

[Shri S.Mohan Kumaramangalam]

Then, my hon. friend, Shri Mohanraj need worry about Tamil Nadu. I am as worried as he is. It is not his exclusive monopoly or that of the party to which he belongs. We both come from Tamil Nadu. We will see that as best is done to Tamil Nadu as to other States. No discrimination whatsoever. Let me make it quite clear.

About the workers going out of Employment—Shri Samar Guha mentioned about it—I do not think that this figure of 58,000 is entirely correct. I have not received anything on that basis. So far as 58,000 workers are concerned, he should rest assured that we are not victimising any section. There will be no monopoly for one trade union. He wants creative participation of workers. So do I. When all trade unions are at logger heads and they continue to be so in the coal fields, it is very difficult to organise a proper system of creative participation. He is charging the INTUC for doing something and the INTUC is charging some other organisation. So it goes on. If they come to an agreement between themselves, then creative participation will certainly be possible.

I think this covers all the points raised. I commend the Bill to the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is ;
"That the Bill, as amended, be passed"

The motion was adopted.

17.27 hrs.

CINEMATOGRAPH (AMENDMENT) BILL

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Dharam Bir Sinha on the 20th February, 1973 namely :—

"That the Bill further to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952 as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Shri Dhandapani—absent; Shri Manoranjan Hazra.

*SHRI MOHANRAJAN HAZRA (Arambagh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in film terminology this Bill may be called a rush print. I regret to say that sometimes this Bill is sought to be extended to the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Sometimes again it is said that it is not to be extended to Jammu and Kashmir. We find there is no effort on

the part of the Government to bring forth a comprehensive Bill. Sir, the parent Act itself is outdated. What good can come out of it in the present circumstances, I fail to understand. Sir, I want to place a few things before the House in this context. We have learnt from newspaper's reports and from the report of the Wanchoo Committee that there is about 7500 crores of black money in existence in the country today. In the field of film industry we find that the big sharks escape the Government's attention but the small producers face great inconvenience. At first there was a tax of 15 Paise on raw films. That was increased by 35 Paise and made 50 Paise. As a result of agitations and the efforts of the Members of this House, the Finance Minister has finally agreed to bring the tax down to 30 Paise. Even then it is higher by 15 Paise to the earlier tax. As a result of this the small producers will not be able to make their contribution in the production of films. Therefore it is imperative that all taxes on raw films are abolished. That may help the small producers to survive in the industry. These small producers have got constructive and artistic outlook. It is they who produce classic films. Only the other day the hon. Minister provided us an opportunity to see a film at Vigyan Bhavan, the film was "Atithi" by Rabindranath Tagore. There is no person in our country, nay, in the entire world who will not derive sublime satisfaction from witnessing this film. But this film is not one produced by the big producers. Therefore, I will request the hon. Minister to bring forth such a Bill whereby we may turn the film industry in a national industry. Sir, thirdly I will mention that in West Bengal there is a system in vogue which is called the house protection system. Some time back I asked a supplementary question to the Minister whether he is inclined to abolish this house protection system. Perhaps he did not follow my question correctly because it was apparent from the fact that he gave an unrealistic answer to my question. Sir, I will state briefly what is this house protection system. When the producers produce some film and give it to the exhibitors at the cinema house, the cinema house owner demands a fantastic amount from the producer for exhibiting his film. This system results in the cinema house owners pocketing a major share of the profit from

*The Original speech was delivered in Bengali.

the exhibition of films and the producer or the workers get little or no share of it. In reply to my question the hon. Minister had said that the situation will improve if we have more cinema houses. Sir, it is like saying that we should have more of police stations when the question is put why the rate of thefts, dacoities and other crimes are on the increase. Same type of logic was apparent from the Minister's reply. I will therefore request the hon. Minister to bring forth a Bill which will provide *inter alia* the abolition of this house protection system.

Sir, now I will raise another serious issue we see the working of the film producers even the Government film producers like the film division we will have to hang our heads in shame. Sir, I had visited the Film Division Auditorium at the Asia 72 Fair on three occasions. We all the time shout that ours is a secular country but Sir, in the film that I saw at that fair only one minar of the Taj Mahal was projected for one second only. In one second only one and half feet of film can be projected. It gave the impression that we don't have muslims in our country and we have no muslim culture and architecture. Sir, it is very unfortunate that we claim to be a secular nation but in films we do not portray the culture and tradition of the minority communities. Sir, I will now mention that the Khosla Commission has raised some issues about the censoring of films. What for this censor? Sir, the censor may have only one object in view and that is political object. There cannot be any other objective before sensors. Sir, if any vulgarity is depicted in the films, it can be checked under other laws which exist for the Suppression of vulgarity or immorality. I can understand if some check is imposed or objections raised when a film is in the process of production. But to apply the Scissor after the film has been made at a high cost does not have any meaning. Then Sir, the workers in other industries have some rights in those industries however small they may be. But the workers in the film industry right from the camera man to the poster boys who work so hard have no law worth the name to protect their interests or to look after their emoluments and security of service. Such legislation is direly needed. Recently the film artistes and film producers etc. from Bom-

bay and Calcutta met me and the Hon Member Shri Dinen Bhattacharyya. They narrated their woeful tale to us. They are unable to produce good and artistic films for want of funds and they are moreover groaning under the back breaking burden of taxation. I know that this Bill is going to be passed any way by virtue of their massive majority. Moreover there is not much in this Bill which may invite opposition. I will therefore urge upon the hon. Minister to bring forward a comprehensive Bill which may endeavour to modernise the whole working of the film industry. You take steps in matters of film industry without having intimate knowledge about the working of this industry. Had you been familiar with the subject you would not have brought this Bill in a slipshod manner. Sir I am grieved that the Ministers in our country are Jack of all trades but master of none. They have scant knowledge about the subject they are dealing with. That is why we find casual steps are being taken by the Government to do patch work. No comprehensive steps are taken which may produce lasting results. Therefore, you will have to gain intimate knowledge about the film industry. You will have to learn their sorrows and sufferings. Then only you will be able to take right steps to improve the conditions in the industry. It is not enough that you only get entertainment from good films but you will have to see that side of the picture which depict the difficulties, miseries and sorrows of those who produce the film to make you happy while they themselves weep in agony. With that Sir, I conclude my speech.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA) : This is the second day that we are discussing this Bill. On the first day when we discussed this Bill that is, on the 20, the few hon. Members who spoke on that day, along with the members who spoke to-day, have made some general observations on the state of the film industry. Basically this Bill has been generally welcomed by all sections of the House.

This Bill is related only to the extension of the present Cinematograph Act to Jammu and Kashmir but I accept the desire of most of the Members that there should be a

[Shri Dharam Bir Sinha]

comprehensive Bill. In fact, we have completed most of the preliminaries connected with the said legislation and I am sure that when we come with that the legislation before the House, the whole House will support that legislation which follows basically the report of the Khosla Committee on censorship and we are trying our very best to come with that legislation before the House.

So far as this Bill is concerned, as I said this Bill merely extends the scope of the present Act to Jammu and Kashmir. I am sure that while waiting for the more comprehensive Bill, the House would permit us to extend the law relating to censorship which is prevalent in the rest of the country to Jammu and Kashmir also.

So far as the basic problems of the film industry are concerned, since under your direction, I have only a very few moments with me, I will not be able to deal with them. But I can assure you that importance of film medium as a powerful medium of both mass communication and personal expression is accepted and the Government is considering a broad, comprehensive film policy under the guidance of my colleague, Shri Gujral, and will be able not only to help the film industry as such but also help to give the Indian films an identity. And the crisis of identity through which the Indian films are at present going through at the moment will not last. We are certain that as soon as we are able to have this comprehensive policy implemented at different stages, this crisis of identity of Indian films will be solved and the new film-makers of the country who are able to receive eminence not only in the country but in other countries as well will be able to give India the films that it deserves.

Sir, I commend the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2—(Amendment of Section 1.)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is amendment No. 3 to Clause 2. Are you moving it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : Yes, Sir.

Amendment made :

Page 1, line 13,—

for "1972" substitute "1973" (3)

(Shri I. K. Gujral) :

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are no amendments to Clauses 3 to 5. The question is :

"That Clauses 3 to 5 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 3 to 5 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1—(Short title)

MR. CHAIRMAN : On Clause 1, there is an amendment. Are you moving it?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Yes, Sir.

Amendment made :

Page 1, line 4,—

for "1972" substitute "1973" (2)

(Shri I.K. Gujral) :

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That Clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Claused 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Enacting Formula

MR. CHAIRMAN : For the Enacting Formula, there is an amendment. Are you moving it?

*Moved with recommendations of the President.