

water, what is known as 'Oil Agglomeration Process' is still being worked out by the Central Fuel Research Institute at Dhanbad and a small 2 ton. Pilot plant has been established. By the time, the commercial plant is established it is a long story. But we are pursuing that, because if something like that comes, we will get better grade coal after washing.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: The Minister said that he is importing coal worth Rs. 55 crores. I want to know what will be the transportation charges and all put together how much it comes to. Whether it will not be just like carrying coal to New Castle. We have got deposits of coal for 400 years to come. Can we not have this type of coal in our country?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: The hon. Member is making some errors on a zero. The coal in the country is estimated to be for 40 years not for 400 years. By importing coal, we are not carrying coal to New Castle but in fact, from New Castle, we are importing it. The additional cost is railway freight from the port, whatever the railway freight is may be somewhere from Bhilai it may be Rs. 100, from Rourkela it may be something else depending on the port on which it is being unloaded. It is much more expensive than the Indian coal. But if we do not blend it we cannot use modern blast furnace technology. Nobody in the world will use Indian coking coal, nowhere in the world. This high ash coal is used only in India resulting in the loss of blast furnace, what is known—hangings of the blast furnace, more repairs, more time taken and more loss in production. This is how Indian Steel Industry has been going on so far which is sought to be corrected even if it is a little at an additional cost.

Enquiry into exhibition of certain Horror Films

*106. **DR. KARAN SINGH:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to his answer to Unstarred Question

No. 3324 in Lok Sabha on 13th December, 1978 regarding banning of import and production of Horror Films and state:

(a) whether the enquiries have since been conducted under Section 6 of the Cinematograph Act in respect of the films 'the Exorcist' and 'Jadu Tona';

(b) if so, details of the findings of the enquiry body;

(c) whether the exhibition of the above films has now been permanently banned;

(d) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(e) steps being taken by Government to prevent the exhibition of such 'morbid' and 'horror' films in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) to (c). The films, 'The Exorcist' (Revised) (English) and 'Jadu Tona' (Hindi), which were earlier certified for public exhibition restricted to adults by the Board of Film Censors, were uncertified by the Central Government under Section 6(2)(a) of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 (37 of 1952).

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Under the Cinematograph Act and the guidelines issued thereunder, the Board of Film Censors while examining films for certification have to ensure that they remain responsible to the values and standards of our society and that antisocial activities such as violence are not justified.

DR. KARAN SINGH: It is admitted that cinema is a very important means of mass entertainment. But, unfortunately, it has been distorted in such a way that it is having a devastating effect on the mass consciousness, particularly on the younger generations. Apart from the original rash of violence and other sorts of

anti-social activities, the latest craze, the latest addition is this business of horror. In their wisdom they allowed 'The Exorcist' and 'The Omen' which are more morbid than the Indian version of 'Jadu Tona'. You go to Bombay. From the Airport you see *bhoots* and *prates* all the time because of these wretched posters. Is this what we are going to do to our younger generation? So, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether his Ministry and his Government is preparing very rapidly a comprehensive policy so that this sort of films which destroy mass consciousness which distort the mind of the young, are not allowed either to be imported or to be produced. Are profits going to be made by cinema moghals at the cost of young people and their consciousness. I would like to have a clear reply from the hon. Minister.

SHRI L. K. ADVANI: I appreciate the views and sentiments expressed by the hon. member. In fact the hon. member himself had drawn attention of the Government to these films and the action taken by the Government of de-certifying these films is clearly indicative of the policy that the Government wants to pursue.

DR. KARAN SINGH: It is not only the question of these two films. After lakhs of people have seen them they have suddenly been banned. Is the Government going to come out with a policy whereby such films which inculcate horror morbidity and violence and anti-social activities would not be allowed either to be imported or to be produced in the country?

SHRI L. K. ADVANI: Under the Cinematograph Act Government issues guidelines to the Board of Film Censors which are to govern the functioning of the Board. One of the guidelines says—

"That in pursuance of the above objective, the Board of Film Censors shall ensure that pointless and avoidable scenes of violence, cruelty and horror are not shown."

Furthermore I may add that the Board of Film Censors itself saw these films. In their wisdom they asked the Government to de-certify these films. They asked the Government to consider this matter and they said where horror and the fear of superstition are essential elements, such films should not be permitted.

MR. SPEAKER: Hope they have seen them before certifying.

SHRI L. K. ADVANI: Both the Government thinking and the Board of Censors thinking is identical.

कुवारी मजिबेल बल्लभभाई पटेल : क्या मंत्री महोदय को मालूम है कि सेंसर बोर्ड पोस्टरों के बारे में कुछ नहीं कर सकता है ? फिल्मों को सेंसर करता है लेकिन पोस्टरों के बारे में कुछ नहीं कर सकता है आपकी कानून के अनुसार क्या आपको यह पता है ?

श्री लाल कृष्ण शास्त्री : माननीय सदस्य ने जो बात कही है वह सही है। जहां तक इस समय सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के अधिकार क्षेत्र की बात है वह केवल सेंसरशिप आफ फिल्म तक ही सीमित है और पोस्टर नगरपालिकाओं और राज्य सरकारों के अधिकार क्षेत्र में आते हैं। पिछली बार सूचना मंत्रियों का यहां पर सम्मेलन हुआ था। तब इस बात की ओर प्रेशों के सूचना मंत्रियों का ध्यान दिलाया गया था कि इस प्रकार के जो पोस्टर हैं उनके बारे में वे कार्यवाई करें।

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: Before I put the question, I want to tell my friend, the Minister that I have a very permissive attitude in these matters and I do also concede that the area of freedom has to be kept as wide as possible, because Government regulation might mean infringement of freedom....

MR. SPEAKER: That is a matter of opinion. Please put the question.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: In this background, I want to ask whether it is a fact or not that in spite of the guidelines and censorship regulations for films, etc., Government are letting loose a number of films on both television programmes and various places in the country and also importing of foreign films, particularly the American ones, which are full of horror and sex in all their distortions and ugly manifestations. What are the Government doing in these matters?

SHRI L. K. ADVANI: The question relates to two films—one of them is an imported film and the other is a film made in India. In both the cases, Government's actual action, I think, has ensured greater effectivity in curbing this trend than anything else. Government have very categorically declared about this in the guidelines, in various statements made by me and now this specific action has ensured that.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: Why do you allow it on television?

MR. SPEAKER: This question is not related to television.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: I represent the city of Bombay. This is a subject which is of direct interest to the people of Bombay....

MR. SPEAKER: But Bombay is not India.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Bombay is greater than India. The Minister has said in reply to a question that the Government has issued guidelines to the Censor Board and he read out those guidelines. The question precisely is that the film producers themselves feel that the application of these guidelines is discriminatory, biased and a large scale

favouritism goes on. Some films get through. When it comes to foreign films, there is leniency. When it comes to certain favourites of the Censor Board, there is leniency. Therefore, has the Minister received any complaint in regard to this discriminatory application of these guidelines? Is he willing to take a fresh look and tell the film producers specifically that this is the guideline which we are going to implement so that people do not have to go through the expenditure of producing such films.

SHRI L. K. ADVANI: If any case of discrimination is brought to my notice, I will certainly enquire.

श्री बल बल शर्मा : फिल्म कला में तो जो रस है उन में भयानकता रस भी एक कला है। ककणा, बीर खादि रसों की तरह से भयानकता का भी इन रसों में अपना एक महत्व है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि कला को भी क्या सरकार राजनीति के शिकंजे में जकड़ती ?

श्री सत्य कुम्व झाडवाणी : सरकार राजनीति को कला के ऊपर थोपना नहीं चाहती है। लेकिन सरकार का जो समाज के प्रति दायित्व है और खास कर जैसा माननीय सदस्य ने कहा कि यंगर इम्प्रेशनबल जेनरेशन है के प्रति जो दायित्व है उसको निभाने की सरकार कोशिश कर रही है।

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: The film industry by and large is trying to exploit the base instincts of human beings quite contrary to our culture and also our heritage. In every picture it may not be purely 100 per cent horror, but you find in every picture there is some element of horror or some such thing, and the hon. Minister is pleased to say that the Film Censor Board is very closely scrutinising. May I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that there have been various complaints against discriminatory attitude and the Film Censor Board having come under heavy pressure of discriminating one film from the other. Also many blue films are coming into the country clandestinely. I would like to know what action Government propose to take to revamp the Film Censor Board and also

to see that proper persons are being nominated to the Film Censor Board.

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 107.

Scheme to provide legal aid to the poor

*107. SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme to provide free legal aid to the poor largely remains unimplemented;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what additional steps are being taken to ensure implementation of the scheme satisfactorily?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): No, Sir. Various State Governments and Administrations of Union Territories have formulated schemes and they are providing legal aid to the poor under such schemes.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The recommendation of the Bhagwati Committee Report is being processed by the Government to devise a comprehensive scheme at the national level.

SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this particular question of legal aid to the poor assumes greater importance especially in the recent background of harrowing tales we hear of the undertrials in the various States. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are aware that the Supreme Court in its observations recently has even passed strictures on the State Governments regarding the miserable plight and the horrowing plight of undertrial prisoners. And if I am correct, the information goes that there are undertrial prisoners who are just rotting

in the jails for 20 years. That is the position, and this particular question of legal aid to the poor, if I understand correctly, is one of the Directive Principles of the Constitution. Various committees have been working on the legal aid to the poor schemes and Krishna Iyer Committee is there; if I am correct.

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the question.

SHRI K. A. RAJAN: I would like to know what practical steps have been taken on this bigger problem of giving legal aid to the poor and what earnest efforts are made to implement the recommendations of the Committee.

SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN: The hon. Member has highlighted two things. One is the problem of undertrials who remain in jail for a long time. That is a separate matter which is under the active consideration of the Government. There have been discussions between the Home Ministry and the Law Ministry on this. In regard to this some concrete proposals are under the active consideration of the Government in order to solve the problem of undertrial prisoners.

MR. SPEAKER: That is something different from legal aid.

SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN: So far as legal aid is concerned, it is true and I might inform the Hon. Member and the House that out of 22 States, 18 States and some Union Territories have formulated schemes by which they are giving legal aid to the poor in their own way. But yet, so far as the Government of India is concerned, the Government of India is not satisfied that whether those schemes are faultless or are the best possible ones. And therefore, the Government of India appointed an Inter-Departmental Committee to