

ious feature films out of the total number of films shown on television during 1988 till date;

(b) whether Government have fixed any criteria in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details of the procedure being followed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN- TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF IN- FORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) The total num- ber of films telecast in the national network during 1988 (upto 20.1 1. 1988) is 123 in- cluding foreign feature films. However, it is not possible to strictly classify these films as historical, religious etc, as in many films these ingrediants are present in one form of the other.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Crisis in Tamil Film Industry

*251. SHRI P.R.S. VENKATESAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the serious crisis being faced by the Tamil Film Industry including video piracy; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to help the Tamil film industry to revive itself?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN- TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF IN- FORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). Re- ports have appeared in some sections of the Press about the alleged crisis faced by the Tamil film industry, According to these re- ports, the industry has presented a memo- randum to the Government of Tamil Nadu. The major demands included in the memo- randum are:

- tightening of laws relating to video films;
- Rs. 3 lakh grant/subsidy to all Tamil films;
- 50% tax exemption to small- budget Tamil films;
- 30% entertainment tax cut for films exhibited five years after the date of issue of the censor certificate and 50% cut for those exhibited after 10 years;
- five year moratorium on tax for newly constructed cinema halls;
- permission to charge 50 paise for A/C theatres and 25 paise for non-A/C theatres over and above the ticket rates;
- setting up of a film archives in the State
- reduction of tax on raw film from 14.3. per cent to 5 per cent
- declaration of film production and distribution as an industry;
- multi-fold increase in the royalty paid by Doordarshan to films and song and dance sequences etc.

Cinema, (excluding certification of films for public exhibition) is a State subject. Most of these demands are to be considered by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

The Government of India have been writing to all State Government/Union Terri- tory Administrations to tighten the admini- stration of the anti-piracy measures, and, provide such relief in entertainment tax as may be considered feasible. The rates for telecast of feature films for regional Doord-

arshan Kendras were revised w.e.f. 1.4.1988. Similarly the rates for telecast of song and dance sequences in the 'Chitrahaar' type of programmes in the National Net-work and from Regional Kendras were also revised w.e.f. 1.1.1988.

[*Translation*]

Completion of Sanjay Gandhi Power Project In Madhya Pradesh

*252. SHRI. MOHAN LAL JHIKRAM : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) when the work on the Sanjay Gandhi Power Project in Madhya Pradesh was taken up and the stipulated time by which it was to be completed;

(b) whether there is any obstacle in completion of this project; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to remove it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (c). The Sanjay Gandhi thermal Power Project envisaging installation of two units of 210 MW each was sanctioned in July, 1980. Units I and II were originally envisaged to be commissioned during the years 1985-86 and 1986-87 respectively. Work on the project was taken up in January, 1984.

The Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board (M.P.E.B.) had placed a letter of intent on M/s. ABL for boiler supplies and on M/s. BHEL for the turbine. M/s. ABL stopped supplies for the boiler in October, 1986 and applied for liquidation in Bombay High Court, on account of financial constraints, thereby bringing the project activities to a virtual standstill. Factors such as delays in land acquisition and in finalisation of orders for various auxiliaries equipment/contracts for

civil works also adversely affected the project implementation schedule.

Following the initiatives taken by the Government of India for M/s. ABL's revival, the company have now agreed to supply about 7500 MT of boiler material for the project during 1988-89. The MPEB have advised M/s. BHEL to go ahead with manufacture of the TG equipment and auxiliaries. Keeping in view the manufacturing programme and the despatch schedule of the boilers and TG equipments, Unit-I is expected to be commissioned in September, 1991 and Unit-II in March, 1992.

[*English*]

Import of Gas Turbines by Damodar Valley Corporation

*256. SHRI M. V. CHANDRA SEKHARA MURTHY : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) has been permitted to import gas turbines from some American firms for its power generation station at Maithon, Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the cost of import so permitted;

(c) whether the DVC is unable to raise the capacity utilisation at Maithon and the power generation rate is also fastly declining; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof and the remedial steps taken or contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b). The Damodar Valley Corporation had entered into an agreement with