

(a) whether a group insurance policy scheme has been introduced for Delhi's Bhatti Mine workers

(b) if so, the details in this regard ; and

(c) the reasons for not implementing this scheme throughout the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All workers and supervisory staff who have completed 4 months' continuous service are covered under the scheme. The insurance gives a maximum cover of Rs. 15, 000/- per worker in case of death and varying amounts in case of injury. The insurance premium is paid by Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation on year to year basis.

(c) It is open to any employer to introduce a group insurance scheme.

The provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act, the Payment of Gratuity Act and the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, which apply to mines, provide for financial benefits to employees in mines.

Opening of Regional Office of G.I.C. in Bihar

3756. **SHRI C.P. THAKUR :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any regional office of General Insurance Corporation in Bihar; and

(b) if not, whether Government propose to open one for the economic growth of the region ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question of opening a regional office in Bihar is to be decided by the General Insurance Corporation on the basis of relevant criteria, on merits.

Hunger Strike by Kannadigas at Regional Office of NABARD at Bangalore

3757. **SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Kannadigas working in the Regional Office of NABARD at Bangalore :

(b) whether some Kannadigas who were working as local candidates were removed ; and

(c) whether the working of the NABARD Office at Bangalore was paralysed for number of days due to hunger strike by the Kannadigas and Kannada Sanghas in front of NABARD office at Bangalore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) In the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development appointments are made on merit on an all-India basis. However, in the past, pending an all-India test, some posts, were filled up on daily-wage basis. In April, 1983 the NABARD had advertised for the posts of clerks, typists and stenographers. Thereafter written test and interviews were held. On selection of the candidates on merit, such of the daily wage earners were taken off the rolls who had not achieved ranks upto 544 in the Merit List. In the case of Bangalore Office of NABARD out of 12 clerks who were daily wage earners, 9 were absorbed on the basis of test on permanent basis. Three wage earners not absorbed because they were very low in the merit list. NABARD advised its Bangalore Regional Office to arrange for proper functioning of the Office, if necessary, with the assistance of local authorities. NABARD has reported that care has been taken to ensure that essential work does not suffer.

Indian Companies Receiving Assistance from International Finance Corporation, Washington

3758. **SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the Indian companies (indicating their field of operation) which received assistance from International Finance Corporation, Washington (IFC, W) during the last three years ;

(b) whether Government have knowledge about the proper utilisation of assistance received by these companies ; and