

(a) whether Government propose to lay down specific time targets for completion of the reconciliation of inter branch transactions in nationalised banks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) and (b) In view of the wide network of bank branches and the centralised system for accounting inter branch transactions followed by the nationalised banks there is always a time lag between the dates of transactions and their actual reconciliation which may vary between three to six months depending upon the systems and procedures followed by individual banks. Due to the delay in submission and/or incorrect compilation of daily schedules, non-availability of certain old records, hitherto manual reconciliation of work etc. there are arrears in the reconciliation of inter-branch accounts in banks. Banks are seized of the situation and have taken various steps to reduce the arrears in this regard. In view of the above no specific time targets for completion of the reconciliation of inter-branch transactions have been laid down by the Reserve Bank.

The Government and Reserve Bank have also been urging banks from time to time to make effective and concerted efforts to keep this area of work upto date by streamlining the systems and procedures in this regard and for clearing the arrears within a time bound programme. The progress made by the banks in clearing the arrears in the reconciliation of inter-branch accounts is being monitored on half yearly basis by Reserve Bank of India.

Coal Supply to North Bihar

3720. SHRI LALITESHWAR SHAHI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of coal rakes despatched to Garhara (Barauni) and Narayanpur Anant (Muzaffarpur) rake unloading stations during the last two years;

(b) the number of coal wagons despatched to North Bihar stations during the above period; and

(c) the steps, if any, he contemplates to supply more coal to North Bihar ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Illegal Mining of Coal in Bihar

3721. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have come across cases of illegal mining of coal in Bihar ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken to stop this ; and

(c) the names of persons and organisations found involved in this ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) to (c) The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act was amended in 1976 prohibiting any person other than those authorised by the Act, to carry on coal mining in India in any form and terminating all leases relating to winning or mining of coal granted in favour of private parties except those engaged in production of iron and steel, illegal coal mining was also made a cognizable offence and is punishable with an imprisonment for a term extending to three years and fine extending to Rs. 20,000/-. The Supreme Court in their judgements dated 11-4-1980 and 7-5-1980 have upheld the vires of these provisions.

After these judgements, illegal mining of coal has been curbed to a great extent. However, the coal belt is vast and certain persons at times violate the provisions of law and indulge in illegal extraction of coal sporadically and stealthily.

The State Government and coal companies have been asked to take concerted action against the offenders. The State Government has already issued instructions to District authorities to take punitive and preventive action under the Act read with Indian Penal Code. The coal companies have also been directed to report to the authorities concerned as and when illegal extraction of coal is detected.