

(b) if so, whether any long-term scheme has been formulated by this Council to explore the possibilities of developing tourism in this area; and

(c) if so the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). This Council is to coordinate the activities of various State Governments and other agencies involved in promoting tourism and mountaineering in the Himalayan region. At its first meeting which was held recently the Council decided on several measures like exploring all possibility of sponsoring Himalayan flights by the Vayudoot, the holding of overseas Himalayan festivals, arranging for medical and rescue facilities for mountaineers and trekkers in at least one focal point in each Himalayan State and taking up with the General Insurance Corporation the question of providing Insurance covers to mountaineers and trekkers. It was also decided other among things to recommend appropriate measures for removal of debris and wasted materials left by trekkers and mountaineers in the Himalayan region and to ask State Governments to take remedial measures for protecting the environment.

[English]

Negotiation with Soviet Union

6347. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Textile Corporation mills are negotiating with Soviet Union for importing Soviet cotton for conversion into cloth for that country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) No, Sir. At present there is no proposal under the consideration of National Textile Corporation to import Soviet Cotton for conversion into cloth for that country.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Distribution of Loans Under 20-Point Programme in Basti District (Uttar Pradesh)

6348. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of agencies and branches of scheduled banks engaged in disbursing loans in Basti district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of persons belonging to weaker sections of the society provided financial assistance by these branches of banks under the 20-Point Programme during the last three years; and

(c) the percentage of recovery of loans in these branches of banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). As on 30th November, 1985, there were 152 branches of public sector banks and Regional Rural Banks operating in Basti District of Uttar Pradesh. Present data reporting system does not yield district-wise information in respect of weaker section advances under the New 20-Point Programme. However, according to information available the total advances of the public sector banks outstanding as at the end of June, 1984 against weaker sections in Uttar Pradesh stood at Rs. 411.59 crores involving 14.71 lakh borrowal accounts. As on that date, outstanding advances of public sector banks in Uttar Pradesh under the New 20-Point Programme were of the order of Rs. 555.81 crores in 14.49 lakh borrowal accounts.

(c) The present data reporting system does not yield district-wise information of recovery of loans.

[English]

Establishment of Branch of Nationalised Banks in Development Blocks

6349. SHRI R.M. BHOYE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :