

श्री यशवंतराव चव्हाण : इसके बारे में कई सजेरेंस तो आई है ।

Government do not think that there will not have to be a sort of relationship between the maximum and minimum. I do not say that. But we have not yet fixed up any definite relationship.

Dearth of Inexpensive Hotel Accommodation for Tourists

*285. SHRI D. D. DESAI Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

(a) whether in India there is a great dearth of inexpensive hotel accommodation for tourists ;

(b) if so, whether Government have formulated any plans to establish and promote a chain of such hotels to meet the increasing influx of foreign travellers ; and

(c) if so, the main features of such a plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI) :

(a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The necessity of providing suitable inexpensive hotel accommodation for tourists has been recognised by the Department of Tourism which has constructed tourist bungalows, travel lodges and canteen-cum-rest houses at various tourist centres in the country. These are now being operated by the India Tourism Development Corporation a Public Sector Undertaking. A number of tourist bungalows (Class II) have also been constructed with equal financial participation by the Central and the State Governments concerned. Voluntary and youth organisations have also been given grants to put up special accommodation for middle income foreign tourists. It is proposed to construct eight new youth hostels during the current plan to provide clean and inexpensive accommodation. The India Tourism Development Corporation also has plans to construct three motels which would cater to middle income tourists.

SHRI D. D. DESAI : Even before there were some difficulties in obtaining hotel reservations by tourists. With jumbo jets, there

will be an increase in the arrival of tourists. Has the Government taken full care to provide for accommodation of the foreign passengers who come by jumbo jets ?

DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI : Yes, continuous efforts are being made to see that more and more accommodation is provided, specially in the context of the introduction of jumbo jets. Both the public sector and also the private sector are encouraged and many of them have started construction also.

SHRI D. D. DESAI : Will Air India be making profits after the anticipated difficulties in providing accommodation on the one side and the foreign travel tax on the other side on the outgoing traffic from India ?

DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI : There are a number of things which are not necessary at this stage. Air India is making, and the concerned Ministry also is making, all efforts in a continuous way to see that more and more facilities are given to foreign tourists. Tourism is being encouraged in all the fields, whether it is in the matter of giving more facilities at the airport or in air travel within the country or providing better accommodation in hotels.

SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA : In the statement it is said that they propose to construct youth hostels and motels at various places. What are the places where they are going to construct all these youth hostels and motels ?

DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI : The motels are going to be constructed in Jammu, Varanasi and Siliguri. The foundation stone has already been laid in Jammu ; the other two are to be laid shortly. The youth hostels will be in eight or ten places. If he has got any particular State in view, I shall be able to give the names.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : The construction of inexpensive hotel accommodation has been delayed in various stages particularly in Mysore State and other southern parts of the country. The allotment of sites and starting of acquisition proceedings have been delayed. Will the Government of India and the Tourist Department consider to ease the situation and take effective steps to see that the building sites are allotted soon for construction of such hostels ?

DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI : I do not know what site he has got in view but as far as facilities in Mysore State are concerned, there is going to be a youth hostel at Hampi, which is a place of tourist interest. Moreover, as the hon. Member knows, there is a tourist bungalow at Hasan and also one at Bijapur. The new Ashoka Hotel has recently been started in Bangalore. I hope, the hon. Member is fully aware of that.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : The Ministry cannot provide inexpensive hotel accommodation in several parts specially of Mysore State and other southern parts of the country to attract more tourists. Take, for example, even Tekri, where there is delay in the construction because acquisition proceedings have been delayed.

DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI : The youth hostel at Hampi is aimed at giving good accommodation at cheaper rates to the travelling people within the country. As the hon. Member knows, the State Government has to acquire land and hand it over to the Department of Tourism or the ITDC for construction. Sometimes, delay is there on the part of the State Governments. Matters are being expedited.

Development of Minor Ports in Tamil Nadu

*287. SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the main features of the schemes approved by the Centre for the development of minor ports in Tamil Nadu during the Fourth Plan ;

(b) the estimated cost thereof ; and

(c) the nature and extent of Central Assistance to be provided to the State for the implementation of the schemes ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) Cuddalore Port in Tamil Nadu is being developed as a Centrally Sponsored scheme under the Fourth Five Year Plan. The works comprise

river training works, construction of an RCC jetty and breakwaters and dredging.

(b) Rs. 89 lakhs during the Fourth Plan period.

(c) The entire approved cost of Rs. 89 lakhs will be given as loan to the State Government.

SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there were any other proposals put fourth by the Madras Government for inclusion in the Centrally-sponsored schemes and, if so, what are the details

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : The National Development Council as far back as in September, 1968, decided that in order to achieve certain tangible results and tangible progress, we should concentrate on a fewer number of schemes so that they may be adequate for handling traffic that might itself there. Since in Cuddalore, we expect about 5 lakh tonnes of iron ore from Bellary, 1 lakh tonnes of coal and 50,000 tonnes of other miscellaneous cargo, on this basis, the efforts are being concentrated on Cuddalore in preference to others.

SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU : May I know whether the Government will consider inclusion of Nagapatnam port which is one of the important ports in Tamil Nadu embarking thousands of passengers every month in the scheme.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : There are claims and counter-claims in regard to minor ports and intermediate ports. Minor ports or essentially the responsibility of the State Governments. As regards intermediate ports, we do participate in the approved schemes for their development. I think, as I stated earlier, according to the decision of the National Development Council itself, we want to concentrate on a few number of ports, a fewer number of schemes, in order to get tangible results.

Shares bought by Life Insurance Corporation

*289. SHRI SAT PAL KAPUR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of shares bought by Life