

Male/Female Employees in BCCL

2526. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of male and female employees, separately in BCCL as on May 1, 1973 and May 1, 1998;

(b) whether there is a policy in BCCL to discharge female employees despite increase in the open cast mining and against the spirit of Constitution; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) The number of male and female employees in the Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) as on 1.12.1973 and 1.5.1998 are as under:-

MANPOWER AS ON	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
1.05.1973	N.A.	N.A.	179781
1.12.1973 (earliest available date)	158528	16368	174896
1.5.1998	123888	11082	134970

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply given to part (b) above.

Trade Ties with Africa

2527. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to boost trade ties with Portugal and Portuguese speaking countries in Africa, specially Angola and Mozambique;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (c) It is the endeavour of the Government to expand trade ties with all countries including trading partners like Portugal and Portuguese speaking countries in Africa. Steps taken for promotion of bilateral trade and economic cooperation with these countries include exchange of trade and industry delegations, participation in trade fairs, holding periodical official level bilateral discussions and organising regional Conferences of Commercial Representatives of Indian Missions to identify emerging opportunities and challenges. India also has trade agreements with Portugal, Angola and Mozambique.

Group Insurance Scheme

2528. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the States in which the Group Insurance Scheme has been implemented by the LIC in rural areas; and

(b) the reasons for which Group Insurance Scheme has not been implemented in Kerala?

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) Under the Rural Group Life Insurance Scheme (RGLIS) being implemented by the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), 50% of the premium will be paid by the beneficiary and the other 50% will be shared by the Central and State Governments in equal proportion for subsidised policy limited to one policy per household below poverty line in rural areas. The Scheme has been implemented by the LIC in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chandigarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The Scheme could not be implemented in Kerala because the Government of Kerala requested the LIC that the beneficiary's share of premium will also be paid by the State Government and Gram Panchayats in equal proportion. As this suggestion meant a basic change in the character of the scheme, it could not be implemented in the State.

Grants from UNDP

2529. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is likely to receive \$ 200 million grant from the United Nations Development Programme for achieving its Ninth Plan objectives on infrastructure, technology and employment;

(b) if so, whether any concrete proposals have been prepared for utilising this fund;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which the infrastructure, technology and employment are likely to be improved?

THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Under the first GOI/UNDP Country Co-operation Framework for India covering the period 1997-2001, the indicative grant assistance is expected to about US\$ 191 million.

(b) Yes.

(c) Out of the ten proposed programmes under CCF-I, the following four Programme Support Documents have already been signed:

Technology Management	US \$10.5 mil.
Community-Based Pro-Poor Initiatives	US \$13.0 mil.
Environment	US \$9.0 mil.
Food Security	US \$13.0 mil.

The rest of the six Programme Support Documents are expected to be approved and signed shortly.

(d) The Economic Reforms Programme will support national reform programmes for expansion/privatisation of infrastructure and services, strengthen institutional capacity in legal and regulatory regimes, and sensitise key national personnel about international best practices. The Technology Management Programme will strengthen the interface between research and development institutions with private industry; the application of science and technology to rural transformation; strengthen indigenous technology facilitate the use of development information technology; strengthen the technology base of NGO-led resource centres; and strengthen technology management capabilities. The Small Industries Development and Employment Programme will provide technical support to small micro and village industries with a view to increasing employment/income opportunities and sustainable livelihoods.

[Translation]

Environmental Clearance to Coal Mines

2530. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal mines are required to obtain clearance certificate under Environment (Protection) Act, Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act;

(b) if so, the conditions to be fulfilled by the coal mines to obtain such clearances;

(c) whether these conditions are being fulfilled by the coal mines properly;

(d) if not, the action being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the number of coal mines of Madhya Pradesh obtained clearance certificates under the aforesaid Acts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Yes, Sir. The said clearances are required for all new projects.

(b) For obtaining clearance of the project by the Government, approval of Environmental Management Plan (EMP) by the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MOEF) is essential. Before sending the project to MOEF, it is sent

to State Pollution Control Board for public hearing. This has been introduced in April, 1997. Conditions are laid out in every approved EMP.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Projects are being inspected by State/Central agencies.

(e) 34 coal mines of Madhya Pradesh have obtained clearance certificates under the aforesaid Acts.

Loan to Farmers

2531. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:
SHRI CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued any instructions to the banks to provide 18 percent of loans to the agricultural sector so as to meet the loan demand of this sector;

(b) if so, whether this percentage of loan have been provided to the agricultural sector during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the estimated percentage of loan provided and whether this percentage of loan fulfilled the loan requirements of the agricultural sector and if not, the reaction of the Government thereto and the Action Plan prepared for the Ninth Five Year Plan in this regard?

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) to (c) As per the instructions issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) all public sector banks are required to extend 18 percent of their net bank credit to agriculture sector. The estimated percentage of loans provided to the agriculture sector by public sector banks is given below:

Year	Percentage
1992-93	15.07
1993-94	15.05
1994-95	13.91
1995-96	14.29
1996-97*	16.35

*(data provisional)

It may be observed from above that the ground level disbursement of loans for the agriculture sector during the Eighth Plan was less than the estimated 18%. As reported by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Working Group of the Planning Commission on VIII Five Year Plan, have estimated requirements of total