

of betel leaves and plantains to Pakistan—that is a step taken by the Pakistan Government—the growers have suffered, but, there is very little that we can do.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA : Will the Government consider the desirability of appointing a Minister to make the people of other countries more betel eating minded ?

SHRI D. NARAYAN : Is the Government thinking of banning imports from Pakistan ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : No, Sir ; we have no intention of taking any retaliatory action. Of course, we always take action in the interests of the country but, in this specific issue we are not taking any retaliatory action.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH : When Pakistan is not importing *pan* from India, is the Government not thinking of banning the *pan* going from East to West Pakistan through India ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : We went into that question but that was insignificant as compared with our exports and both for its effectiveness as also otherwise, we did not think such action to be good.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH : Much quantity of *pan* is going to West Pakistan from East Pakistan through Delhi.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : Sir, I should like to have information from the hon. Member. If *pan* is attempted to be air-lifted from East to West Pakistan, we cannot prevent that.

FOREIGN FILM PRODUCERS IN INDIA

*187. SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : Will the Minister for INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any foreign producers making films for foreign firms in India ;

(b) if the answer to part(a) be in the affirmative,

(i) what are the conditions on which these producers are allowed to produce such films ; and

(ii) whether reciprocal facilities are given to Indian producers by the countries to which those foreign producers belong ?

THE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. B. V. KESKAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) No specific permission is required for the production of films.

(ii) There are no reciprocal arrangements.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : Sir, what is the advantage that the Government gets in giving permission to foreign producers ?

DR. B. V. KESKAR : Sir, I think the hon. Member has not understood the answer. There is no specific permission required for the production of any film in India.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : How many foreign films have been made in India since 1950 ?

DR. B. V. KESKAR : I will not be able to give the films for 1952, but, since 1950, about 6 or 7 foreign firms have been given permission. Under the law, it is not necessary for them to ask permission from Government, but, they require certain facilities from Government and, therefore, they make an application to us as to whether we will be able to accord such facilities and such firms number about 7.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : Which are those countries ?

DR. B. V. KESKAR : They are Indonesia, Holland, the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : Is the Minister aware that the film " River," was shot in India ?

DR. B. V. KESKAR : Yes, Sir, I am aware. But, as I said, no permission is required to shoot a film in India.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : What is the extent of dollar exchange granted to them ?

DR. B. V. KESKAR : I will require notice—if at all we have given any dollar exchange.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : Is the Minister aware that another film is being made, or is likely to start very soon, and it will be called “Kheddah”?

DR. B. V. KESKAR : I am not aware of this particular film. As I said, certain firms have applied for facilities in the matter of exchange or other facilities, and I gave the names of the countries from which these firms come. If the hon. Member wishes, I will certainly make inquiries regarding this particular film.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : Are there any Indians associated financially with any of these foreign films made in India ?

DR. B. V. KESKAR : I think there are, with some of them.

DR. R. B. GOUR : In the name of shooting a film, is it not possible for these foreigners to film vulnerable spots in our country for their strategic purposes, and, if so, what steps does the Government intend to take to prevent that ?

DR. B. V. KESKAR : Those spots are prohibited.

SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN : Are we to take it that Government will not interfere even when the foreign film producers produce films which are damaging to the culture and civilization of this country ?

DR. B. V. KESKAR : As the law stands at present, as long as the producer is not exhibiting the film in

India—for which he will have to go to the Board of Censors—there is no ban on production.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : Have the Government thought it necessary to see that the films produced in India by foreign firms do not contain defamatory or anti-Indian propaganda matter ?

DR. B. V. KESKAR : When a film is produced, it is only when it is shown in public or in private that the Government will be aware whether there is anything objectionable in it. In this country there is no law compelling a producer to submit the script in advance to Government and it is not possible for us to know, before the film is ready and exhibited somewhere, that it has some objectionable features.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : Do the Government not think it desirable to have some arrangement in order to see that such films are submitted to Government prior to exhibition ?

DR. B. V. KESKAR : That is a matter for consideration and can be discussed. I cannot say that *prima facie* it is not something which is desirable.

PROF. G. RANGA : That is just the point. Will the Government agree to study this problem as to whether it would be in the interests of this country or not to insist upon registration by these producers as well as distributors of foreign films in this country, in view of the fact that this is on the anvil and there is an amending Bill ?

DR. B. V. KESKAR : If hon. Members so desire, Government will be prepared to consider this.

PERCENTAGE OF INDIA'S COAL TO WORLD RESERVE COAL

*188. SHRI M. VALIULLA : Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state :