

(b) whether it is a fact that in one of the television programmes, the viewers were advised to look at the Solar eclipse through two blackened photographic plates to avoid harm to the eyes, whereas in other programmes on subsequent day they were advised that even looking at the Solar eclipse through such plates would cause partial or total blindness; and

(c) if so, will such contradictory advice on the subject of health hazards be avoided in future?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c). Several programmes were telecast on the solar eclipse by the Delhi Doordarshan Kendra from 7th February 1980 to 17th February 1980 in which distinguished scientists and experts from the medical profession participated. They were not always unanimous in their opinions on how the solar eclipse should be viewed. In one of the earlier programmes, it was suggested by an expert that if one had at all to look at the eclipsed sun, he should do so through two fully exposed black and white films to avoid harm to the eyes. However, in the interest of greater safety, in subsequent programmes it was advised by the experts not to look at the sun during the period of eclipse even through such material.

So far as Doordarshan itself was concerned, it was emphasised again & again during the programmes that people should not look at the solar eclipse because of its harmful effects on the eyes.

Demand for Indian Films in Foreign Market

2. SHRI OSCAR FERNANDESE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a growing demand of Indian films in the foreign market; and

(b) if so, what are the details of export of Indian films to foreign countries during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) There has been a substantial increase in the number of Indian films exported and quantum of earnings indicating a growing demand for Indian films in foreign countries.

(b) The details of export of Indian films to foreign countries during 1976-77, 1977-78 and 1978-79 are given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-391/80].

Advisory Committees for A.I.R. and Doordarshan

3. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names and number of Advisory Committees at local, regional and national levels for A.I.R. and Doordarshan;

(b) the tenure of such Committees;

(c) whether Government are considering reconstitution of these Committees nominated by previous Government; and

(d) details of steps, if any, taken, in the matter particularly in case of Committees located in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) A statement is laid on the Table.

(b) Two years.

(c) and (d). Government may review the composition of these Committees, including those functioning in Maharashtra, if deemed necessary.