

Mistakes in the Script of Film on Gandhiji

*378. SHRI B. D. KHOBRAGADE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some eminent historians like Shri Susobhan Sarkar, Shri A. W. Mahmood and Shri Barun De have protested against the horrible mistakes of facts, dates, etc. in the script of film on Gandhiji being produced by Sir Richard Attenborough, if so, what are the details in this regard;

(b) whether Government have verified these mistakes of facts and dates in the script; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to depict the facts and incident correctly in the film?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) Some historians have, through their letters to Statesman and to the Government, raised certain points regarding inaccuracies in the script of the film Gandhiji. These are as follows:—

1. (i) Gandhiji's meeting with Lord Chelmsford in 1920 in connection with the non-co-operation movement. No such meeting ever took place and the leaders alleged to have participated in that meeting were not in the forefront of the nation in 1920.

(ii) Shri Jawaharlal discussing Chauri Chaura with Gandhiji in Jinnah's drawing room, where he is supposed to be trying to persuade Gandhiji not to suspend the movement. Jawaharlal Nehru was at that particular time in jail and in fact records his disappointment and bewilderment at Gandhiji's decision to suspend the civil resistance movement.

(iii) Scene showing Gandhiji trying to persuade Jinnah to accept the unity of the sub-continent by offering him the first Prime Ministership of India, and agreeing to all posts in

the Cabinet and departments going to Muslims in Mountbatten's office.

2. It has been repeatedly mentioned by the Director of the film that it will be a kind of fictionalised biography of Mahatma Gandhi seeking, principally, to carry the message of his life to countries outside India. It will not be a strictly chronological account of either the different phases in his life or of the Indian freedom movement. The film will begin with the following words on the screen:

'No man's life—much less the life of a man like Gandhi—can be encompassed in one telling. There is no way of giving each year its allotted time, of not omitting this person, that important moment. What can be done is to be faithful in spirit to the record, and to try to find one's way to the heart of the man...'

Some liberties have, therefore, been taken in the script of the film in the interest of dramatic plausibility. But these have not substantially departed from facts and events which indeed took place but not necessarily in the order or sequence in which they will be shown in the film. The film also includes certain imaginary sequences which tend to heighten the intended effect the Director has in view. However, when certain inaccuracies or discrepancies have been pointed out to the Director, he has always been receptive and made suitable alterations in the script.

Higher Salaries to Officers in M/s. Weston Electronics (Pvt.) Ltd.

*379. SHRI RATAN TAMA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Directors and other high functionaries of M/s. Weston Electronics Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi are being paid salaries and other perks far in excess of what is prescribed by the Company Law Board;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the said Company has not been filing its annual returns with the Registrar of Companies, Delhi and Haryana regularly; and

(c) if so, what action is proposed to be taken against the said company?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIV SHANKAR): (a) Approval of the Central Government is required under the Companies Act, 1956 in respect of appointments and remuneration of Managing Directors and whole-time Directors of the public limited companies. This company which was a private limited company as originally incorporated, became a public limited company on 1st January, 1976. The appointments and remuneration of three directors of the company were accordingly approved by this Department for a period of five years from 1st February, 1976. They were also allowed commission and certain perks in addition to their salaries.

In terms of Section 198 read with Section 309 of the Companies Act, 1956, minimum remuneration is payable during those years when the company makes inadequate profits or incurs losses. It has, however, been noticed that during the accounting years ended 30th September, 1978 and 31st December, 1979 the company earned inadequate profits in terms of the aforesaid legal provisions whereby the directors were entitled to draw only minimum remuneration which, however, had not been fixed in the absence of any application from the company which it was incumbent on them to do. It appears that the three directors drew substantive remuneration during the years 1976-77, 1977-78 and 1978-79 as per the Government's approval but without observing the provisions of minimum remuneration. This omission was noticed by* the Department while considering the proposal of the company for the reappointment of these three directors beyond 1st February, 1981. Necessary action is being initiated against the company for corrective action.

(b) and (c) According to the information furnished by the Registrar of Companies, Delhi and Haryana, time annual returns filed in the year 1978, 1979 and 1980 were delayed by one day,

two days, three days respectively. The Registrar of Companies condoned these delays.

दिल्ली विद्युत् प्रदाय संस्थान द्वारा बिल तैयार करने की कम्प्यूटरीकृत प्रणाली

* 380. श्री योगेन्द्र शर्मा : क्या ऊर्जा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) दिल्ली विद्युत् प्रदाय संस्थान में बिल तैयार किये जाने की कम्प्यूटरीकृत प्रणाली कब आरम्भ की गयी थी और इस प्रयोजन के लिए इस समय कुल कितने कम्प्यूटर लगे हुए हैं ;

(ख) क्या यह आम शिकायत है कि कम्प्यूटरों द्वारा तैयार किए गए बिलों में बहुत सी गलतियां होती हैं जिनके कारण उपभोक्ताओं को अधिक अनुविधा होती है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो भविष्य में इस प्रकार की गलतियों को रोकने के लिए क्या कदम उठाये गए हैं ?

ऊर्जा मंत्री (श्री ए० बी० ए० गनो खान चौधरी) : (क) कम्प्यूटर द्वारा बिल बनाने की प्रणाली अप्रैल, 1978 से उत्तरोत्तर शुरू की गई है। यह कार्य चार कम्प्यूटर एजेंसियों को सौंपा गया है।

(ख) और (ग) किसी नई प्रणाली को अपनाये जाने पर परिवर्तन की प्रक्रिया में कुछ अव्यवस्था हो जाती है। कठिनाइयों को दूर करने के लिए उपाय किए जा रहे हैं और बहुरहाल समस्त मामलों की समीक्षा की जा रही है।