

(c) whether the recruitment Committee of PEC do not interview SC/ST students while on recruitment visits to Engineering Colleges; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps contemplated to recruit bright SC/ST students from Engineering Colleges?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Tea Plantation in Garhwal Region

*546. SHRI C. M. NEGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted in Garhwal region namely Pauri, Chamoli, Tehri, Uttarkashi and Dehradun, in U.P. about the suitability of this area for tea plantations:

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith details of existing tea plantations, district-wise;

(c) the tea plantation programme likely to be undertaken in the Garhwal region district-wise during the next few years; and

(d) the funds earmarked therefor in the Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). A number of surveys have been undertaken in U. P. since 1966. These are:

1. A survey of Uttarakhand was

undertaken by a 2-Member team representing Tea Board and Tea Research Association (TRA), Jorhat in 1966.

2. A Study Team comprising of Director Tea Development (DTD), Tea Board and experts from M/s. Andrew Yule conducted a survey in certain areas of Garhwal region during 1978-89.

3. A Techno-economic survey was conducted by Tea Board in Doon Valley during 1986-87.

4. Another survey was conducted by a 3-Member Team of Tea Board during September, 1987. The team visited existing Tea gardens in and around Dehradun to find out feasibility of growing tea there.

5. A Group was constituted by the State Government of U. P. in 1988 to prepare a plan of rehabilitation for the existing tea gardens in the Doon Valley. As per the survey Report of this Group there were 7 tea gardens in Dehradun of which one was under proprietary ownership. The area under tea of the other 6 gardens was 861.52 Ha.

6. In December, 1988 in a meeting taken by the then Chief Minister of U. P. it was decided to have a 2-phase Development Programme to rehabilitate Tea industry in U. P. namely:-

(i) to find out measures to rejuvenate existing tea gardens; and

(ii) identify areas suitable for tea

cultivation all over U. P.

Accordingly, the State Government appointed a Consultancy firm to undertake a Feasibility-cum-Pre-Investment Study for growing tea in U. P. including Preparation of a Project Report for 6 existing tea gardens.

In the meanwhile, the Tea Board has taken the following steps for development of tea in U. P. :-

- (i) The Tea Board has provided an assistance of Rs. 9.5 lakhs to Government of U. P. towards costs of the aforesaid Consultancy Project.
- (ii) Opened a Regional Office at Lucknow in March 88 to monitor and implement Board's financial assistance schemes.
- (iii) Inclusion of hilly areas of U. P. in the schedule of approved non-traditional areas for providing loan and subsidy under New Tea Unit Financing Scheme.
- (iv) Existing tea growing areas of U. P. brought under the definition of 'Hilly Areas' so that existing gardens can avail higher rate of rejuvenation/replantation subsidies under this liberalised scheme.
- (v) Tea Board sanctioned during 1988-89 for setting up of two Tea Seed Nurseries in the District of Dehradun and Pithoragarh with a view to supplying planting materials free of cost to the tea estates for undertaking developmental activities under Board's various financial assistance schemes. The Nurseries involve

a total cost of Rs. 4.02 lakhs. The Nursery at Dehradun is being raised successfully in tea estate under direct supervision of Regional Office, Lucknow.

(c) The programme for revival of existing tea gardens and expansion of tea cultivation in U. P. including assessment of fund requirement will be possible only after a study of the Consultancy Report and views/decisions of the State Government thereon.

(c) The 8th Plan allocations have not been finalised.

[Translation]

Production of Children Film

*547. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any policy regarding production of good quality children films with a view to inculcating good habits in them;

(b) whether Government have formulated any scheme to hold International Children film Mahotsava and National Children Film Mahotsava; and

(c) if so, the steps taken so far in this regard and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) The Children's Film Society of India, Regd. under the Societies Registration Act, is engaged in promotion of Children's film movement in the country with the objective of purposefully using the medium of films to cater to children's mental health, providing them clean entertainment and joy, thereby inculcating in them good habits.