

[Translation]

Ex-servicemen in pithoragarh, U.P.

2930. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ex-servicemen in district Pithoragarh in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the details of the retired personnel from the various wings of the defence forces?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) As per available information there are about sixty five thousand ex-servicemen in Pithoragarh district.

(b) Separate figures of ex-servicemen from the three wings of the Defence Forces are not available.

[English]

Tea auction procedure

2931. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the procedure for tea auction is proposed to be modified;

(b) whether the MRTTP Commission has issued order in this regard;

(c) whether this would affect marketing of tea; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) The existing rules of all the Public Tea Auction Centres in India which are licenced by Tea Board under the Tea (Marketing) Control Order 1984 are under examination by a Committee set up by Tea Board. This Committee is studying the matter with a view to suggesting

changes wherein necessary and to bring about rationalisation/improvement in the existing auction system.

(b) The MRTTP Commission had questioned the rules of certain tea auction centres. The cases against all auction centres except Coimbatore have been settled and the impugned rules have been amended/deleted.

(c) and (d). This will not affect marketing of tea since in most cases the rules have been amended in such a manner that certain powers left with the auction committees have been transferred to Tea Board for approval/ratification before implementation.

Master Plan for development of Kanyakumari

2932. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are proposals under consideration of Union Government to convert Kanyakumari into an attraction tourist centre; and

(b) whether master plan for its development has been prepared by Government; if so, what steps Government propose to take for its speedy implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). The Government of Tamil Nadu had forwarded in 1982-83 a Master Plan for Kanyakumari estimated to cost Rs. 18.98 crores. The Master Plan envisages provision of accommodation, transport, drinking water, land acquisition, electricity, recreation/entertainment, etc. The State Government was requested to identify specific components for which central assistance was required. Based on the proposals forwarded by the State Government, following projects have been taken up at Kanyakumari after the preparation of the Master Plan: