

Inspection of Mines

*141. SHRI KALYAN ROY:
SHRI BHOLA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMEN-
TARY 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, electri-
cal, mechanical and industrial
hygiene in various coal and non-coal
mines during the year 1976;

(c) what is the frequency of ins-
pections 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 PARLIA-
MENTARY 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	
TOTAL	6,203	3,796	—9,999

(c) to (e) A statement is laid on
the Table of the House. [See Appen-
dix 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 pro-
cedures and processes relating to
Police verification, delegation of more
powers to Passport Officers, easy
availability of application forms, li-
beralised Endorsement policy, sim-
plified 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 COMMUNI-
CATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's atten-
tion 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 com-
munications in the city;

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