

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) In 1951, 11,357 Indian pilgrims visited the Hejaz and approximately 4,000 visited Iran and Iraq.

(b) In 1950, 12,349 went to the Hejaz and about 4,500 to Iran and Iraq.

(c) The following amenities were given to the pilgrims going to the Hejaz:

(i) pilgrim-passes were issued to them free of charge by local authorities or the Executive Officer, Port Haj Committee, Bombay;

(ii) they were vaccinated against small pox and inoculated against cholera and certificates were issued to them to that effect free of charge by Government and Municipal Medical Officers in their districts or in Bombay;

(iii) they were allowed to buy and take with them 42 yards of long cloth per pilgrim for Ahram and shrouding purposes;

(iv) they were issued rations for their halts in Bombay on their outward and inward journeys; they were also allowed to take with them food grains and sugar for their stay in Saudi Arabia;

(v) they were given special permission to take out Indian currency with them;

(vi) they were allowed to take out with them certain articles for their personal use;

(vii) they were provided with medical facilities in the Hejaz;

(viii) they were allowed to bring back with them certain sacred relics and presents free of customs duty.

The following amenities were given to the pilgrims going to Iraq and Iran:

(i) pilgrim-passes were issued to them free of charge by the local authorities. [The Executive Officer, Port Haj Committee, Bombay, also issued pilgrim-passes but charged Rs. 6 per pass in case of pilgrims coming from outside Greater Bombay].

(ii) they were allowed to buy and take with them 30 yards of long cloth for shrouding purposes;

(iii) they were allowed to take food grain rations for their journey to Iraq and Iran;

(iv) they were allowed to bring back with them certain sacred relics and presents free of customs duty.

(d) In 1950, 1045 and in 1951, 1049 pilgrims to the Hejaz did not come back in pilgrim ships. We do not know if they came back otherwise. We have no records about pilgrims who did not come back from Iraq and Iran.

LABOURERS IN SUGAR MILLS

190. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state the number of labourers employed in sugar mills in India at present?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): The latest figure available is for the year 1950 and it is 97,553 per day on an average.

INDO-PAKISTAN TRADE

191. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the articles of exports from India to Pakistan in the period January to April 1952; and

(b) the articles of imports from Pakistan to India during the same period?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 24.]

COKING COAL

192. Shri Barman: (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state whether any Executive Committee has been set up for carrying out the programme of reduction in output of coking coal as suggested by the Coal Conservation Committee in 1950?

(b) What was the output of coking coal in 1949 and to what extent has it been gradually reduced since then?

(c) Has reduction in output of coal affected colliery labour in any way?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) The Coal Board have set up an informal Technical Advisory Committee to advise the Board in the matter.

(b) The total output of coking coal during 1949, including Grade II, was 12,601,307 tons.

Figures of output during subsequent years are under compilation but preliminary figures show that since 1949 there has been an increase and not a reduction in the output of coking coal.