

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHARAN SINGH): (a) to (c). Government are aware of such disconnection in the wake of proclamation of emergency dated 25-6-1975. The terms of reference of the Shah Commission of Inquiry are wide enough to enable the Commission to inquire into this matter.

Exemption of Bengali films from purview of new tax

4239. **SHRI SAUGATA ROY:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shri Satyajit Ray, the noted film director has written to the Minister asking him to exempt Bengali films from the purview of the new tax, to save the Bengali film industry;

(b) whether the West Bengal Government has made a similar request; and

(c) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b). Letters have been received from Shri Satyajit Ray as also the West Bengal Government expressing their view that the proposed excise levy would seriously affect the regional film industry.

(c) Having regard to the various points made by the representatives of the film industry the Minister of Finance, while moving for consideration the Finance (2) Bill in the House, on July 15, 1977 has announced certain modifications in the levy. Under this, the *ad valorem* duty which was proposed to be levied is now proposed to be modified to specific rates based on the number of prints of feature films. The earlier exemption to the first 12 prints of each feature film is also proposed to

be restored. It is expected that these modifications will materially benefit the film industry including the regional film industry.

Ban on use of News sent by Foreign Agencies to Indian Newspapers

4239. **SHRI SAMAR GUHA:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether ban imposed by the Congress Government during the days of Emergency against use of news sent by foreign agencies by the Indian Newspapers is still continuing;

(b) if so, the reasons thereabout; and

(c) if not, the present position in regard to use of news despatched by foreign news agencies to the Indian newspapers?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b). During the Emergency, under Orders issued from time to time, authorities had powers of pre-censorship of news on specified items, whether the news emanated from Indian sources or from foreign agencies. These orders are no longer in force.

(c) News put out by foreign news agencies is circulated to Indian newspapers through Indian news agencies. Newspapers are now free to use or not to use such news.

'शक्तिमान' टुकों का निर्माण

4240. **श्री ईश्वर चौधरी :** क्या राजा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गत दो वर्षों के दौरान कितने 'शक्तिमान' टुकों का निर्माण हुआ है तथा सरकार द्वारा इनकी कितनी मात्रा खरी है;