

**TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE
AT RAMESHWARAM**

100. **SHRI T. V. ANANDAN**: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to open a Tourist Information Centre at the Rameshwaram Passengers Embarkation Shed to benefit the passengers from foreign countries; and

(b) if so, what are details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRIMATI JAHANARA JAIPAL SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: Is the Government aware that foreigners numbering about 30 to 40 a month use this embarkation shed and in the absence of a Tourist Information Centre—and also there is not a hotel there—the tourists find it difficult and if the Government is interested in attracting foreign tourists, is this how the Government is going about it?

DR. KARAN SINGH: At one time there used to be a fairly heavy tourist traffic from Ceylon and at that time an Information Assistant was specially posted at Dhanushkodi. However, two or three years ago the Ceylon Government imposed some restrictions upon its tourists going abroad and since then the number of tourists there does not warrant a special centre. I would also point out for the information of the hon. Member that the Government of India looks after only the major ports of entry and places of special foreign tourist interest. The other places are the responsibility of the State Governments and we have not received any proposal from the State Government for setting up a centre at this place.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: Only last month I saw some foreigners com-

plaining. It is a thatched shed with sandy flooring and when they pass over the sandy floor the sand gets into the boot and they get irritated. And it is with that irritation they would leave the country. That is why I want to bring to the notice of the Government that this is not the proper way to attract tourists.

DR. KARAN SINGH: I am thankful to the hon. Member for bringing this to our notice and we will certainly see that whatever is possible is done to improve the condition there.

SUGARCANE PRODUCTION
101. **SHRI NIREN GHOSH**: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sugarcane production has declined this year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a recent statement made by the President of the Indian Sugar Mills Association that unless the sugarcane grower was offered an economic price there would be an acute shortage of sugar and imports of which might become inevitable; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to increase sugarcane production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE): (a) and (b) Although official estimates of sugarcane production during 1966-67 are not yet available, it is feared that due to decrease in area under sugarcane and drought conditions which prevailed during the periods of sowing and growth, the production of sugarcane may be less this year.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Information about cane sowings for the next season is not yet available. Government