

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, April 11, 1988/Chaitra 22,
1910 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of
the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Honourable Members, it is my sad duty to inform the House of the sudden demise of Shri A.R. Murugaiah, a sitting member of this House representing Karur constituency of Tamil Nadu.

An agriculturist by profession, he took keen interest in the development of agriculture in his native state.

A social worker of repute, he always championed the cause of weaker sections of the society and the rural poor.

A widely travelled person, Shri Murugaiah studied the process of agriculture and industrial development in several countries.

Shri Murugaiah passed away at New Delhi following a cardiac arrest on Saturday, April 9, 1988, at the young age of 47 years.

We mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our heart felt condolences to the bereaved family.

Members may stand in silence for a short while to pay our respects to the deceased.

The Members then stood in silence
for a short while.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Development of Tourism During Seventh Plan

*634. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PAT-
NAIK : Will the Minister of TOURISM be
pleased to state :

(a) the thrust areas identified for the
development of tourism during the Seventh
Plan;

(b) the steps taken for implementing
the programme for the development of
tourism in these thrust areas ; and

(c) the results achieved so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI
GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) to (c). A
statement is given below :

Statement

Development of Tourism during Seventh Plan

(a) The thrust areas identified for
development of tourism during the Seventh
Plan are :

(i) Diversification from culture oriented
tourism to holiday and leisure
tourism.

(ii) Development of trekking, winter
sports, wildlife and beach resort
tourism.

(iii) Providing inexpensive accommoda-
tion in different tourist centres.

(iv) Restoration of National Heritage
Centres.

- (v) Development of selected tourist circuits including Buddhist Circuits.
- (vi) Launching of national image building and marketing plans in key markets overseas and exploring new source markets in regions and countries having cultural affinity.
- (vii) Streamlining of facilitation procedures at airports; and
- (viii) Improving service efficiency in public sector corporation.

(b) and (c). Keeping in view the thrust areas, Government has taken up several schemes for development of tourism which include development of domestic tourism, construction of Yatri Niwases and Yatrikas, development of beach resorts, improvement of facilities for skiing, mountaineering, trekking and adventure tourism, augmentation of transport facilities, promotion of charters, preservation of national heritage centres, development of facilities along Buddhist circuits, promotion of wildlife tourism and provision of wayside facilities on highways and undertaking sustained publicity and marketing campaigns in overseas markets. As a result of these efforts the number of foreign tourists visiting India as also foreign exchange earnings from tourism have increased.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : With regard to my question that with the steps taken what is the result thereof, the Minister has replied that the number of foreign tourists visiting India and the foreign exchange earnings have increased. But the Minister has not replied the number of foreign visitors and the growth thereof.

India's share in the global tourists traffic is at a pathetic 0.4%. I would like to know whether the Government is thinking of having an integrated approach to tackle this issue by removing the major inhibiting factors, *i.e.* lack of sufficient airlines, lack of actual accommodation—I am stressing on the word 'actual'—and the seasonality factor and also accord tourism the status of an industry, specially an export industry. If so, to what extent?

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : The question relates to the thrust areas during

the 7th Five Year Plan. I have given in my statement which are the thrust areas.

The Planning Commission during the 7th Five Year Plan has fixed 7% growth rate and in world tourist traffic from 1984 to 1986, 3.3%. The tourist arrival, as I have stated, including Pakistan and Bangladesh since 1981 has been given. During 1986 we have achieved 29.1% over the year 1985 which was 0.2%. In 1987 also the increase in the tourist arrival is 7.8% over the year 1986. In 1990 we will exceed the target fixed by the Planning Commission.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : About the integrated approach you have not replied.

My second supplementary is regarding Orissa. I would like to know whether any comprehensive programme has been drawn up for the development of beach tourism in the Puri-Konark beach in Orissa. Secondly, is the Golden Triangle in Orissa, *i.e.*, Bhubneshwar, Puri and Konark included in priority locations for tourism? If the answer is positive; when, if it is negative; why?

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : Sir, we have prepared a master-plan for Konarak and Chilka Lake along with Udaigiri, Lalitgiri and Ratnagiri. The master-plan is under consideration and for Chilka lake report has been submitted. In respect of Puri and Konarak we have not yet received the proposal from the State Government. The proposals have to come from the State Government on individual project basis. There was ban for clearing beach resorts upto 500 metres from the high tide level which has now been reduced to 200 metres. Unless State Government submits a report on individual project basis it will be difficult for us to clear the project. As regards golden triangle we have given assistance to the State Government for construction of yatri niwas. Apart from that the progress is little slow. So these three places will be further developed if the State Government gives proposal for central assistance.

SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI : Darjeeling, a district of West Bengal used to be called the queen of hills and used to attract tourists from the world over but

due to the agitation prevailing in that area the tourists flow from abroad has gone down to almost nil. I would like to know whether Government has made any assessment to find out the loss of foreign exchange due to this ?

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : I have given the total foreign exchange earnings and tourist arrivals. We have not calculated it on State-wise. However, on account of agitation the tourist arrivals has gone down.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : The master-plan for development of Buddhist centres has been prepared by the Ministry. I would like to know whether that master-plan includes Lalitgiri, Udaigiri and Ratnagiri, the three hills where Buddhist culture flourished during 5th century AD and this was a centre of Mahayan Bajrayan school. The excavations have also revealed innumerable historical material which indicates that it was one of the most important centres of the country but nothing has so far been done for development of those centres. The Ministry takes the stand that the State Government has not submitted a specific plan. My information is that the State Government has repeatedly submitted the plan. There are no communication and other arrangements so that it is convenient for the tourists to visit that place. I would like to know whether Ministry will undertake immediately some measures so that we can encourage Buddhist tourists to that place ?

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : We have prepared the master-plan for development of Buddhist centres. On that basis, the master-plan for Buddhist circuits was prepared for U.P. and Bihar. During 1987, we entrusted the job of preparing the master-plan, by identifying the Buddhist circuits or Buddhist monuments, to a task force. It includes places other than U.P. and Bihar.

The task force has already visited different States, including Orissa. It has proposed to include Lalitgiri, Udaigiri and Ratnagiri in the national Buddhist circuit. However, the exact requirement of infrastructure, developmental expenditure, etc., will be worked out in the final report of the task force. The Buddhist circuits in Orissa—Lalitgiri, Udaigiri and Ratnagiri—have

been taken up by the Government of Orissa as well as by the Government of India for development as tourist places.

The first question about the project submitted by the State Governments relates to the beach resorts. Unless they submit specific proposals for hotels to be located in various places, they will not be cleared.

SHRI A.J.V.B. MAHESWARA RAO : I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has received any proposal from the Andhra Pradesh Government to develop the Hope Island near Kakinada as a tourist centre.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : The Andhra Pradesh Government has submitted a proposal regarding Hope Island. During 1988-89, we will consider the proposal for giving assistance to develop the island.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA : Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, according to the hon. Minister the Government has made ambitious plans for tourism development in the Seventh Five Year Plan. The Buddhist Circuit has also been selected and hon. Minister has stated that the States of Bihar and U.P. would also be included in the Buddhist Circuit. May I know from the hon. Minister as to what do the Government propose to spend on the development of both the districts of Champaran from where Mahatma Buddha went to Kushinagar via Motihari, Kesria and Areraj, and the funds likely to be allocated for the development of the Buddhist Circuit in Bihar ?

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, the Master-Plan includes Buddhist Circuits in Bihar. Nalanda, Kushinagar and Shravasti are the Centres included in the Buddhist Circuits. Besides these Centres, the other places in Bihar are Bodh Gaya, Rajgir and Nalanda. The Government does not have any proposal for the development of other minor Buddhist Circuits and Buddhist sites. The places which have been identified in the Master-Plan are taken up for development by the Government. If any small projects or sites are left the State Government should send specific proposals for their development. Development work at these places will be

undertaken only if funds are available. As to the question asked by the hon. Member, no such proposal has been received by the Government.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Next Question No. 635.

Promotion of Fish Farming in U.P.

*635. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by Government to promote fish farming in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether Government provide any financial assistance to the fish farmers in the event of any loss to them; and

(c) if so, the details of the nature of assistance provided ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) For promotion of fish farming in Uttar Pradesh 28 Fish Farmers' Development Agencies (FFDAs) have been set up under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Development of Agriculture". These FFDAs provide the requisite financial, technical and extension support for fish farming.

For ensuring supply of quality fish seed for fish farming activity, the Government have sanctioned establishment of 5 Commercial fish seed hatcheries in Uttar Pradesh.

A Central Sector scheme for utilisation of sewage for fish farming has also been sanctioned in Uttar Pradesh during 1987-88.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, fish farming is an important industry of our country. I feel that fish is neither an unwelcome addition to one's dish nor does it hurt one's religious feelings. The hon. Minister of State of Agriculture, who belongs to Uttar Pradesh, is present here. I do not know what kind of encouragement is being given to fish farming in Uttar

Pradesh because in reply to my Question he has stated that Rs. 82 lakhs were allocated for this in 1986-87 and only Rs. 47.64 lakhs in 1987-88. This is the position in Uttar Pradesh. I do not know what type of encouragement you are providing and what type of efforts you are making ?

Could the hon. Minister please tell me something about the technical aspect of this development programme ? Where in Uttar Pradesh is this programme being taken up ? In view of the importance of water reservoirs of Uttar Pradesh, particularly those of Eastern Uttar Pradesh, is the Government considering to establish hatcheries in the commissionereries of Banaras, Gorakhpur, Azamgarh and Ballia ?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I want to tell the hon. Member that facilities for fish farming are available in 1 lakh 25 thousand hectares in ponds and tanks, 1 lakh 31 thousand hectares in water reservoirs, 1 lakh 89 thousand hectares in lakes and 7 lakh 23 thousand hectares in perennial rivers. This information pertains to Uttar Pradesh only. Production of fish in Uttar Pradesh is expected to be 85 thousand metric tonnes in 1987-88. By the end of the Seventh Plan in 1989-90 the target for fish production has been fixed at 1 lakh metric tonnes. I shall now explain what is being done at technical level during the Seventh Plan. In the Seventh Plan stress has been laid on the development of fish farming in ponds and tanks, changing the outlook, fish farming in cold waters or in water in hilly areas, setting-up of a National Fishermen Welfare Fund, Fishermen Group Insurance Schemes for accidents, establishment of fish hatcheries and the development of fish farming development agencies.

Sir, in Uttar Pradesh alone, fish production agencies are functioning in 28 districts. Funds are sanctioned for the these working agencies. A sum of Rs. 2 lakh, 50 thousand is given annually. As regards your question about the location of the five hatcheries, I would like to tell that one is in Gorakhpur, which you have been demanding, one in Gomtinagar in Lucknow, one in Amethi, one in Allahabad and one in Faizabad. An yearly expenditure of Rs. 51 lakhs will be incurred on each of these.