

not get proper supplies. The ITI is forced to supply equipment at a low price because its competitor has quoted a low price. It supplies at a low price because it does not want to lose other guaranteed orders. This results in unjustified loss to the ITI. I demand that the ITI be given orders so that it can use its full capacity. There should be better coordination between the DOT and the ITI in respect of design and production requirement in order to be self-reliant. It should be provided with the best equipments which are suitable for Indian conditions. The main reasons for the loss have been outlined in the Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting. They are as follows: Price reduction due to competition; distress sale price of C DOT equipment, including uneconomical quotation; unvalidated products and uneconomical prices obtained to the ITI for various products. Sir, I demand that the Government intervene in the matter and a CBI enquiry be conducted into this. Thank you.

### SPECIAL MENTIONS

#### RECONSTITUTION OF CENTRAL FILM CENSOR BOARD

**SHRI MOHAN BABU** (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, since I am speaking in this august House for the first time, I seek the blessings and good wishes of the Vice-Chairman and the other hon. Members.

Sir, I thank you for permitting me to make a Special Mention on a matter of particular importance for the film industry as well as the general public.

Films are not merely for entertainment. Art imitates life and this is reflected in the films. In a way, films are a record of changing social trends and the reach of this medium is phenomenal. Films cut across the

limitations of illiteracy and language barriers. Films reflect our cultural ethos and norms can be instruments of teaching. That is why the indifferent attitude of the Central Government to the functioning of this media should be corrected immediately.

Sir, the tenure of the Central Board of Film Certification, which is popularly called as the Central Film Censor Board, has expired. But the Board has not yet been reconstituted. I don't find any reason why this matter should have been delayed so long. The Board should be reconstituted immediately.

Some of the regional panels have recently been reconstituted. Though some deserving people, interested in film industry and well-versed with its problems, have been included in those panels, there is some well-founded criticism that many have been included on considerations other than merit and they are misusing their position. Such elements should be weeded out. I demand that eminent people should be included in the panels as well as in the Central Film Censor Board.

The Government has recently revised the guidelines for censorship. As a producer and as an artist who had the opportunity of acting in 438 films so far, I can say from my experience and with authority that the guidelines should be practical. The artistic expressions should not be curbed by virtue of the blind interpretation, in black and white. The guidelines should not only be explicit and clear but should also be applied uniformly to both Indian and foreign films. There cannot be two different standards—one for Indian films and another for foreign films—as the viewers of both of them are the citizens of our great nation and our most important target audience, our youth.

All of us are aware that the fare dished out by the foreign satellite channels is generally vulgar and unfit for viewing along with our family members, especially the children. After the cable network has spread even to remote, semi-urban and urban areas, this menace has spread far and wide, thus, affecting the impressionable minds of our youth and children. The time has come for the Government to look into this matter seriously and to apply controls and restrictions on such programmes. It is imperative to take cognizance of the far-reaching repercussions which these foreign channels can cause on today's India.

Sir, I would also like to express my disappointment that important film bodies like the National Film Development Corporation, the Film Appellate Tribunal, etc., have also not been reconstituted. I would, therefore, request the Government, through you, Sir, to take immediate action in the matter.

Thank you, Sir.

### **ONSLAUGHT OF FOREIGN LEGAL FIRMS ON INDIAN LEGAL PROFESSION**

SHRI SANJAY DALMIA (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House, through you, to an important matter which is causing serious concern in the legal community of this country. The Reserve Bank of India is authorised to give permission to foreign companies to operate and do business in India as far as manufacturing and other related activities are concerned. But what we find now is that foreign companies are coming, foreign legal firms are coming into India in a big way to give opinion, interpretation on Indian law. This kind of a thing is not allowed in countries like Japan, Australia and other developed countries. I do not know

under what circumstances such companies are being allowed to operate and interpret the Indian law in India.

This is totally against the letter and spirit of the Advocates Act, and it violates the Advocates Act. I find what they are doing is that they are coming and establishing their shops in India and taking one or two Indian lawyers, using them as a front to bypass the Indian Advocates Act, operate in India and give interpretation of the Indian law. The worst thing is that such firms are being employed in the Government and in the public sector undertakings at fees which are astronomical. I am told that one of the companies has been employed in the Finance Ministry at a fee of three hundred dollars per hour, that is, Rs. 10,000/- per hour which comes to something like Rs. 80,000/- per day. I know that no legal firm in India, however top it may be, is paid this kind of a professional fee for interpreting the Indian law. My point is that we must put an end to this kind of a thing. Foreign firms are most welcome to give their opinion on the foreign and international law to which I don't have any objection, though I know that our Indian law firms are equally competent to give interpretation of the international law also.

If it is required in the interest of business and otherwise to take the opinion of the foreign law firms for interpretation of international and foreign laws, I don't have much objection. But I certainly don't think that it is appropriate to allow foreign law firms to operate in India to interpret our own laws and on fees which are astronomical and much more than what our own Indian law firms are being given. This will bring doom to our Indian law firms. So, this should be put an end to immediately.