

2. Share capital assistance to State apex societies and State handloom development corporations.
3. Managerial subsidy to primary societies.
4. Assistance for modernisation of looms.
5. Assistance for setting up pre-loom and post-loom processing facilities.
6. Special rebate scheme.
7. Janata cloth scheme.
8. Welfare schemes comprising Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme and Thrift Fund Scheme.

In the handicrafts sector a number of steps have been taken for the promotion of this sector, which are as follows:

1. Training in carpet weaving, printed textiles, artsmetal wares, cane and bamboo craft and wood wares. There are also Apprenticeship training centres run by the Master-craftsmen.
2. Design development through Regional Design and Technical Development Centres. A National Craft Institute for Hand Printed Textiles has been set up at Jaipur to train craftsmen in textile designing, processing and improved technology.
3. Marketing and Service Extension Centres have been set up in different parts of the country.
4. Exhibition and Publicity.
5. Export Promotion.
6. National Awards and Pension to Crafts Persons.
7. Preservation of Cultural Heritage.

Threat to Tea Industry In Darjeeling from GNLFF Agitation

7841. DR. G.S. RAJHANS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the tea industry in the Darjeeling district is facing total collapse due to agitation by the Gorkha National Liberation Front volunteers;

(b) whether it is a fact that the GNLFF volunteers in the Darjeeling district have threatened the tea garden owners and are compelling them to finance the agitation; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Union Government thereto and steps proposed to be taken to save the tea industry in Darjeeling district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) There has been a marginal fall of about 1.39 M. Kgs. in production of tea in Darjeeling during last year which is generally attributed to adverse weather conditions. Despite occasional disturbances in the district of Darjeeling, tea gardens have been functioning more or less normally.

(b) and (c). So far no confirmed reports regarding the allegation that GNLFF volunteers in Darjeeling district have threatened tea garden owners and are compelling them to finance the agitation have been received from the State Government.

Guidelines to VIPs to Speak in Hindi

7842. SHRI MANIK REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the foreign dignitaries who visit India speak/use their mother tongue during discussions and press conferences whereas the Indian VIPs speak

in English in India and in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to issue guidelines to the VIPs to speak in mother tongue while in foreign countries; and

(d) if not, reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Some foreign dignitaries visiting India speak in their own languages, while others speak in English during discussions and press conferences. In fact, the language used by foreign and Indian dignitaries on such occasions generally depends on the dignitary's fluency in a given language, availability of interpreters and mutual convenience.

(c) and (d). The Ministry has no such proposal in view as it might be impractical to issue such guidelines.

[*Translation*]

Property and Wealth of Traders of Pithoragarh Blocked in China

7843. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that property and wealth of many traders of Pithoragarh district in Uttar Pradesh have been blocked in Tibet (China) for the past many years; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to ensure that these traders get their property and wealth back?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) and (b). According to our records, some debts of traders of Uttar Pradesh were blocked in Tibet.

The question of properties and assets between India and China is a very complex one. We have taken up this matter with the Chinese authorities. As the matter is complex in nature, it may take some time before any final solution is achieved.

[*English*]

Promotional and Training Avenues of 'DANI' Police Officers

7844. SHRI CHINGWANG KONYAK: SHRI VISHNU MODI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government are taking to improve the promotional and training avenues of Delhi and Andaman and Nicobar Islands (DANI) Police Officers;

(b) the number of IPS posts in UT cadre and the number out of them which are ex-cadre posts;

(c) whether as per rules, ex-cadre posts are converted into cadre posts after three years; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not converting the ex-cadre posts into cadre posts and steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The promotional avenues available to officers of DANI Police Service are at present comparable to similar services. They are given adequate training with regard to their job content. However, review of avenues of promotion and of training facilities to bring about improvements is a continuing process.

(b) IPS(UT) cadre comprises 58 senior duty posts in the Union Territories. Besides, there are 19 posts in the Union Territories, which, if filled by posting of