

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I think that reference to an arbitrator is very definitely a legal action, and once the arbitrator comes to the conclusion after hearing the Government side as also the firm side that this amount is due, then the question of realisation of that amount will arise.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Why did the representatives of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry not represent all these facts before the Public Accounts Committee, which they are urging at the moment?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I am quite sure that all relevant facts were represented to the Public Accounts Committee. There could be no remissness on that point and when we came to look into the matter, as my esteemed friend just now said, when both the parties agreed on arbitration Government also thought that that was the best possible method of realising the amount from the party and the Attorney-General, as I said, has been appointed as the sole arbitrator.

*266. [For answer, vide col. 1839 infra.]

*267. [For answer, vide col. 1840 infra.]

WORK-CHARGED STAFF OF C.P.W.D. AT BAGDOGRA AND SILIGURI

*268. **SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN:** Will the Minister for Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the special pay granted to the Central Government employees working at Bagdogra and Siliguri, is given also to those who are locally recruited;

(b) how many of the work-charged staff of the Central Public Works Department are employed at these stations and how many of them have been locally recruited; and

(c) whether the special pay is granted also to the work-charged staff of the Central Public Works Department who are locally recruited; if not, why not?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) Some of the staff of the Central Government Departments stationed at these places are in receipt of special pay, irrespective of whether they are recruited from outside or locally;

(b) 21 and 7 respectively;

(c) No, Sir. Whether the special pay should be given to these work-charged staff is under consideration.

FILM ENTITLED "SHAHEED-E-AZAM BHAGAT SINGH"

*269. **SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA:** Will the Minister for INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government received any representations urging the ban of the film entitled 'Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh', after its production on the ground that it contains distortion of the facts about the life of the great national hero; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken on those representations?

THE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. B. V. KESKAR): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Government did receive, even before this film was produced, certain representations by the Punjab Congress Committee and the Editorial Board of Bhagat Singh Commemoration Volume regarding this film. This was brought to the notice of the film industry and the producer of the film as Government has no control on films at that stage. The Central Board of Film Censors carefully scrutinized the film when it was ready and at first refused a certificate to the film as it was presented to them. It was later certified after various deletions and alterations were made by the producer. Later, on representations made by the brother of Sardar Bhagat Singh, the film was reviewed again and two more cuts are being ordered. A number of persons, including the brother of Sardar

Bhagat Singh, have represented to Government that even after the cuts, the film contains distortion of facts about Sardar Bhagat Singh and other national figures shown in the film. Government have given very careful consideration to these representations but, on examining the matter, they find that under the present Constitutional powers, they are not able to disapprove of or uncertify a film for these reasons. Therefore, they have expressed their inability to do anything in the matter though they have every sympathy for the object made out in the representations.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Is it not a fact that the Board of Film Censors, Bombay, had first refused to give permit to release it and it is only the Central Board of Film Censors that okayed it?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: I made it very clear in this answer that the film as it was first presented to the Central Board was refused by the Board not on the ground that it contained certain distortion of facts about historical persons but certain scenes were depicted which showed a very large number of violent scenes, crime scenes of dacoities and things like that, and they were told that unless those portions were cut out, a certificate could not be given.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Is it not a fact that the film even after the cuts shows one character, Shrimati Didi, who is not dead and who is quite alive—and she is the President of a District Congress Committee—as having committed suicide?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: I have no information whether it is so, but even if it is so, I am not able constitutionally to stop it. If the person is living he or she can sue the party for defamation.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Is it not a fact that the father of Sardar Bhagat Singh who had been sentenced for number of years on a number of occasions between 1907 and 1930 has

been shown in this film as a person who cowered and had cold feet as soon as the police appeared at his place?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: It is no use asking me whether a particular thing is being shown in the film. As I said, the practical position is that it is not possible for me constitutionally to stop this film or any film. The same question can be raised with regard to the film "Jhansi-ki-Rani" where another national heroine of historical fame has not been as correctly depicted as she should have been. As things are, constitutionally Government have no power. As I said in the other House, if Parliament thinks that these things should be regulated it is for Parliament to give us the power and we will certainly do it.

PROF. G. RANGA: You bring forward a Bill.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Is not the Government aware of its powers under section 6 of the Cinematograph (Films for Exhibition) Act of 1952 which lays down: Notwithstanding anything contained in this part, the Central Government may, of its own motion, by notification in the Official Gazette, direct that a certified film shall be deemed to be an uncertified film in the whole or any part of India? When it has got this power, why could not the Government take action?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Well, Mr. Sundarayya, the hon. Minister's opinion is that it is not sufficient.

DR. B. V. KESKAR: I may explain that this is a matter of procedure and we exercise that power only within the limits that are granted to us by the Constitution. Otherwise my hon. friend would be the first to come and attack me for encroaching on liberty.

SHRI R. C. GUPTA: May I know if the Chief Justice of Madras High Court has expressed any opinion in a public meeting, regarding censorship and other matters; if so, whether the

Government consider it proper for him to express such an opinion?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: I understand from the papers that the Chief Justice of Madras had expressed certain opinions regarding censorship and other matters. Whether it is proper for a **Chief Justice to express opinions regarding Acts which are on the statute book and about which cases might come before him, it is not for me to judge. It is for the Home Minister to say. But as far as his views are concerned—if any Chief Justice or any judge expresses an opinion saying that it is in his personal capacity—Government can give it the value which it will give to the opinion of any other citizen and no more.**

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: Will the Government take steps to secure the necessary powers from Parliament?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is a suggestion for action.

*270. [For answer, vide col. 1841 infra.]

*271. [For answer, vide col. 1841 infra.]

ACCOUNTS OF THE ALL INDIA RADIO

*253. **SHRI S. MAHANTY (ON BEHALF OF SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO):** Will the Minister for INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) annual audited deficit of the All-India Radio in 1952-53;

(b) whether the accounts of the All-India Radio for the year 1953-54 have been audited; and

(c) what are the steps taken by Government to reduce the annual deficits of the All-India Radio?

THE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. B. V. KESKAR): (a) Rs. 12,13,405.

(b) The accounts of All-India Radio have not yet been completely audited.

(c) It would be realised that it is not possible to treat All-India Radio as a purely commercial department run on profit and loss basis. There are no clear-cut heads of revenue which can be considered as belonging to A.I.R. though, generally speaking, the proceeds from licence fee and customs duty on radio sets are regarded as accruing to All-India Radio. Moreover, in the audited accounts no credit is given for the contribution which should normally be made for external services by the External Affairs Ministry or by other Ministries for the monitoring services. If these had been calculated and shown there would really be no deficit. However, steps are continually being taken for reduction of expenditure by linking of programmes and by keeping the staff to the minimum requirements and by increasing the income by campaigning for increase in licences. In coming October All-India Radio is celebrating a Radio Month in which a large amount of publicity will be done for the Radio and every effort is being made to make the public more radio-minded.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: May I know what is the year for which the last audit was done?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: The question was about the audited deficit for 1952-53 which I have given. Auditing of the accounts for 1953-54 is not yet complete.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Part (b) of the question was whether the accounts of the All-India Radio for the year 1953-54 have been audited and the answer I think was.....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Not yet.

DR. B. V. KESKAR: They are not yet completely audited and they are not in my hands. They are in the hands of the Auditor-General.