

Pilferage of Coal

1523. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the large scale pilferage of coal at the mine sites from the rails wagons and at the pitheads;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents came to the notice of the Government during 1997-98 till date, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to stop the pilferage of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) As per information received from Coal India Limited (CIL), theft or pilferage of coal from railway wagons at the sidings and colliery pit heads is carried out stealthily and clandestinely. The number of incidents of pilferage or theft of coal during the year 1997-98 and in April, 1998 is given below State-wise:-

State	No. of incidents of pilferage or theft of coal in 1997-98	No. of incidents of pilferage or theft of coal in April, 1998
West Bengal	390	62
Bihar	301	21
Orissa	32	7
Madhya Pradesh	3	Nil
Assam	11	Nil

(c) Following steps are being taken by CIL to prevent theft or pilferage of coal;

(i) Collection of intelligence reports about illegal coal depots and illegal movement of coal and informing district authorities of the same for taking preventive action.

(ii) Installation of check-posts at vulnerable points to check transport documents.

(iii) Construction of watch towers and providing lighting arrangements around the coal stacking area, erection of barbed-wire/wall fencing around pit head depots, static security manning including deployment of armed guards during the night hours, escorting of loaded rakes upto railway weighbridges by armed guards and joint patrolling with Railway Protection

Force in the long railway tracks which are prone to wagon looting.

(iv) Sealing of illegal mining spots.

(v) Close coordination with RPF and district police officials and carrying out surprise checks/raids.

(vi) Stringent action against transport vehicles caught in the act of theft or pilferage.

(vii) Monthly review meeting with district authorities for drawing out plan to eliminate the menace, carrying out surprise checks/raids in cooperation with the State Police at sensitive points and lodging of FIRs with the local police.

(viii) Engagement of Jady security guards for preventing women and children indulging in theft/pilferage of coal, strengthening of the security discipline by reassessing the requirement of security personnel, horizontal movement of executives with aptitude for security work and inducting qualified security personnel at junior, middle and senior levels.

In the Eastern Coalfields Limited road challans on security paper having water mark has been introduced.

For strengthening the security set up, training of existing security personnel, refresher training of CISF personnel and basic training to new recruits is security discipline is carried out at periodic intervals.

Foreign Bank Branches

1524. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government accorded permission to any foreign bank for opening their branches in India during the current financial years:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the policy of the Government to allow the foreign banks to open branches in India?

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 KADAMBU M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) In terms of the provisions of Sec. 22 of the Banking Regulations Act, Reserve Bank of India has the power to issue licences to foreign banks for opening their branches in India. During the financial year 1.4.97 to 31.3.98 the following approvals have been given by RBI to new foreign banks/existing foreign banks for opening their branches in India:-

(i) *Approval given to new foreign banks*

Bank Muscat Al Ahli Al Omani Bangalore

(ii) *Approval given to existing foreign banks for additional branches*

Deutsche Bank	Chennai
Bank International Indonesia	Chennai
ING Bank	New Delhi
Commerzbank	New Delhi
State Bank of Mauritius	Hyderabad
British Bank of the Middle East	New Delhi
Citibank	Pune
Bank of Nova Scotia	Bangalore
Credit Lyonnais	Calcutta
ABN Amro Bank	Baroda

(c) Reserve Bank of India considers the request of the foreign banks to open their maiden branch in India by laying emphasis on certain criteria which inter-alia include financial soundness of the bank, international presence, economic and political relations between the two countries, standard of supervision in home country etc. Further, the country of the incorporation should not discriminate against Indian banks.

The minimum capital requirement for a new bank is US \$ 25 million spread over three branches as under :

- (i) US \$ 10 million for the first branch
- (ii) additional US \$ 10 million for the second branch
- (iii) Further US \$ 5 mn for the third branch

The applications of existing foreign banks to open additional branches are considered on merits taking into account the bank's financial position and track record.

Vacancies in Customs

1525. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of vacancies of Assistance Commissioners of Customs are lying vacant in Gujarat State for long time:

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which all the vacancies are proposed to be filled?

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) to (c) Four posts of Assistant Commissioners in Gujarat - 2 each in Ahmedabad and Kandla Customs, are lying vacant for the last few months on account of administrative reasons and these posts are likely to be filled up within a fortnight.

Role of Statutory Bodies

1526. SHRI INDRAJEET GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the role of statutory bodies which are supposed to monitor the activities of the private financial institutions is not very encouraging;

(b) if so, whether State Governments particularly Delhi Government have written letters to the Union Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken, if any, by the Union Government in this connection?

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) Non-Banking Financial Institutions (NBFCs) are regulated by the RBI under the provisions of RBI Act. Additional powers were vested in RBI in January, 1997 and RBI has recently framed extensive regulations for regulating NBFCs. Lt. Governor of Delhi has written a letter to Ministry wherein he has made observations and suggestions concerning regulation of NBFCs.

(c) The letter of Lt. Governor of Delhi along with suggestions from other sources constitute valuable inputs in the ongoing efforts by Government and RBI to ensure increasingly improved regulation and supervision of the NBFC sector.

[Translation]

Compensation to the Workers of CCL

1527. SHRI RAVINDAR KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state: