

1505 hrs.

**CINE-WORKERS WELFARE CESS
(AMENDMENT) BILL**

[English]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHOTWAR): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to amend the Cine-workers Welfare Cess Act, 1981, be taken into consideration."

The Cine-Workers' Welfare Fund Act, 1981 was enacted to finance various activities for promoting the Welfare of cine-workers as defined under the Act.

The Cine-workers Cess Act, 1981 provides for levy of cess as duty of excise at the rate of Rs. 1,000/- per feature film and the revenue thus realised is credited to the Cine-workers' Welfare Fund.

There are about 27,000 cine-workers in the country, who are mostly concentrated in metropolitan cities like Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Trivandrum.

The cine Workers' Welfare Fund which was initially administered by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting was transferred to the Ministry of Labour with effect from 1.4.1986. The annual revenue accruing to the fund is presently of the order of Rs. Eight lakhs. This in-flow is much too inadequate to initiate and sustain various welfare measures for the benefit of cine-workers and their families such as provision of housing, establishment of hospitals and dispensaries, award of scholarship etc.

There has been consistent demand from various federations and associations of cine-workers for extending to the cine workers and their families the various welfare schemes that

are in existence under the other Welfare Funds such as Beedi Workers Welfare Fund and Mine Workers Welfare Fund. Although the cine-workers are presently entitled to receive medical attention from the hospitals and dispensaries set up under the various other Welfare Funds, the medical cover extended to the cine-workers have been very limited.

In order to further extend the welfare facilities to the cine-workers, it has been felt necessary to augment the Cine-Workers' Welfare Fund. It is specifically with this objective in view that an amendment was introduced in the Lok Sabha in November, 1992. The object of the amendment to the Cine-Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1981 is to increase the rate of cess so that Government may have the authority to realise upto Rs. 20,000/- as cess from any class or category of feature film. This does not imply that a uniform cess of Rs. 20,000/- as cess from any class or category of feature film. This does not imply that a uniform cess of Rs. 20,000/- shall be levied on all feature films. The rate and the amount of cess to be levied would be determined taking into view the capacity of the feature films to pay the cess and the requirement of the Cine-Workers' Welfare Fund in relation to the nature and scale of welfare facilities that may be provided. The purpose of the amendment is to enable the Government to increase the cess on feature films on merits by issue of notifications without having to go through the lengthy process of amendment of the Cine-Workers Welfare Cess Act on every such occasion. This amendment of the Cine-Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1981 will go a long way to extend welfare facilities to the cine-workers and their families throughout the country.

With these words, I commend this Bill for unanimous adoption by this House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to amend the Cine-Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1981, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time allotted for this Bill is one hour and we have to complete this business within that one hour. I request you all to keep this in mind.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESH KANODIA (Pattan): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I welcome the Cine-Workers Welfare Cess (Amendment) Bill, 1992. This Bill should have been introduced much earlier in the parliament. A legislation had been introduced in 1981 through which a welfare fund was set up for the benefit of Cine-workers. It was constituted to meet the expenditure for providing facilities and taking steps for the welfare of Cine Workers by the Central Government. Under this scheme an excise duty of Rs. one thousand was levied on each feature film. This a sum of Rs. eight lakh was collected annually but this sum was very small for their welfare. Therefore there is a urgent need to increase this sum. This Bill proposes to raise the excise duty amount from Rs. one thousand to a maximum of Rs. twenty thousand. There is an urgent need to mobilise funds for providing facilities for the welfare of cine workers and therefore the provisions in the Bill are praiseworthy and welcome. In fact I feel that there is an urgent need to increase the fund manifold so that proper facilities are provided to the Cine-workers whose conditions are very pitiable.

Since I have been associated with this profession, I know how essential it is to improve the conditions of the low paid employees. Therefore, I would request the Government that it should conduct a survey of the increasing number of such employees, their wages and other service conditions and introduce a Bill which would mobilise more resources for this fund.

[English]

PROF. K.V. THOMAS (Emakulam): I rise to support this Amending Bill. This Amendment is just to change section 3 so that the levy can be increased from Rs. 100 per feature film up to Rs. 20,000. In Kerala, we have got a similar

welfare fund. But it is more beneficial than the funds formed by the government of India. According to our Kerala Cine-workers Welfare Fund, every worker gets a pension between Rs. 300 and Rs. 500 per month. Similarly, medical treatment is free. Education is free. Unfortunately in our country, even though cinema has got much attraction except a few actors, majority of the workers who are connected with this field are to the point of starvation. The Government has to take certain firm decisions.

One is, the cinema is not declared as an industry so far. If it is declared as an industry, all the people, actors, cameramen and the boys who are connected with the industry—all of them will get the work.

15.14 hrs

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

Secondly, you are increasing the amount from Rs. 1,000 up to Rs. 20,000. What you are collecting now is just Rs. 8 lakhs which is a meagre amount.

What they are doing in Kerala is every year we will have a film night and a huge amount is being collected in the film night. Similarly, when the cinema is shown in theaters, a small percentage of the collection is collected for the Welfare Fund. We get a huge amount. That amount is also being used.

Your present increase from Rs. 1,000/- to Rs. 20,000/- will not help you any way to get huge amount.

My request to the Government is firstly, appropriate methods should be found out so that adequate amount is being collected.

Secondly, a pension scheme should be given to all those people who are connected with the industry.

Thirdly, there should be medical treatment

forthem. The children of these people should be educated.

All those things should be looked into.

Unfortunately, even though this is a glamorous field, except for actors, others have a very short period in their life. Afterwards, they come to starvation.

My request to the Government is please seriously look into the matter. Forget about this Rs. 20, 00/- or Rs. 1, 00/- . Find some other way so that you can collect a huge amount and that amount is properly used for these people.

[*Translation*]

— SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI (Maharaj Gani) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Cine Industry of Indian is the largest or one of the largest Cine-industry of the world. If we leave aside a few people who are top-ranking in this industry as actors, distributors and directors achieve success and prosperity while the rest are from hand to mouth. The hon. Minister is right in his expression that 75 lakh people are associated with this industry. +But there are other people also who indirectly are associated with it, if we include these people also, this number reaches in crores.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the field of Cinema is such a field that can attract a number of youths for being an actor but keeping in view the position of cine workers in the society and the sense of insecurity for their future, no parents even today allow their children to join this occupation and if anybody joins this occupation he is always shadowed by the sense of insecurity. Cinema is one of the strongest and best medium of recreation. Cinema include both mediums i.e. audio and visual which include in itself music, drama, architecture, painting, prose and poetry. Some persons gain prosperity in it and others lament for their fate. Sometimes they get job and sometimes they have to be jobless. When their activeness gets start loosing their lives also

become tardy. They cannot live as per their wish. Similarly the future and career of their children are also not in their hands. They lead their lives in a sense of great insecurity. In such circumstances although sufficient provisions have not been made for them, yet at least something has been done in this direction, so I would like to thank for it. The limit has been increased from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 20, 000. It appears that if somebody makes film on the story written by some other person, he will have to pay him Rs. 20,000. Keeping in view as to how many persons would get job and how many families would like in a sense of security, this amount is not sufficient rather, there would be nothing wrong if it is increased. During old days artists were patronised by the royal houses, a special provision was made from treasury for all bards, and artists of the state. They were all paid from the state treasury. now this fund is being set up only from the state treasury. Now this fund is being set up only from the films which would be made from any story. I demand that this Welfare Fund which is being set up for Cine-artists, should be set up by the department of Arts or the amount for this Government so that it may increase regularly and the security of the people and their families relating to this occupation may continue.

[*English*]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, I rise to support the Cine-workers Welfare cess (Amendment) Bill. As you know, India produces annually, on an average, 900 films. It is a very high figure if we compare it with the other film producing countries. But, from the production level up to the exhibition of films through distributorship, a large number of cine-workers at different levels are engaged in all sorts of technical and artistic activities. But, as you know, the whole profit in the industry goes to a handful of super-stars, heroes, heroines and producers. As you also know, the black money plays a very important role in the film world. The evasion of income tax is a known fact to all of us.

affected. I am not going into the details of such hazards. But medical coverage should be there.

Sir, if you look at the list given by the income-tax department, lakhs and lakhs of rupees have been evaded by such people. Even after evasion of the real income, it is found that such people are defaulters. But, on the other hand, we do find the real people, who have been contributing through their... sweated labour, in distress. The production of such films had deprived them of their fruits. The distributors are in distress. The amount that is till now being collected, as stated by the hon. Minister, is the film map of the world we should do something in night earnest to protect the interests of the cine-workers more so in situation when the film is subjected to multi pronged attack. The film production has gone down because of Television and the cable television etc. In places like Bombay the film artists and others belonging to a particular community are being regularly threatened that their films will be boycotted. You know about it. I am not going to elaborate it. It has created a very very serious situation for the technicians as also for the artists. My suggestion would be that the Government should address itself to the serious aspects of the welfare of the cine-workers and try to do something on the lines it has proposed in other sectors of industry although many of them have not been implemented yet. For example, there is the pension scheme. As we can think about the pension of journalists and others, why can we not think on that line about the pension of the technicians and cine-workers? Again, there is the question of employees state insurance; medical coverage, insurance and others which will be contributed by the producers or the units, be it the exhibition centre, be it the production centre and they should make the contribution.

[Encl

As you know, in the production process, a good number of cine-workers not only meet with accidents but also they have to go through their occupation hazards as a result of which they also their eye sight. Because of working for hours in the too much of light, their eye-sights are

I am not going to take much of the time. Lastly, this Government should bring about a comprehensive Bill if they are really interested in the welfare of the cine workers. They are a distressed lot. There is much of glamour in the silver screen world. But these distressed people who are earning name for the country, earning laurels for the country through their contribution, they should be given their dues. With this appeal, to the Government, I support the Bill.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Thank you for allowing me to speak. I also support this Bill whole-heartedly. I also feel like my previous speaker Shri Rupchand Pal that the amount is small compared to the whole thing. But at the same time, I have one observation to make about the cine workers. I do not know how the machinery works. How you decide whom to actually give this help.

I want to make one request to the executives, while disposing of with this fund, to kindly take into account two things. One is, those who are economically distressed and another is those who have performed in such films which have really taught people something of humanism and social welfare. This is one of my submissions. Secondly, I feel, apart from my what my dear colleague Shrimati Girija said about musicians, that the artists in our country, those who paint, they are the most neglected lot in a way. I myself have flute for many artists of eminence just to get their fought. I cannot tell you how many times I had to move to the executives. I believe if this is my experience, then it must be the experience of others also. I cannot differ. Therefore, I think, what the effort is commendable, I wish that the total amount is increased. While giving the actual help the thing that I said should be remembered. This is my humble submission.

With these words, I support the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have no hesitation in passing this Bill but the details given in this Bill are not complete. I rise to express my concern over it. This law was enacted in 1981 and the collection toward this fund started in the same year and the total amount collected so far is Rs. 8 lakhs. Out of this amount of Rs. 8 lakh, how much amount is given to whom and the details of the schemes on which this amount has been spent? Are there any schemes for their families? Is there any scheme relating to their health and education for their children? How this amount of Rs. 8 lakh would be sufficient for them? Will the Government provide the matching amount in this fund? If the Government does not pose to contribute in this fund, it is a mockery that only Rs. 8 lakh are collected for the welfare fund of cine workers in a whole year in India. Now by increasing this limit to Rs. 20,000, the collection would be of Rs. 2 crore I would like to know as to what will the Government do with this fund, to whom it will be given and what will be the contribution of the Government toward this fund.

As one of my senior colleagues said that the money of cine industry is centered around a handful of persons. This money goes in the hands of super stars and directors and the financiers of the films are mostly black marketeers and this money again returns in their hands. Other artists, who work in studio from morning to evening, you know it well, that extra artists in Bombay whether they are girls or boys get Rs. 150 or Rs. 120 per day. They work for 12 hours or 14 hours or 16 hours a day. There is a contractor also and the extra artists have to pay him some amount for getting work in the industry. There is no question to pay salary to them. I would like to know in these circumstances as to what are the health schemes, welfare schemes for all these people. What is their total number and whether the Government has considered seriously about all this. If it has considered about all this, what provision is likely to be made by the Government for them?

The hon. Minister Shri Murthy gives us a list of actors and actresses against whom income tax is outstanding. It was stated in the list that there are at least 20 such artists against whom approximately Rs 1 crores income tax is outstanding. ON the one had some persons make so much money and on the other hand cine-workers do not get adequate remuneration. If the Government wants to do some thing for their welfare then formulate some welfare schemes for them. I know that this Bill is morally a propaganda being made by the Government and it is not thing more than that. Even then I welcome this propaganda. The whole House is with you and all the Members are supporting you because the condition to the Cineworker is very bad. Nobody is there to care for them. I would like that the Government should consider it seriously. It is a good thing if this increase in the limit helps them and if it is so, the Government has to come forward. We come forward and supported the Government that it should collect money from public as well as from the Members but if the Government also contributes five the of the amount, it would be better and a good sum can be collected. It could be a good scheme which can help the Cine workers and their families. I conclude with an appeal for providing such facilities and support this scheme.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam): Sir I rise to support the Bill. The Cine Workers Welfare Fund Bill was passed in the year 1981. Now, the Minister has introduced with an amendment to Clause 3 of that Act.

As rightly pointed out, actually this Welfare Fund couldn't be operated because of scarcity of funds. At present the total amount to They are this fund is only Rs. 8 lakh per year. With this amount of Rs. 8 lakh, no welfare measures can be implemented for the Cine workers. So, the Minister wanted to enhance the amount from Rs. 1, 000 to Rs. 20,000/- per feature film.

As the other Members pointed out, the

[Sh. RAMESH CHENNITHALA]

enhancement by the amendment is also very low. Considering the numerous welfare activities, this amount is also not sufficient. So, my request to the hon. Minister is that it should be further enhanced so that more welfare measures can be taken up. Of course, cinema is a very effective media. But we are always forgetting the workers- camera-men, the make-up men other technicians and small actors - who are behind the curtain. The people remember only about the heroes and heroines. Actually, the people who are working in the background deserve consideration.

As Prof. K. V. Thomas rightly pointed out, in Kerala, we have got a Film Welfare Fund. We are collecting the amount by organising star-nights. A small amount is also collected as levy from the theaters so that a considerable amount of money is available for this welfare fund to enable us to take up a lot of welfare measures.

I want to tell you that certain actors, because of their old-age, are starving and they are not able to perform. In such cases, the Government should consider giving pension to those people who are not able to perform. During the time of shooting and other activities, if they met with accidents some insurance coverage must be there. It will be highly helpful for them. Three years ago, one famous Malayalam hero died during film-shooting. Actually, I know him personally. Now his family is suffering a lot. There are a number of cases like this. If insurance coverage is there, at least his family will be benefited.

My other suggestion is that tele-films and advertisement films must also be included in this. Nowadays, the production of tele-films and the advertisement films is more in number. The tele-films and advertisement films should also be included in this Bill.

Mr. Anna Joshi rightly pointed out about the Government contribution. What is the contribu-

tion of the Government? Actually, a comprehensive Bill is necessary. I congratulate Mr. Ghatowar for coming with a small piece of this legislation. But for serving the purpose and for effective implementation of the welfare measures for the cine artiste, a comprehensive Bill is necessary. I think, the Government should come forward with comprehensive Bill so that we can implement all the welfare measures properly, including the education facilities for their children, housing schemes, etc., etc. So, I support the Bill. I congratulate the Minister. And I urge upon him to come forward with comprehensive Bill to implement various welfare measure for the cine artistes.

SHRICHITTABASU (Barasat). Sir, I rise to support the Bill. At the same time, I want to make it very clear that the measures are very inadequate. There have been certain changes between the years of 1981 and 1993. Now we are considering the amendment Bill. You may take note of the changes. The very Bill was conceived by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. When the Bill was first adopted by this House and the Parliament, it was piloted by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

If I may mention the name of the Minister, the Bill was piloted by Mr. Vasant Sathe and the whole concept of the Bill was that the film industry needs to be particularly provided with certain welfare measures. I have got with me the speech which he had delivered during the consideration of the Bill. And according to his information, it is found that this film industry employs about 3.5 lakh workers of which more than 60 per cent are involved in the distribution section, exhibition section, etc. and a minor segment is engaged in production by way of artists, heroes, heroines, etc. Majority of these workers are induced according to him and need special protection. Therefore, the whole segment was conceived of a welfare measure and to conduct it as a welfare measure, certain steps were conceived of. Here, I could take note of the change. I am glad that the Labour Ministry and he it was conceived by the Ministry of Informa-

tion and Broadcasting and it was being enforced and executed by that Ministry. Now, I find that the amendment is brought forward by the Ministry of Labor. It is good but I am not satisfied because this amendment has not been framed having Labour Ministry's outlook. Labour Ministry's outlook should be to protect the workers and to take into view the relation between the employer and the employee, the industry and the workers, no question of humanitarianism, no question of welfare measure, no question of showing some merey on a particular segment of working people, But the entire concept of industrial relation is based on worker and employer relationship. Earlier, when the whole idea was conceived, the employer and employee relation was side-tracked as if it was merely a humanitarian move on the part of the Government or the benign Government to see that certain section of employees or working people should be provided of certain quantum of relief or welfare. It is not like that. It is the right of the working people or the industrial workers to certain basic amenities of life and they have got certain rights - the democratic trade union rights. Having that point in my view, I say that this amendment Bill falls short of these basic principles of labour legislation. It is no labour legislation now although the legislation or amendment is being brought forward by the Ministry of Labour. I do not know whether this Bill was discussed in the Consultative Committee meeting attached to the Ministry of Labour or not. There is no indication as to the rights of the workers. Therefore, it is unsatisfactory and it is not in tune with the time and it does not appear to be labour legislation at all. Therefore, my demand would be to frame or to bring about a comprehensive legislation treating these artists, these cine workers technicians or otherwise, most of whom are casual workers or on contractual basis, on the basis of labour rights and labour legislation.

It is not labour legislation. Therefore, I want that this kind of amendment should be brought before the House at the earliest.

I would also like to remind the hon. Minister

that the points which I am raising were also raised when the original Bill was being discussed in the House. Some of the hon. Members said that the film making should be treated as an industry. If it is traced as an industry, the workers engaged in it should be treated as the Industrial workers and then the Industrial Disputes Act will automatically apply to them. All the rights flowing from the Industrial Disputes Act will automatically be enforced. This is the most valid point. Therefore, I do not want to oppose this amendment because this is a measure to have a larger amount of money for catering to the needs of the workers. If they come under the Industrial Disputes Act, Their Welfare measures will also be attended to.

There are many labour legislation's which provide for pension, for gratuity and for other benefits. Therefore, I support the principle of this Bill but I feel that this Bill- and also the earlier Bill- is inadequate. The present amendment Bill is also inadequate and it falls short of the basic approach to the workers' right. Since this amend has been taken up by the Ministry of Labour, I hope and believe that they should behave as the Labour Ministry and they should not look at it as if they are doing some favour out of mercy.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Chairman, Sir, although I am not opposing the Bill presented by the hon. Minister yet I have not enough words in the praise of it, because I am not in touch of such appreciation as is obtained by giving alms to the employees and workers over looking their due rights, particularly in the days of democracy, when we talk much about their rights, I have been associated with a small union of cine workers of my area and I know that cine owners do not even pay daily wages to their workers as per the Minimum Wages Act. For the last six months, 31 Cinema houses have been closed by the Film Corporation of Uttar Pradesh without caring of even any provision of the Labour Act. With the result two and a half thousands of its workers are roaming from pillar

to post. On behalf of their union we have staged dharnas many a times but no action has been taken in this regard.

Sir, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister propose to enact such a law as may cover all the cine workers in the same manner as all the industrial labourers are covered by the existing labour laws and no cinema owner would be allowed arbitrarily to retrench the employees by violating these rules. If you do not make such provision, no legislation can provide relief to the cine workers despite the good intention of the Government. There are two categories of cinema workers. One category is involved in the production work and the other one is engaged in its publicity work. As the cinema has caused damaged to the traditional music of the country in the same way the video which is a creation of cinema, is damaging the cinema industry. I would like to urge upon the Government to keep in view the grievances of cinema owners. But I would also like to say that even an actor working in the field of cinema is normally entering into a contract of Rs. 50 lakhs openly for working in a film. He evades income tax of crores of rupees. When its recovery is made by Dr. Marmohan Singh, it is subjected to sharp criticism in newspapers and it is term as 'attempt to murder'. But the workers engaged in the publicity work of cinema and the workers related to video films and touring talks are not getting even Rs. 10/- per day as wages. This is the plight of cine workers. The Labour Ministry should enact a law for the permanent redress of the m,eras of icon workers o that this double standard of wages can be eliminated. I would like to thank the Minister of he is thinking something in this direction. I do not like to oppose it. With the increase in cess from Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 20000, you will get an increased amount i.e. from Rs. 8 lakhs to Rs. 1 crore and 60 lakh, but I fail to understand as to what extent it will benefit the all India cine workers. you are mentioning 70000 workers. But I think there are more than 70,000 workers in Bombay city only. Because the number of

three and a half lakh of cine workers was mentioned in this House by the then Minister while delivering his speech 11 years ago whea his law was going to be enacted. Today this number would definitely be much more. The Government may open a school in Bombay with the amount of Rs. 1 crore and 70 lakh, but how it will benefit the workers that are working in the cinema halls of Deoria. I fail to understand it. That is why the interests of the cine workers which are spread throughout the country should be kept in view. A comprehensive Bill for the redress of the grievances of these poor workers and artists should be brought by the Ministry in this House after going through all the aspects in the regards so that their condition may be improved. With this suggestion, I am not opposing the Bill.

SHRI TEJSINGH RAO BHONSLE (Ramtek): Mr. Chairman. Sir, I rise to support this Bill. The senior speakers, Shri Mohan Singh and Shri Chitta Basu who have just spoken have expressed their views rightly. This Bill has been brought forward by the Ministry of Labour. It is not a Bill, which has been brought hare for the sake of providing charity to cine workers. The Bill that has been brought forward by the Ministry of Labour should be a comprehensive one. Shri Ghatowar Saheb has said in his speech that 27000 workers have been identified as cine workers. But Shri Basuji has rightly said that in 1981 Shri Sathe had featured the figure as 3lakh 50 thousand while delivering his speech as a Minister for I&B. Accordingly, today in 1993, the number of these workers should have been more than 10 lakh. The Government is making arrangements for Rs. 2 crore only for the welfare of workers engaged in this industry.

Secondly, I would like to say hat 800 films are produced in the country every year and the Government has made a provision of Rs. 20000/- for all these people. But regional films have some limitations because they are mostly shown in the regions only whereas there is no limitation for Hindi films and they are not confined to any region. These films are shown throughout the country. The producers earn croes of rupees. I

would like to suggest that in place of an amount of Rs. 20000, if it is converted into the entertainment tax then this amount of Rs. 2 crore may increase to Rs. 25-50 crore. All the people have rightly said that the plight of workers involved in cine world is miserable and horrible.

When these workers are shunted out they live in 'Jhoparpatti' or on footpath. They are not protected workers. A particular attitude is adopted in the case of protected workers. A particular attitude is adopted in the case of protected workers and there are various laws for them. There is a saying in regard to get released the moon from the eclipse, some people move asking alms from others. I would like to ask whether the Government is offering some charity to get rid of this problem. If a comprehensive Bill is brought in this House for the purpose all the workers living in different parts of the country can have the benefit of that. This matter should not be treated as giving or taking some dole., All the workers may continue to get benefit unless and until this Bill is brought forward.

[English]

SHRIPCTHOMAS (Muvattupusha): The Bill seeks to increase the amount of cess from Rs. 1000 minimum to Rs. 20,000 maximum. In the original Bill, Rs. 1000 was the amount which was to be collected for each film. The penalty for not giving this amount in time was fixed at Rs. 40 per month.

Since this has been raised, there must be a comprehensive comprehensive Bill bringing out proper formative measures also for not giving this amount or for not accounting things and for not aiding collection of their amount. In 1981, the number of cine workers itself was said to be 3.5 lakh as stated by the then Minister who piloted the Bill. Now, I am sure, the number of workers must have increased. As already stated by the hon. Member Shri Chitta Basu, the number of persons who should get the benefit has become so large that unless a comprehensive Bill is brought, accounting of these workers,

accounting the number of workers who should be the beneficiaries and giving a proper mechanism for the beneficiaries to get benefit, I think the real purpose of the Bill will not be achieved. I would urge upon the Government to bring out a comprehensive Bill in this regard.

The change that has been sought to be made is only with regard to the quantum of the cess. The way in which such film-maker is to pay and the amount to be imposed on a particular type of film is not stated here. There should be a rule and the rule may provide for all these things. I think that is also something to be discussed. Even commercial films and from films which will fetch more money. I think that more money could be collected.

We are now giving so much importance to stars. We call them stars; we do not call them artists; we call them stars, super stars and Super super stars. So, those stars are so popular that they are getting so much of money; and they are actually in a position to help the persons who are actually helping them to come to that stature. I think we should not leave stars from the purview of donating to the fund which is thought of in this particular welfare Act.

What I find from the discussions and the deliberations when the original Act was discussed, is this.

16.00 hrs

What actually thought of was that this cess would be Rs. 1,000 and it will come to only Rs. 7.5 lakh or so because 750 films were to be produced per year and the rest of the amount was to be collected by donations. I do not know whether such donations have been collected and whether the fund has been created and whether the benefit of the fund has been made available to the really poor persons who are working in the film industry, not only on the production side, but also on the distribution, exhibition as well as in the other fields connected thereto. So, I think when donations are thought

[Sh. P.C. Thomas]

1603 hrs

of, the real persons who could donate and who have actually a lot to do with the persons who are actually working in the field and share their difficulties are the film stars and other persons who are really making a good money out of this industry.

So, I think there must also be some provision in this Act or in the connected Act which enables some funds to come from such sources also.

I do commend this Bill because it is intended to give aid and assistance to the poor, casual and needy workers working in the film industry. I congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing forward this Bill. But I would urge upon the hon. Minister as well as the Ministry to bring out a comprehensive Bill so that the poor workers are benefited.

I have one more suggestion also. I do not know whether it can be made at this stage. Think when we are thinking of the cinema industry and the cine-workers, it is a time for us to think of the persons who are connected with the stage, the drama and theater. There must be a Bill for the very poor persons working in those fields and who are not getting due remuneration for the really hard work they put in behind the curtain. They at must be thought of. There must be some bill whereby the welfare of those artists as well as the other persons connected with the stage, theater and drama is taken care of and they are given their due share.

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM (Inner Manipur): Sir, I rise to support the Bill. The Bill is a proposal for giving some benefits to the cine-workers.

The cine-workers, they themselves form a class of labourers, a category of workers which deserves financial or any other help from producers, from the Government and from other sources also.

(SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG *in the Chair*)

When we think of the cinema industry we should not think only for the big producers to the picture which would rosy. But we leave think of the producers of the regional feature films also, So, I would like to distinguish it from rosy Hindi films

The Bill proposes raising a cess from Rs. 1000 to a maximum of Rs. 20,000 and it can be done by the amendment of the 1981 Act. It will help cine-workers who are doing their best, but with little carryings.

Sir, while we are thinking of helping these workers, we have also to think about the producers of three feature films. The feature films can be classified into 'better feature films' of Hindi and 'feature films of regional languages'. They can be classified further. Certain feature films in Hindi have got wide publication and also great demand for entertainment or for other purposes. But for these feature films in regional languages, they have little place for entertainment because they are on regional languages. So, I would like to suggest that while delegating legislation for fixing the cess, the Government should take note of this. And for those feature films on regional languages, certain cess should be fixed in consideration of their difficulty in producing them. So, my suggestion would be that the cess should not be levied in all equally and it should be classified. For example, a feature film in Manipuri earns national award and even it has a place in the international festival. But still the producer as well as the workers are all of low income group. Even the producers cannot afford to pay the cess of Rs. 1,000, which is the minimum amount. Hardly they can pay it. I personally know how they manage to produce these feature films. Likewise, these workers engaged for producing feature films also, are half starved. How they can work Because they have a spirit of producing these films in their own language

That charm gives them the spirit of sacrifice, which enable them to produce it. Otherwise such films do not come up because they do not have their own studios, they don't have their own instructmenrs. I do not know how to describe this. These workers have got the charm for this art of cinematography. They want to promote art and culture of their regional charater and language. So, that encourages them to produce the feature films even with great difficulty.

Sir, while thinking for these cine workers, while proposing for providing facilities for them, the Government should also think for these feature films, which do not earn much in terms of income. The producers in big industries earn much; artists earn much. That has been described earlier. But, in feature films of regional character, even the artists are half starved. They cannot afford even to maintain their families. Not only the artists but also the workers are facing this problem.

So, while supporting this Bill, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to think of these feature films which are produced in regional languages.

with these words, I support the Bill.

[*Translation*]

SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA (Guntur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome this Bill. Keeping in view the miserable conditions of cine workers all over the country, we regret to say that there is no one to listen to their grievances. However, the Government has made an attempt of wiping off their tears by bringing this Bill.

There is yet much more to be done for them. In Andhra Pradesh, the former Chief Minister Shri N. T. Rama Rao who himself is a film star had provided plots and Houses to cine workers after their retirement. Being an artist he has provided these facilities to them after though consideration. These cine-workers work hard day and night and at the risk of their life for the

films which we see for entertainment only. It takes two to two and half years to complete a film which we easily see in two hours on the screen. Today, there is no one to listen to the grievances of good artists. Their financial condition has deteriorated to the extent that they are not able to make both ends meet. People all over the country discuss about the film stars. These stars charge 50 lakh, 75 lakh or one crore for each film. Big film stars are paid heavily but other employees who work hard day and night are not paid adequately by the producers. Therefore, this amount of Rs.20 thousand should be further increased. Lakhs of cine-workers and theatre artists are there all over the country and many of them do not have money even for their two square meal. There is no appreciation of their art. Big stars are paid in lakhs or coreoes bnu junior artists are totally neglected. There fore, the Government should immediately pay attention towards their welfare and formulate a scheme, s done by Shri N. T. Ram Rao, for rehab ilitation of cine workers after their retirement. Shri N. T. Rama Rao had allotted land to retired cine workers costing Rs.25,000 at that time but now the cost of that land has increased to 5-6 lakhs and now it has become an assets for their children. The Central Government should issue similar instructions to all other state Government so that the condition of cineworker could be improved. Efforts should be made whole heartedly in this direction. Though it is late, yet I welcome the Bill.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH(Jahanabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the cine-Workers Welfare Cess (Amendment) Bill, 1992. It was an old Act enacted in 1981 and now it is being amended. Earlier it was brought by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry and now this amendment bili has been brought by the Ministry of Labour. It has been brought for providing facilities and protection to the cine workers. The exploitation of workers, who do not get wages according to their work, will now be checked through the provisions of this bill.

A comprehensive Bill should have been

[Sh. Ramashray Prasad Singh]

brought to give proper protection to cine workers but even then is will [prove to be helpful for them as provision has been made to increase the cess from the present Rs. 1000 to Rs. 20,000. It is a sort of donation only. They are not paid enough wages according to their work.

Cine world also occupies an important place. Therefore, a comprehensive Bill should have been brought for the welfare of cine-workers so that they could have got more and more benefits.

I would request the hon. Minister to bring a Comreshevcie Bill so that come workers could get maximum benefits of it.

*SHRI GOVIND CHANDRA MUNDA (Keonjhar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the House is discussing the cine-workers Welfare Cess (Amendment) Bill 1992. This is a small Bill. It has been brought before the House for limited purpose. but, that is every important The Govt. of India has formed Cess fund for the welfare of the cine workers. But the amount deposited in the fund is very inadequate. Thousands of workers are engaged in the Cine Industry. They perform very vital role in the film In fact, they are the main source of entertainment. We enjoy their action and dances. but we do not have any idea about their living condition. When Govt. of India has been larged stress on the welfare of workers engaged in every field then the cine workers will be ignored. They need better education for their children, ~~their~~ cares and higher and of wages. It is not possible to take care of the welfare the cine workers with the money available in the cine workers Welfare Fund which was formed under the Cine workers Welfare Fund Act, 1981. Sir, the Directors, producers and major artists are benefited from the films. They do not think for the welfare of the workers. Good films are not shown these days. The films where heroine like Vaijayantule has acted are not produced these days. The violent flame are only produced in Hindi and other

regional languages. If the *production of violent movies* are in the minds of the producer how can they think of welfare of the workers engaged in film industry. So, it isn't tech Govt. who should really think of the welfare of the cine workers. Therefore, a cess as duty of excise, of one thousand rupees on every feature film, is being levied by the Govt. under the Cine-workers welfare Cess Act, 1981. The Bill is to be amended if further revision of cess is to be made. With a view to augemtn the resources, the Govt. want to enhance the Cess from existing one thousand to a maximum amount of twenty thousand on every feature film. This is quite justified. So, I support this Bill.

Sir, I would like to say about Video-piracy. If you go to remote village also you will see a video. This video piracy must be stopped at any cost if we want to save the film industry and thereby save the thousands of Cine workers. Another thing I would like to speak about S.C. & S.T. workers. There may be a large number of workers belonging to S.C. & S.T. No estimate has been made on them. So, it is very difficult to say how many of the total Cine workers belong to S.C. & S.T. However, whether S.C. & S.T. the Cine Workers deserve better treatment. The resources must be enhanced. So, I support the Bill and thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

[English]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very much grateful to all the hon. Members who have participated and expressed their concern about the cine workers who are working behind the screen and who are in a great difficulty. The main purpose of this welfare fund. is to formulate welfare schemes for the crime workers.

This amendment is brought out only with a limited purpose to increase the cess from the

present Rs. 1,000/- to enable the Central Government to raise it up to Rs.20,000

While participating in the discussion, many hon. Members have expressed their concern about the working condition of cine workers and the cinema theater workers.

This welfare fund mainly concerns with the cine workers who are engaged in the production of the films, and the workers condition of the workers of the theater who are spared all over the country, are under the Cine Workers and Cinema Theatre Workers (Regulation of Employment) Act, 1980. By that Act their employment is regulated. The respective state Governments are the appropriate authorities in this regard. And in the exhibition of cinema, they collect entertainment tax. I think they look after the welfare of those workers who are working in the cinemas and the theaters in the country.

This welfare fund is to look after the welfare of the cine workers who are engaged only on the production of the films. Some Members have expressed concern about the financial difficulties of the regional films. We have already said that the cess is not going to be Rs.20,000 for each and every film produced in this country. For fixing the cess, the Labor Ministry will consult the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and will take their view for fixing the cess. Because in our country, today some films are produced at a cost of Rs. 9 to 10 crores and some films are produced at cost of Rs.20-25 lakhs. There cannot be the same rate of cess for all films produced in the country. That concern will be well taken care of by the Labour Ministry. They will look after this. About this welfare fund there is a central advisory board equally represented by the producers and the representatives to the cine workers and they formulate and give the necessary advice to the Central Government as to how this fund be utilised for the welfare of the cine workers. There are other welfare funds under the Labour Ministry. There is a constant demand from the wine workers, that their welfare schemes should be enlarged like

other welfare funds.

So, Sir, keeping all this in view, the Ministry has brought out this amendment. I am very thankful that each and every hon. Member of this august House has supported this Bill. The Government will take all possible steps and see that all the money collected by this increase will be properly and judiciously spent for the welfare of the cine-workers and definitely the Government would always like to take the committee.

With these words, I request the House to pass this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

'That the Bill to amend the Cine-Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1981, be taken into consideration.'

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The house will now take up Clause-by-Clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

'That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill.'

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1

AMENDMENT MADE

Page 1, line 4, -

For '1992' substitute '1993' (2)
(Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

'That Clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill.'

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH.

[English]

ENACTING FORMULA AMENDMENT
MADE

Page 1, line 1,-

for 'Forty -third' substitute 'Forty-fourth' (Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

'That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill.'

The motion was adopted.

The Enacting formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

'That the long Title stand part of the Bill.'

The Motion was adopted.

The long Title was add to the Bill.

SHRI PABAB SINGH GHATOWAR; Sir, I beg to move:

'That the Bill, as amended, be passed.'

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

'That the Bill, as amended, be passed.'

The Motion was Adopted.

16.30 hrs

GENERAL BUDGET 1993-94 GEN-
ERAL DISCUSSION

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up the general discussion on the Budget (General) for 1993-94. The time allotted for this discussion is 8 hours.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): Mr. Chairman Sir, as always it is with some inhibition that I rise to comment on the Budget presented to parliament by the hon. the Finance Minister I want to say that the hon. the Finance Minister, a very distinguished economist, a great patriot and a man of very varied experience-but now some of my inhibition has lessened on account of the fact that form bein a technocrat. the hon. The Finance Minister now face us in his new garb ad incarnation as a political. Therefore, he has to accustom himself to the somewhat less restrained rhetoric of the politician as he claims to be, from the rather high exalted surrounding in which he has been accustomed to live all these years.

This is a very unusual debate we are hang. The hon. the Finance Minister presented the Budget to parliament on 27th of February. Today it is late afternoon of the 20th of April. I do not reelect as to when last the Indian parliament has had such a hiatus between the presentation of the Budget and its discussion. Of course, in a very rare sense the gap between the presentation and the discussion is a comment on the management of parliamentary time by the Treasury Benches. But it has a side-effect, a side consquor and that is consequence is even if it is a limited period, for that limited period, parliament and the nation has a chance to actually examine the Budget against the stated aims and objectives and what it has, in fact, achieved across the country throughout he measures and through the steps that the hon. the Finance Minister has advocated in the Budget.

The hon. the Finance Minister, in the Budget of 1993-94, is presenting his third Budget. I would like to put it to him that with due regard that he must now accept full responsibility for whatever this Budget does or fails to do or what it costs. There are no alibis now which the Finance Minister can fall back upon. He has in