

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, first I would like to tell that Development Council and bank loan are two different things. Bank loan has no relation to the constitution of Development Council. So far as part I of the question is concerned, I had given reply to Shri Surendra Singh that it is the bank which will see whether the project is viable or not. The Government will make only enabling provisions. The Government has decided that now banks can see the projects and after seeing the projects they will take decisions. As far as the question of Development Council is concerned, it will work as an Advisory Committee to look after all matters relating to film industry. We have decided to have around 25 members all connected with the film industry.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to tell the Hon'ble Minister that the Government has taken a very good decision by giving status of industry to film making but I would like to know whether any provision has been made to safeguard the rights of labourers and technicians who are helping in film making?

Secondly, black money is increasing in film industry. If the Government is giving it the status of industry then has the Government taken any decision to remove the problem of black money? Thirdly heroes and heroines and other actors and actresses sometimes demand 50 lakh or even 1 crore or 2 crore rupees, though they should get money according to their work. Due to this reason, black money in film industry is increasing which is posing great danger to the country. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether she is going to impose some restrictions on this or not?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, three in one supplementary has been put to which I would like to give reply in 3 different parts. The first question asked by the hon. Member relates to work force and the hon. Member has asked whether there is any benefit or not if film making has been given the status of industry. It is a very valid question. I would like to tell the hon. member that even when the film industry was not given the status of industry, some Acts, like the Shops and Establishments Act, were in force for the workers working in film industry. We have imposed cess on films for the welfare of workers for example, Rs. 10,000 is charged for Hindi films, Rs. 2000/- for Assamese films and Rs. 5000/- for Oriya films and likewise for other films. This money is utilised only for the welfare of film workers. Various issues connected with the industry will also arise, such as which Act should be applicable to them and which Act should not be made applicable. I want to say that the Ministry of Welfare looks after the welfare of workers and if they put any problem before us

for its solution, then even though status has been given to film industry, we will certainly consider that problem sympathetically. As regard the second part in which he has mentioned about black money. I want to say that this decision which we have taken is in furtherance of our commitment to good cinema. We have taken this decision to fulfill our commitment or dedication for giving a good cinema. If we want good cinema then we should give good money also. So when they start getting institutional finance and seek money from any source, they will be automatically subjected to certain restrictions. Thirdly, he has mentioned about actors and actresses. I would like to tell him that it is a creative art and we cannot impose restrictions on creativity by fixing the amount an actor should charge. Actors can demand any amount for his creativity. If he gives tax on his income, then question of black-money will not arise. The Ministry of Finance will certainly be looking into it. But if we impose fee restrictions on actors or actresses, that will mean that we are restricting their creativity. The Ministry of Information will not impose any such restrictions.

#### Payment of Licence Fee

\*166. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to give time relaxation to the cellular companies for the payment of licence fee;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) Representations have been received from the Cellular Operators Association of India regarding the moratorium on payment of licence fees for two years and extension of the licence period. Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) has been requested to carry out a techno-economic study of Cellular Service Industry. A final decision in the matter will be taken on receipt of BICP report and consideration of all aspects of the matter.

Pending BICP's study, ICICI were also requested to undertake a quick study of the operational performance of the industry. Since intricate issues are involved and inter-ministerial consultations will be needed, it is difficult to set a time limit.

SHRI RAMA NAND SINGH (Satna) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to

by what time the technical study by Bureau of Industrial Cost and Prices (B.I.C.P.) will be completed and by when final decision in this regard will be taken?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, August, 1998 was fixed as its last date but before coming here, I tried to find out the latest position. I have come to know that they have asked for one more month, which means that its study report will come by September, 1998 and after going through the report, decision will be taken shortly thereafter.

SHRI RAMA NAND SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister had said that inter-ministerial consultation will also be held. I would like to know by when this work of consultation will start?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the concern of Ministry of Finance will be upper most in inter-ministerial consultation. The date has not been fixed for inter-ministerial consultation but as soon as study report of BICP is received, after considering that, we will implement that inter-ministerial advice.

DR. SANJAY SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister as to by when connection of cellular phones will be provided at district level in the country and by when inter-district connection will be done?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we cannot fix any date for district or inter-district level connections because the private industry which has entered into this field has not yet started work properly in circle related ceils. According to them, their previous estimates have all gone haywire; they are asking for moratorium and extension of licence fee period. That is why this matter is not making progress. Considering all this, it is not proper for me to give any date in the House.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the hon'ble Minister tell something?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : About what?

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : I would like to know about Question No. 164.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Question No. 164 has already passed. Now, Question No. 166 is going on.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : I was sitting here. Just now I have been informed that the Question was lost in the pandemonium in the House. I did not listen ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : No, no, Question No. 164 was called. Now, Question No. 166 is going on. You can ask your supplementary on Question No. 166.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Sir, I could not listen in disturbance. What can I do?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : No, please. You can ask your supplementary on question No. 166 and not on 164.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Please allow half-an-hour discussion on my Question.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : That is not the procedure. Please ask your supplementary for Question No. 166.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Please allow half-an-hour discussion on this. The report of Jaswant Singh Commission is very important. A demand is being made throughout the country for setting up benches of High Courts. The Government is saying that it will work according to Jaswant Singh Commission but no work is being done ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : We will examine it. More than ten Members have put their supplementaries on that Question.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, your argument is valid in normal circumstances. When Question No. 164 was called at that time there was furore in the House, that is why I feel what Hon'ble Member is saying, that he had not listened this, is logical. Hon'ble Minister is present here. If you allow to raise Question No. 164, he is ready to reply ...(*Interruptions*) When you called Question No. 164 at that time no one listened ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : We will examine it. Now, you put your supplementary for Question No. 166.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : I am asking this in connection with Question No. 164 ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No, please. This is question No. 166.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : He has not raised this hand to ask supplementary on Question No. 166.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : I am talking about Question No. 164.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please, this is question no. 166. Put your supplementary for question no. 166 otherwise I will go to question no. 167.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : All right.

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU : Sir, the answer of the hon. Minister is very evasive. She has announced that the Government have decided to accord industry status to the film industry.

MR. SPEAKER : That relates to question No. 164.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : That question has already passed. This is question no. 166...*(Interruptions)* what is happening today ...*(Interruptions)* After question No. 165, I have given reply to many supplementaries ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU : Sir, then I am very much sorry.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE Sushmaji, everybody is mesmerised by you.

#### Women Judges in High Courts

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\*167. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :  
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of women judges in the High Courts in the country with State-wise break-up;

(b) whether the Government propose to appoint more women judges in the High Courts;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

(b) to (d) Appointment of Judges of the High Courts are made in terms of Article 217 of the Constitution which does not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. The Government have, however, addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of the States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts from time to time requesting them to locate persons from the Bar belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women who are suitable for appointment as High Court Judges.

#### Statement

S.No.	Name of High Court	No. of Women Judges
1	2	3
1.	Allahabad	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1
3.	Bombay	3
4.	Calcutta	1
5.	Delhi	1
6.	Gauhati	1
7.	Gujarat	1
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—
10.	Karnataka	—