

being decided in their presence and also not getting information about such decisions and thus being deprived of the privilege of revision; and

(b) whether any steps have been taken to remove the discontentment, and if so, what ?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsale): (a) No. Under the Claims Act and the Rules claims were to be decided after giving an opportunity to the persons concerned to be heard and such opportunity was given. Some claims were decided *ex-parte* because the persons concerned failed to put in appearance. Intimation of such decisions was sent to the party concerned.

(b) Does not arise.

Indian Films (Export)

***2002. Shri H. N. Mukerjee :** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing:

(a) the names of the foreign countries which have imported Indian films for commercial release during the period from 1952 to 1955;

(b) whether any Indian film has so far been imported for commercial release by the United States of America;

(c) the number of Indian films imported by foreign countries during the said period; and

(d) whether Government have any scheme for stepping up export of Indian films abroad ?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) to (c). As no permission is required to export films, it will not be possible to obtain information under these heads.

(d) The Film Enquiry Committee had considered the matter and recommended that the industry might set up an Export Corporation to encourage the distribution of Indian films abroad. In the statement laid on the Table of the House on 19-5-54, it has already been indicated that if such a Corporation is set up Government will give all possible facilities.

Import of Conch Shells

***2009. Shri K. K. Das :** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state :

(a) the date from which the ban on the import of Conch Shells has been imposed; and

(b) the average annual value of Conch Shells imported immediately before the ban was imposed ?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The ban on the import of Conch Shells has been imposed since September, 1952.

(b) Statistics of actual imports of Conch Shells are not available. A statement showing the value of Conch Shells licensed in the three licensing periods immediately preceding the ban is, however, laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix X, annexure No. 37].

Distribution of Press Photographs

***2015. Shri Ibrahim :** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether it is fact that the Press Information Bureau besides distributing photographs abroad, distributes pictures free of charge to Press and various news agencies and certain individuals ?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): Photographs on Government activities are distributed by the Press Information Bureau free to newspapers and photo news agencies in India while for publicity overseas, photographs are supplied to Indian Missions through the External Publicity Division of the Ministry of External Affairs. Photographs are not distributed free to individuals.

State Trading

***2017. Shri L. N. Mishra :** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether for the Second Five Year Plan the question of State Trading in certain articles has been discussed; and

(b) if so, the present position in this regard ?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) and (b). The question of State Trading in selected commodities in the context of the Second Five Year Plan has been discussed from time to time, but no final decision in the matter has yet been reached.

Import Policy

***2019. Shri V. P. Nayar :** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the import policy in recent years has resulted in serious complaints of corruption and nepotism ?