

LOK SABHA

Friday, November 24, 1967/ Agrahayana 3,
1889 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock*

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

DEFECTIVE RAW FILMS MANUFACTURED
BY HINDUSTAN FILM COMPANY

*241. SHRI BABURAO PATEL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of black and white positive raw film manufactured by the Hindustan Film Company, Ootacamund has been found defective and its supply was rejected by the Central Raw Film Advisory Committee;

(b) if so, the quantity and value of the film found defective and the amount of loss suffered by the Company as a result thereof;

(c) the reasons for the defective manufacture of film; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to prevent the manufacture of defective film in future ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS
(SHRI BHANU PRAKASH SINGH) :

(a) No, Sir. A very negligible percentage was found defective by the consumers and not by the Central Raw Film Advisory Committee.

(b) 0.8 per cent of the total supplies made from April to October 1967 valued approximately at Rs. 25,000.

(c) Even in respect of Companies of reputation and standing it is not uncommon in an industry of this complexity and so-

phistication for such minor defects developing now and then. Even in the case of imported Cine material, defects were noticed which had to be remedied by suppliers.

(d) Adequate arrangements have been made for ensuring quality control and full investigation is made whenever complaints are received.

SHRI BABURAO PATEL : I wanted to know the percentage of loss. He has not told us about that.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : It has been mentioned as 0.8 per cent. If the hon. Member would like to know the number also, I can give the figure. During April-October 1967, 24,622 rolls of 35 mm and 16 mm were marketed and out of these, only 250 were found defective.

SHRI BABURAO PATEL : Because we have found defects in some foreign films, that is no justification for having defects in our films. This is a public sector undertaking. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister would agree to appoint a committee of Parliament to look into this matter and make this losing concern a profitable one.

SHRI NATH PAI : We support that. Shri Patel should head the Committee.

SHRI F. A. AHMED : It has been pointed out that this is a very sophisticated industry. These defects are not confined to our industry alone. Even those countries which have been doing this manufacture for the last few years, have these defects. We immediately replace them when defects are found. I do not think there is any necessity to appoint a committee.

SHRI RANGA : In view of the fact that this is a public sector undertaking, why should they not refer this matter to the Public Undertakings Committee ?

SHRI S. R. DAMANI : Are any imported components used in the manufacture

of these films, and if so, what efforts are being made to replace them with indigenous ones ?

SHRI F. A. AHMED : We are increasing the production, and to the extent we are able to manufacture, import has been reduced.

As regards Shri Rang's question, in due course the Public Undertakings Committee will examine it.

SHRI RANGA : 'In due course' will be in another three or four years.

SHRI TENNETI VISWANATHAM : May I know whether there are manufacturers in the private sector whose applications have been pending and whether any encouragement is being given to them ?

SHRI F. A. AHMED : I require notice.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Last time when we visited this undertaking, we were told that the collaborators were not co-operating in bringing out proper materials. Has that difficulty been removed by now ?

SHRI F. A. AHMED : There was some difficulty at one stage because there was change of collaboration in France itself. Now the collaborator who has entered into an agreement has got partnership with an American firm. This matter was also discussed by me recently in Paris and the position has improved since then.

BENNETT COLEMAN & Co., LTD.

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*242. **SHRI P. RAMAMURTI :**
SHRI E. K. NAYANAR :
SHRI P. GOPALAN :
SHRI NAMBIAR :
SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU :
SHRI C. K. CHAKRAPANI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have in the recent past received any representation from the employees of the Times of India, Bombay, a concern of M/s. Bennett Coleman & Co. Ltd., against the Chairman of the Company;

(b) what are the main points mentioned in the representation; and

(c) whether Government propose to investigate the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUNATH REDDI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main points mentioned in the representation are as follows :

(i) It has been alleged that the Chairman of the Company persuaded the workers to accept 6.06 per cent of the total earnings of the company as bonus for 1965 and assured that interim relief would be paid to the employees as recommended by the Wage Board, but subsequently he backed out of his commitment with regard to the payment of interim relief. It is alleged that for 1966 bonus has been provided at the rate of 4 per cent.

(ii) The Chairman of the company is alleged to have received from Shri and Smt. S. P. Jain two lakhs of rupees in cash for meeting his election expenses.

(iii) Instead of giving the insurance business to New India Assurance Co. Ltd., the Chairman decided to continue the business with Universal Fire & General Insurance Co. Ltd. As a result the Times of India Co-operative Stores has been deprived of commission of over Rs. 30,000/-

(c) The allegation at (i) above concerns the State Government to whom copies of the representation have been sent by the complainant himself. Allegation (ii) above is being enquired into. Regarding the allegation at (iii) above, enquiry made into the matter reveals that the Oriental Fire & General Insurance Co. Ltd. paid commission in respect of the insurance of Times of India building at New Delhi for two periods, namely 12-1-1965 to 12-1-1966 and 12-1-66 to 12-1-1967 to the Times of India Employees Co-operative Credit Society Ltd. As regards the current period, namely 12-1-1967 to 12-1-1968, no commission has been paid to the said Society. Though the licence under which the Times of India Employees Co-operative Credit Society is authorised to work as insurance agent is valid up to 12th January, 1968, the Chairman of the company has taken the view that the Society cannot be appointed as agent since it did not have the authority to work as an agent under its bye-laws.

SHRI P. RAMAMURTI : What was the investigation made by the Company Law