

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 or the Tribunal recommended, that was accepted by the Railway and «o 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 1-jay-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. J. 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:

technical and financial collaboration for development of coal mines in Bihar, with the Chairman of Britain's Coal Board; and

(b) the highlights of the discussions and Government's reactions to the proposals made by the British Chairman?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Coal Board of the United Kingdom will render technical assistance to the National Coal Development Corporation in the development of three coking coal mines in the East Bokaro coalfield, namely Asnapani, Udhidih and Govindpur drift mines. A project report in respect of the first of these mines, namely Asnapani mine, has been furnished by the National Coal Board, and this report formed the subject matter of discussion with the Chairman, National Coal Board during his recent visit to India. Subject to the Government of India giving its final clearance to this project after examination of all relevant aspects, there was broad agreement on the technical and administrative arrangements, and the tentative time schedule for the development of this mine.

THAKUR BHANU PRATAP SINGH: May I know whether the Government has accepted any of these suggestions given by the Chairman of Britain's Coal Board?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Yes, Sir. We have decided to take up these three projects and we have already got the Project Report for Asnapani as I said earlier during the reply, and we are proceeding further in the matter.

SHRI A. D. MANI: May I invite the attention of the hon. Minister to the terms of part (a) of the question, which refer to financial collaboration? The hon. Minister has not made any statement on this aspect of the question. May I ask him whether during

the discussions the matter of financial collaboration came up, at least on the side of our Government?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Yes, Sir. As these mines are concerned, financial collaboration would also come.

SHRI A. D. MANI: May I know, Sir, what is the extent of the financial collaboration that the Government expects from the British?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: With regard to only one mine where the Project Report has been prepared, the extent of foreign exchange element is Rs. 253'98 lakhs. With regard to the two others, the Project Reports are yet to come.

SHRI C. D. PANDE: In view of the fact that these foreign technical experts have observed that the target fixed by the Government of India for the Fourth Plan is rather ambitious, is Government going to accelerate the machinery for raising the coal to the extent that it has fixed the target for the Fourth Plan?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: There are two points with regard to the coal aspect. One is with regard to the coking coal, that is metallurgical coal, and the other is with regard to the other types of coal. This question is pertaining to the metallurgical coal and as far as the target for metallurgical coal is concerned, it is not ambitious.

♦653. [The questioner (Shri R. S. Khandekar) was absent. For answer vide cols. 4123-4124 infra.]

STALLS BY STATE GOVERNMENTS IN WORLD FAIR

♦654. SHRI ABDUL GHANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of India gave permission to five State Governments to set up stalls in the Indian pavilion in the New York World Fair;