

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *278
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2024**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF SHYAM BENEGAL
COMMITTEE**

***278: SMT. PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI:**

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

- (a) the status of implementation of recommendations of the Shyam Benegal Committee;
- (b) whether the recommendations of the Committee are being considered in the case of film censorship to prevent the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) from ordering any excisions, modifications, or amendments to films; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor, with details on measures being taken by Government to prevent over-censorship of films during certification?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*278 FOR REPLY ON 20.12.2024

(a) to (c): The Committee of Experts headed by Shri Shyam Benegal was constituted by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on 1st January, 2016 to recommend broad guidelines/procedures to set principles to guide the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) with respect to certification of films. The Committee submitted first part of its report in April, 2016 and final part in June, 2016.

A comprehensive review of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 was undertaken by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in consultation with various stakeholders to address the various issues concerning the certification process. This extensive review involved, among other things, a clause-by-clause examination of the recommendations made by the Shyam Benegal Committee.

Subsequently, the Cinematograph Act was amended by the enactment of the Cinematograph (Amendment) Act, 2023 in August 2023 to enhance the effectiveness of the film sanctioning process and align it with contemporary needs. Pursuant to amendment of the Act, the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 1983 were also overhauled by notifying the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 2024 to improve and contemporize the entire process of certification of films for public exhibition.

The recommendations made by the Benegal Committee regarding online submission and processing of applications for certification is already under implementation since the Online Certification System of CBFC 'e-cinepramaan' came into force in April, 2017. Further, the recommendations of the Benegal Committee regarding introduction of age-based categories, omission of provision in the Act relating to revisional powers of the Central Government in view of the judgment passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of Union of India vs. K.M. Shankarappa, simplification of application forms, provision for re-certification of a film for telecast on a different media, reduction in time-lines for the processing of applications for film certification, greater representation of women in the Board and Advisory Panels and provision for priority screening of a film, have been implemented through the recent amendments of the Act and the Rules.

As per Entry 60 of the Union List (List I) of Constitution of India, sanctioning of cinematograph films for exhibition is the responsibility of Government of India. Government of India has enacted the Cinematograph Act 1952 as per constitutional provisions. The CBFC created under the Act performs the statutory function of certifying films for public exhibition in India under the provisions of Cinematograph Act. The CBFC always strives to ensure that powers under the Act to direct excisions and modifications are used in an objective and restrained manner. Moreover, with the introduction of age-based categories by further subdividing the UA category into three age-based categories, viz. seven years (UA 7+), thirteen years (UA 13+), and sixteen years (UA 16+), the CBFC ensures that a film receives an appropriate category of certification rather than recommending any cuts.
