

Coal carrying capacity of Railways

2568. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether doubts have arisen about the Railway's capacity to carry coal estimated at 121.36 million tonnes during 1984-85; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) and (b) The Department of Coal, Ministry of Energy had assessed the demand for movement of coal, including middlings by rail in 1984-85 as 121.36 million tonnes i.e. 14563 wagons per day in terms of four-wheelers. This assessment was not found realistic as it represented a growth rate of over 20 per cent.

Based on traditional seasonal drop in offer of coal for loading by the coal sector during the slack season months from May to October in previous years as well as non-utilisation of wagons after supply due to wagons 'left behind' and 'drawn empty', the Railways have estimated to move 105 million tonnes (12,600 wagons per day) of coal during 1984-85 the Railways are capable of moving upto 110 million tonnes (13,200 wagons per day) in 1984-85, provided the coal sector is able to offer coal for loading throughout the year on a sustained basis without seasonal drop and if all the wagons supplied for loading coal are loaded within the permissible free time.

Due to the seasonal drop in offer short-in coal loading upto July is estimated to be approximately 3 million tonnes (revenue and non-revenue) as compared to the pro-rata target of 35 million tonnes for April to July, 1984, based on the Railways' original target of 105 million tonnes during 1984-85. The pit-head stocks have also come down by 1.56 million tonnes from 1st May 1984 to 31st July, 1984.

Neglect of South by the Railways

2569. «HRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA; Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Minister of State for Railways has expressed his dissatisfaction with the tardy developmental work by the Railways in the Southern regions?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): There had been some newspaper reports in this respect of tardy developmental work on the Railways in the Southern region which, in the context of the overall financial constraints of funds that are made available for new works, are not correct.

The works in the Southern region are being progressed, as per priorities allocated to the maximum extent possible within the overall allocation of funds made for new works.

Regularisation of Casual workers in Ministry of Irrigation and its attached offices

2570. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL; Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of casual labourers in the Ministry of irrigation and its offices/departments [subordinate offices/attached offices who have been made regular during the last three years (office-wise) and year-wise);

(b) the number of casual workers who have been working for more than two years and have not been made regular and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government have formulated any time-bound programme for making them regular; if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI HARI NATH MISHRA:.) (a) to (c) The requisite information is being collected from the Attached and Subordinate Offices of the Ministry and will be laid on the Table of the House.