

Promotion of Tourism to Andaman and Nicobar Islands

2335. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been worked out to promote domestic tourism in the country if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any steps have been taken to develop the Andamans and Nicobar islands which have a great tourist attraction potential and if so, details?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTAM KAUSHIK): (a) The promotion of domestic tourism has been undertaken on a continuous basis since the Second Five Year Plan. In the previous and existing Plan periods a number of tourist bungalows, youth hostels, cafeterias, tourist reception centres were constructed either by the Central Department of Tourism or jointly by the Central and State Departments of Tourism with the expenditure being shared on 50:50 basis. During the next Five Year Plan (1978-83) it is proposed to take up the improvements/expansion of existing dharamshalas/sarais, and the development of tourist village complexes along major tourist routes for promoting domestic tourism, subject to the availability of funds.

(b) Because of the restriction on the entry of international tourists into Andaman & Nicobar Islands, and because of its very fragile environment, no tourism development in the Andaman Island has been taken up so far in the Central Sector. The Island Administration, however, has provided some accommodation at Port Blair, and there is a proposal to construct a hotel in the public sector. The Island Administration has also proposed to convert the entrance block to the Cellular Jail at Port Blair into a youth hostel type of accommodation. Some clarification on the proposal has been

sought from the Island Administration for taking a decision in the matter. The Island Administration has also plans to purchase launches/coaches and construct additional accommodation for tourists during the next Five Year Plan (1978-83).

Special Recruitment of Pilots from Scheduled Castes and Tribes

2336. DR. BHAGWAN DASS RATHOR:
SHRI R. L. KUREEL:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines had arranged for a special recruitment for Pilots from Scheduled Castes and Tribes;

(b) if so, the total number of applications received;

(c) the number of applicants called for interview;

(d) whether all reserved vacancies have been filled; and

(e) if not, what is reason for the shortfall and what efforts are being made to make good the same?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTAM KAUSHIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Sixty applications were received.

(c) Eleven eligible candidates were called for interview.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Three vacancies were reserved for Scheduled Castes and two for Scheduled Tribes. Against these only two Scheduled Caste candidates came up to the required standard and were selected. The remaining vacancies 1 for Scheduled Castes and 2 for Scheduled Tribes—could not be filled.

A fresh advertisement inviting applications for pilots (including reserved vacancies) was issued on 22nd October, 1977. The recruitment is under process.