

Tea Plantation in Kumayum and Garhwal Divisions

6852. SHRIMANABENDRA SHAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tea Board has set up its Regional Office in Lucknow in 1988 to promote tea plantation and tea industry in Kumayum and Garhwal Division;

(b) if so, the progress made by the Government to develop tea plantation in the above divisions since 1988 and to set up tea industries there; and

(c) the details of the areas covered under tea plantation and the places where tea industries have been set up in the above division so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) A regional office has been set up at Lucknow in March, 1988 with a view to under-taking development of tea industry in Uttar Pradesh including Kumaon and Garhwal Divisions.

(b) The progress made so far is given below:-

(i) Declaration of existing tea grown areas as 'hilly areas' for enabling tea gardens to avail of the loan and subsidy at higher rates for under-taking replantation and extension-planting programme and for the purpose of providing planting programme and for the purpose of providing special assistance under New Tea Unit Financing Scheme of the Tea Board for setting up of new tea gardens.

(ii) Two nurseries one each in the district of Dehradun in Garhwal Divi-

sion and Pithoragarh in Kumaon Division have been set up for raising the plant. The Tea Board had extended financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 9.89 lakhs for raising these nurseries.

(iii) The Tea Board has sponsored a six week's training programme for imparting training in tea culture for officials of the State Government at Tea Research Association, Jorhat.

(iv) A sum of Rs. 9.5 lakhs has been granted to the State Government for undertaking a pre-investment study for revival of the existing tea gardens and exploring the possibilities of expansion of tea cultivation in the State of Uttar Pradesh including Kumaon and Garhwal Divisions.

(c) There are seven tea estates with a total area of 867.59 hectares in Doon Valley in Garhwal region and another two with 137.13 hectares in Kumaon region. The Soil conservation Department of the State Government planted tea in approximately 25 hectares in the districts of Nainital, Almora and pithoragarh of Kumaon Division.

Wayside Amenities Along National Highways

6853. SHRIMATI DILKUMARI BHAN-DARI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some passenger oriented wayside amenities along the National Highways have been provided;

(b) if so, the details of these amenities along with the names of State and Union Territories situated on these National Highways;