

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: