

**Inspection of Mines**

- 141. SHRI KALYAN ROY; SHRI BHOLA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply to the Unstarred Question 228 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th March, 1976 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of inspections made in coal and non-coal mines by the officers of the Directorate General of Mines Safety has further declined in 1976;

(b) if so, what is the number of inspections made into mining, electrical, mechanical and industrial hygiene in various coal and non-coal mines during the year 1976;

(c) what is the frequency of inspections recommended by the First Conference on Safety in Mines;

(d) what steps Government have taken to strengthen the Directorate General of Mines Safety during the last four years; and

(e) what is the number of vacancies which occurred in the Directorate General of Mines Safety during the last four years and what steps were taken to fill them?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of inspections made during the year 1976 was as follows:

|                    | Coal         | N n-Coal            |
|--------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Mining             | 4,554        | 3,371               |
| Electrical         | 1,076        | 180                 |
| Mechanical         | 275          | 12                  |
| Industrial Hygiene | 298          | 233                 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       | <b>6,203</b> | <b>3,796 —9,999</b> |

(c) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix CII, Annexure Nos. 8 and 9].

**Issue of Passports**

- ♦142. SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA: SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA: SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDAWAT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to simplify the procedure for the issue of Passports; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An examination is now being done to simplify and standardise procedures and processes relating to Police verification, delegation of more powers to Passport Officers, easy availability of application forms, liberalised Endorsement policy, simplified application form as well as enlarging the categories of persons who can sign Verification Certificates.

**Calcutta Telephones**

- 143. SHRI BHOLA PRASAD: SHRI KALYAN ROY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared under the caption "A System That's 'dead' to Thousands" in the Amrit Bazar Patrika of the 1st July, 1977 regarding the near-collapse of the telephone system in Calcutta and surrounding areas;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for these frequent breakdowns of, and interruptions in, the telephone communications in the city-

(c) what is the progress made in the work undertaken to pressurise the underground cables there to protect them from water and moisture; and