

regard to associations of workers engaged in handicrafts and the dealers of handicrafts in Rajasthan, Bombay, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Bengal, Andhra, Madras, Kerala and Pondicherry.

(c) The estimated cost of the survey is Rs. 40,000.

**Shri Jadhav:** May I know whether the report of this survey will be placed on the Table of the House?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** The survey is still going on and the Handicrafts Board has obviously received past reports. The Handicrafts Board has entrusted this work to Indian Co-operative Union. They have received some reports. When they are submitted to the Government by the Handicrafts Board, we shall examine them as also the desirability of placing them on the Table.

#### Import of Foreign Films

\*1202. **Shri Chandak:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the total Foreign Exchange (Sterling, Dollars and other Currencies) spent on the import of foreign films during 1956-57 and 1957-58;

(b) whether any attempt has been made to make payments for foreign films in Indian Currency; and

(c) if so, with what result?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo):** (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

#### Statement

(a) A statement showing currency-wise value of imports of exposed films during 1956-57 and 1957-58 is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 52.]

(b) and (c). The attention of the hon. Member is invited to Agreement referred to in reply to Starred Question No. 9 answered in the Lok Sabha on the 11th August, 1958. The Rank

Film Distributors of India (P) Ltd., Bombay, also approached the Government of India with a request to accord similar treatment to import of exposed films from the U.K. made by them. The request was accepted and necessary instructions were issued to the Licensing Authorities to issue licences to this firm also on the same basis as applicable to the issue of licences to the member companies of the Motion Picture Export Association of America.

**Shri Chandak:** May I know whether any attempt has been made to import foreign films on barter against export of Indian films? If not, do Government propose to explore this possibility?

**Shri Kanungo:** To the first part of the question, the answer is in the negative. To the second part, the answer is that recently we have set up a committee to explore the possibility of export of Indian films.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** In view of the fact that our news reels now also cover the international field, what is the reason for allowing the import of foreign news reels still?

**Shri Kanungo:** I have only knowledge of films which are permitted. The permission in respect of films is given by the I. & B. Ministry.

**Shri Ranga:** Is any effort being made to study the possibility of restricting as far as possible the import of foreign films in view of the fact that we have no choice but to import quite a lot of film raw materials in order to help our own film industry?

**Shri Kanungo:** Yes, Sir. Under the import regulations, restrictions have been put. Also, at present import of exposed films is permitted on rupee basis to a great extent.

#### Jute Mills

\*1203. **Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any assessment regarding the increase