

shortage of higher grade coal in the country and that still higher grade coal is being allowed for burning bricks, etc.?

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY: There may be stray cases but generally this is not so. There is enough low grade coal available.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: When the higher grade coal is in shortage in the country, is there not any scheme under Government's consideration to check whether the lower grade coal, grade II and grade III, can be used in railway locomotives instead of the higher grade coal?

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY: Grade II and grade III coals are available in plenty. Even the transport bottleneck has been removed. Therefore that question does not arise.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: It is an acknowledged fact that plenty of Grade II and Grade III coals are lying at the pit-heads. Some time ago a research was made by the Government of India to find out the use for these grades of coal. May I know from the hon. Minister as to the progress in that direction and in what manner they hope that these extra stocks of grades II and III coals will be utilised and consumed?

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY: It is true that there is little surplus at the pitheads. It is not very much. It is less than a month's production. I think it will be picked up soon and in due course it would be consumed.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: I also asked what research is being made for seeing that the consumption of this quality coal is more useful.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He wants to know what research is being made to make it more useful.

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY: For coking purposes, we are taking steps

to find out whether lower grade coal could be improved. The laboratories are examining the problem.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: My question was whether the Government is thinking of finding out ways and means whereby this coal of grade 2 and the lower grade coal 3 could be utilised in locomotives instead of using higher grade coal.

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY: We are not using higher grade coal in locomotives generally. Normally only lower grades of coal are used. One or two instances have come to our notice. But if they are still using higher grade coal, we will look into it.

IMPORT OF FILMS

***547. SHRI I. K. GUJRAL:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of films commercially imported in the year 1963-64 and their total footage;

(b) the names of countries of import and the number of films imported from each country; and

(c) whether Government propose to re-examine their present import policy of foreign films?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) and (b) Information regarding footage is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible. The current import policy is 10 per cent. of the quota of the basic period.

(c) Yes, Madam. The matter is under consideration.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Madam, 10 per cent. quota which the hon. Minister has said is being given for the films. Has it been brought to his notice that the basic year on the basis of which 10 per cent. is fixed is favourable in importing films primarily from one country?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH No, Madam. Here the particular countries to which the hon Member refers are two, the United States and the United Kingdom from which we have special arrangement called the Rupee Blocked Account. If the hon Member or anybody can bring similar schemes from other countries, there is nothing to bar us to accept it on that basis. We can, as I said, enter into agreements.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY I would like to know whether Indian films are exported in exchange of imported films from other countries.

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH Madam, actually barter exchange has not yet been possible. But it is our earnest hope and endeavour that gradually in the East European countries we should organise barter exchange. Similarly, with the United States we are having Rupee Blocked Account of more than Rs 3 crores. Manuscripts of four films for development of coproduction films have been received which when ready will be re-exported. That is the direction in which we are working.

SHRI I K GUJRAL In view of the fact that import of films is not only a commercial idea, it has its bearing on education and taste also, is the Government of India contemplating of appointing a committee in consultation with the I & B and Education Ministries to formulate a comprehensive film import policy?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH Madam, we have a very nice and satisfactory import policy in force. But if the hon Member has any suggestion, we can have it considered. A committee is not the best remedy for all the problems that may arise.

SHRI A D MANI Madam, is there any proposal before the Government to reduce the quota for the import of foreign films, as it will have a serious effect on the entertainment of the country?

766 RS—2

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH That is very much so in our mind, and that is why, Madam, I have said that the matter is under consideration. We are gradually cutting down the quota of all these various parties. At the same time, there is a large audience in this country which really appreciates these films. Many of them are documentary films, education films. So our intention is to earn more so that we can import more.

SHRI I K GUJRAL Madam, as I said film has a great bearing on education and taste. In view of the fact that countries other than the USA have made very great progress in film production will the Government of India kindly care to examine the possibility of reaffirming its import policy, irrespective of treating it as one of the import items and also keep in mind the fact that one of the reasons why our International Film Festival has not been well received abroad is that our import policy in this connection is defective?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH Our import policy, as I have already mentioned, is a good one and a satisfactory one. It has not come in the way at all. The imports are, as I mentioned Madam, on different basis. If we want to import from all other countries of the world except from these two countries there is no bar whatsoever. The question is, are the producers of these countries, like Western Europe or Japan, prepared to give terms which in the difficult situation of foreign exchange of this country can help us to have films on Rupee Blocked Account as in the case of these two people? The moment they give a proposal like that we will immediately accept it.

SHRI I K GUJRAL I wanted the hon Minister to explain the advantages that we get from this Rupee Blocked Account which we are unable to get from other countries.

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: The advantage is that the repayment in terms of dollars and sterling is reduced to the minimum and the money which is blocked here in rupees can be used for development of indigenous and coproduction films for which four manuscripts have already been received from the United States. These films when ready will be re-exported to these countries.

*548. [The questioner (Shri Arjun Arora) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 3919-20 infra.]

EXCESS FARE COLLECTION

*549. SHRI D. B. DESAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that number of T.T.Es. and T.T.E. Supervisors at Belgaum Station on Southern Railway have been charge-sheeted for not maintaining the level for excess fare collection;

(b) if so, what is the basis for fixing the level of excess fare collection; and

(c) whether any memorandum has been received from the railway union to do away with enforcing the level of excess fare collection?

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

(b) The basis varies from month to month and is fixed to be approximately 70 per cent. to 80 per cent. of the average earnings of all T.T.Es. working on the section.

(c) Yes.

SHRI D. B. DESAI: Madam, may I know the basis on which level for excess fare is fixed, and further, whether special staff is being sent to each and every station?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: This is done on the basis of the performance of a T.T.E. as compared with that of the other T.T.Es. working under similar circumstances.

SHRI D. B. DESAI: May I know, Madam, the strength of the supervisory staff at the Belgaum Station?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: There is one Head Ticket Collector who is under the supervision of the D.S. of the Division.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know, Madam, if this practice prevails on all the Railways?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: On all Railways, Madam.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: May I know, Madam, if the T.T.Es. collect excess fare on commission basis; if so, what is the amount of commission and how much total commission has been paid?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: That is a normal part of their duty.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Is the Minister aware that because the checking staff are not given adequate protection ticketless travellers are not being apprehended by these T.T.Es.? Many a time they have been beaten and assaulted.

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: Sometime it does happen, Madam.

*550. [The questioner (Shri P. K. Kumaran) was absent. For answer, vide col. 3920 infra.]

TEMPORARY COMMERCIAL CLERKS IN THE NORTHERN RAILWAY

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

(a) whether it is a fact that some commercial clerks are working in temporary capacity in the Northern Railway for the last seven years;