

Suspension of new releases of Indian Motion Pictures by Film Federation of India

5069. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state.

(a) whether Film Federation of India has suspended all the new releases of the Indian Motion Pictures as protest against the 10 per cent *ad-valorem* excise duty proposed in the New Budget;

(b) whether the decision of the excise duty will affect the films produced in regional language and small budget films; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) Some reports to this effect had appeared in a section of the Press.

(b) and (c). Taking note of the representations made by the Film Industry, the Minister for Finance has already announced certain modifications in regard to the original proposal for levy of excise duty on films, which, it is hoped, will go a long way in mitigating the grievances of the Film Industry.

Cable and Conductor manufacturing unit in Tamil Nadu

5070. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cable and Conductor manufacturing units in Tamil Nadu are facing closure due to financial difficulties;

(b) whether they are facing shortage of raw material and power supply; and

(c) whether Government have taken steps to solve the problems of the industry in order to avoid their closure?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c). No specific complaints have been received by Government of India from any unit in Tamil Nadu manufacturing cables and conductors about its facing closure due to financial difficulties or shortage of raw material and power supply. Government are, however, aware that production of aluminium in the first three months of the current financial year was short by about 12,000 tonnes over that of corresponding period in the previous year. This is attributed to power cut and strike in Belgaum Smelter. Power supply has since been restored to M/s. Madras Aluminium Co. Ltd. and strike in Belgaum Smelter called off.

Commissioning of Variable Energy Cyclotron

5071. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Variable Energy Cyclotron (V.E.C.) has been commissioned for use by B.A.R.C., Calcutta;

(b) the total cost of this VEC Project, including foreign exchange used; and

(c) to what uses the VEC project helps in the field of Nuclear Research, Industry and Agriculture?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Variable Energy Cyclotron was commissioned during the early morning hours of June 16, 1977.

(b) The total cost of the VEC Project is about Rs. 9 crores with a foreign exchange component of about Rs. 1 crore.