

**Agreement with a British Producer
for making a film on Gandhiji**

365. SHRI N. E. HORO:

SHRI P. J. KURIEN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a agreement has been arrived between India and the noted British Actor Director Sir Richard Attenborough on Mahatma Gandhi Film; and

(b) if so, the details on sharing the profits and how the collection would be made in India by the Film Censors Board?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI KUMUDBEN M. JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The proposal to make a film on Gandhi has been agreed to in principle. Details of the agreement are being worked out by the National Film Development Corporation Limited with M/s. Indo British Film Co. of Sir Richard Attenborough.

(b) In principle, the profits will be shared *pari-passu*. However, the details are still being worked out.

Indelible Ink used in Elections

366. SHRI CHHITTUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints that the indelible ink used in Elections could be erased by using some chemicals and impersonation was possible in an organised manner on a large scale;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to issue identity cards for voters in future; and

(c) if so, the details regarding the scheme of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) The Election Commission has been receiving complaints from various quarters that the indelible ink used at the elections to check impersonation was not really indelible. However, nobody was able to substantiate the allegation till recently when at a demonstration held in the Commission's office on the 16th July 1980 some of the representatives of a National Political Party demonstrated that the mark made with the ink could be removed or erased superficially with the application of certain chemical solution. The National Physical Laboratory, has countered the above claim and stated that once the mark with the ink is allowed to develop fully and sufficient time is allowed for that purpose, it is not removable.

The solution that was used by the representatives of political party at the demonstration contained sodium/potassium cyanide which are dangerous health hazard and prohibited items. It is not known as to how such chemicals could be procured by any one. However, to ensure that sale of chemical solutions like sodium/potassium cyanide are effectively prohibited, the Commission has approached the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to take suitable steps to check illegal sale or possession of such chemicals.

As sodium/potassium cyanide chemicals referred to above are not easily available to general public, it will not be correct to say that impersonation was possible in an organised manner on a large scale.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

(c) Does not arise.