

(a) how many hotel projects have been approved by his Ministry to tide over the acute shortage of hotel accommodation in the country;

(b) the total number of hotels likely to be completed during the current financial year;

(c) to what extent setting up of these hotels will ease the position; and

(d) the time schedule for completing the remaining hotels ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SYED) : (a) The Ministry of Tourism has approved 238 hotel projects from the point of view of their suitability for tourists.

(b) On the basis of progress reports received in the Ministry and other available indications, about 80 hotel projects are likely to be completed during 1987-88.

(c) The completion of these hotel projects is likely to provide about 7,500 rooms which will go a long way in easing the existing pressure on hotel accommodation in the country.

(d) The remaining hotel projects are expected to be progressively completed during the following two years.

Water sport in Kerala

567. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal for development of Water Sports in any of the tourist centres in the State of Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SYED) : (a) and (b) There is a scheme for development of Water Sports at Kovalam for which Central Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned

assistance of Rs. 17.31 lakhs. There are also proposals for introduction of Water Sports at Malampuzha and development of beach resort at Kappad. The State Government of Kerala has also got plans to introduce water sports at Veli and Pathiramanal.

Search for location in Indian Ocean for nuclear testing facility by France

568. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government are aware that the Government of France are searching for a location in Indian Ocean for nuclear testing facility;

(b) whether the Kerguelen island in Indian Ocean is being considered for the same;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) whether Non-aligned Movement has reacted against such a move ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b) Government have seen reports in this regard.

(c) Government of India are opposed to the military presence in the Indian Ocean region of any non-littoral State.

(d) No, Sir.

Plan to expand hotel industry

569. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether a crash plan to expand the country's hotel industry to enable it to receive the targeted 2.5 million tourists by 1990 has been worked out;