

commissioned. Discharge of water from Farakka Barrage is expected to reduce/after some years, the expenditure on river dredging and permit maintenance of better draught which in turn would permit bigger and larger number of vessels to come up to Calcutta. This in turn is likely to lead

to greater traffic and increased revenue. It is, however, too early for such an impact to be felt now.

(b) The figures of earnings of Calcutta Port and the volume of traffic, handled during the last 3 years are as follows:

Items	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76
Revenue (Rs. in lakhs)	3095.10	4214.35	5588.00*
Traffic (lakh tonnes)	63.25	75.36	76.98

The increase in earnings is due to an increase in the traffic and a revision of Port tariffs.

Tentative. Final figures will be available only on finalisation of annual accounts which will be ready by end of June 1976.

Recruitment of apprentices

626. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the manner in which the apprentices are recruited under the Apprenticeship Act, 1961; and

(b) the details of recruitments made in each State with the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes apprentices, since the proclamation of Emergency ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA) : (a) Under the Act the responsibility to engage the required number of apprentices rests with the employer. The following methods are generally followed by them—

- (i) Through advertisement in the newspapers.
- (ii) By calling names from the Employment Exchanges.
- (iii) By calling names from the concerned Principals of the Industrial Training Institutes.

(b) A statement containing the information is attached. [See Appendix XCVI, Annexure No. 481

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Linking of district headquarters of Kerala with Trivandrum through STD

627 SHRI S. KUMARAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 234 given in Rajya Sabha on the 12th March, 1976 and state:

(a) whether more district headquarters in Kerala are expected to be connected with Trivandrum by STD during the current year; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Out of 10 District Headquarters (excluding Trivandrum) in Kerala, the following 6 are already connected to Trivandrum by STD :—

1. Ernakulam.
2. Kottayam.
3. Quilon. 1
4. Alappay.
5. Palghat.
6. Jirichur.

Kozhikode is expected to be connected to Trivandrum via Coimbatore TAX during the current year.

Dry Dock Workshop at Alleppey

628. SHRI S. KUMARAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 126 given in Rajya Sabha on 12th March, 1976 and state :

(a) whether the Central Government communicated their decision on the scheme