

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : I made earlier a very simple point. I have unutilised capacity of 100,000 tonnes. If there is power, I could produce 100,000 tonnes. It is a simple fact about these two plants

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : HINDALCO will pay Rs. 8 crores to U.P. Government.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : That is a matter between the U.P. Government or U.P. State Electricity Board and the HINDALCO. That is a separate matter which is under dispute and I believe the HINDALCO has won it in the Supreme Court. But apart from that, as I said, if we have enough power which was committed to be given to these, especially, for one reason or the other the Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board has not been able to fulfil its commitment for the last one year to the public sector plant. I am hoping, as I said earlier, that in the current year some power would be available, although not full power. To the extent power is available, there will be greater production to make up the shortfall. As far as the distribution of EC Grade is concerned, it is given only to those consumers who make the cables and other electrical equipment for the State Electricity Boards and it is given only on the recommendation of the State Electricity Boards and the Central Electricity Authority. It is not given to anybody else.

Proposal to Frame a National Film Policy

*744. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the need to frame and implement a comprehensive national film policy; and

(b) if so, what steps have Government taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b). It is proposed to evolve a National Film Policy aimed at assisting the growth of healthy cinema in the country. This matter was broadly discussed at the last Conference of State Information Ministers. Pursuant to the recommendations of the Conference, a Working Group is being appointed to go into the various aspects of an integrated film policy in depth and submit a report. The new policy will be finalised after the Working Group submits its report.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Before I ask my question, may I point out to you that at 10 O'Clock when I came here, I got one reply and the one that I got now before entering the House is a different reply. The first reply was :

"It is proposed to evolve a National Film Policy aimed at assisting the growth of healthy cinema in the country. This matter was broadly discussed at the last Conference of State Information Ministers held on 4th November, 1977."

Now in the revised reply, the date is struck off. That is the only change. My submission is, if the purpose was to withhold the information, then it is very objectionable.

On the question, it appears that a working Group is being appointed and that the new policy will be finalised after the Working Group submits its report. It seems that this will come in the Greek calendar and nothing will happen in the near future. It does appear that in the meanwhile the Government is intending to have piece meal reform and piece-meal changes. My question is whether the Government does not intend to frame a comprehensive policy in the near future and in the meanwhile wants to have piece-meal reforms. I am asking this on the basis of a statement made by the spokesman of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on 9th July 1978 regarding the amendment

of the Cinematograph Act to restore the autonomy of film Censor Board, which is the final authority to decide on all film matters and this is an important aspect of the comprehensive film policy. My question is whether the Minister will elaborate his written reply on this matter, when this Working Group is going to be appointed, what will be its terms of reference, when is the Report likely to be submitted. Further, is it the case that pending comprehensive reforms, piece-meal reforms in censorship laws are to be introduced as disclosed by the Spokesman of the Ministry on 9th July, 1978. If so, what is the nature of these reforms in the Censorship laws?

SHRI L. K. ADVANI: So far as the films are concerned, bulk of the activity pertaining to films *viz.*, production, distribution and exhibition of films lies within the realm of the State Governments. The Central Government comes in essentially in the matter of certification of films for public exhibition, which means censorship and also in the import of raw stock, etc. Now this phrase "National Film Policy" arose in the context of different policies pursued by different States in the field of exhibition, distribution entertainment tax, entertainment tax exemption, etc. In that context, it was felt, and all the Information Ministers who had assembled in Delhi agreed, that if we can have by and large a uniform policy applicable for the whole country, which could help us develop cinema in a healthy manner, it would be desirable. So, there is no question of piece-meal reforms because there is a film policy in so far as the Censor Board is concerned. This Government has an obligation to the country. We have been making changes in the guidelines to meet the requirements and then, if need be, there will be an amendment of the Act also. But this National Film Policy will be in a broader context, in which, I think, the problems of exhibition, distribu-

tion and entertainment tax exemption also would be taken into consideration.

MR. SPEAKER: His question was: when was the Committee appointed?

SHRI L. K. ADVANI: What happened really was I would have done it earlier because the original concept as it emerged in the Conference of Information Ministers was that it should comprise only of officials. Later on when I had discussion with the Members of Parliament in the Information and Broadcasting Consultative Committee of which the hon. Member was also a Member at that time, they insisted that it would be proper. If we included non-officials also. It was felt that it need not have only officials. I had pointed out to the member that this would mean delay because I would have to go to the State Governments and ask them once again for their consent. Without that I cannot do it. They have said that even if it meant delay I should go back to the State Government and take their consent and then appoint a fresh Committee. Therefore there was a delay and I could not do it as early as I wanted.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, he has not replied to my question. When was the last Conference of the Information Ministers held? Was it on 4th November 1977 or not? The Minister has rightly pointed out about the censorship, distribution of films etc. the Chairman of the International Film Festival which was held here in India, Mr. Cusmane Sembane, is of the view that the standard in the competitive selection was not very high. Regarding Indian cinema he said that it did not reflect Indian reality. What steps the Government contemplates to improve Indian cinema so that it reflects Indian reality as also to improve the standard of the Indian films?

SHRI L. K. ADVANI: The last Conference of Information Ministers was held in November 1977. You are aware of that. So far as this question about Mr. Ousmane Sembane's views expressed in the International Film Festival is concerned, I do not think they arise from this question.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: I want to record one think that is, that the reply received by me at 10 O'clock.

MR. SPEAKER: You have already mentioned that point. There is no point in mentioning it again.

(Interruptions)

श्री निर्मल खन्ड जैन : फिल्म सत्यं शिवं सुन्दरम् में जो अगलील प्रदर्शन हुआ है वह क्या सरकारी नीति के अन्तर्गत था या फिल्म सेंसर बोर्ड की स्वेच्छाचारिता के कारण ?

MR. SPEAKER: It does not arise.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it seems from the answer to part (a) of the question that Government have accepted the need for what is called by the questioner, comprehensive national film Policy'. I would like to ask whether it is the policy of the Government to have comprehensive national policies in all such matters, because we are awaiting a comprehensive policy on education, a comprehensive policy on health, a comprehensive policy on...

MR. SPEAKER: He is not the Minister in charge of those subjects.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: I have seen that a number of Ministries are being either asked by us or they are telling us that they are busy preparing the comprehensive policies. What exactly is meant by "comprehensive national film policy," when film is a matter which is left best to the creative artistes and where India has varieties and there are bound to be diversities?

SHRI L. K. ADVANI: I have explained already in reply to an earlier question that very many of the problems discussed at the State Ministers' Conference related to what should be the entertainment tax imposed on cinema. They related to whether the present exhibition outlets in the country are adequate and if they are not adequate how can we have more exhibition outlets particularly by regional films, particularly by low budget films. These are the issues that were discussed. It was felt that today the licensing of cinema is done in one State according to certain rules, in another State according to absolutely different rules and these divergences in the approach in various States also contribute to problems so, it would be better to evolve a uniform policy for the whole nation. It was in that context essentially that this was decided. So far as creativeness is concerned, I am in agreement with the hon. Member that creativeness has to depend upon the creator and the artiste.

श्री खन्ड शेखर सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूँगा कि क्या सूचना मंत्रियों के सम्मेलन में किसी तरह से यह सुझाव भी आया था कि किफिल्मों के जरिए से जो साम्प्रदायिकता का जहर देश में फैल रहा है और अगलीलता फैल रही है, जैसा कि माननीय जैन साहब ने बताया कि फिल्म का नाम था "सत्यं शिवं सुन्दरम्" और काम था असत्यं अशिवं असुन्दरम्....

MR. SPEAKER: That has nothing to do with the question.

श्री खन्ड शेखर सिंह : मेरा बड़ा साधारण सवाल है कि क्या फिल्मों के जरिए जो साम्प्रदायिकता फैल रही है उसकी रोकने के लिए मंत्री जी कोई उपाय करेंगे ? दूसरे

फिल्मों में जो अश्लीलता का प्रदर्शन हो रहा है उसके बारे में कुछ करेंगे और तीसरे जो टैक्स लगता है उसका प्रतिशत कितना है और क्या उसमें कोई कमी करने का प्रस्ताव है ?

श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी : उस सम्मेलन में इसका जिक्र आया था कि फिल्मों में अश्लीलता और दुष्प्रवृत्तियों को रोकने के लिए उपाय करने चाहिए। इसका भी जिक्र हुआ कि अनेक बार ऐसे पोस्टर लगाए जाते हैं जो फिल्मों में होते नहीं। कई ऐसे मामलों पर चर्चा हुई थी। जिन मामलों में सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट का दायित्व था उनकी जवाबदारी सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट ने ली और जो बातें स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के क्षेत्र में थीं उन पर जवाबदारी स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स ने अपने ऊपर ली।

आपने टैक्स के बारे में सवाल पूछा है। जैसा कि मैंने पहले बताया, सिनेमा पर जो टैक्स लगते हैं उनमें अधिकांश टैक्स का हिस्सा स्टेट गवर्नमेंट टैक्स के रूप में होता है जो कि स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के अधीन है, हमारे अधीन नहीं।

Release of Prednisolone, Ampicilline Anhydrous etc.

*745. SHRI MOTIBHAI R. CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has maintained that only clarificatory letters for release of canalised raw materials have been issued within the framework of policy;

(b) if so, the details of instructions regarding release of Prednisolone, Ampicillin Anhydrous, Trimethoprim and Sulphamethoxazole issued by his Ministry to State Chemicals and Pharmaceutical Corporation of India Limited and the concerned manufacturers; and

(c) how manufacturers have been able to release canalised items to the units of their own choice without caring for the clarifications issued by his Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b). The 1978-79 Import Policy laid down that the import, distribution and pricing of canalised bulk drugs would be made as per the connected policy of the Government in the Ministry of Petroleum, Chemicals and Fertilizers. Accordingly, the Ministry issued guidelines on May 8, 1978 for release of canalised raw materials to small scale units during 1978-79 and to DGTD units for the period April 78 to September 78. Further guidelines for issue of canalised raw materials to DGTD units for the period October 78 to March 79 were issued in October, 1978.

2. The State Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Corporation of India Ltd. (C.P.C.) sought the Ministry's instructions concerning allotment of Ampicillin Anhydrous to Cadila Laboratories since this firm held a COB licence specifying provisional capacities. CPC were advised to release 8.48 MT of this drug to Cadila to enable them to achieve the capacities indicated in their COB licence.

3. Trimethoprim (TMP) and Sulphamethoxazole (SMX) are used in combination to make formulations. The capacities licensed for manufacture of Trimethoprim by Burroughs Wellcome, Sulphamethoxazole by Roche and both by CIPLA are such that the first two, between them and CIPLA by itself would have enough material for formulations. Again, prices of indigenously manufactured TMP and SMX allowed to M/s. Burroughs Wellcome, Roche and CIPLA