

Rs. 6500/- per tonne for more than a year has now declined to about Rs. 5500/- per tonne.

(b) and (c). The upward revision in the ceiling selling price for the various grades of caustic soda has been reported to be due to a steep increase in the cost of production particularly by way of increase in the prices of the main inputs such as power, salt, petroleum products, etc. The present manufacturers' price is on a par with the landed cost of imported caustic soda.

(d) and (e). There is no statutory control over the price of caustic soda at present. There would appear to be no need to change the policy in the present circumstances.

Money spent on film on Mahatma Gandhi

3919. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:
SHRI SHANTARAM POTDURKHE:

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

(a) how much money has so far been paid to Sir Richard Attenborough for producing the film on Mahatma Gandhi;

(b) whether adequate security has been obtained from Sir Richard Attenborough for the money advanced to him;

(c) when is the film on the Mahatma likely to be completed;

(d) whether Government are monitoring the progress of the production; and

(e) if so, whether they are satisfied with the progress?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI KUMUDHEN M. JOSHI): (a) and (b). The film "Gandhi" being produced by Sir Richard Attenborough is a co-pro-

duction in which National Film Development Corporation is one of the co-producers. The Corporation is investing money in the project and not advancing money to Sir Attenborough. The co-production agreement provides that the parties will share in the sale proceeds on proportionate basis. There is thus no question of obtaining any security from Sir Richard Attenborough. The amount so far invested by N.F.D.C. is Rs. 4.15 crores.

(c) to (e). As a co-producer of the film, the National Film Development Corporation is overseeing the progress and expenditure on the production of the film through its officials specially appointed for this project. The production/shooting is going according to schedule. A major part of shooting in India is expected to be completed by April end leaving a small bit to be shot later in U.K. After editing/processing etc., the English version is expected to be ready in February, 1982 and Hindi version in May, 1982.

Proposal to set up Advisory Committee for A.I.R.

3920. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for constituting regional advisory committees for the AIR;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action, if any, has been taken on the same?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI KUMUDHEN M. JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The constitution of Programme Advisory Committees at regional Stations of All India Radio is in progress. However, this does take sometime as the recommendations from the Stations are obtained before finalising the composition of the Committees.