

Skill upgradation plan for tribals

UDHAGAMANDALAM, Aug. 24.

A skill upgradation programme, for tribals, with special emphasis on apiculture, has been initiated under the auspices of, "Keystone", a voluntary group for eco-development initiatives, in association with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) at Kotagiri.

Inaugurating the Apiculture Orientation Programme on, "Skill cum Technology Upgradation", Mr. Ramesh Dharmaji, Deputy General Manager, SIDBI, Tirupur, said that all possible assistance should be extended to the primitive tribals of the Nilgiris who were involved in apiculture. The programme related to bee-keeping operations of the tribals, which had gained momentum, over the past five years, under the guidance and promotion of Keystone.

Delivering the special lecture, Dr. A. Chitharanjan Mohan Doss, Director of the Tribal Research Centre (TRC), M. Palada observed that while the adoption of modern technology for augmenting the income of the tribals was welcome, the extra earnings should not be squandered on intoxicants and other harmful habits. He appreciated the efforts of Keystone in attempting to elevate the standard of living of the tribals.

Rev. Philip K. Mulley, a clergyman anthropologist, advised the tribals to keep abreast of the developments in the field of apiculture. Dr. Jakka Parthasarathy, Cultural anthropologist and Deputy Director of the TRC, Ms. Pratim Roy and others also participated along with about 33 members from the Irula and Kurumba tribal communities, near Kotagiri.