

petitive examinations are being delayed by the Union Public Service Commission;

(b) whether Government received complaints from many applicants from Southern States; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to prevent such delay and enable the applicants to get the forms in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL): (a) Care is always taken by the office of the Union Public Service Commission to despatch blank application forms for All India Competitive Examinations within 48 hours of receipt of request. This year, due to staff agitation in March and May, 1978 there was some departure from this norm in the matter of the Engineering Services Examination, 1978 and the IAS and Allied Services Examination, 1978.

(b) Union Public Service Commission received some complaints of non-receipt/delayed receipt of blank forms from various parts of the country.

(c) In cases of individual complaints, requisite forms were immediately despatched by the Union Public Service Commission. In order to ensure that no candidate is denied admission to the Examination on account of delayed supply of forms, the closing dates for these two Examinations were extended as under:—

I.A.S. and Allied Service Examination:—From 19-6-1978 to 3-7-78.

Engineering Service Examination from 29-5-1978 to 12-6-1978.

In addition to this, care has been taken to ensure that no candidate who had asked for a blank application form well in time, is denied admission to the Examination.

Black Marketing in Coal

4220. SHRI SAUGATA ROY:

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:

SHRI DHIRENDRA NATH BASU:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has been reports that the State Governments are unwittingly sponsoring black marketeers in coal; and

(b) if so, steps taken by Government to stop the black marketing?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) As a result of the recent survey carried out by Coal India Ltd. in some of the cities, it is learnt that a number of parties sponsored for allocation of coal, do not, in fact, exist.

(b) State Governments have been requested to assess accurately the requirements of coal for various categories of consumers and sponsor only such requirements.

Criteria for the selection of staff artists for foreign assignments

4221. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the criteria followed by Government regarding the selection of personnel (staff-artists) attending seminars, work-shops and short-term training courses abroad?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): Persons are selected on the basis of the subject of study/seminar/training course etc., keeping in view the suitability aptitude and experience of the staff including conditions of eligibility as prescribed by the sponsors, as also the seniority and the length of service.