

[Shri Sadath Ali Khan]

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Statement correcting the reply given on the 15th February, 1961, to Starred Question No. 19 regarding Dam on the Sutlaj River by the Chinese. [See Answer to S.Q. No. 19 in Debates, dated 15-2-61].

12.11½ hrs.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE  
HUNDRED-AND SIXTH REPORT

Shri Dasappa (Bangalore): I beg to present the Hundred-and-Sixth Report of the Estimates Committee on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixtieth Report of the Estimates Committee (First Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Transport Communications—Motor Transport and Miscellaneous.

12.12 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER  
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE  
SHORTAGE OF COAL AND COKE IN UTTAR  
PRADESH

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel to the following matter of urgent public importance, and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

“Acute shortage of coal and coke in U.P. specially Kanpur.”

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): The question of supplies of coal to various categories of consumers has two main aspects. On the one hand adequate production has to be ensured and on the other, movement has to be effected from the producing units to the consumers. In regard to the first aspect,

there is adequate production of coal today to meet all the consumer needs in their entirety. Our objective in the Second Plan was to attain a rate of production of 60 million tons per year during the last quarter, of the Plan period. We are only in the middle of this last quarter, and I am glad to inform the House that production has already exceeded the rate of 60 million tons a year. Therefore, when any consumer is faced with shortages, the problem really boils down to one of movement. What makes this movement of coal difficult is that consumers are spread out in distant areas of our vast country, whereas production of coal is concentrated in particular regions where nature has provided coal reserves. About 75 to 80 per cent of the entire production of the country comes from the Bengal-Bihar fields and the haul from these fields to the northern, western and southern parts of the country is quite long, sometimes exceeding 1,100 miles.

12.14 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

Except for 1 million tons of coal carried for the Southern Railway by the sea route and about 2.4 million tons by road, coal is carried to different parts of the country by rail. During the last year of the First Plan, i.e. 1955-56 total tonnage of coal moved by rail was 35.3 million tons. The annual quantities of coal moved each year during the following four years of the Second Plan were as under:

Year	Tons lifted (millions)	Percentage increase over pre- vious year.
1956-57	38.2	8.2
1957-58	40.5	6.0
1958-59	43.0	6.2
1959-60	44.6	3.7

During the current year 1960-61 the tonnage lifted would be 49.5 million tons representing an increase of 11 per cent over that of last year.