

Shri A. M. Tariq: I will put it in English. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether they have given any directive to the organisations to produce such dramas which are based on national integration.

Shri Humayun Kabir: The answer which I gave a minute ago has already answered this.

Shri Sampath: May I know whether the Ministry has set up any council or board consisting of non-officials to select the plays which deserve this grant?

Shri Humayun Kabir: As I said this was the first year during which we introduced this scheme. We laid down certain conditions that the societies must be registered, they must have performed one hundred shows and they must have produced at least three plays. Those troupes which satisfied these conditions were recommended by the State Governments and we gave them the assistance.

Mr. Speaker: The simple question is whether there is any advisory council like the film advisory council, or everything is done by the department.

Shri Humayun Kabir: In this particular case, last year there was no advisory council.

Shri Thirumala Rao: Has it come to the notice of the Minister that certain of these troupes that have received financial assistance from Government have put up certain dramas caricaturing and ridiculing certain political leaders, not excluding the Congress, in the country?

Shri Humayun Kabir: We have given this assistance to troupes which are well established on the recommendation of the State Governments. As for the plays, as I said, this year they have chosen a Tagore play. I do not know of any Tagore play which has caricatured any political party.

Shri Thirumala Rao: He said that they should have two plays and that one of them should be a Tagore play.

On the other play they have no control.

Shri Humayun Kabir: In this particular year no troupe has selected any non-Tagore play. It was left to them, but all of them have selected a Tagore play.

Shrimati Maimoona Sultan: May I know whether Government has any information as regards the number of non-official organisations that are undertaking production of plays other than Hindi plays?

Shri Humayun Kabir: As I said, we had received applications from 69 organisations. We have no record of how many organisations there are in the country. There are any number of amateur organisations also and the figures cannot be collected without an expenditure of time and energy which would not be commensurate with the result.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Some Hon. Members rise—

Mr. Speaker: Every small matter is made much of and we are not progressing at all. It is made out as if the whole world hangs upon theatres. Next question.

Arrest of ex-ruler of Gondal

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*1911.	{	Shri S. M. Banerjee:
		Shri Assar:
		Shri Raghunath Singh:
		Shri D. C. Sharma:
	}	Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ex-ruler of Gondal was arrested in Bangalore under the charge of spying; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):
(a) The Ruler of Gondal was arrested on 17th April 1961 at Bangalore under section 3(b) of the Official Secrets Act;

(b) The Ruler of Gondal was found on 14th April 1961 within the prohibited area of Hindustan Aircraft Limited airport taking pictures and aiming the camera at a supersonic aircraft. Since the facts indicated an offence under the Official Secrets Act, he was arrested on 17th April 1961 as he was about to leave for Bombay. The Ruler has been released on bail. The matter is under investigation by the Mysore police.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether he has made any statement before the Police? If so, what are the contents of the statement?

Shri Datar: I am not aware of that.

Shri S. M. Banerjee rose—

Mr. Speaker: Does he want all these matters to be revealed to the House even during the course of investigations?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: No. I only want to know whether the ex-Ruler of Gondal is getting a privy purse from the Government, whether as a result of this it is going to be stopped and whether he is also a member of the Swatantra Party.

Shri Datar: The matter is at a very early stage of investigations. Investigations are going on.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The ex-Ruler of Gondal is involved in a case of espionage and if he is getting a privy purse, at least that should be stopped. I want to know whether he is getting that.

Mr. Speaker: These are all suggestions for action.

Shri Nath Pai: May I know from the hon. Minister if the camera was seized, if the film had been developed and, if so, if the film showed that the picture related to the supersonic aircraft stationed at the airport?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): It is a protected area the Hindustan Aircraft. This was a telescopic camera which he had and not an ordinary camera. For that reason it was taken by the autho-

rities. They had a right to do so under the watch and ward arrangements. They took it in their custody and handed that over to the Police.

Shri Nath Pai: That may be true. We are grateful to the hon. Defence Minister . . .

Mr. Speaker: As Shri Nath Pai will understand, all that the hon. Defence Minister has said is that they need not wait till he takes a picture and even earlier, that is, the moment he makes an attempt he commits an offence. He was arrested at that stage.

Shri Nath Pai: About that we are satisfied. That is quite true. But this House is entitled to know whether the film had been taken and developed. We want to be convinced about that also.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry, I am not going to allow this House to become a court. All this will be enquired into later on. At this stage it is sufficient to know that the man was arrested within the precincts of a prohibited area with a camera which was a telescopic camera capable of doing any amount of mischief. That was sought to be prevented by the prohibition at that stage. Even that is enough. We do not go into the details of the other offences, lest we should prejudice the issue and the magistrate or the Police be deterred by the very important pronouncements made in this House one way or the other. I do not want anything to be prejudiced by the deliberations in this House.

Shri Nath Pai: It is legitimate eliciting of information. (*Interruption*).

Mr. Speaker: Shri Harvani.

Shri Ansar Harvani: We understand that some other princes were also arrested along with the His Highness of Gondal. We would like to know the names of those princes.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): We are not

aware of that. So far as we know, only the ex-Ruler of Gondal was arrested. As you have suggested it is better to wait till investigations are completed.

Shri A. M. Tariq: One question, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow. Next question.

Hindu Succession Act

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*1914. { **Dr. Sushila Nayar:**
Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:
Shrimati Manjula Devi:
Shrimati Satyabhama Devi:
Shrimati Laxmi Bai:

Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the report of the Committee appointed by the Punjab Government in which recommendation has been made to abolish the right of daughter to inherit agricultural property of her father as granted under the Hindu Succession Act; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to safeguard the rights of the daughter as ensured by the Hindu Succession Act, from being whittled down?

The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Dr. Sushila Nayar: In December last year a question was tabled by several hon. Members of this House wherein they had drawn the attention of the hon. Minister to a resolution passed by the Punjab Assembly and this committee which was appointed as a result of that resolution is reported to have made this recommendation by the newspapers. The hon. Minister says that his attention has not been drawn to it. Will the hon. Minister look into this matter

and see to it that the rights of girls are protected including inheritance of landed property?

Shri A. K. Sen: The question was not with regard to newspaper reports but with regard to the report of this committee itself. The question was whether the attention of the Government had been drawn to the report of the committee itself. Our information now, subsequent to enquiries being made, is that there has been no report yet by this committee set up by the Punjab Assembly. We enquired, after the receipt of this question, from the Punjab Government and we have been informed that there has been no report yet of this committee. So, unless the report is first published and we know what the contents are, it is a little premature to think of either safeguarding or not safeguarding the rights of women.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: In view of the fact that the Punjab Government and also, I think, the Assembly had debated and made a special point that since agricultural land is within the purview of the State List it is out of the scope of the Central Government to legislate for a share of the daughter in the landed property of the father, may I know whether Government has enquired into this position? What is the legal position and is the law, as we have passed it here, fully safeguarded from the point of view of law?

Shri A. K. Sen: It is our opinion that though the Punjab Assembly is competent to pass a legislation of this sort for its own territory yet that law will be subject to the assent of the President.

Shri Yadav Narayan Jadhav: May I know whether this social legislation has been brought into practice and implemented anywhere in any State in India?

Mr. Speaker: That does not arise out of this question. Next question.