

**SHRI BIREN ROY :** Will the Minister please say if he has visited Calcutta where all the cinema houses are on strike for the last 4½ months and then for the last three weeks even the cinema technicians have stopped the completion of many films? What action the Government has taken now that in West Bengal there is no State Legislature? What action is going to be taken?

**SHRI K. K. SHAH :** This crisis is quite different from the ordinary crisis which the cinema industry is facing. This is between those who are serving in the theatres and the theatre owners, and the Governor of West Bengal has forwarded a proposal which is being considered.

**SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN :** May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the Government's taxation of the industry is heavy and a big chunk of their earning is consumed by the taxes? May I know whether the Government has received any representation from the film industry about this, and if so, is the Government considering to give some relief to the film industry in this matter?

**SHRI K. K. SHAH :** There are three types of taxes. One is the entertainment tax. The second is the excise duty. And the third is the tax by the municipality. Now, so far as the entertainment tax is concerned, different States levy different types of entertainment tax. So far as the excise duty is concerned, it is very meagre compared to the entertainment tax or the theatre rentals or the charges by artistes and so far as the tax of the municipality is concerned. . .

**SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN :** What is the proportion?

(No reply)

**SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA :** May I know from the Minister when the letter of the Governor of West Bengal was received and how long it has been under the consideration of the Government?

**SHRI K. K. SHAH :** I am sorry, Madam Deputy Chairman. The proposal has been made by the Governor, but not received by us.

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :** When?

**SHRI K. K. SHAH :** Last week.

\*242. [The questioner (Shri N. Sri Rama Reddy) was absent. For answer vide col. 1596 infra.]

#### REGIONAL COOPERATIVE RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND SOUTH-EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES

\*243. **SHRI KRISHAN KANT :** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports that South East Asian countries would like to develop regional cooperative relations with India; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to promote these relations?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) :** (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The Government of India have not put forward any concrete proposals. However, the South East Asian countries have been informed about our interest in a broad-based regional economic co-operation which they may wish to promote with the object of creating stability and achieving rapid economic development. In the meantime, we shall continue to further strengthen bilateral relations and intensify our existing economic and commercial cooperation with the countries of South East Asia.

**SHRI KRISHAN KANT :** May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is aware as to how far the South East Asian countries are seeking co-operation from Japan and how far India is willing to explore the possibility of joint collaboration not case by case, with other South East Asian countries? May I know from the hon. Prime Minister if she has any views on the advisability of working towards setting up a body on the lines of the Council of Europe in South East Asia?

**SHRI B. R. BHAGAT :** Madam . . .

**SHRI KRISHAN KANT :** How can the Minister of State reply? I am asking for the Prime Minister's view. I have asked for her view on this.

**SHRI B. R. BHAGAT :** Madam, as far as the question . . .

**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA :** The hon. Member wants an answer from the Prime Minister evidently knowing that he is . . .

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :** Mr. Gupta, please. You can continue reading the book.

**SHRI B. R. BHAGAT :** As far as the participation of Japan in this area is concerned, it is true that Japan has been taking a good deal of interest, and it is a member of some of the regional organisations, and in commercial and trade relations it has taken an active interest. We have also taken an interest. In the various regional organisations like the ECAFE or the Colombo Plan or the Asian Development Bank, India has been taking interest.

**SHRI KRISHAN KANT :** That is a different matter.

**SHRI B. R. BHAGAT :** As far as the question of joint collaboration is concerned, not case by case but joint studies, whether there is a request or not, the question is that in all these areas, firstly, we are trying to develop and promote bilateral interests with the various countries like Malaysia with which, for example, we have entered into a number of agreements for joint ventures and our co-operation is developing. Similar attempts are being made with the other countries. And there are sub-regional groups in which two or three countries may be interested in which we can also participate within the broad regional framework. So, at all levels there is a possibility of participation and our interest . . .

**SHRI KRISHAN KANT :** Multi-lateral ?

**SHRI B. R. BHAGAT :** Broadly regional.

**SHRI KRISHAN KANT :** That is why I asked for the Prime Minister's view; he has not replied to my question.

My question is whether the hon. Prime Minister has any views on the advisability of working towards setting up a body on the lines of the Council of Europe. How can he reply ?

Secondly, has the Prime Minister during her recent tour got any indication by herself or from other sources that the South East Asian countries want the Government of India to become a powerful nuclear nation and revive its nuclear policy ? If so, what is the Government's reaction thereto ?

**SHRI JOACHIM ALVA :** That is a different question altogether.

**SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI :**  
Madam . . .

**SHRI ARJUN ARORA :** The Prime Minister has obliged.

**SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI :**  
The first time the hon. Member asked the question, it was in two parts, and the first part was addressed only to the Minister of State. Only the second part of it was addressed to me. This time both the parts are addressed to me. The second part is somewhat outside the scope of the question but the reply to it is 'no'.

Regarding a Council of Asia, in all these Councils or bodies of co-operation the real question is whether they will work or not. We have to view the whole problem of regional co-operation from that point of view that is whether all these schemes can work to the benefit of all the countries concerned. Many of them have regional problems and difficulties which have prevented even some of the existing bodies from really functioning as they really should. I think it is a little bit premature to think of such a council.

**SHRI Z. A. AHMAD :** In view of the fact that there are certain foreign powers which are very much interested in the affairs of South East Asia, particularly, the United States of America . . .

**AN HON. MEMBER :** What about Russia ?

**SHRI Z. A. AHMAD :** You can ask them.

. . . are we clear on this point that any development of relations with the South East Asian countries is not going to involve us into an entanglement which would take us under a sort of pressure, which would put us under pressure, of these foreign powers ? Secondly, are we clear on this point that stability in South East Asia cannot be brought about unless the question of Viet Nam is settled ? And while carrying on talks with the other South East Asian countries, have we raised this question that the problem of South Viet Nam should be settled as early as possible through the withdrawal of the American forces from that country ?

**SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI :** We have placed our view with regard to Viet Nam and the importance of a settlement.

which should be of a lasting character. There is no question of our coming under any pressure from foreign powers nor have we any intention of getting entangled in any such manner.

**MOHD. ZAFRULLAH KHAN'S OFFENSIVE  
REMARKS AGAINST INDIA**

\*244. **SHRI R. P. KHAITAN** : Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question No. 240 given in the Rajya Sabha on 9th May, 1968 and state :

(a) whether Government have since received any reply from the International Court of Justice to our protest note regarding offensive remarks made by Mohd. Zafullah Khan against India;

(b) if so, the nature of the reply received ; and

(c) whether Government are proposing to move the Security Council in this respect, if so, the details thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT)** :

(a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Madam.

**श्री २० पी० खंतान** : जब पाकिस्तान के नेता और अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय न्यायालय के जज मोहम्मद जफरुल्ला भारत के बारे में जहाँ भी सम्भव होता है गलत प्रचार करते हैं, तो यह एक गम्भीर प्रश्न है। जब न्यायाधीश भी गलत प्रचार में लग गये तो यह न्यायालय कहाँ रहा। इसलिये मैं जानना चाहूँगा कि जब अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय न्यायालय संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ का एक अंग है, तो यह मामला सुरक्षा परिषद में क्यों नहीं ले जाया जाना चाहिये ?

**श्री बी० आर० भगत** : यह बात सही है कि जब अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय न्यायालय के सदस्य जफरुल्ला साहब ही ऐसी बात करे तो एक गम्भीर प्रश्न हो जाता है। जैसा कि इस सदन में पहले भी बताया जा चुका है, यह बात हमन अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय न्यायालय के सामने पेश की थी। उन्होंने हमें सूचना भी दी थी

कि प्रेसीडेंट को और इंटरनेशनल कोर्ट को यह बात कह दी गई है। अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय न्यायालय एक आटोनोमस संस्था है और उनके सामने यह बात पेश कर दी गई। उसके अलावा और किसी अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय संस्था में अब इसे ले जाना उचित नहीं समझते।

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PRESS COUNCIL**

\*245. **SHRI ARJUN ARORA** : †  
**SHRI GULAM NABI UNTOO** :

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

(a) the date of appointment of the Advisory Committee on the Press Council;

(b) the number and dates of the meetings of the Advisory Committee held so far and the decisions taken by the Committee; and

(c) whether Government have taken any decision on the recommendations or advice received from the Committee?

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. K. SHAH)** : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT**

*Advisory Committee on the Press Council*

The Advisory Committee on the Press Council has been appointed by a resolution of the Government of India in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting dated the 17th January, 1968 (*See below*). The Committee has so far held 5 meetings as indicated below :

Meeting	Date
First Meeting	27th January 1968
Second Meeting	16th February, 1968
Third Meeting	6th April, 1968
Fourth Meeting	27th to 31st May, 1968
Fifth Meeting	15th to 18th July, 1968

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Arjun Arora.