

### **Film Industry suffering from Video Piracy**

5796. SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the film industry is suffering due to video piracy;

(b) if so, the action Government propose to curb video piracy; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to stop smuggling of video tapes from other countries into India?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have already taken following steps to curb video piracy:

- (1) The Cinematograph Act, 1952 and the Copyright Act, 1957 were amended in 1984 to provide for enhanced and minimum punishments (both imprisonment and fine) for offences relating to provisions of these Acts.
- (2) As the enforcement of the anti-video piracy laws is the responsibility of the State Governments concerned, the Ministry of I&B have written to all State Governments for enforcing the various provisions of these laws with vigour.
- (3) A Committee constituted by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on 14.2.89 to study the problems of film industry and making suitable recommendations to

Central/State Governments for resolution of their problems, made several recommendations to combat video piracy. These recommendations were also considered in the Conference of State Minister's of Information and Cinematography held in New Delhi on 16-18, April, 1990 and those concerning State Governments were accepted for adoption and implementation.

- (4) In the Conference of State Ministers of Information and Cinematography held on 16-18, April, 1990, it was recommended inter alia, that a small group consisting of representatives of the Central Government/State Governments would review anti-video piracy laws and would prepare an omni-bus draft Bill to deal effectively with video piracy and infringement of the Copyright Act, 1957 and Cinematography Act, 1952.
- (5) In the Budget proposals for 1990-91, release prints of feature films have been exempted from payment of excise duty. This would enable the producers/exhibitors to strike a large number of prints for simultaneous release in a number of cinema theatres which would help in combating video piracy.
- (6) India has signed the International Treaty on registration of audio-visual works which aims at *inter-alia*, enhancing the legal security in such works.

(c). The anti-smuggling drive has been intensified and the anti-smuggling machinery throughout the country particularly in the vulnerable areas and the land borders, the coast line and at the International Airports and sea ports has been geared up. Close co-

ordination is being maintained between all the agencies concerned in the prevention and detection of smuggling including that of video tapes.

#### **Formation of Rural Bank of India**

5797. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the All India Gramin Bank Workers Organisation in regard to formation of the Rural bank of India by merging rural branches of commercial banks as well as regional rural banks in it; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). One of the demands made by All India Gramin Bank Workers Organisation relates to the formation of a Rural Bank of India by merging all Regional Rural Banks as well as all Rural branches of Commercial banks in the country. Government have no such proposal under consideration.

#### **Deposits of Goans in Portugal**

5798. PROF. GOPALRAO MAYEKAR: SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of gold, silver and cash deposits of Goans in the custody of Banco Nacional Ultramarino in Portugal and the number of deposits; and

(b) recent efforts, if any, made by Union Government for the return of the same?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) The book value of the gold ornaments pledged with the erstwhile Banco Nacional Ultramarino (BNU), when it was operating in Goa, was estimated at Rs. 16.33 lakhs in 6531 loan accounts at the time of their transfer to Portugal. As per available information, no silver or cash is reported to be held by BNU.

(b) Government of India is consistently pursuing the matter relating to the return of the gold ornaments with the concerned Portuguese authorities through diplomatic channels. This matter was also raised during the recent visit of the President of India to Portugal.

#### **Financial Assistance for strengthening Tourism infrastructure to Kerala**

5799. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Tourism has provided financial assistance to Kerala for strengthening tourism infrastructure during the Seventh Five Year Plan

(b) if so, the details of assistance and the work done for the development of tourism in the State; and

(c) the approximate amount likely to be given to Kerala during the current year?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Central Department of Tourism have sanctioned scheme worth Rs. 871.38 lakhs and released Rs. 573.39 lakhs for development of tourism in the State. The projects/schemes include

(i) Construction of Yatri Niwases at Quilon, Trivandrum, Cochin, Trichur and Cannanore.