

cations are considered on merit by the Licensing Committee set up by the Ministry of Industry. I am not in a position to say yes or no to any request for a new licence.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Unless the Ministry of Food clears the application, a licence cannot be granted by the Ministry of Commerce.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can write to him separately.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : He has not answered my point. That is why we face a great difficulty.

SHRI NARESH CHANDRA CHATURVEDI : I would like to know from the hon. Minister the quota of vanaspati fixed separately for V.I.Ps. in the Ganesh Floor Mills, which is an undertaking of the Central Government, along with the names of such VIPs as there is black marketing of Rs. 30 to 40 per tin of vanaspati. I would also like to know how the distribution of this quota is made as the benefit of this quota accretes only to the quotaholders and not to the common people.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : A separate notice is required. With regard to another question, I would like to clarify. At that time, I did not have the information. With regard to 30 per cent which the State Governments can acquire from the manufacturers in their jurisdiction, no State has so far availed of this facility.

SHRI BHATTAM SREERAMAMURTHY : There is a sudden and steep rise in prices of vanaspati in recent days. Is the government not aware of it or don't they contemplate taking some action about it? As the Minister just now said there is no proposal for introducing any control about it, is it the assurance for the manufacturers or will they take some steps to safeguard the interest of the common consumers?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Vanaspati prices are more or less controlled under a voluntary agreement, as I stated. What I said earlier with regard to government having intention to control prices was with regard to *desi* ghee and not vanaspati. The price of vanaspati for each pack recently had to be raised on account of increase in excise duty and also in the budget from 5 per cent to 10 per cent. As a result of that, there has been a

slight increase.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has just mentioned that many State Governments are not availing themselves of the facilities extended by the Central Government. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will issue directions to every State Government in this respect.

Secondly, in some tribal areas, where power houses are being set up or work on some other development complexes is going on, there is no proper arrangement for the supply of vanaspati with the result that the poor workers and the tribals have to pay more for it. Taking this in to consideration, will a country-wide survey be undertaken to identify the pockets facing shortage of vanaspati and will the hon. Minister issue directives to the State Governments to ensure that there is no shortage of vanaspati in those pockets? Would the hon. Minister give an assurance in this regard here?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : It is a suggestion. But this suggestion has already been acted upon, when we provided this facility to the States. If they do not find it fit to avail of then the Central Government cannot do anything about it.

[*English*]

Ban on New Bengali Film for Chitramala

*163. SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN :
SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons behind the ban on new Bengali films for Chitramala programme whereas the Hindi films would be telecast in Chitrahhar Programme; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to telecast new films in the Chitramala Programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) : (a) and (b). The 'Chitramala' programme of Doordarshan consists of song and dance sequences from feature films in various regio-

nal languages, including Bengali. The 'Chitrah' programmes consist of song and dance sequences from Hindi feature films only. Sequences from new feature films, including those in Bengali, are accommodated in 'Chitramala' programme, provided such films are made available to Doordarshan by parties holding exhibition rights of such films.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : Nobody can deny that the standard of an average Bengali film is much better than that of an average Hindi film.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : You cannot say so.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : 'Average' I said. Films by Satyajit Ray and Mrinal Sen can be mentioned. Have you heard of Satyajit Ray's name, Mr. Panika? Yet, Bengali films do not get wide market because it is a regional language and due to the so-called tastes of the audience. And, in view of that, if the Government impose any condition like exhibition rights it would not be possible for the Bangali films to compete with Hindi films. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government would consider telecasting Bengali films without any conditions, as before.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : There is no ban, there is no condition. The only condition is that the person holding the exhibition rights should come forward. Unless they offer, we cannot decide which film to be shown or which not to be shown.

For the information of the hon. Member, I may add that no injustice is done to Bengali because last year, in 1984, the total number of Hindi films shown in Chitramala was 34 and extracts from 33 Bangali films have been shown, only one less.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : May I know from the hon. Minister whether, for the last three years the National telecasting frequency of Bangali songs by poets like Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam have been reduced largely, if so the reasons thereof and whether—this year being the five hundredth birth centenary of Lord Chaitanya—the Government would consider immediately telecasting his film and also his songs?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : I may state and take this opportunity to say that we have drawn up a calendar of the year what has been on 10th of May, what has been on 11th of May, i.e. based on births and death anniversaries of important people and other important events. And accordingly, the programmes are arranged. Since he has mentioned about Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and a film on him, certainly we will try to adjust it during the year.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : The Government has taken a decision to wind up the Regional Film Division Office at Calcutta and transfer all film production equipment installed at Calcutta to Bombay. There is a widespread protestation all over West Bengal against this decision of the Government. In view of that, will the Government re-think, consider and give up the proposal of shifting the Regional Film Division Office from Calcutta to Bombay?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : Strictly speaking, this question does not arise out of the main question. Nevertheless, I would like to state that this problem had been brought to my notice by two Members—Mr. Sen and Mr. Priya Ranjan Das Munsi. I had some discussion with some representatives in Calcutta. I have fixed a meeting with officers tomorrow to consider what is to be done.

SHRI SRIHARI RAO : On what basis does not Government screen the language pictures on TV and in Chitramala? Is it based on population or any other thing? How many pictures have been shown on TV from 1-1-84 to 21-12-84?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : Since there is a large number of languages and the time available to us for showing Chitramala is limited, the system followed is on the basis of rotation. Secondly, for Chitramala, the selection is made by seven different centres where local languages are spoken i.e. Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Jullundur. They select a film in local language and recommend to us. The basis for selection is availability of print, continued popularity of the song, entertainment and thematic value and suitability for family viewing. On this basis the films are selected by the local stations. We accept those recommendations and they are shown on rotation basis.