

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 715  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2024**

**REPRESENTATION IN CBFC SCREENING COMMITTEE**

**715: SHRI P. WILSON:**

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

- a) the details of complaint received in the last five years with regard to bribery and details of steps taken to increase transparency in certification process in light of the recent allegation of bribery in Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) by leading actors;
- b) the details of number of films banned and scenes cut on the basis of religion in the last five years; and
- c) whether Government has considered mandating representation from SC, ST, OBC and minority religion in CBFC Screening Committees, in order to curb the increasing tendency of portrayal of minorities in objectionable manner and details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER OF  
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS  
(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)**

(a): During the last five years, three complaints with regard to bribery were received against the Regional Offices of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) at Hyderabad, Mumbai and Bengaluru respectively.

Necessary remedial and corrective measures have been taken in order to make CBFC's working smoother, stakeholder friendly, efficient as well as to increase transparency and accountability in the system by reducing manual interference, systemic upgrades and modifications in certification procedures.

To increase transparency in the certification process and to minimize manual intervention, CBFC has launched its revamped Website and Mobile App. The new website and the Mobile App are user-friendly and provide features such as –

- Real-time progress tracking of application status.
- Intimation of tentative screening dates and the facility to respond to intimation & show cause notice.
- Uploading of required documents (including video of less than 10 minutes duration).
- CBFC Officials can form and schedule examining committees, track application status, view notice responses, approve requests for change of regional office, etc.

(b): The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) setup under the Cinematograph Act, 1952 performs the statutory function of certifying films for public exhibition under the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and the rules and guidelines made there under. The CBFC can refuse to sanction a film for public exhibition under section 4 of the Cinematograph Act, 1952. During the period 2019 to 2023, a total of three feature films, one each in 2019, 2020 and 2022, have been refused certification by CBFC for violation of Guidelines issued under section 5B(1) & (2) of the Cinematograph Act, 1952. Further, records of scenes cut based on religion are not separately maintained by the CBFC.

(c): The Central Government constitutes an advisory panel at the 9 Regional Offices of the CBFC for the purpose of enabling the Board to efficiently discharge its functions under the Cinematograph Act, 1952. The advisory panel members are appointed in accordance with section 5(1) of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 read with rule 7 of the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 1983. The advisory panels constitute of persons qualified in the opinion of the Central Government to judge the effect of films on the public, as prescribed under section 5(1) of the Cinematograph Act, 1952.

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