

*[Translation]***Afforestation Programme of S.E.C.L.**

2105. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether S.E.C.L. has started afforestation programme in coal areas of South Bihar;

(b) if so, the latest position in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

(c) The afforestation programme is done only in the operational areas of South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) i.e. in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (c) above.

*[English]***L.C. Fraud**

2106. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.5616 dated July 24, 1998 and state :

(a) whether the requisite information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be placed on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE)(SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that in 1997, frauds by way of negotiation of bills under forged Letters of Credits (L/Cs) were reported in Centurion Bank Ltd. Mumbai and Chandigarh.; Times Bank Ltd., Mumbai and Vysya Bank Ltd., New Mumbai involving an aggregate amount of Rs.27.09 crores. The modus operandi of the culprits was to get the bills drawn under fake L/Cs discounted by the bank. These L/Cs were purportedly issued by public sector banks. Both the discounting bank and the bank whose name was used as opener in the forged L/Cs have lodged complaints with the local police. The banks have so far recovered an amount of Rs.13.6 crores.

Availability of I.T. Saral Forms in Moffisil Centres

2107. SHRI A GANESHAMURTHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Income Tax Saral Forms are available in all moffisil centres for use of non-corporate assesseees to file their returns;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay in making these forms available;

(c) whether the last date for filing the I.T. returns has been extended;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Saral Forms have been made available in all moffisil centres of Tamil Nadu; and

(f) if not, by when these forms are likely to be made available there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Saral Form was notified on the 14th September, 1998, and thereafter the same was made available to all the Chief Commissioners and Commissioners of Income Tax who further made them available to all the moffisil centres.

(c) and (d) The last date for filing return of income in the case of two different categories of non-corporate assesseees was extended on two occasions from the 30th June 1998 and 31st August, 1998 to 31st October, 1998, for assessment year 1998-99.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Question does not arise.

Coal in Jammu Region

2108. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large reserves of coal exist in Kala Kote and Jangal areas of Jammu region of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, whether any attempt to explore these resources have been taken; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (c) The Geological Survey of India has estimated the coal reserve in Kala Kote and Jangal Gali Areas of J&K region as under: