

MR. SPEAKER : He is stretching the question too much.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : We are encouraging all Indian writers in every language ; there is no question of choosing this language or that language. (Interruptions.)

SHRI BASUMATARI : Why had not the Government encouraged Hindi writers to bring out such stores ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Government does encourage the Hindi film producers to produce good films and if he has seen the films during the last one or two weeks, he would have seen that quite a few of them are good Hindi films. As to whether a director, producer, or cameraman or a writer has his mother tongue or that mother tongue we do not ask that.

SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA : Just now the hon Member has said that the proposed Film Council needs an Act of Parliament. The Government has been unable to bring forward a Bill in the House. I think the Indian Motion Pictures Association are putting some obstruction as they are against the Film Council.

I want to know from the Government on what points they are objecting to the proposed Film Council and how do the Government want to meet them.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : As a result of the meeting which was held about two or three weeks ago, presided over by my senior colleague, and after that meeting, the Film Federation, the Films Guild and all other organised film industries and institutions have agreed to support the idea of a Film Council. At the moment, there is nobody who is interested or connected with the film industry who is objecting to it.

SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA : I said objection.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : There is no question of objection ; they are all supporting it.

SHRI C. KUNDU : The hon. Minister said that the proposed Film Council could also have some regulatory functions. I

would like to know whether the Minister is aware of the large smuggling in films and that the Government of India is losing Rs. 3 crores by way of foreign exchange. I want to know whether this function of checking this smuggling and arresting the drain on foreign exchange is also to be left to the Council or whether the Government propose to do it on its own.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : My hon friend would agree that the arresting of the smuggling—things coming in and going out—cannot be done by any Council, and it has to be done by the Governmental authority, whether the Home Ministry or the Finance Ministry. I think they are conscious of it and they are doing their best.

Loan Advanced to Film Finance Corporation

*640. DR SUSHILA NAYAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that heavy amount has been given to the Film Finance Corporation as loan for financing the film producers in the country for making standard films ;

(b) if so, the amount of loan which has been given to the Corporation during the last 3 years ;

(c) whether Government have received any complaints regarding irregularities in the utilisation of this loan ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken against the defaulters ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) Government have granted loans amounting to Rs. 50 lakhs to the Film Finance Corporation during the year 1963-64 to 1966-67.

(b) No loan has been given to the Corporation during the last three years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR : In view of the fact that these loans have been given to produce standard films as they are called, I would like to know what is the exact meaning of a standard film. Is it intended that these should be films which produce a desirable effect upon the mind of the people, certain ideas and ideologies are propagated, and, if so, may I know what types of films have been or are intended to be produced? Are these films intended to propagate and maintain communal harmony or the removal of untouchability? Is there any particular clear objective as to what are the types of films we want to produce? Films are the most powerful media of educating public opinion. I would like to know what the Government proposes to achieve through this medium, and what exactly is their concept of a standard film?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : The object of the Film Finance Corporation has been to encourage healthy trends in film making. Now, it may be difficult for me to say in two words what those healthy trends are, but naturally, those healthy trends have to be in conformity with the national life, national attitude and national goals. The results achieved by the Film Finance Corporation over the last few years are very encouraging, because, out of the 43 films released and financed by the Film Finance Corporation, up to 31st March, 1970, 21 films have won awards or certificates of merit or they have been granted exemption from entertainment-tax on account of their merit. Outstanding films like those of Satyajit Ray, etc., have also been financed by the Film Corporation of India. They have succeeded in encouraging new and healthy trends in film-making.

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR : In view of the fact that the Minister agrees that films can be a powerful medium of educating public opinion, will the Government put forth any plan or proposal to give certain definite directions and ideas for the production of films, and for the finalisation of these ideas. Will they have some kind of an advisory committee or voluntary agency say, the Members of Parliament, or any other agency so that this powerful medium can be used for propagation of those ideas which are dear to all of us, to whatever political party we may belong?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : It is our hope that the Film Council will be able to play this role.

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI : Most of the films produced with the help of the money of the Film Corporation are flops at the box office and the Corporation has lost a greater part of the money that it loaned out, though some of the films may probably get State awards. May I know what is the quantum of bad debts and what is the basis for advancing money, whether the directors are experienced people, whether they have a proper scrutinising committee to see the script etc., so that the money is not lost?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Flopping at the box office is no test at all, because unfortunately many good films are not shown. Also, films that make money are not necessarily good films. Unfortunately we have very few cinemas in our country compared to the demand and there are interests in the exhibition industry which do not encourage good films. If good films are made, they are not shown and so they fail financially. It is neither the fault of the film producer nor of those who encouraged it. Therefore, ways and means have to be found to create conditions and circumstances where good films can be shown. One such step suggested by the Khosla Committee and encouraged by our consultative committee is to encourage the coming in of art theatres and we are trying to build that circuit now. About loans, due scrutiny of the scripts, of the idea and the casting is made before money is given. In the last 10 years or so since the coming into existence of this Corporation, the total amount of bad debts including interest is Rs. 12.66 lakhs.

श्री प्रेम चन्द वर्मा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने एक अच्छी बात कही है कि फिल्म बनाने का हमारा मतलब केवल पैसा कमाना नहीं है, अच्छी फिल्में प्रोड्यूस करना है तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि फिल्म फाइनेंस कारपोरेशन के बनाने का अगर यह मकसद है कि अच्छी फिल्में बनाई जायं तो अच्छा है लेकिन वह अच्छी फिल्में बनाई जायं उसके

लिए उन्होंने कौन सी ऐसी मशीनरी स्थापित कर रखी है जो पैसा देने के पहले उस कहानी को, उस डायलाग को और जो कुछ भी उसके अन्दर है उसको देख कर यह फंसला कर सके कि यह फिल्म अच्छी है और यह फिल्म पैसा भी डुबोएगी नहीं, अच्छी चलेगी, इस सिलसिले में उन्होंने कौन से ऐसे कदम उठा रखे हैं जिस से कि राष्ट्र का यह पैसा कहीं पर जाया न हो ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : I think there is some sort of double thinking on this. If films are a significant medium of expression and education, it should be understood that Government must invest some money. Any money invested in encouraging good films is not waste of national resources and it should not be thought of as bad debts. About the procedure, every script that is submitted is first scrutinised by the script committee consisting of eminent men. That is why the totality of the results has been very encouraging.

SHRI TENNETI VISWANATHAM : To encourage good films, if good films lose, will Government make good the loss, because you said one purpose is to encourage good films. Taking about healthy trends, when a healthy body is presented, the censors come in the way and try to curb it.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : I do not think the film censors are coming in the way of healthy minds or healthy bodies. I think, the film censors are encouraging both.

So far as making good the losses is concerned, I am not very sure what can be done ; but I am definitely of opinion that some such institutions must be evolved when this strong and powerful medium can be used for national good.

SHRI C. K. BHATTACHARYYA : The hon. Minister has stated that films are meant for educational enlightenment. Has he gone into the other aspect of it that quite a good number of films are responsible for the present indiscipline among the youth and the students ? Has he ever studied that aspect of the question ?

MR. SPEAKER : From the Film Council it has gone on to all the aspects of the film industry. Anyway, if he is willing to answer it, I have no objection.

SHRI C. K. BHATTACHARYYA : Has he any time to devote to that aspect of the question ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : I have the time and the responsibility to devote my attention to various aspects of the media that I am supposed to look after. Films can be used for good or for bad. I do know that sometimes films have encouraged trends which are not healthy.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : This year and in the coming year there will be a number of centenaries of great men of India such as the centenary of C. R. Das, the bi-centenary of Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Vidyasagar and Aurobindo. I want to know whether the Film Corporation has been instructed to take up documentary films on the lives and activities of these great men.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no end to it ; these are all suggestions for action.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : It is not the responsibility of the Film Finance Corporation. The biographical documentaries are looked after and taken care of by the Films Division. I am conscious and aware that all the points that my hon. friend has made are taken good care of.

Allocation for a Task Force of Unemployed Youth

*641. **SHRI BENI SHANKER SHARMA :** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Government have been urged to allot at least Rs. 1,000 crores to build a national task force of unemployed youth which should build roads, canals, dams and other public projects ; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BISHWANATH ROY) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.