

(b) if so, how many such institutions/individuals were given assistance during the last two years 1979-80 and 1980-81 and names and amount of such institutions?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the year 1979-80 the Samiti did not give any financial assistance to any individual or institution. In the year 1980-81, however, the Samiti arranged tented accommodation during the Sinhast Kumbh Mela at Ujjain in April 1980 at an expenditure of about Rs. 9,000/-. The Samiti also gave a grant of Rs. 50,000/- to Shri Ramakrishna Kutir Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh on matching basis, for construction of two cottages at Amarkantak for the use of pilgrims visiting the pilgrim centre.

Setting up of charge Chrome Project in Orissa

1739. **SHRI HARIHAR SOREN:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some charge Chrome projects are going to be set up in Orissa;

(b) if so, the number and location of the proposed plants;

(c) the estimated cost of the proposed plants; and

(d) the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE & STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) Yes, Sir. Letter of Intent have been granted to two firms namely M/s Orissa Mining Corporation and M/s. Ferro Alloys Corporation Limited for setting up charge chrome plants in Orissa.

M/s. Indian Metals & Ferro Alloys have also applied for setting up a charge chrome plant in Orissa.

(b) The plants of M/s. Orissa Mining Corporation & M/s. Ferro Alloys Corporation Limited are proposed to be located in Keonjhar and Balasore districts of Orissa respectively.

(c) The estimated cost of the plants of M/s. Orissa Mining Corporation and M/s. Ferro Alloys Corporation Limited are Rs. 20 crores and Rs. 25.72 crores respectively.

(d) The Orissa Mining Corporation (OMC) will use the technology offered by M/s. Voest Alpine AG (Austria)—Outoku-

mpu oy, Finland. This technology is already in use for producing charge chrome using 100% chrome ore fines. The process requires lower power consumption than other processes and can use chromite fines of as low a grade as 25%. A subsidiary of this firm has agreed to lift OMC's entire production of charge chrome.

In the case of M/s. Ferro Alloys Corporation Ltd., the project is based on the technology developed by the firm itself. Their production will also be totally exported and they have given a commitment to this end for 10 years.

Both the firms have been granted a capacity of 50,000 tonnes per annum each.

Recovery of Loans by Nationalised Banks

1740. **SHRI D. P. JADEJA:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge amount of loans is pending to be recovered by the various nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof with each bank as on 31st December, 1980;

(c) the steps being taken to recover;

(d) whether certain State Governments have proposed to the Central Government to waive the loans especially cooperative loans for the farm sector; and

(e) if so, the decision taken by the Central Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MANGANBHAI BAROT):

(a) & (b) The reporting system of R.B. I. yields data regarding demand and recovery only in respect of agricultural loans. As at the end of June 1979, which is the latest data available, demand was created for Rs. 934 crores, recovery made was Rs. 487 crores and the rest remained overdue. Statement I showing recovery performance (direct agricultural advances) of public sector banks as at the end of June 1979 is enclosed.

(c) Some of the important measures taken to improve the performance of the banks are at Statement II.

(d) & (e) Certain State Govts. had proposed writing off of loans of small and marginal farmers and had asked for Central Govt. assistance for the same. It has been clarified that any schemes for writing off cooperative loans will have to be met from their own funds and no central assis-