

Government on Goa hotels is proposed to be dissolved; and

(b) if so, what are the considerations which weighed with Government for such steps?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILA-MANI ROURAY): (a) and (b) The monitoring panel constituted by the Government on Goa hotels has been dissolved in view of the decision taken to the effect that the State Government will take necessary action for enforcing the environmental norms laid down for construction of hotels/beach resorts.

**Death of tigers and other animals in Nagarhole National Park**

2330. SHRI KRISHANA KUMAR BIRLA; Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of tigers and other animals have died at the Nagarhole National Park following an Indo-US research project, involving tranquilising and radio-collaring of animals;

(b) if so, what is the number thereof; and

(c) whether Government have withdrawn permission to carry out the research project; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) During the period from 3-3-90 to 4-4-90, three tigers and two tigresses were reported to have died in the Nagarhole National Park. This included one tiger which had earlier been tranquilised and radio-collared as part of a research project on the ecology of large carnivores being conducted in the National Park under the Indo-US Rupee Fund Programme. No report of death of any other animal has been received

The reported causes of the death of the above mentioned tigers and tigresses are disease, injuries caused by in-traspecific fight and old age.

(c) The State Government of Karnataka have withdrawn the permission granted to the Project authorities to conduct the research, mentioned in the answer to part (a) and (b) of the question.

**Defence preparation for Indo-Pakistan war**

2331. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV;

SHRI H. HANUMAN-THAPPA:

SHRI PRABHAKAR B. KORE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what would be our defence preparation in the eventuality of Indo-Pak war taking place in near future;

(b) what is the progress in solving the Kashmir problem with Pakistan; and

(c) what is the manner in which Government propose to deal this problem in view of Pakistan's encouragement to terrorist activities in Kashmir and Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) Adequate measures have been taken to meet any challenge to our territorial integrity.

(b) It has been conveyed to Pakistan that the whole of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. The question that remains to be solved is the vacation of territory illegally occupied by Pakistan. India is committed to the Shimla Agreement under which the two countries

have resolved to settle all differences bilaterally and through peaceful negotiations.

(c) Government have taken up with Pakistan, at different levels, the question of their assistance to terrorism and version directed against India. On one side, necessary steps are being taken, *inter-alia*, to secure the border and counter the threats posed by the trained terrorists.

**Outstanding features of Ocean Development in the country**

2332. SHRI VITHALRAO  
MADHAVRAO JADHAV:

SHRI H. HANUMAN-  
THAPPA;

SHRI PRABHAKAR B.  
KORE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the outstanding features of efforts for ocean development of our country;

(b) what is its economic viability; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange involved in the research on ocean development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) The outstanding features of efforts made by the Department of Ocean Development are as follows:

1. *Ocean Information System—Primary Data Base*

A satellite based ocean information system has been established, to provide management support to navigation, coastal zone management and design strategies for exploration and exploitation of marine living and non-living resources in the country.

2. *Seabed Mining*

A mine site for the exploitation of seabed polymetallic nodules has been secured for the country in the Central Indian Ocean, as a result of extensive marine exploration covering more than 4 million sq. km. With registration of this site by the Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority (United Nations), India became the first country to be registered as a Pioneer Investor.

As a sequel to this, a programme has now been generated to design and develop a test seabed mining system at the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute, Durgapur.

Research & Development for the extraction of metals from the nodules has now reached the stage where it is now ready for being upgraded to a pilot plant capable of processing 250 kg. of nodules per day. This is being done.

3. *Antarctica*

Nine expeditions have been sent to Antarctica so far. In addition to continually raising the quality and scientific content of research activities at Maitri, a special exploratory expedition was sent in November, 1989 to the Weddell Sea Region of Antarctica as a part of a programme to develop first hand knowledge and understanding of the critical terrains of Antarctica to guide us in selecting an appropriate site, if it is later decided to set up a second permanent station in Antarctica.

4. *Research and training in modelling Oceanic Circulation and Air-Sea processes*

Recognizing that oceanic circulation plays a dominant role in determining all other oceanic processes, and the critical role of air-sea exchange processes in controlling