

lakhs had been earmarked for this purpose and that shall be utilised if there is no financial stringency or shortage of funds.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS RUN BY I.T.D.C.

*185. SHRI D. K. PANDA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) how many hotels and restaurants are at present being run by India Tourism Development Corporation and what has been their financial performance during 1973-74; and

(b) the Fifth Five Year Plan allocation for I.T.D.C.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION : (DR. SARAJINI MAHSHI): (a) India Tourism Development Corporation is at present running 12 hotels and 8 restaurants. During 1972-73, these hotels and restaurants earned an overall profit of Rs. 28.96 lakhs. The accounts for the year 1973-74 of these hotels and restaurants have not yet been finalised. According to the tentative figures, however, the overall profit for 1973-74 is expected to be about Rs. 29 lakhs.

(b) The Fifth Plan allocation for the India Tourism Development Corporation is Rs. 34 crores.

SHRI D. K. PANDA : During 1972-73 the overall profit was Rs. 28.96 lakhs. In view of the fact that over four lakhs of tourists have come to India and this represents an increase of about 19.5 per cent over the tourist arrivals in 1972, why is the profit again estimated to be about Rs. 29 lakhs? What are the reasons for the stagnation in profit?

DR. SARAJINI MAHSHI: The hon. Member knows that tourist traffic to

our country as the destination country has increased. It has gone up to 4,60,000. The number of hotels run by the ITDC is 12. But tourists go and stay not only in these but also in the private sector hotels approved by the department and their number comes up to about 200. The total rooms available are 12,678 or so out of which the ITDC has 1816 rooms. This is the profit earned by the restaurants and hotels of the ITDC and the tourists lodges. The Asoka Hotel in Delhi has been able to earn a profit of Rs. 30 lakhs during this year but because it is to be taken as a whole including lodges, motels, hotels and restaurants, it may come to Rs. 29 lakhs during this year.

SHRI D. K. PANDA : My question has not been answered. Has tourist arrival increased in respect of public sector undertaking hotels in which case how can the profit remain at Rs. 29 lakhs? Unnecessarily, the private hotels are being dragged in.

My question is very simple. Whether tourist arrivals have increased so far as public sector hotels are concerned and, if so, why should the profits be at the same point? What are the causes? That is my simple question.

DR. SARAJINI MAHSHI: There is no such thing as tourist arrivals, as far as I.T.D.C. is concerned. The tourists come to our country; some stay in the hotels, some do not stay in the hotels. The tourists arrive by land, by sea and by air. The total figure of tourists includes all these things. Moreover, the I.T.D.C. has got a very limited number of hotels and restaurants. It is with reference to this that I am saying. How the two things are connected I am unable to understand.

SHRI B. V. NAIK : In regard to the India Tourist Development Corporation and one of its principle units, namely, the Ashoka Hotel at New Delhi, in regard to its financial performance, may I know whether there

are serious charges, in spite of its profit of Rs. 38 lakhs, in the matter of giving contracts, without calling for tenders, etc., particularly for the construction of the Ashoka Hotel Annexe and, if so what are the charges and what steps the Government has taken to see, if the charges are true that they are rectified?

DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI: I do not think any such thing has taken place. The construction of the Annexe was long back. About the renovations also, in the past three years, the number of contracts were there. But everything, as far as my knowledge goes, has been according to procedure. If the hon. Member makes out any specific case, certainly, I shall inquire into that.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GO-SWAMI: The hon. Minister has said that the tourist traffic in this country has increased and also the hotels of the I.T.D.C. are making profit. I would like to know what rationale is there behind the Government's decision not to construct any hotels in the public sector when they have given permission to private sector to build 106 hotels.

Secondly, in view of the fact that the boarding and lodging charges in these hotels are much less as compared to those of the hotels in countries from where the foreign tourists come to this country, has the Government any proposal to levy different rates for the foreign tourists and different rates for the home tourists?

DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI: I never said that the Government has decided not to construct any hotels at all. I said about the construction of 5-star hotels. That does not mean other category hotels will not be constructed.

Secondly, as far as the tariff rates are concerned, the tariff rates depend upon the cost of construction and the cost of so many other things, including land, etc. It depends upon so many factors. As compared to many other countries from where the tour-

ists come our tariff rates may be low. But the Government does not wish to make any distinction between an Indian and a foreigner, as far as the accommodation part of it is concerned. As I have already told the House, the foreigners are required to make payment in foreign exchange.

श्री राम कंवर : मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो 29 लाख ६० का लाभ हुआ है और पर्यटक भी ज्यादा संख्या में आ रहे हैं, क्या आप को कोई ऐसी शिकायत भी मिली है जैसे रेल के कर्मचारी सीटें बेच लेते हैं और रिजर्वेशन के समय कहते हैं कि कोई जगह खाली नहीं है और बाद में प्राइवेटली दे देते हैं, ऐसे ही कहीं होटल के कर्मचारी भी तो नहीं करते कि कमरे खाली हों और चुपचाप उन को उठा देते हों तथा जो पैसा उन को मिलता हो वह सरकारी हिसाब किताब में न दिखा कर अपनी जेब में रख लेते हों ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह सवाल आप कहाँ से बीच में ले आये। कर्मों बीच में इसको ले आए ? यह जनरल फाइनेंशियल परफॉर्मंस का है।

SHRI S. A. KADER: I would like to know from the Minister how far the performance of the public sector hotels compares with that of the private sector hotels in the matter of giving facilities, bookings, reservation and other services to foreign as well as local tourists.

DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI: As far as this comparison of a five-star hotel in the public sector with a five-star hotel in the private sector is concerned, of course, unless they fulfil certain conditions, rules and regulations and give certain facilities to the tourists, they will not be classified under this particular five-star hotel category. Therefore, continuous vigilance so far

as proper maintenance is concerned, is very very necessary. I do not know whether the member has got any particular hotel in view, but, so far as these things are concerned, continuous efforts are being made both by the private sector and the public sector because the business itself depends upon the goodwill of the tourists who come to our country.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Ranen Sen—not here.

Shri Chandra Gowda—also not here.
Shri Chandrapan—also absent.

Shri Madhukar.

वित्त मंत्री की इस और चैकोस्लोवाकिया की यात्रा

* 188 श्री कमल मिश्र मधुकर: क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या उन्होंने हाल में रूस और चैकोस्लोवाकिया का दौरा किया है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो वित्तीय सहयोग के लिए उन देशों के साथ क्या करार हुए हैं?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. The visit to USSR and Czechoslovakia was essentially in the nature of a goodwill, visit. Opportunity was, however taken of holding discussions with these countries with a view to having a closer co-operation in the economic and financial field. The discussions were of an exploratory nature; further discussions are expected.

श्री कमल मिश्र मधुकर: इस यात्रा के फलस्वरूप क्या विदेशी पूंजी बाजार पर भारत की निर्भरता कम होने जा रही है या

वहीं? यदि हां तो किस हद तक कम होने वाली है? इस पंचवर्षीय योजना में जो आपकी पूंजी सवैनी उस में इन देशों से आपको कितनी सहायता मिलेगी?

श्री यशवन्तराव चव्हाण: जैसे मैंने कहा, कुछ बातें उनके सामने रखी हैं लेकिन कुछ फैसला नहीं हुआ है। एक्स-प्लोरेटरी नेचर की ये डिसकलस थी। लेकिन कुछ फैसला नहीं निकला है।

श्री नारसायण राव: जो बार्ता वित्त वी मंत्री से सोवियत सभ और चेको-स्लोवाकिया की हुई है उसको आगे बढ़ाया जाएगा, यह आपने बताया है। मैं जानना चाहता हू कि यह बातचीत दिल्ली में होगी या फिर हम को बाहर जाना होगा?

श्री यशवन्तराव चव्हाण: उनका कोई एक आध डेलीगेशन यहां आ सकता है। हमारा और उनका जो ज्वायंट कमिशन है उसमें बातचीत हो सकती है और यह चीज आगे बढ़ सकती है।

Introduction of "Discover India air tickets for tourists"

* 189. SHRI RAMSHEKHAR PRASAD SINGH:

SHRI ISHAQUE SAMBHALI:

Will the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to introduce "Discover India Air Tickets for tourists";

(b) to what extent it will have impact on tourist traffic to India; and

(c) what are the other steps being taken by Government to attract more tourists?