

## 2.5 Transportation and Communication

Owing to the expanding network of motorways and to the increasing domestic production and widespread distribution of motor vehicles, railway transport, formerly the principal mode of freight and passenger transport, has been overtaken in importance by road transport, which handled 62.4 per cent of total freight movements in 1984; rail transport followed with 23.3 per cent.

The capacity of South Korea's ports, including a completely new port at Pukpyong on the east coast, has been increasing rapidly, and in 1986 was approaching 90.7 million tonnes per year. Accompanying this, the country's fleet of merchant ships has also been expanding, and its total displacement exceeded 6.4 million tonnes in 1984.

With the assistance of foreign partners and as a result of the development of the electronics industry, South Korea's communication services have improved dramatically. The number of telephone subscribers reached nearly 2.8 million in 1980, more than four times the number in 1972. The country has a modern radio and television broadcasting system and a thriving publishing industry.