

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to set up industries for packing and distribution of tea in collaboration with Arab Republic of Egypt;

(b) if so, the details of industries set up;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the conditions for setting up the joint venture with Egypt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) to (d) Proposal for setting up of a blending-cum-packaging factory in Arab Republic of Egypt by Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd., in collaboration with M/s SHEMTO, Egypt has been approved by the Government. The terms and conditions for setting up a joint venture are as under :-

- (i) The joint venture involves a total equity of US \$ 2 million of which SHEMTO's share will be of US \$ 1.02 million while TTCI's share will be of US \$ 0.98 million. Out of this 25% (US \$ 0.245 million) is to be in the form of cash remittance and balance by export proceeds of US \$ 0.735 million.
- (ii) The joint venture will use a minimum of 75% of Indian tea as long as continued supply of Indian tea is ensured.
- (iii) TTCI will be exclusive buying agents for purchase of tea from India for the joint venture.

(English)

Visit of Foreign Minister of Afghanistan

524. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Foreign

Minister of Afghanistan visited India in February, 1987; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the discussion held with him?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It was decided that both sides will continue the dialogue on matters of mutual interest and it was reiterated that next meeting of the Indo-Afghan Joint Commission would be held in Kabul later this year.

Integrated development of tourist in Southern States

525. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether a new plan is being formulated for the integrated development of tourism in the Southern States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SYED) : (a) and (b) The development of tourism in the Southern States is an on-going exercise under the Five Year Plans. Under the Seventh Plan special emphasis is being given on the provision of accommodation at tourist centres, the development of beach resorts, the provision of wayside amenities, the encouragement of tourist charters to four Southern destinations viz. Goa, Trivandrum, Madras and Bangalore, and on promoting tourist attractions of the South through improved publicity literature, films and promotion in the electronic media.

Working conditions of employees of Border Roads Organisation

526. SHRI T. BASHEER : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :