

considered on the basis of a feasibility report prepared by a competent professional body.

3. A proposal for amalgamation of the existing concerns owing black and white processing laboratories and the studios in Calcutta and the formation of a joint sector company for the modernisation, proper maintenance and management of these facilities should be considered also on the basis of a detailed project report prepared by a competent professional body.

4. Production of documentaries and news reels by the Films Division should decentralise and a branch office of this Division should be set up for this purpose in Calcutta. Similarly, the work of production of films for TV should also be decentralised and necessary facilities for this purpose developed in Calcutta.

As suggested by the Committee, a multi-functional corporation namely, the National Film Development Corporation, for planning promoting and organising an integrated film industry; import-export of films, distribution/exhibition of films, construction and maintenance of film theatres etc. has been set up by the Central Government. This Corporation however, did not grow as envisaged. But Film Finance Corporation and Indian Motion Pictures Export Corporation have been energetically performing the role envisaged for this Corporation. The Government of West Bengal have also set up a Film Development Board for developing film industry in West Bengal. The Government of West Bengal is also reported to have initiated steps towards setting up a colour film laboratory in Calcutta. The Films Division has put up a production centre in Calcutta for production of films through individual producers from the eastern region. The Films Division is also helping the processing laboratories in Calcutta by getting a part of its processing work done through them.

Thus, the recommendations made by the Committee have been already largely implemented.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY: I have gone very carefully through the statement which the Minister laid on the Table of the House. I am surprised to find that it is very delightfully vague.

Sir, my question was very specific, as to whether the previous Government had implemented the recommendations of the R. C. Dutt Committee on the Bengal Film industry and also whether the present Government desire to implement those recommendations. The Minister only makes a vague statement. He says: "These recommendations made by the Committee have been already largely implemented" without saying how many of them were implemented during the previous government's time and how many have been implemented during the tenure of the present government. The fact remains that in spite of the Minister's claim, the Bengali film industry which has produced giants like Satyajit Ray and Mrinal Sen, continues to languish and the number of Bengali films goes down every year.

The main recommendation of the R. C. Dutt Committee was with regard to distribution channels that the distribution as long as it is in the hands of a few exhibitors and distributors, the good films will not flourish. So it recommended that this distribution should be taken over in the public sector. And the Minister's statement says, the National Film Development Corporation, a multi-functional Corporation, has been set up. This Corporation, however, did not grow as envisaged.

**WELCOME TO HIS EXCELLENCY
MR. HAFEZ AL-ASSAD PRESIDENT
OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC**

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, I have to make an important announcement.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the Hon'ble Members of the House, I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency Mr. Hafez Al-Assad, President of the Syrian Arab Republic who is on a State visit to India as our honoured guest.

He is now seated in the Special Box together with other distinguished Members of his delegation. Through him we convey our greetings and best wishes to the people of the Syrian Arab Republic.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS— contd.

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF R. C. DUTT COMMITTEE—contd.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY: Now I come to the question. As the Bengali film industry is languishing today and as it can be saved from the stranglehold of the exhibitors and distributors, I would like to know whether this Government proposes to have a public sector Corporation for the exclusive purpose of exhibition and distribution of Bengali and other regional films so that good quality films can come up.

SHRI L. K. ADVANI: Sir, the question did pertain to what was done by the earlier Government and what is done by the present Government. The statement is not vague. It elaborated at length the steps taken, because this is a question about the recommendations made by the Dutt Committee, which have relevance to the State Government and to the Central Government. It is a continuing process and steps have been taken. I have specifically mentioned what was done by the previous Government and the present Government. I have already said that though the National Film Development Corporation was set up by the earlier Government, it was not activated; it was allowed to remain inactive, passive. During the year we have taken some steps. On behalf of the FFC, a Branch Office has been opened in Calcutta, because this is one

of the main recommendations that the distribution of films and coloured raw stock should be done there itself. A Script Committee has been set up in Calcutta in October 1977. Apart from that, several steps have been taken which, though they do not strictly relate to the recommendations of the Dutt Committee, I am sure are going to help the regional film industry in general, and the Bengal film industry in particular. I may point out that till last year there used to be an export obligation on the use of coloured raw stock, as a result of which there has been a constant demand from the Bengal film producers for the issue of coloured raw stock without export obligation, because they say this favoured only the Hindi film industry. As a result of the new industrial policy announced on 3rd April, there would be no export obligation on the use of coloured raw stock. This step would greatly help the growth of the regional film industry in Bengal. Then, one of the important recommendations was the setting up of a coloured film laboratory in Calcutta. In this year's budget the State Government have made a provision for the setting up of a coloured film laboratory.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY: I thank the Minister for mentioning the steps taken to revive the film industry. If I may tell the Minister, Calcutta is not only the centre for Bengal film industry, it is also the centre where the Assamese and Oriya films are produced. So, it is a very important regional centre. What the Minister stated pertains to the duties of the State Government. I want to know specifically from the Minister whether the Central Government is coming forward with any help in the coming year to revive the studios in Calcutta, two of which are closed and the others are facing a very difficult situation, so that not only the Bengali film industry but also the regional film industry in the eastern region can be revived. Has the Government any proposal to establish and equip these studios?