

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3443
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.03.2018**

BAN ON MOVIES AT FILM FESTIVALS

3443: SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of movies banned from public screening and from being screened at film festivals by the Ministry and State Governments, during last three years and the reasons therefor, year-wise;
- (b) whether as per Supreme Court ruling in S. Rangarajan vs. P. Jagjivan Ram, Government cannot cite inability to handle a hostile audience to ban a movie;
- (c) whether independent jury decides which movie is to be screened independent of Ministry's directive for movies screened at film festivals; and
- (d) if so, whether the Ministry banned the screening of the film 'S.Durga' at 48th IFFI?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING [COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)]:

- (a) to (d): The certificates in respect of the films namely 'Master Mind Zinda Sukha (Punjabi)' and 'Kaum De Heere (Punjabi)' were revoked on 09.09.2015 and 21.08.2014 respectively by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) based on inputs received from Ministry of Home Affairs that the release of these films may endanger security of the state and incite public disorder.

There are instances where films certified by the CBFC for public screening were prevented from being screened by different State Governments. The details of last three years are as under:-

- i 'MSG – The Messenger' by Punjab Government in January 2015;
- ii 'Nanak Shah Fakir' by Punjab Government in April, 2015;
- iii 'MSG-2 The Messenger' by Government of Punjab, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh in 2015;
- iv "Santa Banta Pvt Ltd" by Punjab Government in 2016.

For screening in the film festivals, a film should either be certified by the CBFC or should have the exemption from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting under Section 9 of the Cinematograph Act, 1952. In the recent past, following films, which were not certified by CBFC, were not given exemption for screening at film festivals:

- i "The Battle of Banaras" in 2015.
- ii "KaBodyscapes" in 2016.
- iii "In The Shade of Fallen Chinar", "Mujahir", "The Unbearable Being of Lightness", "March MarchMarch" and "Sexy Durga" in 2017.

Selection of films to be screened in a film festival is done by an independent jury constituted for the purpose by the respective organizers of the film festivals. The certification of film 'S Durga' was suspended by CBFC on receipt of a complaint from IFFI jury. CBFC decided to re-examine the film under Rule 33 of the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 1983 and directed the producer of the film not to exhibit the film, till the re-examination by the CBFC. Banning of screening of the film by the Ministry does not arise.
