

Preventive Steps in Environment

*627. SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the preventive steps taken in the matter of environment and whether Government propose to bring out any comprehensive scheme or enactment;

(b) whether there is no punitive action by the Government against the offenders; and

(c) if so, whether such a provision is proposed to be incorporated in various Acts?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) to (c). A High Level Committee constituted to recommend legislative measures and administrative machinery to ensure environmental protection submitted its report on 15th September, 1980. One of the main recommendations to set up a Department of Environment (DOEn.) at the Centre has been implemented. The other recommendations have been remitted to the DOEn., where they are currently under examination, and processing.

Existing environmental legislation covers a whole range of Central, State and Municipal Legislations, numbering several hundreds, and relates to forests, wildlife, public health, sanitation, factories, mines, pollution control, soil conservation, urban and rural settlements, town planning, etc., involving several Ministries, State Governments, Union Territories and Municipalities. These have been enacted at various points of time in the past and incorporate aspects of monitoring as well as penalties. The High-Level Committee had recommended a comprehensive and systematic review of existing legislation in the light of present circumstances followed by new legislation wherever required and in particular for twelve areas of relevance to environmental protection.

Joint Venture with British Electronics Industry

*628. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the British Electronics Industry has evinced interest to set up joint ventures in India with Indian companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government to it?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) to (c). A delegation representing a wide spectrum of the UK electronic component industry visited India recently. The delegation held discussions with interested Indian counter-parts in Bangalore, Hyderabad and Bombay. However, no concrete proposal for joint ventures has emerged so far.

State Legislation on Screening of Films

*630. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Centre has raised certain objections to the West Bengal's proposal to enact legislation making it compulsory for cinemas in the State to screen films made here for at least 12 weeks;

(b) whether some similar proposal has also been received from the Government of Tamil Nadu; and

(c) if so, the details of (a) and (b) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH): (a) Government of West Bengal have sent "The Compulsory Screening of West Bengal Films Bill, 1979" for previous sanction of the President under proviso to Article 304 (b) of the Constitution, before its introduction in the State Legislature. The draft bill was examined in consultation with the Ministries concerned. Legal opinion is that the proposed Bill