

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 ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAVA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal is to increase the number of scholarships from next academic year. Details are to be finalised after a conference of Principals of Public Schools, proposed to be held in August 1971. The number of scholarships allotted during the current year under the old scheme is 200.

Conference of Ministers of Social Welfare of various States

3798 **SHRI BIREN DUTTA :** Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Conference of Ministers in charge of Backward Classes Welfare and Social Welfare of different States was held recently ; and

(b) if so, the recommendations made by the Conference ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY) : (a) Yes, a Conference of State Ministers incharge of Backward Classes Welfare and Social Welfare was held at New Delhi on 20th and 21st May, 1971.

(b) The points which emerged at the Conference are given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT—595/71*].

Cases of Over-Invoicing and Under-Invoicing

3799. **SHRI S.M. BANERJEE :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what further steps have been taken to stop cases of over invoicing and under-invoicing.

(b) the number of cases detected in 1970 ; and

(c) the action taken against those firms or individuals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) The following further steps have been taken in the recent past to check cases of under-invoicing and over-invoicing :

In order to prevent frauds relating to under-invoicing and over-invoicing at minor ports, it has been prescribed that the customs staff posted there should be trained at the major Custom House in the commodities that are usually imported or exported from such minor ports and in regard to other stray imports or exports, the documents should be checked in consultation with the staff of the major Custom House. In major Custom Houses the work relating to the scrutiny of export documents for certain types of goods, hitherto being handled by the ministerial staff, has been entrusted to trained executive staff. Arrangements have also been made for collection of information about the prevailing prices of goods in certain important foreign centres through officers posted abroad. Section 12(1) of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act has been amended to provide for penal action in cases of mis-declaration of value.

The Study Team which examined the problem of leakage of foreign exchange through invoice manipulation has recently submitted its report which is being examined.

(b) 72 cases of under-invoicing and over-invoicing were detected during the year 1970.

(c) In some of the cases goods were released on warning after amending the declared value. In some others goods confiscated with provision for redemption on payment of fine and penalties imposed in some. Some cases are still under adjudication.

Opening of New Central Schools

3800. **SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether more Central Schools or likely to be established in the country ;

(b) if so, the number of such schools ; and

(c) the places at which these schools are likely to be established ?