

(iii) Foreign delegations are invited and encouraged to visit India to view Indian films for selection and purchase.

(iv) The Corporation has entered into exclusive agency agreements with the State Agencies of some countries.

(v) The Corporation has a Regional Office in London to promote export of films.

(vi) Festivals of Indian films are organised in various countries under the Cultural Exchange Programme or otherwise create an interest in Indian films abroad.

(vii) The Corporation has constituted Regional Film Export Advisory Committees at Madras, Bombay and Calcutta and a Central Film Export Advisory Committee at Bombay jointly with Film Industry to devise steps to boost exports.

(viii) The Corporation seeks help from Indian Embassies abroad to open up further avenues for new markets.

(ix) NFDC has prepared marketing tools like subtitled prints, video cassettes and other material for publicity and distribution during film festivals as well as through the London office.

(x) NFDC gives advances/loans to exporters for preparation of print material etc.

(xi) In the case of countries where there are foreign exchange constraints, the NFDC is exploring the possibility of accepting payment in local currency.

Percentage of penalty realized for customs officials

132. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Customs officials are entitled to a percentage of the penalty amount realized from the importers of Cargo whose goods are not cleared in time and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what was the amount of such penalty collected during the last two years by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of the Customs Act, if any imported goods are not cleared for home consumption or warehoused or transhipped within 45 days from the date of unloading (or within such further time as the proper officer may allow) or if the title of any imported goods is relinquished, such goods, after notice to the importer and with the permission of the proper officer are sold by the person having the custody thereof.

The custody of imported goods is generally with the Port Trust at sea ports, International Airports Authority of India at the Airports and Railways or Central Warehousing Corporation at the Inland Container Depots.

Sale proceeds of goods (other than confiscated goods) are applied to payment of the expenses of the sale, payment of freight to the carrier, payment of duty on the goods, etc. as per the provisions under the Customs Act.

No penalty is realised from importers of cargo whose goods are not cleared in time, and, therefore, the question of percentage of penalty being given to Customs Department/officials does not arise. However, fines-in-lieu of confiscation, wherever imposed are appropriated in accordance with the provisions of the Customs Act.

Computerised cheques in the Nationalised Banks

*133. SHRI V. RAMANATHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even after the introduction of Magnetic Ink Character Recognition system of computerised cheques in the nationalised banks the depositors are finding it difficult to have their cheques credited to their accounts in time; and