

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MATI ABHA MAITI): (a) and (b). Government is not aware of any firm manufacturing "west clock watches" in India with German collaboration. However, time-pieces under the brand name of "Westclox" are manufactured by M/s. Time Aids (India) Limited, Madras, in collaboration with M/s. General Time Corporation, U.S.A.

Government has not received any complaint in regard to quality or prices of these time-pieces.

The capital investment of this company is Rs. 25 lakhs, out of which the share of the U.S.A. company is Rs. 3.15 lakhs.

Delegation to the 24th Asian Film Festival held at Sydney

1549. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any official Indian delegation was sent to the 24th Asian Film Festival held at Sydney recently;

(b) if so, names of the delegates and officials, and if not, why no any delegation was sent;

(c) whether India has committed to play host to the next Fete of Asian Film Festival in the year 1979;

(d) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the criticism against India's boycott in the current Festival and the disappointment caused to the members of the Federation of Motion Picture Producers' Association in Asia; and

(e) reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Over 70 Film Festivals of varying standards and character are held

every year. It is neither possible nor necessary to send official delegations to all of them. No official agency is affiliated to the Federation of Motion Picture Producers Association in Asia which organises Asian Film Festival.

(c) There is no commitment on the part of Government of India.

(d) and (e), Government has seen some Press reports which were based on wrong information. These have been contradicted. One feature film 'Shaque' and a short film 'Chitra Kathi' were entered in the Festival by the Producers. The film 'Chitra Kathi' also won an Award. The criticism about the boycott appearing in the Press was erroneous.

Merger of Pondicherry into Tamil Nadu

1550. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister has proposed merger of Pondicherry into Tamil Nadu to Chief Minister during his recent visit to Madras;

(b) if so, details of the proposal made by the Prime Minister to the Chief Minister of Pondicherry along with the background of the references regarding merger of Pondicherry into Tamil Nadu;

(c) whether the merger of Union Territories into adjoining States has been sought and is being considered by the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with policy of the Government on continuation of Union Territories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) Prime Minister did not make any proposal in this regard.

(b) Does not arise.