

BRITISH MOVIE TONEWS LTD.

CAMERAMAN'S REPORT.

CAMERA MAN

P. Mohan.

SOUND MAN

DATE & LOCATION

16th-25th June, 1951. Bihar and Calcutta.

ASSIGNMENT

"India's Food Crisis"

FOOTAGE

600.

LIGHT
CONDITIONSCloudy and
Bright.

SOUND

An accurate description of each individual scene including names of persons figuring therein is necessary.

In group shots always give names from left to right, making certain they are spelt correctly.

SCENES

According to the Malthusian theory of Population - population of a country rises according to geometrical progression like 2, 4, 16, 256 whereas the means of subsistence increase according to arithmetical progression like 2, 4, 8, 16. The modern economist has severely criticised this theory of Dr. Malthus but India has proved this theory times and again during the last few decades. It is not ^{only} now that the British have joined other nations in helping India for transporting food grain and storing it but the story goes back to 1786 when a British Army Officer, Captain John Garstin built a granary in Patna - the capital of Bihar, "for the perpetual prevention of famine in these provinces." The granary called GOL-GHAR is a 90 foot long beehive shaped building and has a capacity of storing 137,000 tons of grain and is still in use. The Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Nehru visited Bihar recently to acquaint himself of the seriousness of the problem - it is very bad. The governments of India and Bihar are struggling hard to avert the famine. But this may prove to be a temporary phase. In Bihar there seems to be a great deal of corruption amongst the government officials. However, the Indian government are importing huge stocks of food grain from abroad and rushing it to the worse affected areas. This grain is being brought to the Indian ports mostly by British and American ships. Apart from that the government are also giving short term loans and have started public works to help people.

REMARKS

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SCENES

2

financially. For this purpose a canal is being dug out in North Bihar. This unfortunate state (Bihar) is also a victim of floods - the red waters of the Kosi river are in spate. Yes there are famine conditions in Bihar.

Rolls 1 to 6. Calcutta docks, Kidderpore Ships waiting to unload grain - ships from Australia, Burma, Argentina, China, Russia, America and from other countries. An American Liberty ship - recently demoted, ^{called} unloading American wheat. Cranes lifting sacks of wheat sacks. Inside a ship's hold the labour is seen packing the wheat in jute sacks. The sacks are then stitched and the cranes lift them out and bring over-board where coolies pick them up and take them to goods wagons. Flags of various nations whose ships were present at the time. American Britain and Russia. A Russian ship was also unloading wheat at Calcutta docks. A shot of King King George's dock. Another shot of the sign signifying the name of the dock, Victoria Memorial, Calcutta. Some street scenes of the city.

REMARKS

Mr. Nehru arriving at Darbhanga - shots of crowd waiting to cheer their leader who once said in the Indian Parliament recently "I feel my place at the moment is not to sit on the treasury benches but in the famine

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3

SCENES

stricken areas of Bihar. There are always elaborate security measures for Mr. Nehru. Mr. Nehru stepping out from the plane and is received by the Chief Minister of Bihar and is introduced to various officials engaged in the relief work. Later Mr. Nehru was garlanded by Maharaja and Raja of Sarbhanga. Mr. Nehru then greeted the crowds and then ~~then~~ ^{went} to inspect various relief centres, godowns and ration shops. Later he flew over the flooded areas of the River Kosi. Shots of the flooded areas. Emigration from affected areas please note the over-crowded trains. There may be plenty of rations still there are people who can't afford to pay for them - the Bihar government have started public works whereby the an individual earns nearly 1s. 4d. per day in this case a canal is being dug out in Northern Bihar near the Indo-Nepal border. But the wages are very low and are not paid regularly. The medical opinion forbids this sort of labour to indulge in a hours of hard work with semi starvation. The state government also gives loans to farmers during this emergency period the maximum ^{loan} to a party is £. 18. - the farmers feel it is not enough. Shots of food grain being transhipped to scarcity areas - steamers carrying goods wagons. Picture of railway yards

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With huge piles of wheat sacks. There is a certain amount of wastage. Cows eating the wheat. Wheat scattered over the platform and on the railway track. Shots of Golghar in Patna. The Bihar Government stores grain in this building and though over a 150 years old it is one of the finest granaries. It was built by a British Army Officer.

Shots of hunger stricken people. Women trying to soothe one another. Men talk it over bubble bubble pipe. There are some families who only have empty utensils. A little boy suffering from mal-nutrition. A poor man who lost his abode in the flood.

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