

Accommodation arrangement to tourists visiting Andaman and Nicobar Islands

9fi. SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA:

SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO:

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN:

SHRI SADASIV BAGAITKAR:

SHRI VISWANATHA MENON:

SHRI YOGENDRA

MAKWANA:

SHRI BIR CHANDRA DEB

BURMAN:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

SHRI NAGESHWAR PRASAD

SHAH;

SHRIMATI RAJINDER KAUR: SHRI

AHMAD HOSSAIN MONDAL:

SHRI S. A. KHAJA

MOHIDEEN:

SHRIMATI PRATIMA BOSE:

PROF. N. M. KAMBLE:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is heavy rush of tourists for Andaman and Nicobar islands and that there is acute shortage of accommodation for them on those islands;

(b) what is the number of tourists who visited those islands in 1978 and so far in 1979 and what are the details of the accommodation available at each place on the islands; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to provide more accommodation to the tourists visiting these islands?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) to (c). Since statistics of foreign tourist arrivals are collected on an all-India basis and on State-wise or place-wise basis, the actual number of tourists visiting the Andaman & Nicobar Islands is not readily available. With the opening up of the Andaman Islands which were closed to foreigners

until 1973, keen interest is now being evinced by international tourists, as well as by domestic tourists, in visiting the Islands. The flow of tourists to these Islands is somewhat restricted in view of the permit system for foreigners, and limited air and shipping services available from the mainland.

At Port Blair the following accommodation is available:—

(i) Tourist Home 32 beds

(ii) Magapod's Nest 12 beds

(iii) Corbyn's Cove Beach Hotel 32 beds

At Mayabunder, Rangeet and Diglipur, guest houses having two or three rooms are also available for use by tourists.

To meet the increasing demand for accommodation, the Central Department of Tourism is constructing a Youth Hostel of 44 beds at Port Blair at an estimated cost of Rs. 10.00 lakhs. It is expected to be ready during 1980. The Islands Administration proposes to expand the Tourist Home at Port Blair by adding 25 beds. There is also a proposal from a private party to put up a 108-room hotel at Port Blair.

Inclusion of officers belonging to SC/ ST in the Departmental Recruitment/ Promotion Committee

997. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA.
SHRI KALP NATH RAI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Officers belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Tribes have been included in the Departmental Recruitment/Promotion Committees of his Ministry; and

(b) if so, what is the number of posts which have been de-reserved during the year 1978-79 by various departments of his Ministry?