

SHRI P. C. SETHI: The ancients worked the copper mines in Rajasthan.

SHRI M. RUTHNASWAMY: May I take it that they have been exhausted?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: They are not exhausted. The I.B.M. and G.S.I. have recently found deposits in the Khetri area and further investigations are going on.

श्री विमलकुमार बन्नालालजी चौरडिया :
 क्या श्री.भा. यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि खेतड़ी में जा व्यवस्था की जा रही थी उसको अब वहाँ से हटा कर कोटा की जा रही है, इसका क्या कारण है ?

श्री पी० सी० सेठी : वह प्रश्न अभी तय नहीं हुआ है। वह प्रश्न जुड़ा हुआ है कि फॉटिलाइजर का प्रोडक्शन वहाँ पर किया जायेगा। इसके पहले की प्रॉसेस तब्दील की जा रही है और इसके साथ ही यह मामला भी तय किया जायेगा

SHRI BIREN ROY: What is the total amount estimated of copper and cobalt and in what places in Rajasthan?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: There are about 50 million tonnes estimated in Khetri and in Kolihan the investigations are going on. We have made investigations in the Dariba area in Rajasthan but we have not found much deposits there.

REPRESENTATION OF TELEGRAPH STAFF REGARDING PAY-SCALES, ETC.

*648. **SHRI D. THENGARI:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board has received any representation on behalf of the telegraph staff regarding their pay-scales and percentage in higher grades; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not proposed to revise either their scales of pay or the percentages laid down for distribution of their posts in the various grades.

SHRI D. THENGARI: Is it not a fact that signaller are not being allotted the pay-scales even of untrained office clerks and, if so, what steps the Government propose to take to give justice to them?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: Actually the Railways have been guided by the recommendation of the Second Pay Commission as well as Justice Shankar Saran's Tribunal. Whatever pay-scales were recommended by the Second Pay Commission, they were accepted by the Railways and the percentage were laid down according to Justice Shankar Saran's Tribunal. So I do not think it will be possible to revise it at present.

SHRI D. THENGARI: On the 10th February, 1957, Shri Jagjivan Ram, the then hon. Railway Minister, announced the upgrading of 16 categories of employees including signaller. Shri Jagjivan Ram said—

"Mr. Lal Bahadur Shastri, my predecessor, in his Budget Speech of February, 1956 proposed to deal with the question of inadequacy of higher grade posts by redistributing the posts so far as to effect an appreciable reduction in the posts in the lowest grade with a corresponding increase in the posts in the higher grades for certain categories of staff for whom increase in the load of work and responsibility has been specially noticeable."

Now, is it not a fact that because of the meagre percentage, that is, 5 per cent. these pious wishes have not been materialised?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: What the hon. Member has read out was perhaps mentioned during the Budget Speech. But all those things were taken into consideration by the Second Pay Commission and the Shankar Saran Tribunal; they had themselves allowed the matter to be gone into by the Commission as well as the Tribunal. And whatever the Commission and the Tribunal recommended, that was accepted by the Railway and so there is no contradiction between the two things.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know if the representative organisations of railwaymen in the country have asked the Government to appoint a Wage Board for the revision of the wages of all categories of railwaymen and, if so, what is the Government's reaction to it?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: Actually, I do know that the NFIR and the AIRF have expressed such sentiments. But that is not accepted by the Government because the pay-scales, etc. of the railway employees have been determined by the Second Pay Commission, and regarding their dearness allowance, etc. the Das Commission is now considering the whole thing. Therefore, there is no question of appointing a separate Wage Board.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: As per Justice Shankar Saran's Award, they have an upgrading of 50 per cent, out of which 40 per cent. is in the scale of Rs. 150—240 and 5 per cent. is in the scale of Rs. 205—280 and Rs. 250—380. Are they not better placed than the clerical staff of the Railways?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: Actually, as I stated earlier, whatever percentage was recommended by the Tribunal has been accepted. In the case of Signallers, it is 50 per cent. In the case of Senior Signallers and Head Signallers, Grade III, it is 45 per cent. In the case of Senior Signallers and Head Signallers, Grade II, and Head Signallers, Grade I, it is 5 per cent. And so it is not like the

percentage which the hon. Member just now pointed out.

*649. [The questioner (Shri P. Abraham) was absent. For answer vide col. 4122 infra.]

*650. [The questioner (Shri U. S. Patil) was absent. For answer vide col. 4123 infra.]

UNPAID WAGES ETC. CREDITED TO STAFF BENEFIT FUND

*651. **SHRI T. V. ANANDAN:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the amount of unpaid wages, arrears and allowances etc., of railwaymen, credited to the Staff Benefit Fund, on each zonal railway for the year ending March, 1964?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH): Unpaid wages, arrears and allowances etc. of Railwaymen are not credited to the Staff Benefit Fund.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: Is the Minister definite about it that unpaid wages are not credited to the Staff Benefit Fund? Apart from what the Railway Ministry sanctions at Rs. 4.50 per head, is it not a fact that unpaid wages are credited to the Staff Benefit Fund in the Indian Railways?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: I am 100 per cent definite about the reply and it is correct that Rs. 4.50 per head for all our Railway employees is granted for the Staff Benefit Fund by the Railways.

DEVELOPMENT OF COAL MINES

*652. { THAKUR BHANU
PRATAP SINGH†;
SHRI RAM SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government discussed the scope of British

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Thakur Bhanu Pratap Singh: