

Ban on Import of U.S. Films Depicting Sex, Violence and Crimes

*1692. **SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN** : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of U.S. films glorifying sex, violence and crime are being imported into India every year ; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to ban the import of such films into the country ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. Under the Cinematograph Act of 1952 no film can be exhibited publicly without obtaining a certificate from the Central Board of Film Censors. The Board takes particular care to ensure that films which offend against decency, and morality as well as public order are not shown to the public. In view of this the question does not arise.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN : In view of the fact that recently in the Nargar-wala bank robbery case, one of the accused said to the police that he was inspired by seeing foreign films of crime, and several such instances happen in our country,—and in view also of the fact that these films are instigate the people or inspiring or inciting the people to commit crimes may I know whether the Government would take appropriate measures to stop the import of such films ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : I have said that there is a Central Board of Film Censors. Before we import any film and before it is exhibited, it is first passed by the Central Board of Film Censors. Then alone can it be exhibited publicly in the country.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN : Sir, do you think the answer is satisfactory. I do not understand. They have the regulations, and under those regulations, the films are exhibited and those films are inspiring the people to commit crimes. I am asking whether the Government would reconsider it and ban such films.

Secondly, may I know whether the Government is aware of the fact that so many blue films imported from the U.S.A. are being exhibited in India, and if so, what

are the steps the Government are taking to stop it ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : So far as the Central Board of Film Censors is concerned, it is working under the Ministry of I & B As for the suggestion of the hon. Member, I will pass it on to the Board.

About the import of films from America, it was discussed in this House only a few days back, and I had stated that the agreement had expired on the 30th June. We are not going to revive it. But we will have some import from the USA also, and the point raised by the hon. Member can be taken into consideration. I will pass it on to the Central Board of Film Censors also.

श्री बी० पी० शौर्य : अध्यक्ष महोदय, ऐसा लगता है कि सम्मानित मंत्री के मंत्रालय और फिल्म सेंसर बोर्ड से सम्बन्धित जो मंत्रालय है उसमें कोर्भाईनेशन कम है क्योंकि यहाँ पर इसी से सम्बन्धित एक प्रश्न प्राया था...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप प्रश्न कीजिए ।

श्री बी० पी० शौर्य : क्या यह सत्य है कि हिन्दुस्तान की फिल्मों और विदेशी फिल्मों सेंसर बोर्ड के सामने जब सेन्सर के लिए जाती है तो दोहरा पैमाना होता है...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह तो आपने पहले भी पूछा था । आप रिपीट कर रहे हैं ।

श्री बी० पी० शौर्य : मैं प्रश्न पर ही आ रहा हूँ । श्री सम्मानित मंत्री ने जो कहा है उससे दोहरा पैमाना जाहिर नहीं होता है । ने कहते हैं कि सेंसर बोर्ड फिल्में सेंसर करता है । मैं किसी फिल्म विशेष का नाम न लेकर पूछना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसी फिल्में इस देश में आई है जिनको सदा नहीं दिखाया जाना चाहिए था—पुत्र द्वारा माँ के साथ बलात्कार और इससे भी गम्भी गम्भी फिल्में यहाँ पर दिखाई गईं तो एक तो परम्परा का ध्यान रखते हुये और दूसरे इस माध्यम से कितना कमाल है, कितना गंवारते हैं, कितनी हमारी फिल्में बनरीका जाती हैं, श्री

कितनी अमरीका की फिल्में हमारे देश में जाती हैं—इन सब बातों को ध्यान में रखते हुये क्या मन्त्री महोदय भविष्य में निश्चय लेंगे ?

श्री एच० एच० मिश्रा : अध्यक्ष जी, जहाँ तक विदेश मंत्रालय का प्रश्न है, हमारा विशेष सम्बन्ध इस बात से है कि कितनी फिल्में खरीदें हैं और कितनी फिल्में बेचते हैं। जैसा मैंने प्रायकी बताया कि अमरीका कार्मशियल पर्पज के लिए हमारी फिल्में बहुत कम लेता था और हम उनसे ज्यादा लेते थे। इसीलिए हमने उनसे कहा है कि सधि तभी हो सकती है जब बराबर लेन देन की बात करें, वे हमारी फिल्में खरीदें तभी हम उनकी फिल्में भी खरीद सकते हैं। जो पुरानी सधि थी वह 30 जून को समाप्त हो गई है।

अहाँ तक फिल्मों की क्वालिटी की बात है, मातनीय सदस्य के सुझाव में सम्बन्धित मन्त्रालय को निजबा दूंगा लेकिन ये बातें हर प्रादमी के विचार पर निर्भर करती हैं।

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI : In view of the fact that these Films are very adversely affecting the entire way of life of our youth, will the Government take steps to charge the guide-lines regarding the censor policy ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : My Ministry is not concerned with the guide-lines. I can only give the same answer, that I will pass it on to the Censor Board and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Is it a fact that at the Central Advisory Committee meeting held in 1968 the Vice-Chancellors of the different Universities almost unanimously said that one of the most important factors contributing to violence on the part of the students is the vulgarised films particularly from the United States, and if so, may I know whether the Government will try to restrict these films so as to save our youth ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : I am not aware of what the hon. Member says. I did not attend that meeting. I can only

assure him that I shall ask the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to take note of the point raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : May I know whether the hon Minister is aware that the uncensored version of the films which had won Academy Awards were shown to Members of Parliament—we have all seen them, indulging Mr. Samar Guha—but that the same films are being shown to the people after censoring ? Why this discrimination ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : It was shown specially for the MPs.

SHRI G. VISHWANATHAN : Such violence and crime are not the monopoly of English films, they are in the Indian films also, Is the Minister aware of the demand from the film industry that there should not be a total ban on the import of American films, and if so, what is the reaction of the Government ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : We are not putting a total ban. The terms and conditions of the agreement have to be negotiated. The old agreement has expired on the 30th June. We have not revived it. We have to have a new agreement on the condition that Americans are prepared to purchase our films.

Decline in Exports of Textiles and Plan to Moderate Exporting Mills

*1693. **SHRI DINESH JOARDER :** Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether our exports of cotton textiles are likely to decline from 1972 ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether Government have any plan to modernise the exporting mills with the latest machinery in order to enable them to compete in the international markets ; and

(d) if so, the main features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir.