

to (c). The rates of royalty in respect of some of the important major minerals, except iron ore and coal, have been increased with effect from 1-7-1968. The revised rates are given in the Ministry's notification No. 1(44)/67-MII dated 29-6-1968, a copy of which was laid on the Table of the House on 23-7-1968. Revision of rates of royalty on iron ore and coal is under consideration.

The estimated increase in the royalty earnings of Bihar as a result of revision of rates of royalty is Rs. 38,98,000 per year on the basis of 1966 production figures.

CZECH TECHNICIANS IN HEAVY ENGINEERING CORPORATION, RANCHI

376. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA :
SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some Czech technicians have left working at the Ranchi Heavy Engineering Plant;

(b) if so, whether it will affect the development of the plant; and

(c) if so, in what manner and the steps taken by Government about it ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir. Seven Czech experts left the service of the Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd., Ranchi suddenly last month.

(b) and (c). There may be some dislocation of work temporary in the sections where these experts were working but this is being sought to be minimised as far as possible. The service of three new Czech experts are being obtained. Activities of the other four Czech experts will be managed by extending the contractual period of the experts already working in the project.

CHECKING OF COACHES AND TOILETS AT TERMINALS

377. SHRI LOBO PRABHU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the orders for checking by Railway officials of coaches and

toilets at terminal and intermediate stations; (b) since insanitation, dust, missing of lights and bolts are a common feature, the reasons why inspections by officers from all levels are not prescribed at different frequencies according to their levels;

(c) the reasons why there is no rule that attendants should check the compartments at terminal points and report missing articles; and

(d) at what levels are reports of missing articles disposed of ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) and (b). The practice of checking of coaches and toilets at terminals and intermediate stations by railway officials has been in vogue for a number of years and various instructions have been issued from time to time making it the responsibility of all officers at Headquarters and Divisions at all levels and at prescribed intervals to inspect the trains at different frequencies to ensure that defects/deficiencies noticed are rectified before the departure of the train. Although it is ensured that the rake is thoroughly cleaned, washed, disinfected and all fittings kept intact and in good working order, due to very high incidence of thefts, it has not always been possible to avoid missing items such as lights, bolts etc. in some of the coaches.

(c) The rules already provide that coach attendants (who are only posted in corridor 1st class coaches) should check before the departure of the train all internal fittings in the coaches provided for the convenience and safety of passengers and attend personally to minor mechanical/electrical defects and to call for the maintenance staff concerned for attending to other heavy repairs.

(d) Reports of missing articles are disposed of at the Divisional level, and Headquarters office also advised.

INDIAN EXPORTS

378. SHRI LOBO PRABHU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total value of exports during the first six months of this year and the comparative figures of the corresponding period during last year;