

NEWS REEL AND DOCUMENTARY
PICTURES (APPROVAL)

*2281. **Shri N. S. Jain:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) what is meant by 'Approved Film' in case of Documentary and News Reel pictures;

(b) what is the constitution of the body which gives the Approval Certificate;

(c) how many such films were produced by private enterprise during the last four years which have been given Certificates of Approval;

(d) whether it is the policy of Government to encourage private producers to produce such films; and

(e) whether there are any rules for the News Reel and Documentary films produced abroad to obtain such Approval Certificates before they are exhibited in India and if not, why not?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) An 'Approved Film' is a film approved by the Government of India or a State Government for the purpose of the condition in cinema licences requiring the exhibition of a specified footage of such films.

(b) Government of India grant Approval Certificates on the recommendations of the Film Advisory Board.

(c) Government of India have granted Approval Certificates in respect of 9 films produced by private producers. Information about the number of Approval Certificates granted by State Governments is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) There are no separate rules for films produced abroad, each film, whether Indian or foreign, is considered on merits.

DOCUMENTARIES (COST OF PRODUCTION)

*2282. **Shri N. S. Jain:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the cost of production per foot of 35 mm. and 16 mm. films respectively of documentaries produced by the Film Division of the Ministry during the last four years;

(b) the cost of production per foot of 35 mm. and 16 mm. films of news reviews respectively produced by the Films Division of the Ministry during last four years; and

(c) whether Government invited private producers to supply documentaries to Government during the last three years, if so, when and what were the rates offered to them per foot?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) and (b). The Films Division produces films only in 35 mm.; 16 mm. copies are made by reduction from 35 mm. The cost of production of documentaries varies between Rs. 10 and Rs. 25 per foot, depending upon the nature of the subject and involving shooting in various parts of the country. The cost of production of news reels is about Rs. 10 per foot.

(c) Yes, Sir. The rates offered ranged between Rs. 8 and Rs. 15 per foot.

SLEEPERS FOR HIRAKUD

*2284. **Shri R. N. S. Deo:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) (i) whether it is a fact that order for inferior quality of Deogar sleepers were placed for Hirakud with one Sri Jawaharlal Bhalla, a supplier from Punjab, though good quality Sal wood sleepers are available in Sambalpur and in other parts of Orissa;

(ii) if the answer to (i) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the quantity, total value and rate of the sleepers; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the Executive Engineer Store Division Sri Goel is closely related to the supplier and that he himself went to the supplying station in Punjab at Government expense to pass those sleepers?

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): (a) (i) and (ii). An order for 24,000 sleepers for the Hirakud Dam Project was placed with the East Punjab Government through the State Forest Department who had a rate contract for supply of timber to Government Departments. The supplies were arranged by the Forest Department through Messrs. Jawahar Lal Bhalla, one of the forest lessees at Jagadhari. For full details of the matter including the quantity obtained and rates paid, I would refer the hon. Member to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1517 put by Shri S. N. Sinha, on the 4th October 1951.