

make a suggestion. Let me say something about that. You sit down. See, the point is, Mr. Minister, this is a very serious issue. A number of cases has come to my notice also. Especially, the weaker section, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students take loan. After taking loan, they complete their studies but they are not getting a job. Because they are not getting a job, they are not able to repay the loan, and the banks are harassing them like anything. To me also, some students came and they wept before me. They, actually, cried. Therefore, I think, something has to be done. I, personally, feel it is very, very serious. I would request you to bring this matter to the notice of the hon. Finance Minister. Something has to be done.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with your sentiments. Please urge them to do something.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, yes; I have asked them.

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Now, Shri Swapan Dasgupta.

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN: One minute, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have associated with it. That is enough.

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN: No, no. Our hon. Chief Minister, Amma, has provided financial assistance to 17 students. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, it is on record. Shri Swapan Dasgupta.

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN: The other leaders may follow that.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Swapan Dasgupta.

#### **Report of Shyam Benegal Committee on Central Board of Film Certification and Government's reaction thereto**

SHRI SWAPAN DASGUPTA (Nominated): Sir, I want to raise an issue which has the potential, if left unattended, to have a very serious effect on a ₹ 250 billion industry, and I refer to the film industry. I am referring mainly to some of the controversies which have affected the Central Board of Film Certification. This is not an indictment or a questioning of any individual, but of some of the norm, which have affected this institution. The element of arbitrariness, which has crept into policy-making, is very, very disturbing. For example, Sir, we have had, only in the past few weeks, one film,

[Shri Swapan Dasgupta]

namely, 'Udta Punjab', — may not be a film which I, personally, would like to associate with — where we have a bizzare situation of the CBFC making 89 cuts and the Bombay High Court releasing the film with only one cut! Now, between 89 cuts and one cut, Sir, there is a wide difference. It smacks of a degree of arbitrariness. In any case, the norms which govern film certification — the word 'censorship' should not be used really — are subjective. It depends on interpretation of what constitutes morality, what constitutes decency, what constitutes sovereignty, public law, etcetera, etcetera. It is subjective. But if the subjectivity extends from one extreme to another — between 89 and 1 — certainly, this is a cause for intense alarm. I think the Government, in this case, have a right under the Cinematography Act to, actually, determine the norms. We have had various committees which have been appointed from time to time. We had the Khosla Committee in the 60s; we had the Mudgal Committee, some time in 2013, and now, recently, the Shyam Benegal Committee Report, which, unfortunately, has not been made public as yet. Especially, given the fact that many of these have the potential of destroying India's reputation as an open society, even a small incident can do it. So, the issue really is to what extent the Government should, actually, come out, lay down norms, establish certain ... (*Time-bell rings*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Time-over. ... (*Interruptions*)... Time over. ... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI K.T.S. TULSI (Nominated): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal): Sir, Shri Shyam Benegal was our colleague. He was here with us in the House. If there is a report by him, I think, you should also make an effort to make sure that that is made public. ... (*Interruptions*)... Why are you not making that public as to what is said in that report? ... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself and hope for some ... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Shwait Malik.