

artistic foreign films for the future festivals?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) Filmotsav '88 at Trivandrum was organised and funded by the Directorate of Film Festivals under the National Film Development Corporation. The Government did not give any financial assistance.

(b) and (c). There were some comments to that effect in a section of Press. However, the films screened at Filmotsav '88 were films critically acclaimed and shown in other International Film Festivals. Explicit scenes in some of these films were integral to the thematic content of the concerned films. It is always the endeavour of the Festival authorities to get the best artistic films for participation in our International Film Festivals.

Report on Fact Finding Committee on Newspaper Economics

923. SHRI DAULATSINHJI JADEJA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Report of the Fact Finding Committee on Newspaper Economics (January, 1975) mentioned 'If Newspapers are accepted as public services, it is essential that profits earned from newspapers should be ploughed back into the newspaper enterprise itself'; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken to implement this recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Notwithstanding the recommendations of the Second Press Commission in this regard, the problem has continued to evade solution so far due to legal, constitutional and other complexities involved.

Demand for Increase in Price of Agricultural Produce

924. SHRI S. G. GHOLAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and other States are agitating for an increase in the prices of their agricultural produce; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) There were agitations by farmers in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat for remunerative prices of agricultural produce.

(b) Procurement/support prices of major items of agricultural produce are fixed on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices and these are remunerative. The prices are also being enhanced from year to year.

Dryland Farming

925. SHRI SAMBHAJIRAO KAKADE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have increased the acreage under dryland farming during the year 1987;

(b) whether any cooperation and assistance was made available in this process from International Crop Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics, Hyderabad;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the concrete steps taken to increase the land under dryland farming 1987?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) The latest available land use statistics is for the year 1984-85. As per this the net unirrigated area is 98.9 m.ha. The figures for 1987-88 are not available.

(b) and (c). Not applicable.

(d) The Department of Agriculture has taken up a National Watershed Development Programme for rainfed agriculture during 1986-87 with an outlay of Rs. 239 crores as a special programme to stabilise and increase the crop yields in dryland areas. This scheme is in operation in 99 districts of 16 States falling in the rainfall range of 500-1125 m.m.

Telecast of Canadian Film in Film Festival

926. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for selection of films to be shown in International Film Festivals in India;

(b) whether Canadian film named "I have heard Mermaids Sing" glorifying lesbian trend was shown in the recent film festival held at Trivandrum if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether films shown in the festival are passed by the Censor Board; and

(d) whether films shown in the film festival are examined to see if they violate the Indian law relating to obscenity and indecency?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) The basis of selection of films for participation in International Film Festival in India is their artistic, technical and thematic merit. This in turn is decided on the basis of participation in other important International Film Festival, winning of

awards and critical acclaim by important film journals and film personalities.

(b) The film "I'VE HEARD THE MERMAIDS SING" was screened at Filmotsav '88. The film does not glorify lesbian trends. It is a critically acclaimed film and was screened in the prestigious Cannes Film Festival in May, 1987, and many other International Film Festivals subsequently.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. Exemption from censorship is granted to films screened in International Film Festivals on the basis of the International Convention on the subject. However, films likely to violate our sensibility are not selected for participation.

Central Aid to Orissa for Drought

927. SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance made available to Orissa Government to fight drought condition in the State both in rural and urban areas separately;

(b) the amount spent so far; and

(c) the number of tubewells sunk in the drought affected areas of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Ceilings of expenditure of Rs. 59.42 crores has been approved for drought relief in the rural and urban areas of Orissa on account of post-monsoon drought of 1987.

(b) The State Government reported an expenditure of Rs. 12.46 crores as on the 31st December, 1987.

(c) The State Government installed 1250 handpumps tubewells by 31.1.1988.