

Import-Export of Agricultural Commodities

2843. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have constituted any committee to review the present policy adopted import-export of agricultural commodities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of reports submitted by these committees during the year 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Effect of Obscenity and Vulgarity in Films

2844. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the films depicting vulgar and violent scenes are allowed for screening by regional film censor boards without applying the norms prescribed by the Board by Film Certification in this regard; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the films do not contain any vulgar or violent scenes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) (a) Films are examined and certified by the Central Board of Film Certification and its Regional Offices in accordance with the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952.

(b) Government have already issued statutory guidelines to the Board under the relevant provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 for certification of films. These guidelines *inter alia*, lay down that the medium of film remains responsible and sensitive to the values and standards of society without unduly curbing artistic expression and creative freedom. A copy of the guidelines is enclosed as statement.

Statement**GUIDELINES**

Extracts taken from Notification No. 805/1/90-F(C) Dated December 6, 1991 of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, New Delhi, Published in the Extraordinary Gazette of India Part II Section 3 Sub-Section (ii)

S.O. In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 5B of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 (37 of 1952) and in supersession of the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting No. S.O. 9(E), dated the 7th January 1978, except as respects things done or omitted to be done before such supersession the Central Government hereby directs that in sanctioning films for public exhibition, the Board of Film Certification shall be guided by the following principles :—

1. The objectives of film certification will be to ensure that—

- (a) the medium of film remains responsible and sensitive to the values and standards of society;
- (b) artistic expression and creative freedom are not unduly curbed;
- (c) certification is responsive to social change;
- (d) the medium of film provides clean and healthy entertainment; and
- (e) as far as possible, the film is of aesthetic value and cinematically of a good standard.

2. In pursuance of the above objectives, the Board of Film Certification shall ensure that—

- (i) anti-social activities such as violence are not glorified or justified;
- (ii) the *modus operandi* of criminals, other visuals or words likely to incite the commission of any offence are not depicted.
- (iii) scenes—

(a) showing involvement of children in violence as victims or as perpetrators or as forced witnesses to violence, or showing children as being subjected to any form of child abuse;