

During the last three years only one application from a foreign majority company was received in 1975, for the manufacture of Ophthalmic Blanks in the country. Since the item of manufacture was not included in Appendix I of the Licensing Policy, 1973 and is, therefore, not open to foreign companies, the proposal of the company was not approved.

**Mis-management at the function of National Film Festival Awards**

\*218. SHRI M. KALYANA-SUNDARAM:

SHRI MD. HAYAT ALI:

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

(a) whether the 24th National Film Festival Awards was held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on November 6, 1977;

(b) if so, the details and names of the award winners;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press reports giving light to the Government's inefficiency in conducting the function properly;

(d) whether it is a fact that many V.I.Ps. including film critics and even award winners could not get in the auditorium because of the mad rush at the gates;

(e) whether Government has made an enquiry into the reasons of the departments' failure to organize the function in a better way; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement of the categories of Awards, Award-winners and the Awards given, is placed on the Table

of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1205/77.]

(c) to (f). Complaints were received by Government to the effect that because of the very heavy rush, many invitees including Journalists, Jury members etc. could not gain admittance into the hall. The matter is being looked into, in order to ascertain facts and lay down guide-lines to see that no legitimate cause for such complaints exists in future.

**Coverage of News of Joint Communique signed by Prime Minister in Russia by A.I.R.**

\*219. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether on 26th October, 1977 the English News Bulletin of All India Radio gave negligible coverage to most important news of signing of joint communique by Prime Minister in Russia in comparison to less important news about Shah Commission Enquiries and Jagannmohan Reddy's Commission;

(b) who instructed AIR to give such a wide coverage to the Shah Commission, and to relegate to the background the signing of the historic document by the Prime Minister; and

(c) whether Government propose to look into the matter and arrange the news according to the priorities with national and international perspective in view?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): As the broadcast or publication of the text of Indo-Soviet Joint Communique was embargoed upto 10.30 P.M. (IST) on October 26, 1977, it could not be included in the 9.00 P. M. news bulletin of AIR on that day; 9.00 P.M. news bulletin, therefore only mentioned the fact that the declaration had been signed. After the Text was released, the first available bulletin on the night was at

9.09 P.M. news bulletin of AIR on that 11.00 P.M., and this 11.00 P.M. bulletin, therefore, gave comprehensive coverage. The major morning bulletins of the next day including the 8.00 A.M. Hindi and 8.10 A.M. English bulletins also carried the text.

(b) Shah Commission's proceedings are being noticed in the AIR news bulletins on the basis of news value and listeners' interest. Signing of the historic document by the Prime Minister has not been relegated to the background; rather, this has been covered extensively in the news bulletins of AIR as well as other programmes like Spotlight, Newsreels and the text of Prime Minister's speeches were broadcast in a national hook-up on two occasions.

(c) Does not arise.

**Modification of Monopoly Procurement of Cotton Scheme by Maharashtra Government**

\*220. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the recent modification of the monopoly procurement of cotton scheme by Government of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether Government have examined the possible impact on the production and procurement of cotton in the country; and

(c) if so, the result of the examination?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The monopoly character of the Maharashtra Scheme of cotton procurement was suspended with effect from 17th August, 1977. Since cotton sowing for the current cotton year would have been already over, impact of this change can be assessed only in the next cotton year (1276-79).

**Monument for the Crew Members of Jorhat IAF Plane**

\*221. SHRI D. D. DESAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered raising a permanent monument to the five crew members of the VIP SQUADRON of the IAF which crashed near Jorhat recently while carrying the Prime Minister;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether any other step is being taken to perpetuate their memory?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) Raising of a permanent monument to the five crew members of the VIP aircraft of the IAF which crashed near Jorhat while carrying the Prime Minister is not under consideration at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No other step to perpetuate their memory is under consideration.

**Plan to ease Transport Problem in West Bengal**

\*222. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission requested the Government of West Bengal some time back to submit an over-all plan to ease the transport problems in West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether the State Government have since submitted any such plan; and

(c) if not, whether any follow-up actions were taken?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.