

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to open office headquarter at Vilaspur which is in the middle of the coal area; and

(c) if so, when the headquarter at Vilaspur is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Western Coal-fields Ltd. are now operating through two divisions viz. one with Headquarters at Nagpur and the other with Headquarters at Bilaspur.

Indane Dealers in Tamil Nadu

5118. SHRI R. MUTHUKUMARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state the number of Indane dealers licensed in Tamil Nadu so far and the district-wise break up figures of the number of dealers in each district?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): There are 74 Indane distributors operating in Tamil Nadu. District-wise break-up is as under:

District	Number of distributors
Chingalpet	3
Coimbatore	9
Kanyakumari	1
Madras	27
Madurai	4
Nilgiris	2
North Arcot	6
Pudukkottai	1
Salem	3
Ramanathapuram	2
South Arcot	6
Trichy	3
Tirunelveli	3
Tanjavur	4
TOTAL	74

Grant from Britain for New Mechanical Long-Wall Mining Technology

5119. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken to introduce new mechanical long-wall mining technology in the mining of coal in the country to raise its output;

(b) whether Britain has agreed to provide grant of some crores of rupees to pay for the introduction of this technology; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken to fully avail of this grant and gear up the existing machinery for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) In order to raise coal production, a number of underground coal projects have been taken up for introduction of mechanised long-wall mining technology for winning of coal. Two faces with fully mechanised longwall mining equipment have been introduced in Monidih mine of Bharat Coking Coal Limited. For efficient operation and maintenance of these equipment, Indian specialists are being deputed to UK for on-the-job training. Simultaneously, UK experts have also been invited to India to impart training to our engineers. Three more longwall face equipments have been ordered during this year and are expected to be in position in 1982.

(b) Yes, Sir. Until now, the Government of UK has agreed to provide a grant of £21 millions to the coal industry on this account.

(c) Out of the grant of £21 millions, a sum of approx £10 millions, has been committed/disbursed by way of import of various equipments from UK. For utilisation of the balance amount, proposals for import of certain more items are under consideration of Coal India Limited.