

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1264
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09th February, 2024

BHATINDA CANTT

1264. SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the petition of shop owners of RSC 4 Bathinda Cantt where hundreds of shop owners have been asked to vacate the shops allotted to them long ago on the call of the Government and shut their long running businesses, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to allot these vacated shops to war-widows/disabled soldiers/ex-servicemen, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government intends to allot new shops to these categories instead of evicting the existing business owners from the cantonment since as it owns acres of vacant land around these shops, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government considers to look into the plight of the established shop owners sympathetically and take a favourable decision; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI AJAY BHATT)

(a) & (b): A representation from shopkeepers of Regimental Shopping Complex, Bathinda has been received requesting for quashing of vacation orders/notices issued to them for handing over the vacant possession of the shops. These Shops were allotted initially in 1989 for a period of 11 months and thereafter the time period was extended from time to time.

As per Ministry of Defence (MoD) policy dated 17.01.2018, there is 100% reservation for allotment of Regimental shops to War Widows/Widows of defence personnel killed while on duty/disabled Soldier/Ex-Servicemen and Spouses/Widows of Ex-Servicemen etc. for a period of 05 years (with a 03 year cooling off/break period). Accordingly, the regimental shops of Bathinda were auctioned in 2021 and allotted to various categories of Ex-Servicemen/War-Widows in terms of ibid policy.

(c): The defence land which appears to be vacant or unutilized is actually meant for purpose of training and future infrastructure development. The Shopping complex of Bathinda is as per the authorized Scales of Accommodation and its location is as per the approved Zonal Plan of the Military Station.

(d) & (e): Some shopkeepers had filed Writ Petitions in Hon'ble Court of Punjab & Haryana in Chandigarh seeking quashing of vacation orders/notices issued to them for handing over the vacant possession of the shops. The petitioners sought time from the Hon'ble Court to vacate the shops and submitted before the Court that the physical possession of vacant shops shall be handed over by them on or before 01.04.2024. Based on their submission, Hon'ble Court vide Order dated 23.08.2023 directed that vacant shops shall be handed over on or before 01.04.2024.
