

(a) whether it is a fact that the Commercial Clerks who have put in twenty years of service are still in the initial grade of Rs. 110-200, aspiring to get the next higher grade of Rs. 150-240; and

(b) whether it will not affect the morale and efficiency of an employee, if a major portion of his total service has to be spent in the initial grade itself, and if he gets stagnated at the maximum of the initial grade, his chances of promotion being remote?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND RAILWAYS (SHRI GOVINDA MENON) : (a) Yes, there are some.

(b) The question of giving some relief to Class III Staff including Commercial Clerks who have been at the maximum of their pay scales for some time is under consideration.

REVISION OF GRADES OF COMMERCIAL OF CLERKS

5070. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was any special reason for not revising the grades of the Commercial Clerks alone, when the other categories like Guards, Assistant Station Masters and Travelling Ticket Examiners who were getting equal pay like them, got it revised by executive orders; and

(b) whether Government will consider to merge at least the first and second grades prevailing for the Commercial Clerks (as has been done in the case of P W T clerks) (Rs. 110-200 and Rs. 150-240 merged into one scale Rs. 110-240) so that there will not be stagnation at Rs. 200/-, even if they do not get any promotion during the whole of their service as is the case at present?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND RAILWAYS (SHRI GOVINDA MENON) : (a) and (b) It is not correct that the scales of pay of Commercial Clerks alone have not been revised. There has been no revision in most of the categories of Railway employees including Guards and Travelling Ticket Examiners after allotment of authorised scales of pay on the basis of Second Pay Commission's recommendation. The scales

of pay of Assistant Station Masters/ Stations Masters were revised with effect from 1-4-1964 in view of the increased responsibilities consequent upon the increase in the tempo of traffic movements. At this stage, it is not possible to consider the case of Commercial Clerks in isolation for a revision of scales, particularly as the Government have announced their decision to appoint a Pay Commission.

LOSSES INCURRED IN SWITCHGEAR UNIT OF BHARAT HEAVY ELECTRICALS LIMITED, HYDERABAD

5071. SHRI C. K. CHAKRAPANI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that heavy losses are being incurred in the Switch Gear of Unit of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited at Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the extent of the loss incurred ever since this has been set up with foreign collaboration;

(c) the total capital invested and the extent of foreign exchange involved in it;

(d) whether a detailed Project Report for setting up this unit was drawn up and that large scale trading activities importing components at high cost and selling them at a low price in India—are being indulged; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that the various Electricity Boards in India were obtaining complete imported Air-Brakers from the collaborating firms at cheaper rates?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) and (b). The Switchgear Unit Hyderabad of Bharat Electricals Ltd. has incurred losses as given below in the first three years of initial production, which commenced from October, 1966 :

1966-67	.. Rs. 16.57 lakhs
1967-68	.. Rs. 32.05 lakhs
1968-69	.. Rs. 49.64 lakhs.

(c) Capital expenditure upto 31st March, 1969 on this Unit amounted to Rs. 159.8 lakhs, the foreign exchange content being Rs. 40.78 lakhs.

(d) A feasibility report for the Switch-gear Unit was drawn up by the project authorities after obtaining layout data, specifications of machinery and equipment, quantities of raw materials schedule of year-wise manufacture etc. from the collaborators together with other relevant data and particulars regarding this scheme. It is not a fact that large scale trading activities, importing components at high cost and selling them at a low price in India is being indulged by this Unit.

(e) While specific information regarding the cost of air circuit breakers imported directly from abroad by various Electricity Boards is not readily available, it is possible that indigenous costs of this item may be somewhat higher than the cost of imported units, because of various factors, including raw material costs, level of production and the like. However, the items produced in this plant are being sold under competitive conditions in the internal market, though import is not allowed of such items which can be indigenously manufactured.

IMPORT OF COMPONENTS OF AIR BLAST CIRCUIT BREAKERS FOR SWITCHGEAR UNIT OF B.H.E.L.

5072. SHRI C. K. CHAKRAPANI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices paid for the import of the second batch of components of the Air Blast Circuit Breakers for switch-gear Unit of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd., Hyderabad are still higher than the prices paid for the first batch;

(b) if so, how this deal was entered into and who was responsible for the finalisation of this deal thereby agreeing to pay higher prices;

(c) what action Government took to prevent such losses and such agreements; and

(d) whether there is a large stock of unsold imported components of Switch Gear in the B.H.E.L. on which large amount of foreign exchange was spent?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A.

AHMED) : (a) to (c). The order for the first batch of imported components was placed on ASEA in October, 1965 and the second in February, 1967. The same base price governed the first and the second batch of Air-Blast circuit breaker components, except in the case of certain items where some design improvement had taken place and only the price of such items increased for the second batch order.

(d) The position of the opening stock of imported components as on 1-4-1969 was Rs. 80.15 lakhs. This would cater for the planned production requirements of 40 Nos. of Air Blast Circuit-breakers during 1969-70, spares for the breakers already manufactured during the previous 2 years (nearly 150 Nos.), production and transit mortality during the current year, and essential guarantee-period replacements.

WAGE BILL OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES AND FOREIGN TOURS OF CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, OF H.E..C.

5073. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2302 on the 2nd December, 1969 and state:

(a) the actual wage bill of the officers and its proportion to that of the other employees;

(b) the actual hurdles in the way of achieving full rated production and the steps being taken to achieve the same;

(c) what orders were secured by the ex Commercial Manager, the place where he is at present and on what grounds he sought and got his resignation accepted; and

(d) the actual amount spent on the foreign tours of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman including the amount spent on officers accompanying them, and the details of the orders secured abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) The monthly wage bill of officers is Rs. 13.53 lakhs and that of other employees Rs. 44.20 lakhs.

(b) As already stated, projects of this nature have a long gestation period as pro.