

imported cotton, I think, the hon. Member will have to put the question to the Ministry of International Trade.

**कन्नड़ फिल्म "संस्कार"**

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\*1324. श्री राम गोपाल शालबाले :

श्री रामबतार शर्मा :

क्या सूचना तथा प्रसारण और संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि बिख्यात लेखकों, कलाकारों तथा बुद्धि जीवियों ने माँग की है कि कन्नड़ फिल्म "संस्कार" पर लगाया गया प्रतिबन्ध हटा दिया जाये,

(ख) क्या उन्होंने यह भी कहा है कि फिल्मों के सेंसर करने सम्बन्धी नियमों तथा विनियमों में ग्रामूल परिवर्तन करने की आवश्यकता है; और

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो इन नियमों में ये परिवर्तन कब तक किये जायेंगे ?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and in the Department of Communications (Shri I. K. Gujral) : (a) The producer of the film "Samoskara" has filed an appeal to Government against the decision of the Central Board of Film Censors refusing a certificate to the film. The Government after examining the film, have decided to grant a certificate to the film subject to some minor cuts.

(b) and (c) The entire question of censorship has been examined by the Enquiry Committee on Film Censorship. The Report of the Committee is under consideration.

श्री रामगोपाल शालबाले : मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि कन्नड़ फिल्म संस्कार पर जो प्रतिबन्ध लगाया गया था तो किन कारणों से प्रतिबन्ध लगाया था ? क्या उसके अन्दर सामियाँ थीं, कमियाँ थीं जिनके कारण प्रतिबन्ध लगाया था ?

Shri I. K. Gujral : As I have said, Government did not impose any ban ; the Government has agreed and has given an

adult certificate already, subject to a few cuts.

श्री राम गोपाल शालबाले : एक बार रोक चुके हैं, जिसके खिलाफ उसने अपील की है—इसके बारे में बताइये ?

Shri I. K. Gujral : The local committees, that is, the examining committee and the revising committee thought that the film would not be suitable for public exhibition. Government have not agreed with that contention.

Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta : What was the unsuitable portion ? Give some details.

Mr. Speaker : He need not intervene like this.

श्री राम गोपाल शालबाले : मैंने पहले यह पूछा था कि प्रतिबन्ध क्यों लगाया ? इसका उन्होंने कोई उत्तर नहीं दिया। दूसरी बात मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जिन कलाकारों और लेखकों ने फिल्म सेंसर के बारे में परिवर्तन करने का सुझाव दिया है, उसमें उन्होंने क्या कारण दिये हैं ?

Shri I. K. Gujral : So far as the cut was concerned, they felt that the subject matter of the film was such as might offend some sections of the community. The revising committee by a majority of 5 to 2 agreed with the views of the examining committee. Government have accepted the appeal of the producer.

As to what arguments were given, a number of Indian and non-Indian intellectual film experts wrote to Government—a number of M. P.s also did so—that the decision should be reconsidered. Their main contention was that the film does not offend any section, it only attacks ritualism.

Shri G. Viswanathan : The film in which some ideas of social reform are introduced was not allowed to be exhibited by the Censor Board which stands for a rigid status quo society. Were the reasons for banning this film not assigned to the producer or director ? Is it a fact that after representation, the Minister himself saw the film and wanted the ban lifted but that even after this order the vested interests in the bureaucracy were not willing or

were obstructing the movement of the file for a long time from the Ministry ?

**Shri I. K. Gujral :** Dealing with the second point first, there was no such thing. It was a film in Canarese and very few people understand the language here. So it took some time to understand it. I must say that the film when seen and translated was found to be a good one. That was why Government agreed and gave an 'A' certificate.

In the original appeal, the producer had asked for a 'U' certificate. Because of one scene therein, 'U' certificate was not possible. Government agreed to give an 'A' certificate subject to two cuts only.

**Shri G. Viswanathan :** Unnecessarily a love scene was cut.

**Shri Anantrao Patil :** May I know whether the film had a social reform theme and whether the ban was put due to some objectionable dialogue or objectionable love scene ?

**Shri I. K. Gujral :** The subject matter of the film is obscurantism and attack on it. The two committees that I mentioned felt that the subject matter of the film and the theme was degrading to the Brahmin community (*Interruptions*).

**Shri A. Sreedharan :** The cat is out of the bag.

**Shri I. K. Gujral :** That was why they thought that the whole film should be banned.

There was no objection on the basis of what my hon. friend has said.

**Shri K. Lakkappa :** Kannada is one of the most ancient, softest and sweetest languages in the country.

**Mr. Speaker :** I hope you will not tell the whole story of the film here.

**Shri K. Lakkappa :** This film is very modern, civilised and instructive, and revolutionary changes have been suggested in this film. The Censor Board consists of several people who wanted to suppress this film because they had some motive, because competition is going on between Hindi and

Kannada films. More than anything else, they wanted to suppress the struggle and social revolution depicted in the film. By censoring this film, they have practised discrimination. May I know the reasons for not allowing the film ?

**Shri I. K. Gujral :** I might disabuse my hon. friend of the impression that it is a revolutionary film. It is not a revolutionary film.

**Shri K. Lakkappa :** It has the object of reforming the society.

**Shri V. Krishnamoorthi :** We should see the film, otherwise this answer will not be convincing to us.

**Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta :** Will you invite us to see the film ? Only then we can judge.

**Shri I. K. Gujral :** Most welcome.

The main point is that the whole controversy is now over. The Government has accepted the film, has issued the certificate and the two cuts that the Government had suggested have been accepted by the producer.

**Shri E. K. Nayanar :** The Film Censor Board is very notorious for censoring revolutionary films. The Enquiry Committee has criticised them....

**Mr. Speaker :** This is a bad practice that you start reading an editorial or a report. You put it in the form of a supplementary without reading it.

**Shri E. K. Nayanar :** The Film Censor Board consists of persons who do not know the A. B. C. of art and films, they are only people who are spending time to get Rs.10 or Rs.15 a day. That is the observation of the Enquiry Committee. Such a kind of Board censors the films which depict revolutionary and social reforms in the Society. May I know whether the Government has taken into consideration the limitations of this Board ?

It is not only in respect of Kannada. Recently the famous dramatist N. N. Pillai wrote a Malayalam story and it was filmed in Madras. That was also censored. Revolutionary films in regional languages are censored by ignorant persons and they dis-

criminate against films in regional languages. They are ignorant persons who are sitting at the top.

**Mr. Speaker :** This is about one film. But you have covered the entire field of film industry.

**Shri E. K. Nayanar :** Will the Government consider changing the film censor board ?

**Shri I. K. Gujral :** I was expecting that the hon. Member would pay me compliments. We have given the certificate and accepted the appeal of the producer. Instead of that my hon. friend is worried about what happened at lower levels ; ultimately when it came in appeal, the appeal was by and large accepted. That is the more important thing.

So far as the composition of the censor board is concerned, the Khosla committee report is before us. Whenever it comes up it does not receive so much attention on other points except kissing. I am glad the hon. Members are thinking of other things and I may tell the House that when the Khosla committee report comes up for discussion they will see that the Government had taken right decisions. They will appreciate it at that time.

**Shri S. M. Krishna :** Dr. Anantamurthy's provocative film Samskar deals with the ritualistic aspect of Madhya Brahmins. Was not the script shown to Jagadguru Shankaracharya who did not have any objection to the script of that film ? Secondly, when the producer appealed to the Central Government, they did not have much option at all ; they had put in so much money in the production of this film. Is it a fact that fifteen eminent writers in Kannada language have issued a public statement calling upon the Government to allow this film to be exhibited without any cuts at all because there was nothing objectionable and if anything, the film is in favour of certain social reforms in the country which are overdue ?

**Shri I. K. Gujral :** By and large I am in agreement with him. I have seen the film myself. . . . (Interruptions). Only two small cuts were suggested and the producer accepted them. One is a reference to Shudras in a way which was not up to the

mark. . . . . (Interruptions). and the second relates to **gow mams** and the producer agreed to both the cuts. I am personally of the view that this would bring credit to us for having passed this film.

**Mr. Speaker :** Next question—Shri Valmiki Choudhary—Shri Nitraj Singh Chaudhary.

**Shri Nitiraj Singh Chaudhary :**  
1325.

**An hon. Member :** Mr. Valmiki Chaudhary is present.

**Shri Nitiraj Singh Chaudhary :** He is not putting the question.

**Mr. Speaker :** He has no discretion. If he is present he should put the question ; or he should go out.

**Shri Valmiki Choudhary :** Shri Nitiraj Singh is putting the question.

**Mr. Speaker :** I will not allow you later on.

SHOWING OF SHORT DURATION  
CROPS IN MADHYA PRADESH  
AFTER HAILSTORM AND HELP  
GIVEN TO FARMERS

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\*1325. **Shri Valmiki Choudhary :**

**Shri Nitiraj Singh Choudhary :**

**Shri Devinder Singh Garcha :**

**Shri Manibhai J. Patel :**

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of the havoc created with the Rabi Crops by the hailstorm in Madhya Pradesh, Government have drawn a scheme for salvage operation by sowing the affected areas immediately with alternative short duration crops ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the extent of loss occurred to the crops due to hailstorm in Madhya Pradesh ;

(d) the amount of credit to be given to the farmers through the cooperative and the nationalised banks ; and