

be raised if the demand picks up. The demand is being reviewed periodically.

Looting of Passengers in Farrukhabad-Delhi Passenger Train

566. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the passengers of Farukhabad-Delhi Passenger, Train were looted in their compartments by dacoits on the 27th June, 1968;

(b) if so, the estimated loss suffered by the passengers as a result thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to compensate the sufferers;

(d) whether Government propose to deploy armed railway police in the running trains to protect the life and property of the passengers; and

(e) if not, the measures Government propose to take in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) Yes, the incident took place on the night of 27/28-6-1968 in a third Class coach of IFTD passenger train between Pakhana and Mota Railway Stations.

(b) the total loss has been estimated at Rs. 250 approximately.

(c) No.

(d) Armed Railway Police is already deployed on the affected section. This train was also escorted by armed Government Railway Police Constable who has been placed under suspension.

(e) Does not arise.

Fall in Mineral Production

567. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of minerals in Rajasthan

fell short by about 7 per cent in 1967 as compared to the output during 1966;

(b) if so, the minerals which recorded decrease in their production showing comparative output during 1966 and 1967;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) the loss suffered due to the shortfall in the production of these minerals; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to raise the output?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI RAM SEWAK) : (a) The production of major minerals in Rajasthan fell short by about 2.7 per cent in 1967 as compared to their output during 1966.

(b) A statement of major minerals in Rajasthan which recorded decrease in their production, showing comparative output during 1966 and 1967 is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1393/68].

(c) The fall in production can be attributed to various factors, such as depletion of reserves; break-down of machinery; labour troubles and lack of demand for certain minerals due to general recession in industrial production.

(d) The loss suffered due to the shortfall in the production would be negligible as the fall in the value of mineral production is marginal.

(e) The information is being collected from the State Government who are primarily concerned.

Exemption of Industries from Licensing

569. SHRI BIBHUTI MISHRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to exempt those in-