

Proposal to import Hollywood movies

10771. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH
MALIK:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI H.
SHUKLA:
SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to import better Hollywood movies,

(b) if so, names and number of the films which are likely to be brought to India for screen; and

(c) the total amount of foreign exchange likely to be spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) The Motion Picture Export Association of America (MPEAA) are allowed to import between 100—150 Hollywood and other M.P.E.A.A. films every year under an agreement since 1975. The specific titles to be imported are subject to approval by Government of India. Last agreement which expired on 31-3-1979 has been extended by three months. Pattern of future arrangements as regards importation of foreign feature films is under consideration.

(b) The number of films to be imported into the country will depend upon the production programmes in other countries. It is therefore not possible to give the titles of the films which will be imported.

(c) The foreign exchange requirements for the import of films will depend upon factors like production programmes in other countries, the arrangement to be finalised with MPEAA etc. In the case of films imported by MPEAA there is no initial investment in foreign exchange. Limited repatriation out of the gross earnings from the films imported and exhibited in India is permitted to the M.P.E.A.A.

Press reports on "SEX GODDESSES OF MADRAS"

10772. SHRI CHIMANBHAI H.
SHUKLA:
DR. BIJOY MONDAL:
SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA:

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

(a) whether Government have seen the press reports in the "ONLOOKER" dated the 15th April, 1979 under the heading "SEX GODDESSES OF MADRAS"; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to ban to screen such movies and if not, the reasons thereof?

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

(b) All films are examined by the Board of Film Censors in accordance with the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and the guidelines issued thereunder. According to these guidelines, the Board has, inter alia, to ensure that human sensibilities are not offended by vulgarity, obscenity and depravity. Films considered suitable for unrestricted public exhibition are granted 'U' certificates. Films which are considered by the Board as unsuitable for exhibition to non-adults are granted 'A' certificates. Films which are not found suitable for public exhibition by the Board are refused censor certificate. Further, portions of films which are considered objectionable are deleted by the Board before certification.

Out of the titles mentioned in the article, certificates in respect of films "AVALUDE RAVUKAL" (Her nights) (Malayalam) and "THAMBURATTI" (Royal woman) (Malayalam) were cancelled by the Board, because they were exhibited in a form other than the ones in which they were certified. Cases filed by the applicants are pending in courts of law.