

Movement of Coal by Ships

*256. SHRI NABIN CHANDRA :
BURAGOHAIN:

DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI :
SHRI K. B. CHETTRI :
SHRI N. P. CHAUDHARI :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of coal carried by the ships from the North to the South along the eastern coast during 1974 ;

(b) whether any plan for increase of such traffic has been formulated ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI) : (a) 4.92 lakh tonnes.

(b) and (c) It has been estimated that by 1978-79, the quantity of coal to be moved by ships to Southern and East Coast ports would be not less than about 3.5 million tonnes per year, consisting of 0.5 million tonnes each for the Railways and cement factories and other industries, and the remaining 2.5 million tonnes for thermal power stations.

Delay in Issuance of Passports

*257. SHRI B. C. MAHANTI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) when the work of issue of passports was taken out from the State Governments and entrusted to the Regional Passport Officers and the reasons for this change ;

(b) whether it is a fact that while prior to this change over, the average issue of passports from Orissa per annum was about 100 which has now reached about eight hundred ; and

(c) whether Government are aware that the Calcutta Regional Passport Office which looks after the issue of passports for Orissa is taking more than three to four months to issue a passport ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS) : (a) First Regional Passport Offices were set up in Delhi, Calcutta, Madras and Bombay during the year 1954-55. The work of issue of passports was entrusted to a central organisation under the administrative control of the Ministry of External Affairs with a view to achieving uniformity of policy and a central direction.

(b) Prior to the change-over, the average number of passport applications from the State of Orissa was 89 per year. Figures for the last three years are as follows :—

1972	...	403
1973	...	664
1974	...	732

(c) Average time taken by the Regional Passport Office, Calcutta, to process a passport application from the State of Orissa is one month. There are delays sometimes as the applicants do not fill in the applications correctly or do not attach all the documents required.

Requirements of Iron Ore

*258. SHRI KALYAN ROY :
SHRI BHOLA PRASAD :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the requirements of iron ore for the Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited per year and the details thereof for the last five years ;

(b) whether it is a fact the large quantity of iron ore is being purchased from private iron ore mine owners like Orissa Minerals Development Company Limited