

lot of demand for Indian Films, especially in the Middle East countries, the Caribbean and Pakistan, but up to now no positive steps have been taken to earn foreign exchange by the export of Indian films?

**SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA:** There is a good deal of demand for Indian films in the West Asian countries and some other countries of Africa; but it is not a fact that no efforts have been made so far for promoting exports. Efforts have been made successfully to promote exports, but further efforts are necessary to fully utilise this demand which exists for Indian films in this country.

**SHRI AMRIT NAHATA:** May I know from the hon. Minister as to what happened to the proposal of setting up a Film Council merging FFC and IMPEC with it and what steps are being taken to liberate the Indian film talents from the clutches of private finance which are primarily responsible for distorting the most powerful weapon of mass media in our country?

**SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA:** We have not yet taken any decision regarding setting up of a Film Council.

As regards the second part of the question put by the hon. Member, this is a matter which is very controversial, and it cannot be settled by evolving a film policy. This is a matter which is mostly of an administrative nature.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### **Three-Nation Pact on Manufacture of Armaments**

\*23. **SHRI RAJA KULKARNI:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the reaction of Government to the reported three-nation—Pakistan, Iran, Turkey—pact on joint manufacturing of armaments; and

(b) whether Government have ascertained what type of weapons would be manufactured by these nations?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) and (b). Government have seen press reports which suggest that talks have taken place between the three countries on the possibilities of joint manufacture of armaments. However, confirmation of a pact having been made and details of the programme of manufacture are not yet available. Anything which adds to the arms potential of Pakistan will hamper normalisation of relations between India and Pakistan.

##### **Assistance to Iran for development of Atomic Research Laboratories**

\*29. **SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO:** Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Iran made a request that assistance be given to them for the development of their atomic research laboratories; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND MINISTER OF SPACE (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) and (b). The President of the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran visited India in December 1975 and held discussions with the Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission to consider the possibilities of co-operation between India and Iran in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Further action will be taken to establish a basis of co-operation after signing of an agreement for co-operation.