ACCOMMODATION AS A BASIC COMPONENT OF TOURISM

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Accommodation is a very important part of the tourism infrastructure and development of tourism is a function of accommodation. It creates a home away from home for the tourist. Hotel industry is the most sophisticated industry today. The United Nations Conference on International Travel and Tourism held in 1963, acknowledged the importance of accommodation, both traditional (hotel, motel) and supplementary (camps, youth hostels and so on) as incentives to International tourism. Many countries have recognized the vital importance of the accommodation industry in developing their tourism and have coordinated their activities by providing big incentives and concessions to hoteliers [3].

A hotel provides accommodation, meals and refreshment for irregular periods of time for those who may reserve their accommodation either in advance or on the premises. Hotel is defined in several ways: "A place which supplies board and lodging" or "A place for the entertainment of the travellers" [1]. A hotel is an institution in which lodging, meals and other services are provided for travellers. A hotel also provides amenities like television and facilities like room services, laundry services, shops, auto rentals, airline ticketing, reservation, and banking. A hotel is a fixed immobile installation. Its products and services cannot move to tourists. It is an open and unique system where the tourist moves in, consumes the product and returns with an intangible product.

At the international level, the International Hotel Association (IHA) was founded in London in 1946. It has its headquarters in Paris now. It brings under its network thousands of international hotels and individual hoteliers from all over the world. It deals with various aspects of hotel management and links them together. It tries to unite the hotel associations of all countries and provides opportunities to discuss and solve their problems. It also trains young workers at IHA hotels. It publishes the International Hotel Guide and International Hotel Review every year [2].

According to physical features the accommodation industry can be broadly divided into:

- 1. <u>Traditional (hotel) accommodation</u>. It includes hotels and motels. Hotels can further be subdivided into various types: international, commercial, resort, floating, heritage. There are different kinds of motels: roadside, city motel, tourist cabinet, tourist court.
- 2. <u>Supplementary accommodation.</u> It includes premises, which offer accommodation but not necessarily hotel services. They are bungalows, dormitories, villas, youth hostels, travellers lodge, circuit houses, and inns.

3. <u>New accommodation concepts.</u> These are new concepts of accommodation, which have come into being. It has the combination of both the types discussed earlier. They include condominiums, time-sharing pensions, camping grounds, villas, eurotel, farm houses, and apart hotels [3].

International hotels are the modern western style hotels in almost all metropolitan and other big cities as well as principal tourist centers. These hotels are luxury hotels and are classified on the basis of internationally accepted system of classification. The hotels are placed in star categories. There are five such categories ranging from 5 stars to one star depending upon the facilities and services provided. Hotels belonging to international chains are owned by public companies and controlled by a Board of Directors [1].

The commercial hotels cater primarily to the individual travellers as compared to international hotels where the focus is on the group travel. Most of the commercial hotels receive the travellers who are there on business. They are situated in important commercial and industrial centers or in big towns or cities. Private owners run these hotels and their success depends on their efficiency and kind of services provided [1].

Resort hotels cater to the need of holidaymaker, and those tourists who travel for health or change of climate. Resort hotels are located near the sea, mountains and other areas of natural beauty. Rest, relaxation and entertainment are the key factors around which resorts are built. The type of services and amenities located in resort properties include recreation facilities such as a swimming pool, golf course, tennis courts, skiing, boating, surf riding and other various indoor sports. Resort can be classified on the basis of climate and topography such as summer, winter, and hill, health resorts, forest resorts and beach resorts [1].

Literature

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