

CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether India Tourism Development Corporation had taken over the hotel building owned by New Delhi Municipal Committee at Chanakyapuri in New Delhi ;

(b) whether the contract for interior decoration of that hotel had been given to a foreign firm ; and

(c) if so, the reasons for doing so ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI) :

(a) Yes, Sir. India Tourism Development Corporation has recently taken over the N. D. M. C. hotel building in Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, to run it as luxury hotel in the name of Akbar Hotel.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A great deal of intricate interior design work is involved which needs expertise of a very high order. As suitable local talent was not available, the services of an internationally known firm of foreign consultants with considerable experience of interior design work in hotels have been requisitioned.

Steps to develop Places of Tourist Attraction in Kerala

3795. **SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN :** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are great possibilities of developing places of tourist attraction in Kerala ; and

(b) if so, what are the special measures Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) A sea resort of international standard for attracting destination tourist traffic is being developed at Kovalam at an estimated cost of Rs. 2.21 crores.

(ii) Periyar Game Sanctuary has been specially selected as one of the five principle game sanctuaries for development to attract tourists. It is proposed to augment the existing accommodation there and to provide motor launches for the transportation of tourists.

(iii) A Youth Hostel is proposed to be built at Trivandrum.

Steps to develop Sunderban in West Bengal as a Tourist Centre

3796. **SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI :** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any plan to develop 'Sunderban' in West Bengal as a tourist centre ;

(b) whether the general charges of tourist hotels there need to be minimised for students and youth of recognized institutions ; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no recognised tourist hotel in the area.

(c) The details in developing 'Sunderban' are being considered in consultation with the State Government.

Merit Scholarships for Students in Residential Schools

3797. **SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI :** Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to increase the number of merit scholarships for students in residential schools ; and

(b) if so, the number of scholarships to be allotted to such institutions during the current year ?