

Register of Employment Exchanges at the end of March, 1980 was 146.90 lakhs.

(b) The number of job-seekers registered during the year 1979-80 was 57.82 lakhs.

(c) Information relating to Educated (Matric and above) job-seekers is collected at half-yearly intervals ending June and December each year. The number of Medical and Engineering graduate (including Post-graduate) job-seekers on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges at the end of December, 1979 was 13.8 and 21.8 thousands respectively.

(d) The total number of job-seekers placed in employment through the Employment Exchanges during the year 1979-80 was 4.81 lakhs.

Coal movement to South

1372. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the steps Government have taken or propose to take to ensure quick coal movement to the various regions in the country especially to the South?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): The Railways accord high priority to movement of coal to various parts of the country. The requirement of coal in the South has always been met at a fairly satisfactory level largely from Singareni Collieries in Andhra Pradesh and the position continues to be so.

Representation from Southern Railway Personnel Branch Staff Association

1373. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representation dated the 20th November, 1978 and 14th March,

1980 from the Southern Railway Personnel Branch Staff Association;

(b) if so, the salient points in the representations; and

(c) the steps taken by Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes.

(b) The representations contain a number of demands which include:

1. Grant of Bonus.

2. Scrapping of ban on creation of posts of office clerks.

3. Grant of overtime allowance to office staff.

4. Automatic promotion to next higher grade to those who have completed 25 years of service etc. etc.

(c) In accordance with Government's policy, staff representations received from any source are given due consideration and action as considered necessary is taken. The demands contained in the representations submitted by Southern Railway Personnel Branch Staff Association have been dealt with within the framework of this policy.

National Port Authority

1374. SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in May, 1979 a seminar on Calcutta Port recommended setting up of a National Port Authority; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH):