

LOK SABHA

Friday, March 16, 1973/Phalgun 25,
1894 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**Norms for Amenities Provided at
Tourist Centres Entirely run by Cen-
tral Government**

*361. SHRI SHANKERRAO SAVANT: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) which Tourist Centres are run entirely by the Central Government;

(b) what amenities are provided by the Centre at these places; and

(c) whether Government have fixed any norms for amenities provided at these places?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) to (c). No Tourist Centres are run entirely by the Central Government. The development and promotion of areas of tourist interest concern the Central and State Governments, public sector undertakings and private enterprise, and every effort is made to ensure that the facilities and amenities provided are comparable with international standards.

SHRI SHANKERRAO SAVANT: It is said that the development and promotion of areas of tourist interest

concern the Central and State Governments, public sector undertakings and private enterprises. Are the functions of these four agencies clearly demarcated? If so, how are they demarcated? Secondly, what are the international standards in respect of facilities and amenities to which reference is made in the reply? Thirdly, several tourist centres like Rajgarh, the capital of Shivaji, and ancient caves in Konkan etc. are not cared for. Will the Central Government pay special attention to them?

DR. KARAN SINGH: There is really no rigid hard and fast demarcation as such. It depends upon the nature of the area concerned and centre is involved for some time past in respect of areas where large number of tourists congregate and there are State Governments, local bodies and private enterprise which are involved and there is no clear demarcation because it is a developing situation. Regarding international standards and hotels and motels and other things go, there is a well-known classification of one-star to five-star category. These classifications are accepted the world over. It does not mean that it refers to only the luxury hotels, but even the simple hotels have to conform to certain generally accepted international standards. We have got our own classification even in this country and that is broadly equal to intentional standards. Regarding Raigarh and Konkan areas I have no information. If it is of tourist importance, the State Government should have given it some attention.

SHRI S. B. GIRI: May I know whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has sent a proposal for a tourist centre at Warangal?

DR. KARAN SINGH: I do not have any information about that I may add that now we are at the end of the Fourth Plan and Fifth Plan is being prepared. A lot of proposals will come from the States and they will be examined.

SHRI MADHURYYA HALDAR: May I know whether Government has any proposals for the middle income group in all the tourist centres?

DR. KARAN SINGH: Yes, Sir. In fact, we have an extensive programme of youth hostels for younger people to travel and stay at very reasonable rates.

DR. HENRY AUSTIN: May I know whether, apart from the proposal of youth hostels, are there any concrete suggestions or proposals to meet the needs of the tourists of middle income group. For example, the middle and lower income group tourists who come to Delhi, find it awfully difficult to get any accommodation.

DR. KARAN SINGH: Yes, Sir. As I submitted we are interested in the development of accommodation from one star to five star standard. Apart from the hostels being run in the public sector we are also giving loans specifically for the construction of lower income hostels. Previously, loans were available only to the three, four and five star hotels. Now, we have amended the rules.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: Orissa offers a number of places for tourist attraction. May I know whether the Central Government is assisting the State Government to put a hotel in Konarak?

DR. KARAN SINGH: Sir, the position is that in Konarak we already have a small tourist lodge. There is no other proposal. The State Govt. has a lodge there also. But we have received an application for loan from a private party for hotel in Bhub-

neshwar which is being processed. There is no proposal to have an air strip in Konarak because it is already in a stage of collapse and very heavy vibrations may further deteriorate the situation. So, Bhubneshwar will have to be used as the point

DR. RANEN SEN: A little while ago the hon. Minister said the tourist centres are jointly developed and run by the Central Government, State Governments and private enterprises. May I know whether it is a fact that in the recent conference of the Eastern region about tourism a complaint has been made by almost all the Ministers from the Eastern part of India that sufficient help is not being given by the Centre to develop tourist centres all over the Eastern part. If that is so, what is the reaction of the government to that grievance or complaint?

DR. KARAN SINGH: The seminar, which the hon. member referred to was held in fact very largely through my own assistance. I went there personally. It is true that for various reasons tourism development in the eastern sector has not been as fast as we would have liked. There are two major reasons for it. One is, of course, the fact that there were for some time political problems (*Interruptions*).

DR. RANEN SEN: I am referring to Bihar and Assam also.

DR. KARAN SINGH: No, no; I am putting the facts. Also in Assam and other areas of eastern India, there are still some restrictions for security purposes on visiting. But as far as the region is concerned in general, I have assured at the seminar, and I do so again that we are paying special attention to it. I could recount if you like the steps. In Bodh Gaya, Nalanda, Rajgir, in Dum Dum and in Darjeeling, we are giving special attention to this matter. In Darjeeling we have a youth hostel. We hope that in the Fifth Plan tourism development in the eastern region will gain momentum.