56

DEVELOPMENT OF TOURIST CENTRE IN KERALA

*27. SHRI B. V. ABDULLA KOYA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

whether it is a fact that Government propose to develop certain areas in the State of Kerala as tourist centres during the year 1971-72; if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): Yes, Sir, A beach resort is being developed at Kovalam and work on the construction of cottages, a hotel and a beach service centre has been taken in hand. Action has also been initiated for the construction of a Youth Hostel in Trivandrum. In addition provision has been made for the purchase of two motor launches at a cost of Rs. 2 lakhs for Peri-yar Wild Life Sanctuary.

NATIONALISATION OF FOREIGN OIL COMPANIES

*28. SHRI VENIGALLA SATYANA-RAYANA

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to nationalise the foreign oil companies or to modify the refinery agreements and equity participation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): (a) and (b) While there are no immediate proposals for nationalising the refineries and other operations of the foreign oil companies, a detailed study has been undertaken of the various alternatives open to the Government to deal with the question of refinery agreements and other connected matters in their entirety. When this study is completed a final view will be taken in this matter.

EFFECT OF DEVALUATION OF U.S. DOLLAR ON EXCHANGE VALUE CF RUPEE

*29. SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : SHRI K. C. PANDA : SHRI RAM SAHAI : SHRI JAGD1SH PRASAD MATHUR: SHRI D. THENGAR1 : SHRILALK. ADVANI: SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR : SHRI PREM MANOHAR : SHRI J. P. YADAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the exchange value of the rupee has been affected as a result of the recent devaluation of U. S. dollar;

(b) what is Government's assessment about the impact of devaluation of dollar on the country's planned development foreign loans, exports and imports and on the country's economy in general; and

(c) the steps taken so far to counter the adverse effects of dollar devaluation on the country's economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) to (c) In the context of the realignment of currencies, of the ten industrialised countries (known as the "Group of Ten") which was agreed on December 17, 1971 the USA proposed, subject to approval by the U.S. Corgress, to increase the price of one ounce of gold in terms of U.S. dollar from \$35 to \$38 *i.e.* by 8.57 per cent. The