	(in million tonnes)
B. Magnetite ores—	
1. Andhra Pradesh . .	20
2. Bihar—Orissa . .	5
3. Himachal Pradesh . .	61
4. Madras	310
5. Mysore	218
TOTAL .	614
C. Limonitic and spathic ores—	
1. Bengal	508

(c). During the year 1966 the production of iron ore was 26·5 million tonnes and exports were over 13 million tonnes. In view of extensive iron ore deposits in the country, it will be possible for some time to export sizeable quantities of iron ore.

FOREIGN COLLABORATION FOR MINING IRON ORE

3644. SHRI K. M. KOUSHIK : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are contemplating foreign collaboration in iron ore mining; and

(b) if so, the names of the countries with which such collaboration is envisaged and the terms thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) and (b). The Government has under consideration the proposal for detailed investigation and exploitation of the Kudremukh Magnetite iron ore deposits in Mysore which have been prospected by the National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. An offer of technical and financial collaboration in conducting metallurgical tests and pilot plant investigations preliminary to commercial exploitation of the deposits has been received from an American firm together with its three Japanese associates. The offer is under consideration.

WORK LOAD ON ENGINEERING STAFF

3645. SHRI SURAJ BHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work load on Railway Engineering staff has increased substantially as compared to 1952;

(b) whether the permanent cadre of Engineers has also been increased; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

FERRO TYPERS IN RAILWAY DRAWING OFFICES

3646. SHRI SURAJ BHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the cadre of of Ferro typers in the Railway drawing offices is skilled; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not giving them the scales of skilled labour ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

CLASS III DRAWING AND OUT-DOOR ENGINEERING STAFF

3647. SHRI SURAJ BHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Class III Drawing and outdoor Engineering staff on the Northern Railway have been declared surplus and provided with alternative jobs without any pay protection ;

(b) whether similar staff declared surplus in 1946 were given due pay protection; and

(c) if so, the reasons for this discrimination and the steps taken to remove this anomaly ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) Yes.

(b) Some protection of pay was given when fixing the pay of the surplus staff who were absorbed in alternative employment at that time.

(c) The question whether a similar protection may be given to staff who are being and have been declared surplus at the present time is under consideration.