

Revenue earned from commercial telecasts

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

(a) what is the revenue earned from commercial telecasts during 1975-76; and

(b) whether government propose to allot more time for such telecasts?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) The commercials on T.V. were introduced from January 1, 1976. The gross revenue earned during the period January 1 to March 31, 1976, amounted to Rs 9,92,290.

(b) At present, commercial telecasts from a T. V. Centre are not to exceed 10 per cent if its total telecast time. There is no proposal at present to increase the time.

Indian Film Festival in U.S.A.

*383. SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO:
SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA:

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

(a) whether the US Government have agreed to hold an Indian Film Festival;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the agreement in this regard; and

(c) what criteria is proposed to be adopted for the selection of films for the Festival?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c) The minutes of the meeting of the Indo-US Sub-Commission on Education and Culture held in Washington on 4th and 5th May, 1976, wherein it was reported to have been

agreed that USA would hold an Indian Film Festival there, are still awaited.

Incidents of drowning in the Public Swimming Pool in Chandigarh

*384. SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH TALIB:

SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN:

SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU:
SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a student of 16 years of age died on the 3rd May, 1976 due to drowning in the public swimming pool in Sector 23, Chandigarh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that incidents of drowning of children in this swimming pool occur every year; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI OM MEHTA): (a) to (c) According to information received from the Chandigarh Administration, a boy, aged 16 years, died on the 2nd May, 1976 due to drowning in the public swimming pool in Sector 23, Chandigarh. It is not correct that the incidents of drowning of children occur in the swimming pool every year. However, the Chandigarh Admn. have taken a number of safety measures. These include the posting of an expert swimmer-cum-diver during the operation of the swimming pool and avoidance of overcrowding. Provision of chains and ropes and life belts at the site is being made.

Development of Backward Areas

*385. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans to develop the backward areas