

(c) if so, whether Government propose to constitute any Committee of experts to go into the question and to suggest ways and means in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The Reserve Bank of India in its report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India for the year ending June 1984, has indicated improving profitability as one of the medium term tasks before the Banks.

(b) and (c) Measures to improve the profitability of banks and to sustain their viability are under continuous review of both Government and the Reserve Bank of India. No Committee is proposed to be set up at present.

Setting up of State Planning Boards

199. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government have directed State Governments to set up State Planning Boards;

(b) if so, what is the response of State Governments thereto; and

(c) what steps the Central Government propose to take to decentralise planning set-up in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) A suggestion was made by the Planning Commission to the States as early as in 1971 to set up State Planning Boards.

(b) All State Governments excepting Jammu & Kashmir and Sikkim have set up Planning bodies known variously as State Planning Commission, State Planning Board or State Development Board. The Sikkim Government has indicated its inability to set up such a Planning Board. The Jammu & Kashmir Government has agreed to set up as apex planning body called the State Policy and Planning Council.

(c) Central Government has always favoured the idea of decentralising planning and had time and again advised the State Governments to take necessary steps

in this direction. To facilitate this the Centrally-Sponsored scheme of strengthening of State planning machinery has been extended to district level and the expenditure on the district level planning machinery is now sharable between the Centre and the States equally. A number of States have taken advantage of this to set up some planning machinery at district level already.

Setting up of a Steel Project in Bhandara in Maharashtra

200. SHRI S. W. DHABE: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bhoomi Pooja ceremony for the setting up of a Steel Project in Bhandara district of Maharashtra State was performed on the 16th November, 1984 by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra and in the presence of Shri N. K. P. Salve, the then Minister of Steel and Mines;

(b) if so, what will be the estimated cost of the project;

(c) by when it is likely to start production; and

(d) what is the number of persons likely to get jobs in the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI S. K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) to (d) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the steel project of M/s. Sunflag Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. for which a Bhoomi Puja was held on 16th November, 1984. Approximate cost of the Project indicated by the company is expected to be about Rs. 175 crores. The Project is likely to be commissioned in early 1988. The Project when completed is expected to provide direct employment to about 1000 persons.

Development of Wardha district on Gandhian Lines

201. SHRI S. W. DHABE: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved any plan to develop Wardha district in Maharashtra State on Gandhian lines;