

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

Friday, November 17, 1972/  
Kartika 26, 1894 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at  
Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### Tourist Development in North-Eastern Region

\*82. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Will the MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking any steps to explore the potentialities for tourist development in the North-Eastern region; and

(b) if so, the nature thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

Kaziranga, Gauhati and Garam Pani are being developed from the point of view of tourism in the Fourth Plan. Airport facilities are also being improved in the North-Eastern region to facilitate tourist traffic.

The nature of development is as follows:—

(1) A Rest House costing Rs. 10.40 lakhs is under construction at

Kaziranga. Two mini-buses costing Rs. 84,000 have also been provided at the Wild Life Sanctuary for the use of tourists.

- (2) A Tourist Bungalow at Gauhati costing Rs. 8 lakhs is under construction.
- (3) At Garam Pani the area is being beautified at a cost of Rs. 1,44,000.
- (4) An airport costing Rs. 135 lakhs is under construction at Bara Pani which is likely to be completed by the end of 1973.
- (5) The work is in hand at the Aijal airfield to make it operational for the civilian aircrafts by the first January, 1973.
- (6) North-South runway at Agartala is being widened, strengthened and expanded at a cost of Rs. 124 lakhs to make it fit for operation for Boeing 737.
- (7) Mohanbari runway is being strengthened at a cost of Rs. 69 lakhs to make it suitable for operation of Boeing 737.
- (8) At Jorhat and Tezpur civil enclosures are being developed.
- (9) Terminal buildings at a number of airports in the North-Eastern region are being expanded to provide better passenger facilities.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Apart from the natural beauty of the north-east region, there is also a wide range of flora and fauna

in this region, which I am told is the richest in the world. Also, there is a large variety of tribes with different cultures and traditions. All these things are of deep interest to the tourists. Unfortunately, not to speak of people outside India, even people inside India have very little knowledge about the entire north-east region. In view of this, may I know what steps Government is taking to give adequate publicity about various potentialities of this region through either posters or documentaries or visual and audio-visual methods?

**DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI:** Yes, Sir. As the hon. Member says, the whole area is full of flora and fauna. There are many other places in the country which are also noted for the scenic beauty. In the north-eastern region, as far as publicity matters are concerned, we have brought out folders on Assam and Manipur. Specially, the Kaziranga wild life sanctuary has been given a lot of publicity. If the hon. Member goes through the statement, he will find that both aviation and accommodation facilities for the tourists who go there are being developed.

**SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GO-SWAMI:** I have read the statement. But my apprehension is that many of the steps which have been mentioned in the statement as taken are only on paper and not much has been done at the present moment. For example, the statement refers to a tourist bungalow at Gauhati costing Rs. 8 lakhs which is under construction. I know that Dr. Mahishi herself inaugurated it. But, apart from the foundation not much has been done, so far as this construction work is concerned. So, apart from these paper programmes, may I know what actual improvements are being made in this region?

**DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI:** It is not merely on paper. The bungalow is under construction. Because the foundation had to go very deep in that area, they took a longer time. Some

of the friends of the hon. Member made enquiries some time back and I had personally enquired into the matter. The foundation is coming up and the whole building is in the process of construction. At a very short distance from Gauhati there is a hot spring called Garam Pani. So, we are adding 25 rooms to our accommodation in Gauhati. The whole project is being processed. I would request the hon. Member to visit Garam Pani, see what progress has been made and report to us.

**SHRI TARUN GOGOI:** Is it a fact that bad communication facilities, mainly railways, air and road, are the main drawbacks for the promotion of tourism in these areas, even though the area is full of potentialities for tourist development? If so, may I know whether the government have taken up the matter with the appropriate authorities for the removal of these difficulties?

**DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI:** It is true that there are transport and communication facilities. Therefore, the air services are being augmented in that area. As hon. Members know, the rise in air fare in that area also is not as much as in other areas of the country. While the rise in the case of other areas is hundred per cent, here it is hardly 50 per cent. Then, we are developing a new airport at Bara Pani. The Aijal airport is being developed for Avros. At Agartala a very big project is being undertaken and we are spending Rs. 1.24 crores for strengthening, widening and lengthening of the runway and creating the other facilities.

**SHRI DASARATHA DEB:** The hon. Minister said that the Agartala runway is being widened and lengthened at a cost of more than one crore of rupees so that it can be used for operating Boeing 737. May I know when this construction will be completed and Boeing will be operating to Agartala?

**DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI:** By the end of 1974 the work would be completed. There may perhaps be an extension of two or three months.

**SHRIMATI M. GODFREY:** Perhaps my question would not be very relevant. There are many places of tourist interest in Andhra Pradesh. What steps have been taken to improve those places of tourist interest, like the opening of a Tourist Department in Andhra Pradesh?

**DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI:** Does Andhra Pradesh also come under the North Eastern region?

**MR. SPEAKER:** I allowed it because it comes under the same sex.

**DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI:** Shall I answer it?

**MR. SPEAKER:** I am happy you are responding.

**DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI:** In Andhra Pradesh we have taken up quite a large number of projects. Hyderabad airport has been developed and terminal facilities have been improved. We have opened an airport at Tirupathi. At Vizag and Vijayawada terminal building facilities are being improved. An additional wing for the Vijayawada terminal building has been completed.

So far as tourist facilities are concerned, the Hyderabad Zoo is being developed. A new project at a cost of Rs. 7 lakhs has been undertaken. I am happy that the Andhra Government is responding in a very active way. There will be a bird sanctuary also. In Warrangal, a tourist bungalow is being built. In Nagarjunasagar, it is being developed. An airstrip has been included in the Fifth Plan.

**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:** May I seek a clarification?

**MR. SPEAKER:** This question was allowed because she was a lady. You are not a lady. Next Question.

### Steps to Check Under-invoicing and Overinvoicing

\*83. **SHRI SHIV KUMAR SHASTRI:**

**SHRI R. P. DAS:**

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any step to stop under-invoicing and over-invoicing; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the steps taken and the outcome thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) (a) and (b).** Statement is laid on the table of the House.

#### Statement

The Honourable Members seem to have in mind the problem of leakage of foreign exchange, particularly through the medium of under-invoicing of exports and over-invoicing of imports. Government are already seized of the problem and have also taken specific steps from time to time to solve the problem. As recommended by the Public Accounts Committee in its 56th Report of 1968-69 (Paragraph 1.55), the problem was referred to a Study Team comprising of senior officers of the concerned Ministries, Reserve Bank of India and Central Bureau of Investigation. The Team made a study in depth and submitted a copy of its report which was laid before Parliament in November, 1971.

After a comprehensive survey and detailed examination of the various aspects of the problem, the Study Team was able to identify the vulnerable areas of operation. It also focussed attention on the lacunae in the laws and proceedings as also on the deficiencies in the organisational and administrative set-ups. Suggestions