

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 20th November, 1987/
29 Kartika, 1909 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock. Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Import of films by Doordarshan

*201. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of T.V. serials, feature films and documentaries imported by the Doordarshan during the last two years;

(b) the names of such films telecast so far;

(c) the amount spent on their imports; and

(d) the reasons for their imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (d) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

The reply to parts (a) to (d) of the question is given below *ad-seriatim*:

(a) The information is given in the Annexure-I (See below).

(b) The information is given in the Annexure-II (See below).

(c) The foreign exchange spent on import of the programmes is given below:—

US Dollars	254675/-
Pound Sterling	81000/-
D.M.	94265.60/-

(d) All the programmes imported were produced by different international TV. Organisations/Agencies of

repute. Such programmes add variety and give an opportunity to viewers to see selected good quality international programmes.

Annexure-I

LIST OF THE INTERNATIONAL SERIALS/FILMS PROCURED BY DOORDARSHAN FOR TELECAST DURING THE LAST TWO YEARS

TITLE OF SERIALS, MUSICAL PROGRAMMES ETC.

MANAGEMENT SERIES

THE WHY'S AND WHERE FORES

ECONOMICS MADE EASY

SECRETS OF THE SEA

POP IN GERMANY

THE OLD FOX

JAMES LAST SHOW EXPRESS

TERRY AND JUNE SR. I

TERRY AND JUNE SR. II

SHOE STRING SR. II

ARE YOU BEING SERVED

ROCK LINE

CUCKOO

THE SILK ROAD

THE JEWEL IN THE CROWN

SHERLOCK HOLMES

MICKY AND DONALD

EASTER SUPER BOOK

HE-MAN & THE MASTERS

FESTIVAL OF INDIA IN THE U.S.A.

LIVE AID

MUSIC CIRCUS

WELL TEMPERED BACH

SHOE STRING

SORRY

STAR TREK

EXPEDITION TO THE ANIMAL KINGDOM

GLOBAL REPORT

COMPUTER PROGRAMME

TENDER IS THE NIGHT

ALICE IN WONDER LAND

HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES
 THE INVISIBLE MAN
 GREAT EXPEDITION
 YES PRIME MINISTER
 SOLDIERS
 BIRDS FOR 11 SEASON
 ZOO 2000
 WILD LIFE ON ONE
 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SPECIAL
 EUROTOPIES/CLASSICAL MASTERPIECES (11 EPS.)
 DANGER BAY (13 EPS.)
 FAIRIE TALE THEATRE (13 EPS.)

TITLE OF FEATURE FILMS

THE GIFT
 DELTA COUNTY
 NERO WOLFE
 THE SPEED AND BROWN SHOE
 GIRL AND THE GOLD WATCH
 LIVES OF JENNY DOLAN
 LOW ANDORDER
 REBECCA
 THE PARADINE CASE
 SPELL BOUND
 DUEL IN THE SUN
 NOTORIOUS
 HOW GREEN WAS MY VALLEY
 THE LEFT HAND OF GOD
 ONE HUNDRED RIFLES
 DESIREE
 THOSE MAGNIFICENT MEN IN THEIR FLYING MECHINES

Annexure-II

LIST OF FOREIGN FILMS TELECAST DURING THE LAST TWO YEARS

1. THE GIFT (PART-I)
2. THE GIFT CONCLUDING PT. I
3. NOTORIOUS
4. TENSPEED & BROWNSHOE PT. I

5. TENSPEED & BROWNSHOE (Concluding Part)
6. LAW & ORDER (PART I)
7. LAW & ORDER (PART II)
8. REBECCA
9. LAW & ORDER (Concluding Part)
10. DELTA COUNTRY (PART I)
11. DUEL IN THE SUN
12. DELTA COUNTRY (Concluding Part)
13. NERO WOLFE (PART I)
14. THE LIVES OF JENNY DOLAN (PART I)
15. NERO WOLFE (Concluding Part)
16. THE LIVES OF JENNY DOLAN (Concluding Part)
17. THE PARADINE CASE
18. HOW GREEN WAS MY VALLEY
19. THE LEFT HAND OF GOD
20. THOSE MAGNIFICENT MEN IN FLYING MACHINES
21. HUNDRED RIFLES

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Sir, I am opposed to any such invited cultural invasion from the West through imported films as put by the Joshi Committee. But I am all for free flow of information particularly through educational and scientific films and films on nature, wild life etc. BBC has recently telecast a film on how Pakistan managed theft of nuclear material and similarly, they are going to screen a film on South Africa also. There are good children's films in U.S.S.R., award-winning films from U.S.A., Canada and Japan. They are really good and they should be welcomed. But I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the system, the criterion and the agency for selection of films for screening on T.V. and what are the guidelines for it. I would like to know whether there is any world marketing system to find out what is good for us and

what is the import policy and whether any changes are going to be made in them to remove certain ambiguities.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far as the first portion is concerned, if it is an international serial and programme, then it is selected by a Committee in which there are two non-official members and one official member. So far as the foreign feature films are concerned, there are four non-official members and four official members in that particular Committee. So far as the question of clearing certain ambiguities is concerned, we found that in the rules already framed by the Commerce Department, there are certain ambiguities and some difficulties have come up regarding the construction. We are taking steps to clear those ambiguities.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: We have signed certain agreements for cultural exchanges with certain foreign countries and these include certain cases of exchange of films to be telecast by the T.V. stations of the two countries. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how many films have been exchanged and how many are proposed to be exchanged. The late night telecast of films has been stopped by the Government because of drought. I would like to know whether this is going to be resumed and if so, when.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Sir, so far as the first portion of the question is concerned, unless the country is named, it is very difficult to reply. We have entered into agreements with various countries. If notice is given naming the country or the countries, then I can give the particulars as to how many have been taken up.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: I asked as to how many films have been signed and what is the programme.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: That is what I am saying. I have given the particulars in the statement itself as to how many have been signed. That is given there.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: You have signed with SAARC just now.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: That is what I am saying, that if it were SAARC countries or other countries, separate notice is necessary. As for part (b) of the question, telecast of late-night films was stopped because of the solar eclipse that took place. The present satellite does not operate during solar eclipse. After the end of October, when the eclipse was over, we ran into difficulties regarding funds. A lot of funds were required for drought relief. That is why we stopped the telecast. Hopefully, it might start at the end of March next year.

भोमती बोणा बर्मा : सभापति महोदय, मेरे क्वेश्चन के तीन पार्ट हैं। हाल ही में लेट नाइट फिल्मस जो टी. वी. पर दिखाई गई थी उनके बारे में कुछ शिकायतें थी कि उन में एक दो म्यूटेट फिल्में थी, क्या वह फिल्में चेक नहीं की गई थी दूसरा पार्ट मेरे सवाल का यह है कि जब हमारे पास आल इण्डिया फिल्म सेंसर बोर्ड है जो फिल्मों का सेंसर करता है लेकिन दर्दशन ने भी अपनी एक सेंसर कमेटी बना रखी है मैं यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि वह क्यों बनाई गई है ? सवाल का तीसरा भाग यह है कि क्या सरकार ने ऐसे कोई आदेश दिये हैं कि वायलेंस और सेक्स फिल्में टी. वी. पर न दिखाई जाए ?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Sir, so far as late-night films are concerned, there is a checking system. Except the name of a particular film, the title of the film, regarding which the mistake had occurred, no other portion which was not properly presented was brought to our notice. That one one mistake took place. So far as sex and violence are concerned, the general rule is to avoid them except.

those which are allowed by the Committee which is headed by a very learned man. Excessive violence and excessive sex are not presented.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: What is 'excessive'? How do you determine it?

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Sir, the question is with regard to the import of TV serials, feature films and documentaries. A list has been given by the Minister. When we say import, it does not necessarily mean that the import should be of English films and from the first-world countries. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what the percentage of films imported from the third-world countries, especially from the East where there is a lot of cultural activities, is. Secondly, I would like to know from the Minister—many other hon. Members are also eager—the definition of 'excessive sex and excessive violence'. How do you distinguish them from 'sex and violence'?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: How do you distinguish between 'normal sex and violence' and 'excessive sex and violence'?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: So far as the first portion of the question is concerned, I have not got the figures as to the percentage of the films imported from the third-world countries. I would require notice. The main question was not on that. So far as the expression 'excessive sex and violence' is concerned, I take it that the hon. Member, in his experience, knows what it is.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN He does not know

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: I would like to know what the definition of the term by the Doordarshan and the Minister of Information and Broadcasting is.

AN HON. MEMBER: We thought he is more experienced.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will refer it to a doctor.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: What is the definition of 'excessive sex and violence'?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: My experience is less than that of the Vice-Chancellor because we all got education from him.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: He was never a Vice Chancellor.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Only vice, not the Chancellor part of it.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: So far as the expression 'excessive sex and violence' is concerned, there cannot be any definition. It has to be known by experience. For example, while seeing a film, if it violates a person's feelings or if it violates the present structure of the society, then we consider it as 'excessive' which is not required for the Indian audience.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Sir, this is a country of trade deficit. From the question what we know is, we are only importing. So, my first question is this: What about exporting all these serials and feature films to other countries and if it is not possible, will the Government consider this question? My second question is this: Which are the countries from where such imports are made and if they are from the UK and the USA, why are we not importing from rupee trade countries these serials and feature films?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Sir, the first part of his question is about imports and the other part is about exports. There is a lot of export of India films also. In the Moscow Festival also, a lot of our films were there. With regard to his question about how much was exported from India, naturally, Sir, that requires a separate notice. Notice is required for that. It is not that only from England and

America we are importing films. A lot of films we are importing from the other countries also producing good films.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Which are they?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Sir, Russian films are imported by India through the Soviet Expo under the provisions of an agreement and we get about twenty motion pictures every year within about fifteen per cent of the value and the price and like that from some other countries also. In three parts it is done: From Government to Government through the NFDC, from a foreign national under the procedure—there is an agreement and under the clause of the agreement—and also an Indian can import under certain arrangements and non-resident Indians can also import films under certain arrangements, certain agreements.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to know about imports from rupee trade countries.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: That is what I am trying to explain. The honourable Member has asked about exporting our films and this part of the question that I answered is only about importing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Aladi Aruna.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA alias V. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, the Government is adopting a kind of liberal policy in allowing the NRIs to import foreign films into India. There are two adverse consequences of this. The first one is that sub-standard films are mostly imported by the NRIs and the value of the Indian films is greatly affected and reduced in foreign markets I would like to know from the honourable Minister what steps have been taken by the Ministry firstly, to check the import of sub-standard films and, secondly, to increase the price or value of our films.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: There are films imported by the NRIs and, in fact, the films which are shown in public exhibition are subject to the Censors' Certificate. So, even though they are substandard, as alleged by the honourable Member, they are recommended by the Board and after checking them, the Board allows it. So far as their value being reduced is concerned, the main topical films give good photography and give good background materials and when these films are brought here, our own producers, distributors, and the exhibitors get a sort of exposure to those films, to the photography by their cameramen. They get an exposure to these things in those films and, therefore, the value of the Indian films does not decrease.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Kaleehur Rahman.

श्री मोहम्मद खलील उर-रहमान : जनाब चैयरमैन साहब, मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि अभी हमारा मुल्क तरक्की-यापता मुल्क नहीं हुआ है। इतना भारी फॉरेन ऐक्सचेंज खर्च करके बाहर से जो अंग्रेजी फिल्में मंगाई जा रही हैं, क्या उनके स्थान पर हिन्दी या रीजनल फिल्मों को आप ज्यादा सहायता व समय नहीं दे सकते हैं ताकि उनको बढ़ावा मिले ?

[شری محمد خلیل* الرحمان :

جناب چیرمین صاحب میں ملکی جر سے جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ ابھی ہمارا ملک ترقی یافتہ ملک نہیں ہوا ہے اتنا بھاری فارن ایکسچینج خرچ کر کے باہر سے جو فلمیں ملاتی جا رہی ہیں کیا ان کے استھان پر ہندی یا ریجنل فلموں کو آپ زیادہ سہایت اور وقت نہیں دے سکتے ہیں انکو بڑھادار ملے۔]

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Sir, this is almost a counter-question by the honourable Member. One thing we should not forget, and that is the history of India. For two hundred years the Britishers remained here. We cannot forget it. Those films, when they come here, they show the technological advancement taking place in those countries and we cannot shut our eyes to those things. Seeing those films also improves the quality of our films. The younger generation which is coming up now gets an exposure not only to the themes of these films, but to also the various other aspects such as the photography, the camera work, the entire setting, the spectacular scenes, etc. The entire perception of the whole world changes and we will not remain quiet; we cannot do so. These exposures, we have found through our experts, are beneficial for the Indian producers of films.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to know, why not give more time to regional films?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Mostly it is regional films or Hindi films. In fact, in a month probably two foreign films are shown. Night films now are stopped. It is mostly regional or Hindi films.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : सभापति महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो सूची उन्होंने दी है उसमें ग्रेड फाक्स, सरलाक होम इस तरह की फिल्में दिखाने से हमारे सांस्कृतिक जीवन पर क्या प्रसर पड़ा है, इसकी उन्होंने क्या कभी जांच करवाई है? अगर नहीं करवाई है तो क्या वे जांच करवायेंगे कि इस तरह की फिल्में देखने से किस चीज में हम इम्प्रूवमेंट कर रहे हैं, आइडम में इम्प्रूवमेंट कर रहे हैं या नागरिक जीवन में क्या कर रहे हैं। तो क्या मंत्री महोदय इसकी जांच करवायेंगे?

श्री धीरेन्द्र वर्मा : या संक्षेप में ?

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : सक्ष हमने छोड़ दिया। जवान आदमी कुछ कर सकते हैं।

एक माननीय सदस्य : नई संस्कृति पैदा कर रहे हैं।

SHRI AJIT PANJA: As I have answered, Sir, we have to think of some instrument, some infrastructure, to decide And for that reason we have taken non-official members. The former producer at the All India Radio and Doordarshan, and still very active, as everybody knows him, Melville deMello, is one of the members. Mr. Rabindra Dayal is another member, so far as foreign serials are concerned. Non-official members for foreign feature films are Mr. R. Raina, former Director of Film Festival, Mr. Idris Dehlvi, film journalist, Mr Jagmohan of the Film Society Movement of India and Mr. Anil, a journalist We can have some infrastructure, some system, to test. This is the best possible way we find.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: That was not my question My question was about 2 specific films. What influence have they on our cultural life?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: I do not think there is any necessity of re-examination. This is a committee which after viewing it decided to bring it in.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Sir, my question was whether they have reviewed it. My question was about two specific films: 'Sherlock Holmes' and 'Old Fox'.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: I think 'Sherlock Holmes' is liked by most Members here. About 'Old Fox' I have no personal knowledge. Sir, I probably could not make myself clear to the Member. This is the committee which previews it first, and after previewing it if they decide...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to know, what is the influence of these on the minds of the people?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Sir, this is not done by the committee. This is generally done by...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to know, what is your feed-back about the influence of 'Sherlock Holmes' on the people, the impact on the minds of the people?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: So far as the influence of those films is concerned, no adverse comment has been made by anyone. Nor our research centre...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You take note of the adverse comment made by Mr. Chaturanan Mishra.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: If the hon. Member has seen it, immediately after that he has not done so. There was no comment immediately thereafter.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: The main purpose of extension of the TV network was to communicate with a large number of people in the country, spread throughout the country, and to communicate with a large number of illiterate people in the country Sir, the House is discussing about improving the programmes, serials films and how to check violence from T.V. programmes. I am coming from a place where even a TV circuit has not been provided. It has not been given to us. We have been pressing for it for the last so many years. Will the Minister come out with a time-bound programme as to when he will be able to cover the entire country with the T.V. network and when I and my children and my people in the rural areas can see these programmes?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It does not arise out of the question. But it is simple question He wants to know by what time you can cover the whole country.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Sir, other things being equal, so far we have achieved 56 per cent coverage. The Eighth Plan is under preparation. But I can say that by the end of the Seventh Plan, the T.V. network will cover 78 to 80 per cent of the population. The radio programmes will cover about 98 per cent of the population. The Planning Commission will decide about the remaining 20 per cent.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You write a letter to him telling him when you are covering his village.

Srinagar T.V. Centre

*202. **SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Door-darshan Centre is functioning in Srinagar (Kashmir);

(b) whether it is also a fact that this Centre cannot be viewed by the people of Jammu, though it is meant for both the region; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to strengthen the Srinagar T.V. Centre for viewing by the people of Jammu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (**SHRI AJIT PANJA**): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As Jammu falls outside the service range of the Srinagar TV transmitter because of the intervening distance and hilly terrain, the people in the area cannot presently view programmes relayed by the Srinagar transmitter. However all the transmitters in Jammu & Kashmir State are envisaged to be linked with Door-