

said was that we have to view this matter in the larger perspective and see whether anything is to be gained by leaving the Commonwealth.

### Film Censorship

\*1023. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that a high level Committee has been appointed to go into the question of film censorship; and

(b) if so, the aims and objects of the Committee and the names of members of this Committee?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have set up an Enquiry Committee on a Film Censorship to review the existing regulatory procedures, laws and machinery for certification of films both Indian and foreign and to recommend measures for improvements where necessary. The terms of reference of the said Committee will be:

1. To study the effect of films exhibited in public on the people in the context of changing the needs of society.
2. To enquire into the state of films in India in regard to their artistic content and healthy mass appeal in relation to the existing regulatory procedures.
3. To study the working of existing laws, machinery and procedures for the certification of Indian and foreign cinematograph films for public exhibition in the country.
4. To recommend, on the basis of the above studies, measures for improvement in the exist-

ing censorship laws, machinery and procedures with a view to:—

- (a) enabling the Indian films to develop into an effective creative medium keeping in tune with the contemporary trends in social conduct and practices and responsive to the emotional and intellectual needs of the people.
- (b) promoting between the films industry and the regulatory organisation close understanding, which would be conducive to the production/exhibition of films of artistic excellence, high entertainment value and accepted moral standard.
- (c) preventing the production/exhibition of films which offend against public taste.

The composition of the Committee is as follows:—

#### Chairman

Shri G. D. Khosla, ICS (Retired), formerly Chief Justice, Punjab.

#### Members

1. Shri Lok Nath Misra,  
M.P. (Rajya Sabha)
2. Shri M. P. Bhargava,  
M.P. (Rajya Sabha)
3. Shri S. K. Vaishampayan,  
M.P. (Rajya Sabha)
4. Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah,  
M.P. (Lok Sabha)
5. Shri Nath Pai,  
M.P. (Lok Sabha)
6. Shri R. D. Bhandare,  
M.P. (Lok Sabha)
7. Smt. Sharda Mukherji,  
M.P. (Lok Sabha)
8. Shri Karni Singh,  
M.P. (Lok Sabha)

9. Shri A. K. Abbas.
10. Shri R. K. Narayan.
11. Padmashri Smt. Nargis.
12. Shri Tapan Sinha.
13. Shri A. V. Meiyappan.
14. Shri Ramesh Thapar.
15. Shri Umashankar Jethalal Joshi.
16. Chairman, Central Board of Film Censors.
17. Deputy Secretary (Films)—Member Secretary.

The Committee will start functioning forthwith.

MR. SPEAKER: The question Hour is over. When the answers are very long, it will be good sometimes to place them on the Table.

#### SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

#### Damage to Crops etc. in Contai Sub-Division of West Bengal

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SNQ16. SHRI SAMAR GUTA:  
SHRI S. N. MAITI:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether nearly two-third of the harvest of one crop in Contai Sub-Division in West Bengal was totally devastated during the last October flood affecting nearly a million of the people there;

(b) whether nearly 65,000 houses and 500 school buildings either collapsed or were irreparably damaged by the flood;

(c) whether acute food crisis and starvation situation has developed in the Contai area as an aftermath of the last unprecedented flood, resulting in deaths of several people there;

(d) whether all official and non-official relief measures have been stopped there after December last;

(e) whether due to heavy loss of cattle, lack of fodder and collapse of the agricultural economy, next cultivation in this otherwise surplus area is threatened; and

(f) if so, the remedial measures

which Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASA'HIB SHINDE): (a) The floods in September, 1967, affected crops in 2,18,430 acres in Contai Sub-division. The population affected was 5,42,000.

(b) The number of houses damaged due to floods in Contai Sub-division is reported to be 32,040.

(c) Though as a result of the floods acute distress developed in the affected areas, the prompt and effective measures taken for rendering relief through official and non-official agencies checked the situation. No acute food crisis or starvation situation prevails nor has any death due to starvation taken place in the affected areas.

(d) No, Sir. Relief measures are being continued wherever considered necessary.

(e) and (f). No, Sir. Adequate steps have been taken by the State Government to help the agriculturists to resume operations by supply of seeds, pumping sets and fertilisers and grant of cattle purchase loans, etc.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: It is only usual that the Government does not admit any death as due to starvation. I have a verified list of 24 persons who died of starvation and I shall place it on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: You can give it to the Minister later on; now you must put the question.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I request the Minister to verify this list. Is it possible for the Government to remove all restrictions against food movement to the flood affected areas of Contai from other parts of Midnapur district and allot a special quota of food from the Centre for opening cheap canteens and gruel kitchens and also provide test relief works to every willing person giving him a rupee in