

Oceanarium to come up at Goa" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated July 25, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the total cost likely to be incurred thereon;

(d) the time by which the work on this Oceanarium is likely to be commenced;

(e) whether the Government propose to set up some more Oceanarium in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Oceanarium is an under water world in which marine flora and fauna are kept and maintained in living condition in a large sized shore based tank with walk through acrylic tunnel. The Department of Ocean Development is involved in the promotion of setting up of oceanarium in the country to create awareness among the public on marine life as in the natural habitat and facilitating Research and Development activities. With these objectives, the Department took steps for establishing an oceanarium at Goa on Build, Own, Operate and Maintain (BOOM) basis. The Government of Goa expressed its willingness to get this facility in Goa. Through a Global tender, an Indian Company, namely M/s Bharath Oceanic Recoveries Pvt. Ltd., Thiruvananthapuram which bided in consortium with Studio "C" and M/s. Oceanic Underwater World Private Limited, Australia was selected to establish this facility. The consortium has formed a company, namely Goa theme Park Ltd., which has signed an implementation agreement with the Government of Goa in December, 1996. The Government of Goa has provided land measuring 32,000 sq.mt. at Miramar, on a lease basis for establishing the oceanarium and the associated attractions. The Oceanarium complex consists of main tank with under water tunnel, micro-world, touch pool, toy train, musical fountain, research and educational facilities, aquaria, cafeteria, theatre, souvenir shop etc. Additional facilities to be provided are -

(a) Maritime research and display facilities, (b) Internet connectivity and communication systems, (c) Hall of fame (educational), (d) Amphi-theatre for public performance including art and cultural shows, (e) facilities for thrilling rides on 'water/land' themes and (f) cultural/retail centre for 'Goan/Indian' artifacts and cuisine. About 6,000 animals representing 350 species in the range of sharks, turtles, rays colourful fishes, corals, etc., are proposed for display in live condition.

(c) The project is being established on BOOM basis. The company invests the entire capital cost of Rs. 68

crores (with import duty for capital equipments) and bears the operational cost of approximately Rs. 10 crores per annum.

(d) The work relating to construction is likely to commence in October 1997.

(e) and (f) The Government of India proposes to promote establishment of similar Oceanarium in other places of country preferably on BOOM basis depending on the interest expressed by the State Governments. The Government of Tamil Nadu is considering a proposal to establish a similar type of oceanarium at Chennai.

Inquiry Against Retired Government Employees

3355. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Government employees of Andaman and Nicobar Islands against whom enquiry was ordered without obtaining the sanction of the President after their retirement;

(b) the number of officials of Andaman and Nicobar Administration facing departmental enquiries who have neither been sanctioned provisional pension nor paid GPF, even after three months of their retirement;

(c) whether any enquiry could be ordered against a retired Government servant without the sanction of the President; and

(d) if not, the action proposed to be taken against the officials responsible for the lapse?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (d) The Ministry of Home Affairs has informed that it is collecting requisite information from the Andaman and Nicobar Administration and the same will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Child Labour

3356. DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Union Government has been drawn towards the news-item appeared in the Dainik Tribune dated July 26, 1997 under the caption, "Haryana mein lagbhag teen hazar bal mazdoor";

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto and the steps taken to eliminate child labour and the directions followed by the Haryana Government out of the above;

(c) the efforts being made by the Union Government to eliminate this evil not only from Haryana but also

from all over the country and the details of the State Governments which are not co-operating in the efforts being made by the Union Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Union Government have provided some financial assistance to the Haryana Government for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the amount thereof and the amount earmarked by the State Government of this purpose during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Yes. Sir. This news item had appeared in the context of the survey conducted in the State in implementation of the directions of the Supreme Court.

(b) After the first phase of survey, the State Government has initiated action for withdrawal of the children working in hazardous occupations/processes, establishment of Child Labour Welfare-cum-Rehabilitation Funds and recovery of compensation @Rs. 20,000 per child from employer found employing child in contravention of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.

(c) For the rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupations, 76 Child Labour Projects have been sanctioned so far for coverage of around 1.5 lakh children working in hazardous occupations. The issue was discussed in the Conference of the State Labour Ministers held on 7-8th July, 1997 when all the State Governments reaffirmed their commitment for eradication of the practice of child labour in a phased manner.

(d) and (e) An amount of Rs. 28 lakhs has already been released by the Government of India to 16 districts of Haryana @Rs. 1.75 lakh per district for conducting survey on child labour. The State Government has also earmarked Rs. 5 lakh for the financial year 1997-98.

Funds for Cancer Centre

3357. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received by the Union Government seeking grants for Mehdi Nwaj Jung Institute for Cancer and Shrimati Basavatharak Ramarao Memorial Centre to set up a cancer hospital; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

Recognitions of BDS Degrees

3358. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether BDS degrees conferred by different Universities such as Australia, Romania and Russian Federation are recognised in India for higher studies and practice;

(b) if so, the details of such Universities; and

(c) whether the recognition pre-supposes reciprocity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) and (b) The following dental qualifications awarded by the Universities situated in Australia and Russian Federation are recognised for the purposes of the Dentists Act, 1948, only when granted to Indian Citizen. No dental qualification is recognised in respect of Romanian Universities.

1. University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia.

2. University of Queensland, Australia.

3. Moscow Medical Stomatological Institute, Moscow.

(c) No reciprocity exists with any country.

Illegal Construction

3359. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that illegal construction and renovation works are going on in large scale in the Paras Cinema Complex, Nehru Place, New Delhi despite eviction notice served by the concerned authorities in connivance with corrupt officials;

(b) if so, the relevance of eviction notice; and

(c) steps being taken to safeguard the lives of cinema viewers/employees of various organisations including the nationalised banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (c) The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has reported that in response to the vacation order issued on 25.7.97, some rectification work is going on at the site at present. The owner of the Paras Cinema has also filed an appeal against the eviction order before the Appellate Tribunal of the MCD, which, in turn, has directed MCD to inspect the site and furnish the report before it on 28.8.97. Further, two occupiers of the Complex have filed a case before Hon'ble High Court of Delhi and the same is pending.