansion of the existing hotel capacity was allowed in respect of Maurya Sheraton. In addition, 9 new hotels were authorised to be constructed. The above mentioned 12 hotels with a total capacity of 4,358 rooms were to complete and offer 2,500 rooms to meet the requirements of ASIAD-1982 (*vide* statement of Annexure I). However, the hotels promised to provide 2,679 rooms as shown in Column-4 of the statement at Annexure I in order to provide for the contingency of some of the hotels not being able to offer the number of rooms indicated by them.

The progress in respect of all the above mentioned hotels is constantly being monitored by a regular Review Committee set up for the purpose and progress is

by and large in accordance with the bar chart and time schedule fixed for the purpose.

In the case of the hotels where only a certain number of rooms are being offered for Asian Games, necessary steps have been taken by the hoteliers to provide the requisite facilities like restaurants, etc. even though the rest of the guest rooms may be completed after the Asian Games.

The contingents and participants numbering around 5,000 will be accommodated in the Games Village. The other officials connected with the Games requiring accommodation in the hotels have been estimated at around 2,800 and necessary reservations have been made in

the various hotels both existing and new, to meet the requirements of the above officials. A statement is placed at Annexure II indicating the reservations projected by the Special Organising Committee.

The remaining rooms will be utilised for visitors and tourists. In order to meet any further demand for accommodation by tourists and visitors, the Department of Tourism and the Delhi Tourism Development Corporation have worked out a scheme of paying-guest accommodation and have identified accommodation to the extent of 3,533 beds in 795 paying-guest houses. Necessary minimum infrastructural facilities for guest to stay is being provided in the above mentioned paying-guest accommodation.

ANNEXURE-I

S.No.	Name of the Hotel	Total No. of rooms	Rooms promised for Asiad '82 by hoteliers
1	Asian Hotels	588	300
2	Surya Hotel	258	241
3	Sidhartha	156	156
4	Kanishka	300	300
5	Maurya extension	122	122
6	Taj Hotel	500	200
7	Centaur Hotel	416	200
8	Samrat	300	250
9	Yatri Niwas	562	550
10	Bharat Hotel	500	150
11	Meridien Hotel	425	110
12	Park Hotel	231	100
Total		4358	2679

ANNEXURE-II

Public Sector hotels

Rooms booked for
ASIAD

1. Ashok	275
2. Akbar	75
3. Kanishka	300
4. Samrat	200
5. Qutab	20
6. Janpath	65
7. Ranjit	65
8. Lodhi	100
9. Yatri Niwas	550
10. Centaur (HCI)	100

PRIVATE SECTOR HOTELS

1. Taj Mahal Hotel	200
2. Asian Hotels	250
3. Surya International	200
4. Siddharth Continental	150
5. Maurya Expansion	122
Maurya existing	78
6. Oberoi Intercontinental	50

Total

2800

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:

Sir, it is a very exhaustive statement. He has furnished all the particulars. I want to know whether during the Asian Games he has made all the arrangements for the safety and other things for the participants and visitors and whether sufficient and good accommodation for all the players has been provided for. He has mentioned some Hotels which have promised to provide the accommodation. Some Government Hotels are also there. But I want to know particularly whether proper arrangements for safety and other things are being made.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : प्रोमिस पर विश्वास करते हैं ? वह बायदा क्या जा वफा हो गया ।

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN:

I want to assure the hon. Member that there will be no shortage of accommodation. As far as the safety and welfare of the participants and visitors is concerned, that is also our concern as well as the concern of my colleague sitting by my side. I hope, he will be taking care of that fully.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:

May I know whether the Government propose to allow some more Hotels to have some more floors so that full accommodation for the Asian Games is made available.

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN:

It is a suggestion for consideration. It will be considered at an appropriate time.

SHRI ERA ANBARASU: I would like to know whether there is any proposal for constructing a 5-Star hotel near Meenambakkam Airport?

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN: These are Asiad-linked Projects and it has nothing to do with the question that the Hon. Member has asked.

SHRI ERA ANBARASU: I feel that it is necessary that a hotel should come up at Madras.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: In the last two years certain 5-Star hotels' projects have been sanctioned specifically on the condition that they will make available sufficient number of rooms agreed, before the Asiad Games begin.

In particular, I would like to know what terms and conditions have been laid down on Hotel Meridian and Raisina and whether all those rooms would be available for the Asiad?

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN: All the hotels which have made the promise to make the rooms available, are keeping their construction work according to the programme laid down. The land allotted to the various hoteliers is being given either by the Works and Housing Ministry or the NDMC or the DDA.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: There is a mushroom growth of hotels in the private sector as well as Government sector because of the Asiad. It is an international prestige. The prestige of India has grown by leaps and bounds so far as Asiad Games are concerned and efforts are being made to provide accommodation for the people who are coming from abroad.

Of course, internal domestic visitors' accommodation also will be looked after.

I would like to know by what point of time the construction of most of the hotels will be completed to meet the situation.

Another question arising out of this is whether any policy has also been evolved

to meet the situation even after Asiad Games are over. Sometimes the hotels become empty. And, therefore, I would like to know whether any precautionary measures have been taken to meet such eventualities even after the Asiad Games are over.

MR SPEAKER: I will ask the Hon. Minister to reserve those rooms to Mr Lakkappa!

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Both of us will get them!

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN: As I said there is adequate number of rooms available for the Asiad Games and, after the Asiad Games, I can assure the Hon. Member.....

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: What are the plans that you have thought of? Not that in the programme itself whether the plans are being envisaged.

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN: According to the Plan, what we need is more promotion of tourism to attract more tourists to the country and certainly this will be done because we will have ten new hotels.

SHRI AMAL DUTTA: What is the expected number of foreign tourists who will visit India for viewing the Asiad Games and what percentage, if any, of those tourists can go to other parts of India? Once they come to India, they may like to go to other parts of India. Has the Government envisaged this possibility? What arrangements, if any, have been made by the Government to facilitate their visits to other parts of India?

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN: About 10,000 people would come to this country before the Asiad Games and they will be staying here during the period. After the Games, we expect that there will be a certain number of visitors going to the neighbouring cities like Agra, Jaipur, Varanasi and Kharajaho.

All the State Governments have been asked to take care of the expected arri-

vàls of visitors to these places at the time of the Asiad Games and certainly they will be looked after in these places as we look after all the tourists in the country.

Scarcity of hard currency

*125. PROF. MADHU DANDA-VATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item under the caption "Acute scarcity of hard currency" in the Delhi Edition of the "Times of India" of 4 June, 1982;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that, as mentioned in the news-item, due to the recent spurt in the smuggling of gold and other commodities into India, commercial banks and other foreign exchange dealers in the country are now faced with an acute scarcity of hard currency notes and that particularly US dollars in cash have gone underground; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to prevent this acute scarcity of hard currency?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Reserve Bank of India have reported that they have not received any complaint about shortage of foreign currency notes either from the travelling public or from authorised dealers/money changers.

(c) Does not arise.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: It seems to be a very cursory reply. First I would request the hon. Minister, before putting my supplementaries, to request the Reserve Bank authorities to check up their statistics and records and find out whether the report sent by them is correct because in reply to part (a) of my question, he has said 'Yes, Sir'; that means, they have already seen the report

that has appeared in the *Times of India* of 4th June, 1982. There has been an elaborate report in the *Times of India* of 4th June under the heading 'Acute scarcity of hard currency'. Here the hon. Minister claims that the Reserve Bank has not received any complaints. I do not know whether those who are suffering from these difficulties have sent their letters of complaints to the Reserve Bank authorities or whether they have preferred to talk directly to the press narrating their complainis. If you have carefully gone through the report—and you have admitted that you have gone through the report—I would like to know whether it is not true that quite a good number of banking circles have already claimed that there is squeeze on the supply of foreign currency and they have attributed this to the hectic purchase on a big scale by the agents of smugglers who have been smuggling gold and other commodities including drugs. Not only the banking circles but, it has been reported in this very despatch, the Central Department of Revenue sources also have indicated that there is an increase in the incidence of smuggling in the recent past that has resulted in the payment crisis and as a result of that there is a jump in the demand for cash dollars and the Government is not able to meet the requirements of those who come forth with the demand for more and more foreign exchange. They have given the figures and I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether that is correct. The smuggling has increased and it is found that even when the demand is to the tune of 500 dollars, these agencies have not been able to meet the requirement. If this report which I have placed before you is correct, in that case, how is it that you say that the Reserve Bank has indicated that there have been no complaints at all?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: In fact, when we saw the report of the *Times of India* of 4th June, 1982, we drew the attention of the Reserve Bank to it and asked them to give us their comments. The Reserve Bank said that they had not received any complaints and they had also checked up from cer-