

Rehabilitation of Ex-servicemen in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

5267. SHRI R. L. BHATIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been framed by Government to settle the ex-servicemen and their families in Great Nicobar Island and other Islands in the Andaman and Nicobar Group of Islands;

(b) if so, the broad details thereof;

(c) how many persons and their families have so far gone there; and

(d) the manner in which these ex-servicemen have been selected and how many persons are there from Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA):

(a) A Scheme was framed to resettle ex-servicemen and their families in Great Nicobar Island only. The Scheme has been suspended presently in order to study the effects of deforestation on the ecology of the Island.

(b). Each ex-serviceman selected for re-settlement is allotted 10 acres of agricultural and plantation land and 1 acre of homestead land in addition to the various grants/loans amounting to about Rs. 23,000/-.

(c) 329 families of ex-servicemen have been resettled there.

(d) The ex-servicemen are selected by a Committee constituted by the Directorate General of Re-settlement which includes representatives of the Ministry of Defence, A&N Administration, concerned Rajya Sainik Board and the State Government. An ex-serviceman who is less than 50 years in age and has an agricultural background is eligible for resettlement in Great Nicobar Island. Out of 329 families settled so far, 100 families of ex-servicemen from Punjab have been resettled.

Satellite Launching Vehicle

5268. SHRI R. L. BHATIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is getting ready satellite launch vehicle; and

(b) if so, when the satellite is likely to be launched? }

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) and (b). The second experimental flight of the Satellite Launch Vehicle took place on July 18.

News Item "U.S. Balloon found near Gurdaspur"

5269. SHRI R. L. BHATIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been invited to the news item captioned 'US balloon found near Gurdaspur' appearing in the Tribune Chandigarh, dated the 19th March, 1980; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDR MAKWANA): (a) and (b). A balloon with US marking was recovered from the fields near village Jaiton Sarja, P. S. Sadar Batala of Gurdaspur District, in March, 1980. A box with US marking was found tied with the balloon. On examination it was found to be the usual Radio Sonde Meteorological equipment and nothing unusual was discovered.