

LOK SABHA DEBATES

1

LOK SABHA

Friday, April 3, 1987 | Chaitra 13,
1909 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

WELCOME TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SWITZERLAND

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Members, at the outset, I have to make an announcement.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the Hon'ble Members of this august House, I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency Mr. Jean-Jacques Cevy, President of the National Council of Switzerland who is on a visit to India as our honored guest.

He arrived Delhi today early morning. He is now seated in the special box. We wish him a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through him we convey our greetings and best wishes to the President, the Federal Assembly, the Government and the friendly people of Switzerland

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Festival of films produced in non-aligned and developing countries

*532. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state ;

2

(a) whether a proposal to hold a film festival of pictures produced in non-aligned and developing countries was approved in the Non-aligned Summit at Harare;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the festival will be held in Pyong Yang; and

(d) if so, the progress made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). At Pyong Yang from the 1st to the 13th September 1987.

(d) In accordance with established practice, the host country, namely the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, is to make all necessary preparations in this regard.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether any criteria are laid down with regard to the nature of films to be exhibited in this festival I raise this question here because certain criteria are very necessary. I may mention here that in the Three-month Film Festival held in France, 105 films were exhibited. But there were comments that these films were star-oriented and not director oriented, that is, only the personality and popularity of the stars was projected and theme was not given any importance.

You also know that when Shri Satyajit Ray's *Pather Panchali* was exhibited abroad, our late lamented Nargis commented that Shri Satyajit Ray was presenting only the solemn face of India. Recently too, there were comments all over the country when Shri

Satyajit Ray's *Sadgati*, a television film based on Prem Chand's novel was exhibited.

So, in this background, I would like to know whether any criteria are laid down as to the nature of the films that are to be exhibited.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : The organisation of the Film Festival is in the hands of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the host country. We are no longer the Chairman of the non-aligned Movement. We will only be going there as a participant. As far as the details of the organisation, how the films are to be selected, the number of delegats who will be going there, etc., are concerned, it has to be left to that country.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : Perhaps I have not made myself clear. It is not that we have to choose the films. The NAM will not compel us that we have to exhibit only such and such films. I only want to know whether we have decided upon any criteria that films based on our struggle against the colonial economic atmosphere in the country, our struggle against social injustice, our programmes for upliftment of women, our struggle against all sorts of injustice and so on have to be exhibited in the Film Festival. Or as has happened in the France Festival will star-oriented films only be exhibited? I know, of course, that this subject rightly belongs to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and that it has been transferred to the External Affairs Ministry. Difficulties would be there I understand the difficulties of the Hon. Minister. But I would like that the Government must commit itself. There must be criteria fixed about the nature of films to be exhibited in the film festivals.

SHRI NATWAR SINGH : Sir, as the Hon. Member has said, the Director of Film Festivals will be deciding the kind of films that are to be exhibited. Now, the points which the Hon. Member have made are very valid and I shall certainly pass them on to my colleague—the Minister of Information.

Steps to boost trade with China

***533. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to State :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news-item captioned "Steps to promote India-China trade" in Hindustan Times dated 12 March 1987;

(b) what precise steps are being taken or proposed in this direction;

(c) whether China has shown any interest in promoting trade with India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) Specific steps to improve trade between India and P. R. China include exchange of trade delegations, signing of a trade agreement in August 1984 under which the two governments agreed to accord Most-Favoured Nation Treatment on matters relating to bilateral trade and signing of a trade protocol in November 1985 to facilitate exchange of goods between the two countries during 1986. The two countries have been participating in each other's trade fair.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Last month, two Chinese delegation from China National Textile Machinery Corporation and Chinese Council for Promotion of International Trade visited India. They expressed interest in expanding two-way trade and particularly in import of textile manufacturing equipment manufactured in India.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, an agreement to increase