

Shri Shivannaajappa: May I know who are the foreign collaborators for the manufacture of raw films?

Shri Manabhai Shah: As the House is aware, we are negotiating with the Fuji Films of Japan. We are also negotiating with West German Agfa, with Kodak, Gevaret and one or two French and German firms.

Shri P. K. Doo: May I know the progress that has been made in Ootacamund in the manufacture of raw films?

Shri Manabhai Shah: I indicated that we are negotiating, and we are expecting the proposal from these parties very soon, in order to examine them and also see what could be done in the matter in the private sector also. It will not be only a project to be established at Ootacamund but various items of the raw film and the ancillaries would be manufactured under industrial proposals if they are received.

Shri Tangamani: Is it a fact that because the Government did not place the order in time, the raw film factory in Ootacamund could not be started with the help of the East German Government?

Shri Manabhai Shah: That is not a fact. My hon friend knows the whole history very well. It was because of the very long period of deliveries and the very dilatory programme that we could not accept the offer made by the firm which was to collaborate with us at one time.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know whether any request has been received recently from the Chief Minister of the Punjab Government to set up one of these X-ray film projects in Punjab, and if so, the nature of the action taken thereon?

Shri Manabhai Shah: No, not to my knowledge. No such request has come. Perhaps, the hon Member is referring to one of the drugs projects for which definitely a request has come not only from the Chief Minis-

ter of Punjab but from the Chief Ministers of all the States.

Films on India

*1021. **Shri Sadhan Gupta:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that two films entitled "Der Tiger Von Eschnapur" and "Das indische Grabmal" both directed by Fritsland are being exhibited in West Germany,

(b) whether the said films depict extremely obscene dances by women in temples as typical of Indian culture and as an ingredient of Hindu worship and contain other objectionable representations and insinuations in presenting Indian life and culture;

(c) if so, whether any protest has been made regarding the exhibition of the said films, and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):

(a) Yes

(b) to (d) It is understood that the two films contain some dance sequences in scanty clothes, but the films are re-makes of two old films produced about twenty years ago and supposed to be fantasies. The question of any formal protest, therefore, does not arise, but the officers of our Embassy in Bonn have informally brought this to the notice of the German foreign office.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: May I know whether the old films referred to contain obscene representations of Indian life, and if so, even if they are re-makes, why a protest was not made when these were being exhibited?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The company asked for permission to come to India to shoot certain portions of the film called "Tiger of Eschnapur", and they submitted a script; this was not approved because we thought that it did not give a correct and

balanced picture of the life of the people. Then, a revised script was submitted, and it was approved.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: At the time the revised script was submitted, did the Government of India know that these scandalous representations were going to be reproduced in the film, and if so, what steps did they take to prevent it?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: There was no mention of any dance sequences at all in that revised script, and the Government of India did not know that these obscene scenes will be represented in the picture.

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. Minister mean that there has been a deviation from the script that has been approved?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Yes

Shri Thirumala Rao: Are Government aware of the film recently produced and exhibited in India by name 'Pardesi' produced in collaboration with Russian artists, in which a Russian traveller, several centuries ago, visited India, made clandestine love with a poor fisher-girl in Maharashtra, and then ran away to his country, leaving the mother and her illegitimate child to their fate? Has Government's attention been drawn to this, and will they see to it. . . .

Mr. Speaker: How does that arise out of the main question?

Shri Thirumala Rao: It is a matter of principle; that is why I am asking. Such obscene and misrepresenting films are being produced with foreign collaboration; and this film with Russian collaboration is one such thing about which Government should take immediate action.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member evidently wants to ask the Government to be a little more careful generally with respect to foreign collaborators in the field of film-making. That is all the suggestion.

202 LSD—3.

Shri Thirumala Rao: These foreign collaborators should not humiliate the country.

Mr. Speaker: Very well; Russia and Germany are not so near to each other. 13

Shri S. M. Banerjee: It has been stated in this paper *Darpan* dated 22nd May, 1950, that this particular film which has been renewed or rather refilmed still shows these naked dances, and before Shiva and Vishnu. . . .

Mr. Speaker: Why should the hon. Member desire to give information to this House, as if hon. Members have not seen it? Why should he go into details?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to ask whether even after the film has been approved, these things are still there. These things actually give a horrible picture of Indian culture. May I know whether any protest has been made?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister has answered both the questions, as far as I have been able to follow. The hon. Minister said that it was true. Then, I put a question specifically whether notwithstanding the approval of a particular script, these additions have been made; the hon. Minister said, yes. The question was also put to her whether any protest had been lodged. She said that our Ambassador in Bonn had taken up this matter. So, both the questions have been answered.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether this film has been banned?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The picture has not come to India; we can only ban the picture when it comes to India.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: How can they exhibit such scandalous things in foreign countries?

Shri Vajpayee: May I know why no formal protest had been lodged?

Shri Sadhan Gupta: May I know how widely the film has been exhibited in Germany, and whether the German authorities have given us any assurance of stopping the exhibition in Germany, in view of the fact that it is a great insult to our culture and our nation?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: That question has already been answered. The matter has been taken up by our Mission with the authorities concerned in Bonn.

Mr. Speaker: Did they give any reply that they would not do so?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: No.

Dr. Sushila Nayar: Is it not a fact that our Film Censor Board is lacking in effective censorship and there are obscene pictures in the country, and that is why some of these obscenities are passed on for exhibition in the foreign countries also? Why should we not take up this question of obscenities in films altogether, rather than deal with just one isolated film that goes outside the country?

Mr. Speaker: This Ministry is not competent to answer that question.

I would urge upon all hon. Ministers that if they are not able to be here during the question hour without prejudice to their other work, they may at least send their deputies who will be able to answer such questions. There are a number of such cross-questions coming up; and unless they know what is happening, the Cabinet responsibility will not be there. They will be in absolutely water-tight compartments.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: About this particular point, I might say that under the present law, there is no possibility of control on the production of films in India by Indians or foreigners; we can only ban the film when it comes before the Board of Censors. If a badly produced Indian film is shown in a foreign country, we cannot take any action at all.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether we have asked the West German Government to ban the exhibition of that film?

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members evidently want a stricter control; if it is necessary to have a law, hon. Members are only too willing to pass the necessary legislation.

Indian Paint Manufacturers' Association

*1023 **Shri Raghunath Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Indian Paint Manufacturers' Association at its 17th Annual general meeting held in the first week of June, 1959 at Calcutta requested Government to reduce the import duty on raw materials with a view to make Indian paints compete with USA and UK in foreign markets?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah) Except for a general suggestion made in the presidential speech of the 17th annual general meeting of the Indian Paint Manufacturers' Association, for the grant of all facilities to the indigenous paint industry, no specific request as such has come for the reduction of import duty on raw materials used in the manufacture of paints meant for export, to Government from the Association.

But I can add for the information of the House that all drawbacks are built in for every export item, and import duty is being refunded as drawback on exports.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह: वहाँ तक हम ने देखा है, इस, एसोसिएशन ने जो प्रस्ताव पास किया है, उस का एक घंटा यह भी था कि कार्बन कस्टीज में अमरीका और इंग्लैंड से इडमिन वेंचर्स का जो कार्बोटीशन हो रहा है, उस का सामना करने के लिये वह अत्यन्त आवश्यक है कि जो वेलिक मैटीरियल है, उन को भी किया जाये और वे हम को बचाव द्यो सकें।