

AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE & INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARATHANAN): (a) and (b) The employees of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are governed by the Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. In terms of Section 26 of the Act, an employee (daily wage or regular), who has completed 60 days service within the period of 3 months or less, is entitled and required to join the Provident Fund as a member. Further, the employees of RRBs are also entitled to be paid bonus by the RRB, in an accounting year, in accordance with the provisions of Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, provided such employees have worked in the RRB for not less than 30 working days in that year

#### Victimisation of Trade Union Functionaries

2450. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA :

SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations from the Employees Associations and Members of Parliament against discrimination and victimisation of Trade Union functionaries by the management of New India Assurance Co. Ltd. for highlighting corruption and malpractices at various levels in the last two years;

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government on the representations to restrain the management from victimising the Trade Union functionaries;

(c) whether representations have also been received against the management's vindictive actions on take ground with discrimination to block the promotions of Trade Union functionaries to higher cadre; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken to rectify the action of management?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE & INSURANCE) : (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARATHANAN) : (a) and (b) GIC has reported that as per preliminary enquiries made by them indicates no instance of alleged discrimination or victimisation of any trade union functionary has come to light.

(c) and (d) GIC has reported that no instance of victimisation or vindictiveness against any trade union functionary in the matter of promotion has come to light.

#### Conversion of Washing Coking Coal to Non-Coking Coal

2451. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Giddi Washery is being converted from washing coking coal to non-coking coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor giving relative economy of these;

(c) whether the Government have considered all the pros and cons of the said decision on the employment opportunities of the unorganised sector workers engaged in loading; and

(d) if so, the alternative steps proposed to be taken to ensure that employment opportunities of unorganised sector workers are not affected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Yes, Sir, Gidi washery of Central Coalfields (CCL) is washing non-coking coal instead of coking coal with effect from 26.5.1998.

(b) Gidi washery was originally built in the year 1970 for washing high volatile non-coking coal. Due to lack of market for washed non-coking coal at that time, the washery in 1973 was converted for washing medium coking coal from Kuju and Hazaribagh areas. However, because of flow-sheet and the process of the plant and characteristics of raw coal feed, it was not able to beneficiate medium coking coal to the desired level of ash content in the washed coal.

With the refusal, of late, of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) to accept washed coal of higher ash than stipulated by them and commissioning of Kedla coking coal washery, the operation of this financial unviable washery for washing coking coal were discontinued. Operation losses incurred in Gidi washery during 1997-98 was about Rs. 35 crores.

With the market for washed non-coking coal gradually developing for power plants located far away from the supply sources of coal, both in view of economy in coal transportation as well for environmental reasons, it is expected that the washery financial viability will improve.

(c) Coal company has taken the decision after weighing all the pros and cons in switching over to washing of non-coking coal. This decision is not likely to have any adverse impact on the employment opportunity of unorganised sector workers.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.