

prices for jute, paddy and coarse grains;

(b) whether these prices take into account the present cost of production incurred by the farmers; and

(c) the likely impact of these prices on food production and the procurement drives of the Central and various State Governments?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The minimum support prices which have been fixed at a higher level in comparison with those of the previous year are expected to have a favourable impact on food production as well as the procurement drives.

Foreign Exchange earnings from Tourists

***328. Shri George Fernandes:**
Shri J. H. Patel:
Shri Madhu Limaye:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri S. N. Maiti:
Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:
Shri A. K. Kisku:
Shri A. Sreedharan:
Shri Mohan Swarup:

Will the Minister of **Tourism and Civil Aviation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a fall in the foreign exchange earnings from tourists visiting India;

(b) whether devaluation of the rupee is the cause of this fall; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the earnings from tourism?

The Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation (Dr. Karan Singh): (a) and (b). The estimate of foreign exchange earnings from tourism for the year

1966 and onwards is not yet available. It is therefore not possible to state with any degree of accuracy what precisely has been the effect of devaluation on foreign exchange earnings from tourism.

(c) It is proposed to speed up the building of the tourist infra-structure for increasing earnings from tourism. This would include augmentation of hotel accommodation and transport facilities, improvement of airport facilities and development of tourist resorts for attracting larger volume of traffic by characters from Europe. The publicity efforts abroad are also being stepped up both quantitatively as well as qualitatively.

Platform Tickets at Airports

***329. Shri V. Krishnamoorthi:**
Shri N. S. Sharma:
Shri Shri Gopal Saboo:
Shri Sharda Nand:
Shri Brij Bhushan Lal:
Shri Hukam Chand Kachwai:
Shri Jagannath Rao Joshi:
Shri Ram Singh Ayarwal:

Will the Minister of **Tourism and Civil Aviation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to issue platform tickets at airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for the introduction of such a system?

The Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation (Dr. Karan Singh): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. It is proposed to introduce an experimental scheme at Palam. if possible from 1st August, 1967, whereby a small fee of 0.50 paise per head will be levied on entry to the domestic lounges at the airport. The intention is to reduce the present heavy influx of visitors, sight seers and other persons, which places a heavy strain on the limited facilities available for travellers.