

**SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO :** Let the Minister confirm his facts because I know he is wrong.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** There are many Indian prisoners of war who are ailing. What arrangements have been made to see that they are sent back to this country?

**SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA :** As the hon. House knows, those prisoners who are not well or seriously sick are exchanged through the good offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross. This position is constantly under review. According to the precedents, sick and seriously wounded prisoners of war are exchanged. But according to our present information there is no such prisoner eligible for repatriation.

**SHRI D. BASUMATARI :** Apart from the information received from the international agencies, have they verified them from the prisoners of war who have been repatriated from Pakistan?

**SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA :** Yes, Sir. We have ascertained the position from those prisoners who were repatriated from Pakistan. By and large, they have corroborated the version given by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

#### Setting up of a Tourism Board

\*89. **SHRI RAMSHEKHAR PRASAD SINGH :**

**SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI :**

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to set up a Tourism Board ; and

(b) If so, what will be its main functions?

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH).**

(a) A National Tourism Board under my Chairmanship was constituted on 25th May, 1972.

(b) The main functions of the Board will be to advise the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation on matters relating to the improvement of the tourism infrastructure in all its aspects, and to suggest ways to coordinate tourism schemes and activities in the public and private sectors.

**SHRI RAMSHEKHAR PRASAD SINGH :** May I know how many members are officials and how many non-officials?

**DR. KARAN SINGH :** Apart from me as Chairman, my colleague, the Minister of State is the Vice-Chairman. Then there are 9 official members and 5 non-official members.

**SHRI RAMSHEKHAR PRASAD SINGH :** Who are the officials and who are the non-official members?

**DR. KARAN SINGH :** Sir, should I read out all the names? The idea of the National Tourism Board is really to do two things? One is to coordinate the activities of the various Government of India agencies relating to tourism. So, we have the Secretary of my Ministry, the Financial Advisor, the Chairman of the India Tourism Development Corporation, the member of the Railway Board concerned with tourism, AirIndia, Indian Airlines, the Director-General of Archaeology, because archaeology is very closely linked with tourism, the Chairman of the Inter-State Transport Commission to deal with tourism and, of course, the Director-General of Tourism.

So, all the major agencies in the Government of India connected with tourism and its affiliated activities, its ancillary activities, are included.

In addition, we have five non-officials who have been selected for their personal knowledge of tourism. One is Shri Ajit Kedkar who is, at present, the President of the Federation of Hotel, and Restaurant Associations of India; the other is Shri Ramesh Thapar, the former Chairman of the India Tourism Development Corporation; then Shri Inder Sharma who is a leading travel agent; Shri Som Banegal who is in advertising and Shri Patwant Singh who is in designing.

We have chosen these five non-officials to try and bring in a broad spectrum of expertise and new ideas in the functioning of the Tourism Board.

**SHRI RAMSHEKHAR PRASAD SINGH:** From the list, it appears there are experts on the Board. May I know from the Government whether there is any proposal with them to have some M. Ps. or other persons who can give you ideas and experience of travelling public and tourism in various parts of the country?

**DR. KARAN SINGH:** As the House is aware, there is the Consultative Committee attached to my Ministry in which the M. Ps. are fully involved. There are 40 M. Ps. in that Committee. Then, there is the Tourism Development Council which is a much bigger body and in which all the States are represented. There are nine M. Ps. on that body. This Board is really a compact body consisting of persons who are directly connected with the development of tourism either officially or un-officially. Therefore, we thought it is better to keep a small compact body.

**DR. RANEN SEN:** Is it a fact that there are State Government tourist agencies in almost every State and that there is no proper coordination between the Tourism Board and the State Government tourist agencies so much so that they

are at logger-heads sometimes and, if so, what steps the Government propose to take to rectify this state of affairs?

**DR. KARAN SINGH:** The question of being at loggerheads does not arise. The National Tourism Board has come into being hardly a couple of months ago. The coordination would be with the states. As I mentioned, there is another much bigger body called the Tourism Development Council on which every State Minister of Tourism is represented and there are also M. Ps. on that. So, the coordination is always done there. There is no question of any conflict between the two bodies. They serve entirely different purposes.

**Grant of Additional Loan to Mysore**

\*91. **SHRI PAMPAN GOWDA:**  
**SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF:**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government assured the Mysore Government to grant additional loan of Rs. 105 crores to meet their requirements for the current plan;

(b) whether the said amount has been reduced by Government; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefore and the extent of reduction?

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN).** (a) to (c). According to the assessment made by the Planning Commission at the beginning of the Fourth Plan period, Mysore was expected to have a gap in resources totalling Rs. 105.72 crores, Rs. 60.50 crores on plan account and Rs. 45.22 crores on non-Plan account. The quantum of special accommodation to be given to the state Government was to be determined each year after taking into account the recommendations of the Fifth Finance Commission and the assessment of the Planning