

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A Committee set up by the Government of India in 1980 reviewed the working of the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme and made a number of recommendations for amendment of the Act. The recommendations of the Committee have been examined in consultation with have been examined in consultation with the Central Board of Trustees and certain proposals for amendment of the Act are under consideration. A suitable Amending Bill will be brought forward, as soon as the proposals for amendment are finalised.

Setting up Mines in West Bengal

283. SHRI AMAL DATTA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans to start new mines in West Bengal if so, how many and in what areas; and

(b) whether Government have taken any steps for longterm improvement of coal production and despatch from the existing collieries in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir. 9 new and 15 reorganisation mines are already working in the areas under Eastern

Coalfields Limited in West Bengal and 5 more proposals for new mines have been submitted by Coal Company for future needs.

(b) Yes, Sir. A number of existing mines are being reorganised to improve the production and despatch of coal from these mines.

Scheduled tribe employees in A.I.R., Ranchi

284. SHRI N. E. HORO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Scheduled Tribe employees of different categories in the A.I.R., Ranchi;

(b) the percentage of Scheduled Tribe employees to the total number of employees, category-wise in A.I.R., Ranchi; and

(c) the reasons for shortfall of Scheduled Tribe employees, if any, and the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). The information regarding category-wise number of Scheduled Tribe employees at A.I.R., Ranchi and their respective percentage is given below:—

S.No.	Category	Total number of employees	No. of S.T.	Percentage
1	Group A Posts	4
2	Group B Posts	15	3	20%
3	Group C Posts	66	17	25.7
4	Group D Posts	28	11	39.3%
5	Staff Artists	35	3	8.5%