

Loss in coal production due to loss of man-days

*212. SHRI R. R. MORARKA: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the loss of about 10 lakh man-days, the production of coal worth over Rs. 52 crores was lost in Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries during 1978-79;

(b) if so, what was the financial loss involved as a result thereof; and

(c) whether this huge man-days loss was unavoidable?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) In 1978-79, 11.89 lakh man-days were lost in Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiaries as a result of strikes. The estimated loss in production as a result thereof is 10.33 lakhs tonnes. At an average notified coal price of Rs. 64.71 per tonne, this was valued at Rs. 6.64 crores.

(b) Financial loss representing the difference between the sales revenue and the additional cost involved in producing this quantity of coal, over and above the fixed cost, has been estimated at Rs. 3.5 crores.

(c) Coal India have reported that all efforts were made to improve industrial relations. However, loss of mandays mentioned in part (a) could not be avoided.

Programme to increase irrigation potential

*213. SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABIBULLAH:

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:

SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out any specific programme to increase the irrigation potential in the country in a phased manner; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR PANDE): (a) and (b) By June, 1980, total irrigation potential expected to be available is 57 million ha.—comprising 26.9 million ha. from major and medium schemes and 30.1 million ha. from minor schemes. The Government propose to increase the potential to 110 million ha. by 2000 A.D., out of which the potential from major and medium irrigation will be 58 million ha. Thus, the additional potential of about 31 million ha. from major and medium schemes is proposed to be created during the next four five year plans at the rate of 7.5 million ha. in each of the plans, subject to the availability of financial resources.

Talks with Bangladesh on Ganga waters

*214. SHRI ERA SEZHIYAN:
SHRI GHOUSE MOHIUDDIN SHEIKH:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 81 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th March, 1980 and state:

(a) whether the Government of India have recently held further talks with the Bangladesh Government on Ganga waters under the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission; and

(b) if so, what are the important aspects covered in the talks and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR PANDE): (a) and (b) The resumed eighteenth meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission took place in Delhi between the 26th and 28th April, 1980. The meeting discussed the issues left unresolved in the earlier meeting held from 27th to 29th February, 1980 regarding the long term schemes for the augmentation of the dry season flows of the Ganga and Tista water issues, and decided that these issues should be discussed further, at the next meeting of the Commission scheduled to be held in Dacca.