

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, August 27, 1968  
Bhadra, 5, 1890 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

EXPORT OF FILMS TO CEYLON

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\*691. SHRI M. S. OBEROI:

SHRI D. C. SHARMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ceylon has recently decided to restrict the import of Tamil and Hindi films from India; and

(b) if so, its impact on the film industry and how much loss of foreign exchange will have to be suffered on this account?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

(SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI):  
(a) and (b). Government of Ceylon have not imposed any restrictions as such on the import of Tamil and Hindi films from India. However, on account mainly of its foreign exchange difficulties, a 20% cut in import of all foreign films was made with effect from January 1, 1968. Import licences for this item are now issued subject to remittances against Foreign Exchange Entitlement Certificates. This is likely to result in reduction in import of Indian films also into Ceylon.

SHRI M. S. OBEROI: May I ask the hon. Minister whether during his brief visit to Ceylon, he had an opportunity to learn something further about this matter on the restriction of Indian films by Ceylon and what was the reaction of the Government of Ceylon?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI:

This does not apply to Indian films alone; it applies to all foreign films imported into Ceylon. This matter did not come up for discussion. If and when there is any discrimination against the Indian films, the matter will be taken up with the Ceylon Government.

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN: I want to know if these restrictions are based on their fear that the cultural impact of these films supersedes the Ceylonese culture. After independence, the relations between India and Ceylon have not developed on proper lines. The Government of India seems to be oblivious to the fact that they are zealous in guarding the Buddhist culture that is there. This has come after their ban on relaying the Hindi songs and Tamil songs and Telugu film songs from Radio Ceylon. That was somehow resolved some time back. Are the Government making any consistent efforts to see that the Ceylonese are not under any imaginary fear complex that we are having some kind of cultural imposition on them?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI:  
As I have said, nothing like that has come to the notice of the Government of India. If there are discriminatory steps taken against Indian films alone, the Government will look into that matter.

ALLOCATION OF STEEL SHEETS TO BARREL FABRICATORS

\*692. SHRI SITARAM KESRI:  
Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 462 on the 23rd July, 1968 and state:

(a) the reasons for allocating steel sheets to barrel fabricators as per assessed capacities when Government were unable to allocate steel to original fabricators even on one shift basis due to acute shortage of steel sheets;