

or First Class where Air-conditioned class is not provided.

(iii) The minimum distance for charge for excursion special trains for foreign tourists, if they are approved or sponsored by the Department of Tourism, Government of India, is 1500 kilometres only as against 2500 kilometres applicable to other excursion specials.

The concessions at items (i) and (ii) above will, however, be withdrawn from 1-10-1971 in consultation with the Department of Tourism, Government of India, as these are not a material factor in attracting foreign tourists to India. ✓

#### SMALL CAR PROJECT

✓ 18. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have abandoned the idea of having the small car project in the Public Sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether there is any alternative proposal under Governments' consideration in this regard consequent on its decision to abandon the small car project in the public sector?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise. ✓

#### RAILWAY ACCIDENTS

✓ 19. SHRI GODEY MURAHARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the number of railway accidents which took place during the months of January and February, 1971 and whether any enquiry has been ordered with the causes in each case and if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA):

During the months of January and February 1971 there were 134 train accidents in the categories of collisions, derailments, trains running into road traffic at level crossings and fires in trains on the Indian Government Railways. As per extant rules each and every accident is to be inquired into. Since these accidents took place recently, the causes of all these accidents are not yet known. This information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

#### DEDUCTION OF WAGES OF WORKERS

20. DR. Z. A. AHMAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the deduction of wages of the workers of Lilooah Workshops for 26th November, 1963 and subsequent days has been held illegal by the Payment of Wages Authority and later on held by the Calcutta High Court on 13th February, 1970;

(b) if so, whether the deducted amount has since been refunded to the workers concerned, and

(c) if not, what are the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA):

(a) to (c) Staff of Lilooah Workshops on Eastern Railway resorted to a strike by absenting themselves for a few hours every day from 26th November, 1963. The strike was followed by a lock-out from 2nd to 15th December, 1963. Staff who participated in the strike were not allowed payment for the period of the strike and also for the period of the lock-out.

The payment of Wages Authority allowed the payment for the period of the strike in respect of 21 employees who were parties to the case and this decision was upheld by the Calcutta High Court. In terms of the Court's judgment, the Railway Administration deposited the decretal amount in respect of these employees.