

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) The details of the number of foreign feature films and short films certified by the Central Board of Film Certification during the year 1996 and 1997 are given below:

Year	Foreign Feature Films	
	Celluoid	Video
1996	139	82
1997	191	78

Year	Foreign Short Films	
	Celluloid	Video
1996	209	410
1997	272	329

[English]

Vacant Technical Posts

2939. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2182 on June 10, 1998 and state:

(a) whether many technical posts in Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying are lying vacant for a long time;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to fill up those vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

Economic Assurance to Gulf War Returnees

2940. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had made any declaration to provide economic assistance to Indian citizens who came to India after 1990 Gulf war,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether these citizens have not been paid compensation so far and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Government of India made extensive arrangements for transportation of Indians stranded in Iraq/ Kuwait, back to India, by air and by sea. Government also provided food, medical services and other relief assistance to affected persons when they reached India. Free transportation arrangements, by rail and road, to the returnees' hometowns and villages, were made.

(c) The United Nations Security Council set up the UN Compensation Commission (UNCC) in Geneva in 1992 through its Resolution 692 of 1991. The mandate of UNCC was to consider, process and award compensation to people of all nationalities, adversely affected by the 1990 Gulf War. 132, 329 Indian nationals have so far been found eligible for compensation. Some more Indians will qualify for compensation in the near future. As UNCC has been facing financial constraints, it has had to pay compensation in instalments. So far, approximately \$180 million have been received from UNCC as part-payment of approved claims of 72,107 Indian citizens. This amount is being distributed to the claimants. Others, whose claims have been approved, are expected to receive compensation in due course, depending on the availability of funds with UNCC.

[English]

Problem of Cotton Growers

2941. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN AHAMED : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have considered the report of select committee on the problem of cotton growers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken on the recommendations of the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Report on the problems of cotton growers submitted by Rajya Sabha Committee on 12.8.1997 was circulated to various cotton