

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 06.12.2010
ANSWERED ON
PIRACY IN FILMS VIDEO AND CABLE .

2851

SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether any committee has been constituted by Government to suggest measures to combat piracy in films, video and cable;
- (b) if so, the composition of the said committee alongwith the details of the recommendations made by it and the action taken by Government thereon;
- (c) the States which have set up special cells for enforcement of copyright laws and the existing number of such cells in the country; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to check the menace of piracy?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

(DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN)

(a) Yes, Sir. A Committee was constituted to recommend measures to combat film, video, cable and music piracy.

(b) The composition of the Committee is annexed. Some of the major recommendations of the Committee include carrying out effective and all encompassing multi-media campaign involving all the relevant stakeholders, upscaling of the level of sensitization of the official machinery mandated to implement Copyright Act, simultaneous or near simultaneous release of films across platforms, geographies and formats, conversion of traditional cinema theatres into digital ones, lowering of prices of genuine DVDs, and theatre owners to ensure that camcording does not take place inside a cinema theatre. The detailed recommendations of the Committee are available at Ministry of Information & Broadcasting's website www.mib.nic.in. The Committee's recommendations have been sent to the relevant Ministries/Departments of the Central Government, State Governments, film federations, film exporters association, film producers association, etc. for implementation.

(c) As per the information provided by Ministry of Human Resource Development, the following states have informed that they have separate special cells for enforcement of copyright law: Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkand, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Manipur, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikim, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Tripura, Chattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Meghalaya. It has been further informed by the Ministry of Human Resource Development that they have no information regarding the number of such cells set up in the country.

(d) The Government in cooperation with copyright organisations and educational institutions organises seminars and workshops in different parts of the country regularly to educate the people about copyright matters. Training programmes are also organised for enforcement personnel. A training module in English and in Hindi has been prepared for senior police officers/other Enforcement Agencies on Piracy, which has been circulated to the State Governments. The Cable Television Network Regulation Act has been amended to prohibit a cable operator from transmitting or re-transmitting any programme or channel for which the copyright holder has not granted him a license. Measures have been taken by the Union Government and the State Governments towards reduction in the rates of customs duty, service tax and entertainment tax, amendments in the Copyright Act, strengthening the enforcement machinery and enhancing public awareness for checking film and video piracy.