

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) to (c) Coal Mines Authority Limited are opening coal dumps/depots at selected places on dealership basis for which preference is being given to State Government organisations and co-operatives. The dumps are expected to start functioning at 4 different centres from July, 1974 and at more centres later.

Setting up of a Wagons Authority

391. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

fa) whether Government propose to set up a Wagons Authority by incorporating the wagon manufacturing units in the country; and

(b) if so, at what place the head-quarters of the Authority are proposed to be set up?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) In Delhi.

Regional Passport Office, Calcutta

392. SHRI N. P. CHOUDHARY:
DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI:
SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURA-GOHAIN:
SHRI K. B. CHETTRI:
DR. V. A. SEYID MUHAMMAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the inordinate delay in issuing passports by Regional Passport Office, Calcutta; and

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to establish a passport office at Gauhati to reduce the pressure in Calcutta office?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government's attention has been drawn to a letter published in "The Assam Tribune" suggesting the opening of a Regional Passport Office at Gauhati for the entire North-Eastern region in order to avoid difficulties involved for applicants from these areas in obtaining passports from the Calcutta office.

This matter is under examination-Coal Gasification Plants

393. SHRI GANESH LAL MALI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 112 given in Rajya Sabha on the 22nd February 1974 and state:

(a) whether Government have since received the report of the Techno-Economic Study Group regarding the setting up of coal gasification plants:

jjj) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken by Government in the matter; and

kkk) what is the cost of the scheme and by when the proposed plants are likely to be set up?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): fa) to (c) Yes. Sir. The Planning Commission had appointed a Working Group on 'Coal Gasification' in January, 1974 and it submitted its report in July, 1974. The report has made a number of recommendations which are under consideration.

Coal Processing plant with Japanese collaboration

394. SHRI RABI RAY:
SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD:

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

ia) whether Government have received a proposal from a Japanese firm to set up a Coal processing plant based on the solvent extraction process;