

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: The list is with me and I am laying it on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Is the information which he wants already mentioned in the statement?

SHRI K. S. CHAUDA: There is no statement at all.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister said he laid it on the Table of the House.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: If you so desire, I shall lay it now; it is with me.

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? When you say it is laid on the Table, it must come to our office so that the Members may see it. Each statement is sent to the Member. That is why they are confused over it.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: The question is of a general character and unless a supplementary was there, the detail could not be given. A supplementary is there and I am laying it now.

Exports being made to attract tourists from Asian countries

*542. **SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what efforts Government are making to attract tourists from Asian countries; and

(b) whether there is more scope for attracting tourists from these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SARAJINI MAHISHI): (a) The Government of India has opened Tourist Offices in Tokyo and Singapore for purposes of tourist publicity and promotion. The number of tourists from Asian countries rose in 1972 to 93372—approximately 80 per cent of the total tourist traffic.

(b) There is scope for attracting more tourists from these countries and efforts are being made to stimulate tourist travel.

श्री अरविन्द एम० पटेल : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने यह बताया कि टोकियो और सिंगापुर में टूरिस्ट ऑफिस खोल रहे हैं लेकिन देश में जो ऐसे पर्यटन के दर्शनीय स्थान हैं उनमें भी अभी काफी सुधार लाने की जरूरत है जैसे कि गुजरात में गीर जंगल की दर्शनीय स्थानों में गिनती होती है और वहां पर अधिक पर्यटकों को आकर्षित किया जा सकता है और इसी प्रकार से पोरबन्दर महात्मा गांधी का जन्म स्थान है। गीर में लायन शो होता है तो क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बतायेंगे कि इन दो स्थानों पर अधिक धन खर्च किया जायेगा और उनको अधिक आकर्षक बनाया जायेगा ?

डॉ० सरोजिनी माहिषी : सवाल के साथ इसका कहां तक सम्बन्ध है, यह मैं नहीं कह सकती लेकिन मैं इसका जवाब दे सकती हूँ। गीर फारेस्ट में एकोमोडेसन, आवास बढ़ाने के लिए 12 लाख रुपया खर्च करके 50 लोगों के रहने के लिए नये ढंग से इन्तजाम कर रहे हैं। इसके साथ ही परिवहन की व्यवस्था की जा रही है। केम्पड एयरपोर्ट का डेवलपमेन्ट हो रहा है और पोरबन्दर एयरपोर्ट का भी डेवलपमेन्ट हो रहा है।

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: The hon. Minister has stated that efforts are being made to locate offices in Asian countries to attract tourists. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the officers working in Bangkok and other places have made efforts to attract tourists from Asian countries. If so, what are the countries in which these officers are working?

DR. SARAJINI MAHISHI: Japan, Ceylon, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Hong Kong and Phillipine are the Asian countries from which we get tourists. The types of tourists who

come from these countries can be classified into two—ethnic and Buddhist tourists. We are making efforts to get more and more tourists to our Buddhist centres. Many people of Indian origin who are residing there visit our country often and these are mainly the two types of tourists who visit this country. In addition to this there may be another class of people—mountaineering group—who come from these countries and who go to Kulu, Manali and other places.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Guha.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: In view of the fact that the South East Asian countries like Burmah, Malaysia and Indonesia, Thailand, Combdia, Laos and Viet Nam having very close historical, cultural and social relations with India, what steps are the Government going to take to stimulate tourism from these countries to India?

DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI: In Tokyo office we are spending more than Rs. 10 lakhs for publicity as also in other neighbouring countries.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: My question relates to historical, cultural and social aspects and not political aspect of it.

DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI: Tourists come from the affluent countries. As I said earlier two types of tourists are coming from these countries. Taking into consideration what the hon. Member has in mind, namely, historical and cultural aspect of it, efforts are also being made to attract tourists to this country.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Hari Kishore Singh.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: I have some objections to the answer to the question. The hon. Minister has said that there are offices opened in Tokyo and Singapore. But, no mention is made with regard to West Asia. West Asia is also part of Asia. I would like to know whether there is any scheme under the consideration of the

Government to give special concessions to young men and women from the Asian countries, especially the students, to visit this country for the tourist purposes?

DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI: There is no tourist office in West Asia. Only cultural wing is attached to our Embassy Office there. They are looking after these things. As in other sectors, concessions are given by Air India, the same is being extended to these countries as well.

SHRIMATI MAYA RAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has just now said that a sum of Rs. 10 lakhs has been spent to set up Offices for the promotion of tourism in Japan. Would it not be more advisable to spend some part of this money in improving facilities in our country in regard to the Buddhist shrines that we have all over the place?

DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI: We are giving them the facilities. That goes without saying. Efforts are made to develop the centres of Buddhists interests in this country like Nalanda, Raj Gir, Bodh Gaya etc. The hon. Members from Bihar may ask me as to what has been done in regard to Bodh Gaya? Bodh Gaya is one of the main tourist centres. Here we are expecting more and more cooperation from Bihar Government also. Land is being acquired in regard to this. And for the last two three years or so, money has been deposited by the Central Government with the Bihar Government and we hope that the acquisition of land would be over soon. In Kushi Nagar, Balrampur and other places also efforts are being made to develop the centres. I may add to this the development of Sanchi also.

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you so generous to a lady? Shri Shamim.

SHRI S. A. SHAMIM: To facilitate the tourist traffic to Kashmir, is there any proposal to declare Srinagar airport as an international airport? And

whether any such proposal or suggestion is being considered or not?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): With regard to Srinagar, we are considering the question of providing facilities there. For the international tourist attraction, however, the decision has not yet been taken to open it to international airlines. In fact, our general thinking is that even if it is open to international traffic, for several years to come, it could be only Air India that may operate there for various reasons.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is a proposal to set up a tourist office in Rangoon and whether Government is going to develop Burdwan which is a historical place where Mehrnisha was made captive who was betterly known as Noorjahan, the wife of Mughal Emperor Jehangir, to attract Muslim people from Malaysia and Indonesia.

DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI: There is no such proposal at present.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : क्या यह सच है कि जम्मू क्षेत्र में अनेक सौंदर्य के स्थान हैं जहाँ पर्यटक बड़ी संख्या में जा सकते हैं, लेकिन तुलनात्मक दृष्टि से उन स्थानों का विकास नहीं किया गया है और यह सच है कि मनाली की ओर जितना ध्यान देना चाहिये था उतना नहीं दिया गया, मंत्री महोदय अभी तक मनाली नहीं गये हैं इस का क्या रहस्य है ?

डा० सरोजिनी-महिषी : माननीय सक्षय के पास सम्भवतः ठीक जानकारी नहीं पहुँची है । जम्मू में एक 50 कमरों का बड़ा सुन्दर, मोटल बन गया है, और पतनी टोप में एक यूथ होस्टल बन रहा है जो इस साल के अन्त तक पूरा हो जायगा । और उस के साथ साथ कुल्लू और मनाली में एक यूथ होस्टल है और उस के साथ साथ हीट

स्ट्रिप्स को डेवलप करने की स्कीम है, और बौजिंग रूम और बाथरूम बन गये हैं, और गौल्फ क्लब है उस को भी बनाने के लिये काफ़ी प्रयास किया जा रहा है ।

MR. SPEAKER: This Question has very limited scope. I am passing on to the next Question.

ब्रिटिश सहयोग से उद्योग की स्थापना

*545. डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडेय :

श्री सी० के० चन्द्रपणन :

क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बरमिंघम वाणिज्य व उद्योग परिषद का प्रतिनिधिमंडल मार्च, 1973 के प्रथम सप्ताह में भारत आया था;

(ख) क्या उक्त प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने ब्रिटिश सहयोग से संयुक्त उद्योग स्थापित करने का प्रस्ताव किया था; और

(ग) उस प्रस्ताव की मोटी रूपरेखा क्या है ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA):

(a) Yes, Sir. A British Mission sponsored by the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce came to India during the first week of March, 1973.

(b) The Government of India are not aware of any precise proposal made by the delegation to set up joint ventures with the British collaboration.

(c) Does not arise.

डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडेय : अध्यक्ष जी, मंत्री महोदय ने उत्तर में स्वीकार किया है कि इस प्रकार का प्रतिनिधिमंडल मार्च के प्रथम सप्ताह में आया है, और यह भी स्वीकार किया है कि उन से कुछ चर्चा हुई थी लेकिन कोई विशेष प्रस्ताव प्राप्त नहीं हुआ । मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि उन से जो चर्चा हुई, उन्होंने जो प्रस्ताव आपके सामने