

internals inspected. Hydraulic and non-destructive testing of equipment is almost over. List of items to be replaced has been finalised. Indigenous items have been ordered. Items to be imported from Europe will be ordered by September, 1978.

(c) About 22 months.

(d) Yes, Sir. The first production of heavy water after the repairs is expected to commence in October, 1979.

SHRI F P GAEKWAD: What is the total cost involved in restarting this Heavy Water Plant?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: I am afraid, those figures are not with me; these have to be ascertained.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: These have appeared in the press. Are those correct?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: I have not seen them. Unless I verify, I cannot say.

SHRI F P GAEKWAD: When this disaster took place, the Prime Minister was very quick in informing the nation that it was by sabotage. Has the real reason of this disaster been established? Was it a case of sabotage or was it actually an accident?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: No sabotage has been suspected or established; it was an accident.

Autonomy for Film Censor Board

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*357 **SHRI G M BANATWALLA:**
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH
MALIK:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to amend Cinematograph Act to restore the autonomy of the Film Cen-

sor Board as the final authority to decide all matters relating to exhibition of films in the country; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b). The Board of Film Censors is a statutory body set up under the Cinematograph Act, 1952. It functions in accordance with the provisions of the said Act and the rules made thereunder. Under the existing Scheme of the Act, the Central Government is competent to pass any orders regarding exhibition of a film pending before or certified by the Censor Board. The Government has under its consideration a proposal to suitably modify this provision.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: What are the details of the proposal—that has not been answered.

SHRI L. K. ADVANI: The matter is still being considered. Perhaps the hon. Member may be aware that in accordance with the present provisions, an appeal against a decision of the Censor Board lies with the Central Government. In an earlier case, the Supreme Court had held that it would be more desirable if an appeal lies with a court or with a special tribunal for this purpose and the Government is broadly agreeable to this approach. It is being considered whether it can be possible that an appeal in regard to matters pertaining to security etc. lies only with the Central Government, whereas an appeal in respect of matters concerning morality, decency and public taste lies with a court. This is the proposal.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: Since when is this proposal before the Government and by what time do you think, you will be able to finalise it?

SHRI L. K. ADVANI: It is there for quite some time and we hope to finalise it soon.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Give a date.