

Technology Management	US \$10.5 mil.
Community-Based Pro-Poor Initiatives	US \$13.0 mil.
Environment	US \$9.0 mil.
Food Security	US \$13.0 mil.

The rest of the six Programme Support Documents are expected to be approved and signed shortly.

(d) The Economic Reforms Programme will support national reform programmes for expansion/privatisation of infrastructure and services, strengthen institutional capacity in legal and regulatory regimes, and sensitise key national personnel about international best practices. The Technology Management Programme will strengthen the interface between research and development institutions with private industry; the application of science and technology to rural transformation; strengthen indigenous technology facilitate the use of development information technology; strengthen the technology base of NGO-led resource centres; and strengthen technology management capabilities. The Small Industries Development and Employment Programme will provide technical support to small micro and village industries with a view to increasing employment/income opportunities and sustainable livelihoods.

[Translation]

Environmental Clearance to Coal Mines

2530. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal mines are required to obtain clearance certificate under Environment (Protection) Act, Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act;

(b) if so, the conditions to be fulfilled by the coal mines to obtain such clearances;

(c) whether these conditions are being fulfilled by the coal mines properly;

(d) if not, the action being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the number of coal mines of Madhya Pradesh obtained clearance certificates under the aforesaid Acts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Yes, Sir. The said clearances are required for all new projects.

(b) For obtaining clearance of the project by the Government, approval of Environmental Management Plan (EMP) by the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MOEF) is essential. Before sending the project to MOEF, it is sent

to State Pollution Control Board for public hearing. This has been introduced in April, 1997. Conditions are laid out in every approved EMP.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Projects are being inspected by State/Central agencies.

(e) 34 coal mines of Madhya Pradesh have obtained clearance certificates under the aforesaid Acts.

Loan to Farmers

2531. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:
SHRI CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued any instructions to the banks to provide 18 percent of loans to the agricultural sector so as to meet the loan demand of this sector;

(b) if so, whether this percentage of loan have been provided to the agricultural sector during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the estimated percentage of loan provided and whether this percentage of loan fulfilled the loan requirements of the agricultural sector and if not, the reaction of the Government thereto and the Action Plan prepared for the Ninth Five Year Plan in this regard?

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) to (c) As per the instructions issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) all public sector banks are required to extend 18 percent of their net bank credit to agriculture sector. The estimated percentage of loans provided to the agriculture sector by public sector banks is given below:

Year	Percentage
1992-93	15.07
1993-94	15.05
1994-95	13.91
1995-96	14.29
1996-97*	16.35

*(data provisional)

It may be observed from above that the ground level disbursement of loans for the agriculture sector during the Eighth Plan was less than the estimated 18%. As reported by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Working Group of the Planning Commission on VIII Five Year Plan, have estimated requirements of total