

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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Friday, December 6, 1985/Agrahayana 15,
1907 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of
the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

PROF. N. G. RANGA : A stranger has come to the House.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Rangaji, I was also wondering who has entered.

[English]

AN HON. MEMBER : Seems to be some fancy dress competition.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : It is a convenient dress, that is all !

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : When the Finance Minister has set a pattern, I shall also come in a blanket tomorrow.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : On the head only *bail pattars* are offered.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : What is important is what is beneath it.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Scheme of 'Right Places' to Boost Tourism

*264. SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have embarked upon a scheme 'Right Places' to give a boost to tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the places included in the scheme; and

(c) the criteria for inclusion ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : (a) There is no scheme called 'Right Places' as such. Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to a publication by the Department of Tourism entitled the "Right Place" Tourist Map which indicates the major tourist centres in India.

(b) Approximately 150 tourist centres, covering the entire country, are included in the "Right Place" Tourist Map.

(c) The criteria followed for inclusion primarily relate to cultural, historical, scenic and other tourist interests in a place, the availability of certain volume of infrastructure such as accommodation, the degree of accessibility through air, road rail communication and the demonstrated interest shown by tourists. However, the Department of Tourism follows a flexible policy in regard to the criteria and the list of places is revised from time to time on the basis of new developments.

SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI : Sir, just now, the hon. Minister while answering my question (a) said that there is no scheme called 'The Right Places' as such, but the Department of Tourism has published a map

entitled "The Right Places" indicating the major tourist centres in India. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is thinking of including Gangtok or some other town in Sikkim as a right place, in view of the tremendous potentiality that the State offers for the development of tourism.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : The Government of India is quite keen to develop Sikkim/Gangtok as a place of tourist centre and the scheme given by the State Government will certainly be considered by the Government of India.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : What is the recommendation of the Chief Minister of Sikkim ?

SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI : Has the Government initiated any programme this year for the development of tourism in Sikkim ? If so, may I know the details thereof including the outlay earmarked for this purpose ?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : At present, I do not have the details of the scheme that we are going to have with regard to Sikkim, because the question relates to 'the right places' and there are 150 such places in India. I will certainly give the information to the hon. member. I repeat again that those schemes which are given by the State Government, will certainly get consideration. We are keen to develop Sikkim as a tourist centre.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI VIDYAVATI CHATURVEDI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you are aware both Khajuraho and Mandu are world famous tourist spots. As the hon. Minister has said, efforts are made to provide all facilities for Khajuraho but railway facilities are lacking there. Your "Sound and Light" programme is shown at both these places. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government have any scheme to propagate the local culture, art and history through this programme ?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Sound and light.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : Sir Khajurao is already indicated as one of the places in

these 150 centres. Now, I will take advantage of this question and would tell the hon. Member that Gangtok, Sikkim is also one of the places selected. As to what are exact schemes for exact places, I do not have details of all the places at the moment with me. If the hon. Member wants, I can give.

AN HON. MEMBER : Why Khajurao ?

MR. SPEAKER : You know the reason why ?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI VIDYAVATI CHATURVEDI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question has not been replied to. I had asked a specific question.

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot ask about each scheme like this.

SHRIMATI VIDYAVATI CHATURVEDI : Sir, I have specifically asked about "Sound and Light".

MR. SPEAKER : He has given a specific reply.

[English]

KUMARI D. K. TARA DEVI : May I know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of a place called Chikmagalur in Karnataka, as one of the most beautiful pictureque districts ? If so, will the Minister consider construction of a motel by ITDC in all seriousness so that it could be adjoining to Hassan and Bangalore ?

MR. SPEAKER : There is only one way traffic today; ladies only. Sometimes, at least we should have it that way.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : Sir, generally speaking, I would say that any scheme which is suggested by the Government of Karnataka will certainly be considered.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Only ladies.

MR. SPEAKER : Mrs. Chauhan. You are missing your lady today here.

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it seems that after having called sisters-in-law (*Jethani and devrani*) you have now called the mother-in-law.

SHRIMATI PREMALABAI CHAVAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, will the hon. Minister be pleased to state what is the criterion for the selection of tourist centres ? There are beautiful tourist spots in Maharashtra where tourist centres can be developed, but no attention has been paid to them. I want to know whether there is a committee for the selection of spots which provides tourist centre facilities ?

[English]

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : Sir, firstly, I would like to clarify that tourism facilities are provided by utilisation of funds of the Centre, that is, the Ministry of Tourism, by the ITDC, by the State Government and the private sectors. All these contribute to development of tourism. Now, I would say, the criteria for selecting a place is how much tourism it attracts, what is the scenic beauty, what is the cultural background, what are the facilities available and what should be done ? A number of factors are taken into consideration for marking a place as a place of tourist interest and, in this, certainly the State Governments have quite a lot of say. If there is any particular proposal regarding Maharashtra, if the hon. Member give it to me. I would ask for the comments of the Maharashtra Government. My answer is that whatever proposals will be given to us—I cannot say that every proposal will be accepted—each proposal will be considered on merits. But the proposals will certainly be considered.

Indian Handloom Exports

*265. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE† :
SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKARA MURTHY :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the new definition of "needle and thread" notified by the US Government on 24 June,

1985 precluding the use of any hand or foot operated machines in the stitching or hemming of handloom made-ups like cushion covers, place-mats and napkins, India has lost orders worth Rs. Eight crores from United States;

(b) whether it is also a fact that if European Economic Community countries, Japan and Canada decide to follow the US example, exports of handlooms made-ups from India would come to halt; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to save the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government has not received any proposal from any of these countries to adopt the definition of "needle and thread" in relation to handloom textile products and therefore the question of exports of handloom made-ups from India coming to a halt does not arise.

(c) Dose not arise.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : Sir, the hon. Minister has given answer to question (a) saying 'No Sir'. The news had prominently appeared in the Economic Times of 8 September, 1985 in which it was stated :

"New Delhi is rushing an official team to Washington to persuade the U.S. Government to withdraw its new definition of handloom made-ups, which has brought export of this item to a standstill and threatened the livelihood of thousands of handloom weavers in the country."

Not only that. The news report further states...

MR. SPEAKER : No need to read all that.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : It is very interesting, Sir.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : The report also says :