

Rural Bias Science and Technology Plan

600. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to give a rural bias to science and technology plan; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details regarding the Science and Technology Plan programmes in different sectors with a rural bias are being worked out.

Fuel Policy Committee's recommendations

601. SHRI SYED AHMED HASHMI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accepted the recommendations of the Fuel Policy Committee; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the recommendations accepted by Government?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The recommendations of the Fuel Policy Committee have been considered by the Government and by and large, they have been accepted in principles.

(b) A statement giving the recommendations of the Fuel Policy Committee and the decisions of the Government thereon is enclosed [See Appendix VII, Annexure No. 48].

Chinese Armed Forces on Indo-tibet Border

602. SHRI GHAYOORE ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state whether Government are aware that there has been an increase in the overall strength of the

Chinese armed forces in Tibet particularly in areas along the Indian border?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): There are no indications of any increase in the overall strength of the Chinese armed forces in Tibet including areas along the Indo-Tibetan border.

Stoppage of import of raw material used in production of consumer goods

603. SHRI GHAYOOR ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Companies in the country which use imported raw material in the manufacture of consumer goods with foreign collaboration and the items of consumer goods produced by them;

(b) whether Government propose to stop the import of all these materials used in production of consumer goods with a view to strengthening the Indian economy and indigenous industry; and

(c) if so, by when the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

(b) and (c) One of the broad objectives of the import policy for 1977-78 is to increase industrial production, maintain the price line, particularly with respect to items of mass consumption. In devising the policy for individual items, a judicious balance has been struck between individual requirements of the industry for imported raw materials and the interests of indigenous manufacturers. The guiding principle has been that the goods which are available from indigenous sources in sufficient quantity should not be allowed to be imported. However, the policy with respect to individual items is kept under constant review in the course of the year, so-

that corrective action is taken whenever necessary to protect the interest of indigenous industry. This is a continuing process for which there can be no time limit.

Working conditions of Persons Employed in the Film Industry

604. SHRI LAKSHMAN MAHAPATRO: SHRI S. KUMARAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to introduce a Bill in the Parliament for regulating the working conditions of the persons employed in the film industry in India;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government have recently received any letter from the Bengal Motion Picture Employees' Union, in this regard; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and what action is proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI LAL K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposal will be finalised after discussions are held with representatives of film industry as well as workers.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A letter has been received from the Bengal Motion Picture Employees' Union, taking a number of suggestions on the subject. They have suggested that measures should be introduced for payment of dearness allowance and minimum wages by the owners of cinema-houses to their staff and to regulate the working conditions of film representatives. It has also been suggested that a Wage Board may be appointed and that the Metro Cinema in Calcutta should function without any hindrance. The suggestions relating to employment conditions of workers

would be taken into consideration before the proposal is finalised.

Metro Cinema Calcutta

605. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received communications from the Metro Cinema Employees' Union, Calcutta, requesting immediate take-over of the Cinema;

(b) whether Government have also received copies of the legal opinion sent by the said Union in connection with the case; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard and what further action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI LAL K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The opinion furnished by the Metro Cinema Employees' Union refers to certain contraventions of the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act alleged to have been committed by parties involved in this case.

The possession of the theatre has been handed over in accordance with the orders of the High Court. Further action, as necessary, will be taken on receipt of certified copy of the judgment of the Court.

Visit by an official of the U.S. Consulate to Mayapur

606. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an official of the U.S. Consulate visited Mayapur, the scene of a clash between the local villagers and the mem-

^tPreviously Unstarred Question 267 transferred from the 29th July, 1977.