

carbonaceous fuel. An estimate of coal reserves lost due to these unapproachable fires is very difficult. However, in respect of Jharia Coalfield fires which have the majority of such fires, a study made a few years ago could very roughly estimate that coal reserves to the extent of about 37 million tonnes have been damaged in these fires.

(c) The main problems arising of these shallow fires exist in Jharia Coalfield of Dhanbad District in Bihar where twenty two fire projects to deal with such fires at an estimated cost of Rupees 114.57 crores are under various stages of implementation. With the objective of finding a long-term solution to the problem of Jharia Coalfield fires, a diagnostic study under the Jharia Mine Fire Control Technical Assistance Project, assisted by World Bank, has been completed in June, 1996. Action on preparation of final report has been initiated by the consultant engaged for the purpose.

[English]

Credit Card Facility

*330. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the nationalised banks that have provided credit care facilities to their customers;

(b) whether these banks have gone under losses on account of defaults on the part of the credit card holders;

(c) if so, the accumulated amount of defaults on this account as on date, bank-wise; and

(d) the remedial measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The following nationalised banks have issued credit cards on their own or in collaboration with other banks :

1. Bank of Baroda
2. Indian Overseas Bank
3. Andhra Pradesh
4. Allahabad Bank
5. Canara Bank
6. Corporation Bank
7. Vijaya Bank
8. Punjab & Sind Bank
9. Central Bank of India
10. Bank of India
11. Bank of Maharashtra
12. United Bank of India
13. Union Bank of India

14. Syndicate Bank
15. Oriental Bank of Commerce
16. Dena Bank

(b) and (c). As per the information available with Reserve Bank of India the following nationalised banks have reported write off of losses on account of defaults on credit cards during the last 3 years :

| | | (Rs. in lakhs) | | |
|-------|---------------------------|----------------|---------|---------|
| S.No. | Name of the Bank | 1993-94 | 1994-95 | 1995-96 |
| 1. | Syndicate Bank | 0.41 | Nil | Nil |
| 2. | Union Bank of India | Nil | Nil | 0.01 |
| 3. | Bank of India | Nil | 3.12 | Nil |
| 4. | Vijaya Bank | Nil | 0.02 | 12.94 |
| 5. | Oriental Bank of Commerce | Nil | Nil | 0.36 |
| 6. | Bank of Baroda | Nil | 0.23 | 4.45 |
| 7. | Andhra Pradesh | 1.06 | 3.82 | 9.71 |
| 8. | Canara Bank | 1.75 | 10.69 | 16.86 |

(d) The banks have taken a series of steps such as hotlisting the credit cards of the defaulters, denying renewal of cards, following up by personal visits, issue of legal notices and filing suits against defaulters, etc. for recovery of the overdues. Banks are issuing credit cards only on selective basis, after satisfying themselves about the credentials of the potential cardholder.

Currency Printing Press, Mysore

*331. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Currency Printing Press at Mysore has started functioning;

(b) if so, when;

(c) the total amount spent for the establishment of the above Press;

(d) the number of employees working in the above Press;

(e) whether the Government propose to give preference in employment to those persons who have given their lands and the local people; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since June 1, 1996.

(c) Rs. 228 crores (approx.) at the end of May, 1996.

(d) 234 at the end of June, 1996.