

SHRI D. L. SEN GUPTA: May I know, Sir, what was the urgency for such a club because there are many places where there is no club for the officers, and particularly when we are hard up for money?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Well, this was started some time ago. The place, Jaduguda, is over 50 kilometres east of Jamshedpur, and it is a place where there are no basic amenities available. Before the construction of the mill and the development of the mine, this was a barren and thinly populated village.

SHRI N. R. M. SWAMY: Some offices are being housed in a *kuchcha* building wherein the people cannot stand the heat of the weather, and while so, what is the urgency of having a recreation club for the staff?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Well, recreation is important for efficient working, and it is part of the general building scheme. There it has 1181 units of accommodation. We also had to build for a school, a hospital, a shopping centre, a bank, a post office, a community centre and an apprentices' hostel along with the two clubs which I have mentioned before.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: May I know, Sir, whether entry into this recreation club is restricted to officers, or is it available to other employees also?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: I just mentioned that there are two separate clubs. One is the officers' club which also includes a guest house for visitors, and the second is the workers' club which will cater for the rest of the personnel, that is about 800 in number plus their families, and both have got facilities for indoor games, a hall for social gatherings, etc.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

# MEMORANDUM FROM MARATHI FILM INDUSTRY

\*303. SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN:†  
SHRIMATI TARA RAM-  
CHANDRA SATHE:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a delegation of Marathi film industry submitted a memorandum containing their demands to Government in September, 1966; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) and (b) The Marathi Film Producers have invited the attention of Government to certain difficulties encountered by them in regard to incidence of taxation, increased exhibition facilities and financial assistance for production of films. Government is already seized of these problems which are common to the Film Industry and is considering measures to alleviate the hardships to the extent practicable which will facilitate production and exploitation of films.

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: One of the demands of the Delegation has been about recognition to their two associations, namely, the Marathi Film Producers Association, and the Marathi Film Distributors Association. Will the Government consider giving such recognition immediately?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Sir, so far as the recognition is concerned, we have no such system of recognising such associations. The associations that come into being correspond with us and we certainly respond to that correspondence.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri S. K. Vaishampayen.

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: The Marathi film industry has not still come under the influence of the Big Finance, nor has the evil of Star system affected it. As a result, the Marathi films are of a good standard. But they are facing a crisis because of non-availability of theatres and the exorbitant rents. Will the Government take steps to check these exorbitant rents and save the industry?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The problems that he has mentioned are factually correct and I do share with him that feeling. So far as the question of maintenance of standards by the Marathi films is concerned, I do take notice of the fact that they are trying to do it.

SHRI D. THENGARI: Regarding relaxation in taxation, has any decision been taken by the Government?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: There are two demands; one is that the rate of excise duty should be reduced, and the other is that there should be complete exemption. The Finance Ministry has not accepted that in view of the present economic situation. But we have recently put forward a proposal that purposive films with social, national and also artistic merits and excellence should be considered for exemption from certain taxes, and in that context we propose to take up the question again with the Ministry of Finance and also with the State Government concerned.

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: The Marathi films are not getting the required finance from the Film Finance Corporation because of certain rigid conditions. There are complaints from other film industries also. Will the Minister therefore consider appointing a committee to enquire into this and relax these conditions?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Sir, there are two difficulties in the way of the Film Finance Corporation one, that of paucity of finance available at its disposal and secondly that such films or film producers as have been helped

by the Corporation have not yet been able to repay their loans. The result has been that it has a sort of adverse accumulating balance and, naturally, we would like to get over all these difficulties by whatever means possible.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, from the hon. Minister as to what steps are being taken by him for the appointment of the committee which this House had recommended last year to go into the question of the film industry?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Sir, in view of the appointment of a very high-powered committee with comprehensive terms of reference—the Chanda Committee—we think we should wait for the recommendations of that committee in regard to this matter also before we think of implementing that resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

\*304 [The questioner (Shri Sitaram Jainuria) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 2277-2278 infra.]

#### SOVIET PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO INDIA

\*305. SHRI D. THENGARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister of the U.S.S.R. is visiting India in November, 1966; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the programme of his visit?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. C. CHAGLA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

SHRI D. THENGARI: If not in November, when is his visit scheduled to take place? If not in November, in which month he is scheduled to visit?