

(b) Since unregulated forward trading in shellac was giving rise to speculation and causing wide and rapid fluctuations in prices, both of which hampered the export trade, transferable forward contracts in seedlac and shellac were banned with effect from 27th December 1954.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Is it a fact that the quantity exported to the U.S.A. in 1953-54 was less than that in the previous year? Whether it is less or more, and if it is less, by how much?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I am sorry, I have not got the information with me at present. I should like to have notice.

*180. [For answer, vide cols. 1448-50 infra.]

EXHIBITION OF UNDESIRABLE FILMS

*181. SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Will the Minister for INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what action, if any, has so far been taken by Government on the non-official resolution passed by the Rajya Sabha on the 10th December 1954 regarding the exhibition of undesirable films; and

(b) what further action, if any, is proposed to be taken thereon?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN) : (a) and (b). As indicated in the statement laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on the 19th May 1954, it is proposed to set up a National Film Board with the Film Production Bureau as one of its constituent units. The Bureau will give advice to the producers on all aspects of production including the prior scrutiny of film scripts. Such advice at the initial stages of production will reduce the chances of inclusion of any undesirable elements in the films produced in

India and help in raising their standard.

In addition, grants are proposed to be given to the Children Film Society for the production of films for children.

The Resolution passed by the House is being kept in view by the Central Board of Film Censors in the matter of more careful censorship of undesirable films.

The question of taking further steps, if any, in implementing the resolution is still under consideration.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I know, if, even at present, any assistance or encouragement is given to the type of the films which the Government considers as deserving of it?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: We have instituted awards for the best films. And in what way we can further help such deserving films, is under our consideration.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know whether the Government availed of the opportunity of the Film Seminar which was held recently, to acquaint the film producers with the views of the Rajya Sabha on this matter?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: I do agree that the Rajya Sabha unanimously passed a Resolution to the effect that undesirable films should be further restricted. The debate of the Rajya Sabha received particular attention, and I think, I read most of the film journals' comments about it, though not very favourable.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: That is why I have asked this question. In view of the fact that most of the film journals commented on this Resolution not favourably, may I know whether this topic was discussed in the Film Seminar? And if so, what line did the Government take in that discussion?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: The Film Seminar was organised by the Sangeet Natak Akademi, which is an indepen-

dent body, and the discussions in the Seminar were restricted to the producers and other persons concerned' with the film industry. The Government was not associated with the discussions in the Seminar.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: The Government may not have been associated with the Seminar in a formal way or in an official capacity, but still, I think, the hon. Minister himself delivered a speech there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. Your information is incorrect.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: My information may be incorrect. But I want to know whether any opportunity was availed of to discuss this topic there.

DR. B. V. KESKAR: I am perfectly willing to have the Resolution of the Rajya Sabha sent to the representatives of the Film Seminar, and also to discuss with them this question. As far as the Resolution is concerned, the position is that we are examining very carefully whether any further power is necessary to regulate undesirable films of the types which were indicated during the course of the debate here.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: I wish to invite the attention of the hon. Minister to the second part of the Resolution and I wish to know his reactions with regard to that, and also as to what action he proposes to take in respect of the second part of the Resolution. The Resolution was amended particularly to encourage quality pictures.

DR. B. V. KESKAR: I have said that we have instituted awards. And the question whether any further encouragement should be given is under consideration.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: That was already there before the Resolution was passed¹. The Rajya Sabha passed that Resolution with perfect knowledge of the fact that awards were being granted, and that is why I ask, in view of

the Resolution that was passed, whether the Government propose to do anything further in this matter.

DR. B. V. KESKAR: Government certainly would like to do anything further, but it is not possible to take specific action immediately. We have to see as to what we possibly can do.

SHRIMATI SHARDA BHARGAVA: Was there any representative of the Government in the Seminar?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: No.

*182. [For answer, vide col. 1450 infra.]

CESS MONEY ON EXPORT OF TEA EARMARKED FOR LABOUR WELFARE

♦183. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tea Board has invited suggestions from State Governments and labour organisations regarding the utilisation of the money realised from cess on export of tea and earmarked for labour welfare:

(b) if so, whether any State Governments or labour organisations have submitted any schemes or suggestions:

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what are their suggestions; and

(d) whether the Board itself has drawn up any scheme?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) No.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

I should like to add that it is anticipated that out of the proceeds from the tea cess, we are expecting a net addition of Rs. 85 lakhs per annum. Out of that, it is proposed to allot a sum of Rs. 10 lakhs during 1955-56. And the Ministry of Labour are holding a conference on the 21st of March 1955, with the representatives of the main tea-growing estates to consider how best to utilise the grant of the Tea Board.