

SHRI S. MAHANTY: I do not press Government to say what they will do and what they will not do. My question only relates to the report.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Even the report: before it is discussed and examined by the Government, they are not prepared to place it on the Table.

SHRI K. C. REDDY: May I add that the report has just been received, and we have got to look into it and make a study of it?

VISIT OF THE U.S.S.R. GOOD-WILL DELEGATION ON FILM INDUSTRY

*371. SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a good-will delegation of the Film Industry from U.S.S.R. visited India two years back as the guests of the Government of India;

(b) whether they prepared a full length film out of the shots taken by them during their tour in this country;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Soviet Government has taken more than 100 copies of the film and it is shown throughout Russia and East European countries under the title 'Across India';

(d) whether the above film is anti-Indians in character and is full of distortions and is derogatory to the people and culture of India; and

(e) if the answer to part (d) above be in the affirmative, what steps Government have taken in the matter?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) Yes. The delegation visited India early last year.

(b) Yes.

(c) We have no information about the actual number of copies taken by the Soviet Government, but it has been re-

ported that the film was simultaneously shown in all the Moscow cinema halls

(d) The film shows the poverty of certain areas, but it also brings out some artistic and cultural aspects of India.

(e) The Government do not propose to take any action about this film.

SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN: May I know whether the film shows the great national projects, such as the river valley projects, the Sindri factory, etc.?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: The film shows scenes of Indian life; it shows natural village scenes, banana plantations, coconut plantations, etc. I do not think it shows anything about the river projects.

SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN: Does the film show our great industrial projects?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: No.

SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN: Is it not a fact that the film gives a one-sided version?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Reports both from the representatives of the Government of India who have seen it as well as from our Ambassador in Moscow do not confirm the fears expressed by the hon. Member.

SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN: Did the Government of India's representatives see the picture in India?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Yes.

SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN: Do they feel that it is a true picture of Indian conditions or a distortion?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: They feel it is a true picture.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: It is a coloured film?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Yes, Sir, coloured film.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH: Can any Indian film producer go to Russia and make such films of Russia and exhibit them in India and other countries?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: This does not arise from the question.

SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN: Will the Government of India, in fairness, request the Soviet Government to show also the industrial and other progress made by India?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: How can we ask another Government to make a film of a particular type? It is for us to do it. If the other Government takes pictures and we object to them, we object to them. We cannot ask them to take pictures of a particular type, like that of our Sindri factory and show them there.

INSTALLATION OF BROADCASTING STATION AT POONA

***372. SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR:** Will the Minister for INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made with regard to the installation of a broadcasting station at Poona; and

(b) how long it will take to start the station?

THE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. B. V. KESKAR): (a) Accommodation for studios and offices has been acquired. Construction of building for transmitter and receiving centre and shifting of equipment to Poona is being taken in hand.

(b) It is hoped that the Station will be able to start functioning within approximately six months.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR: May I know whether any preliminary arrangements have been made, such as appointment of staff, etc., at the centre?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: All steps that are necessary to make the station function will generally be taken in hand but not necessarily just now; they might be taken a few days later. But it will be done in right time.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR: What is the estimated expenditure for running the station?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: I will not be able to say that offhand, because every station's budget is separate. It depends on its importance and the staff that is employed there. I will not be able to say anything at this stage

IMPORT DUTY ON COPRA

***373. SHRI E. K. IMBICHIBAVA:** Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Governments of Madras and Travancore-Cochin have requested the Central Government to increase the import duty on copra;

(b) whether Government have consulted the Central Coconut Committee regarding the import of copra; and

(c) if the reply to part (b) be in the affirmative what views have been expressed by the Central Coconut Committee in the matter?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) No such request has been received lately. In January 1952 a representation was received from the Government of Travancore-Cochin against the reduction of duty effected then.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: Is the Government aware that in the absence of an import duty on copra, the coconut oil industry in Travancore-Cochin is in the doldrums?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: No. Our information is otherwise. Our information is that the price of coconut oil in March 1952 was Rs. 1,648 per ton and the price in March 1953 was Rs. 1,887 per ton.