

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