

cotton during the year 1967-68 and its price in Rupees ; and

(b) the expected production of cotton in the country during the same year ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) Approximately 9.76 lakh bales costing about Rs. 88 crores.

(b) It is too early to make any precise estimate of the Indian cotton crop for the Cotton year 1967-68. The general expectation however, is that it would be about 20 per cent over the last year's figure.

#### POWER OUTPUT OF NEYVELI LIGNITE PROJECT

239. SHRI Z. A. AHMAD :  
SHRI P. K. KUMARAN :

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have examined the possibility of increasing the power output of Neyveli Lignite Project and also sharing of Neyveli power among the Southern States ;

(b) if so, what are the results ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (DR. M. CHANNA REDDY) : (a) A scheme for expansion of the present capacity of Neyveli Power Plant from 400 M. W. to 600 M.W. is under implementation. There is no proposal at present to expand the Neyveli thermal power station beyond the present sanctioned capacity of 600 M. W. The Government of India are considering how the surplus available power at Neyveli should lie utilized if Madras State Electricity Board are unable to consume the available power.

(b) The Neyveli Lignite Corporation are conducting negotiations with the Madras State Government and the Madras State Electricity Board.

#### FOREIGN COLLABORATION AND INDUSTRIAL LICENCES TO BIRLAS

240. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA :  
SHRI KRISHAN KANT :

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

(a) the number of foreign collaboration proposals approved and Industrial licences granted in favour of Birla group of companies during the period from 1st January, 1966 to date ; and

(b) the number of these that have already been utilised ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

#### PASSENGER AMENITIES

241. SHRI ARJUN ARORA. : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the new passenger amenities introduced on various Zonal Railways with effect from October, 1967 ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : A statement is attached. [See Appendix LXII, Annexure No. 21.]

#### BHAKRA NANGAL-DELHI DIRECT TRAIN

242. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 194 answered in the Rajya Sabha on July 27, 1967 and state :

(a) whether the requisite coaching stock for introducing a direct train between Bhakra Nangal and Delhi have since become available ; and

(b) if not, when these will become available ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) and (b). In view of the continuing acute position of coaching stock, it is not possible to indicate precisely as to when additional coaches required for extension of 53/54 Nangal Dam Expresses to and from New Delhi can be made available.

#### RAILWAY ACCIDENTS

243. SHRI V. M. CHORDIA . Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Railway accidents which occurred between 1st May and 31st October, 1967 ;