

Life Insurance Corporation Employees Federation and others has been concluded recently in Bombay ;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof ;

(c) whether all other employees organisations have been made party thereto ; and

(d) further action being contemplated for implementation of the same in letter and spirit ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d) There is no such employees' organisation called "The All India Life Insurance Corporation Employees Federation". However, the LIC management held a series of discussions with different employees' unions on their charter of demands regarding the terms and conditions of the service of the Class III and Class IV employees between 31-8-1984 and 9-2-1985. An understanding on revision of pay scales and other benefits was reached between the management and the five employees' unions on 9-2-1985. Since the Government is empowered to alter the terms and conditions of the service of the employees a notification on the lines of the understanding arrived at between the LIC management and the unions was issued by the Government on 11-4-1985 for revising the terms and conditions under the LIC Amendment Act, 1981.

Dearness Allowance to Pensioners.

3734. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to give dearness allowance to the pensioners equal to those of the serving employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it has also been decided to give minimum pension to the pensioners not being less than the prescribed minimum wages; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) and (b) No, Sir. The rate of Dearness Relief to pensioners is based on the

recommendations of the 3rd Pay Commission who had recommended a lower rate for them in view of the fact that the social and other obligations of the pensioners are not of the same order as that of serving employees. The Fourth Pay Commission is likely to look into this matter.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The amount of retiring pension is linked to certain conditions like average emoluments drawn during last 10 months prior to retirement, number of years of service etc. The Fourth Pay Commission is likely to examine these aspects also.

National Coal Wage Agreements between Labourers and Management of Coal Mines of Bihar State

3735. SHRI Y. P. YOGESH : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the detailed procedure for mining of coal and hard coke in the mines of Bihar during January, 1982 to February, 1985;

(b) the details of National Coal Wage Agreement Nos. I, II and III agreed to between labourers and management of coal mines of Bihar State with special mention of validity of each Agreement;

(c) the safety measures drawn up for the miners of Bihar during the period as in (a) above;

(d) the detailed welfare programmes chalked out for the miners of Bihar during the period as in (a) above with special mention of their medical, housing and payment of wages arrangements; and

(e) whether some agency has been appointed to ensure implementation of terms and conditions of National Coal Wage Agreements as in (b), safety measures and welfare programmes as in (c) and (d) above respectively ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) Coal mining is totally nationalised. In Bihar, except for the captive mines belonging to TISCO, all other mining of Coal is in the public sector. Hard coke is not mined but is a manufactured item.

(b) The National Coal Wage Agreement provides for the revision of wage structure

of coal workers, payment of various allowances, provision of service benefits and welfare amenities etc. The period of validity of the three Agreements is as under :

NCWA-I	1-1-75 to 31-12-78
NCWA-II	1-1-79 to 31-12-82
NCWA-III	1-1-83 to 31-12-86

(c) Based on the recommendation of the Committee on Safety in coalmines, a number of measures have been taken for the safety of coal miners, including the setting up of Internal Safety Organisation in Coal Mines, replacement of basket loading by conveyors and mechanised loaders at coal faces, prohibiting the entry of workers in mines without ear protection, prevention of accidents due to rope haulage, explosion of gas etc. and methods of tackling underground fires and subsidence.

(d) NCWA-III provides for the construction of 15,000 houses annually by CIL for coal miners. It also provides that the ratio of hospital beds to employees will not be less than 1×120 by the end of the period of Agreement. The payment of wages to the coal miners is strictly in accordance with the NCWA-III.

(e) Vide Clause 12. 3. 1. of the NCWA-III the JBCCI or a Sub-Committee constituted by the JBCCI is expected to settle any doubt or difficulty in the interpretation or implementation of any provision of the Agreement.

Production of Aluminium Sheets

3736. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the aluminium industry of the country is self-sufficient to meet the requirement of aluminium sheet production in the country;

(b) if so, the actual production of aluminium;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the name of largest producing unit and its capacity ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) The indigenous production of alu-

minium sheets is by and large meeting the domestic demand. Import of aluminium sheets is only marginal compared to domestic production.

(b) The production of aluminium metal during 1984-85 was 2,76,492 tonnes.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The largest producing unit of aluminium metal is Hindustan Aluminium Corporation Limited with a licenced capacity of 1,20,000 tonnes per annum. The largest unit in terms of production of aluminium sheet products is Indian Aluminium Company Limited and its licenced capacity is 33,175 tonnes per annum.

Licences issued to New Bank of India and the Oriental Bank for Opening their Branches in Himachal Pradesh

3737. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India had issued any licences to the New Bank of India and the Oriental Bank for opening their branches in Himachal Pradesh during the financial year ending 31st March, 1985;

(b) if so, the details of the branches for which the licences had been given districtwise alongwith the names of such branches as have since been opened; and

(c) the likely date by which the remaining branches would be opened and the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India has reported that New Bank of India has been issued on 1-2-1985 a licence for opening a branch at Panjgain, District Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh. According to available information, this branch has not been opened so far. The validity period of the licence issued to the bank is for one year and it has been advised to open the branch as early as possible. Oriental Bank of Commerce has not been issued any licence for opening its branch in Himachal Pradesh.