

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) and

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) Government is aware that there is scope for improvement in the services rendered by nationalised banks and it is Government's constant endeavour to bring about this improvement by promoting industrial peace and better relations between employees and management of the nationalised banks.

Credit to Kharadi Artisans by State Bank of India in Sankheda

910 **SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the State Bank of India has decided to give liberal credit and marketing guidance to Kharadi artisans of Sankheda town in Baroda, and

(b) if so, the total credit likely to be given to each artisan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHIL ROHATGI) : (a) and (b). State Bank of India has drawn up special scheme to extend liberal credit facilities to Lacquer Ware manufacturers at Sankheda. Craftsmen having monthly turnover between Rs. 1000/- and Rs. 2000/- are being given loans for the purchase of electric motors to be repaid on easy instalments. Craftsmen having monthly turnover less Rs. 1000/- are being given credit facilities upto Rs. 500/- each to meet their working capital requirements. So far State Bank of India has assisted 15 units with limits aggregating Rs. 19,000/-. The amount outstanding against these loans at present, is Rs. 16,000/-.

Drilling at Tripura and Kutch by Oil and Natural Gas Commission

911. **SHRI PRABHU DAS PATEL .**
SHRI DASARATH DEB .

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND

CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has started drilling of Oil at Tripura in the East and Kutch in the West, and

(b) if so, whether it is a part of operational plan of oil exploration and production drawn by the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) It is a part of the annual operational plan of Oil and Natural Gas Commission.

ONGC's venture in Iran for oil exploration

912 **SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL**
SHRI BANAMALI PATNAIK

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) whether any negotiations have been completed with Iran by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission to undertake oil exploration in that country, and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof and the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE) : (a) and (b). No negotiations have been going on with Iran by ONGC to undertake oil exploration in that country. However, ONGC has a 1/6th share in an offshore exploration venture called IMINOCO, in the Persian Gulf, jointly with National Iranian Oil Company, Phillips Petroleum of USA and AGIP of Italy. This venture was formed in 1965 and has already discovered two oilfields called Rostam and Rakhsh. The exploration is still continuing with a view to discover new oilfields in the concessions held by this joint venture. Out of about 63.5