

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *143
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.08.2025**

STEPS TO DISCOURAGE LARGE- SCALE PIRACY NETWORKS

***143: SHRI JAGGESH**

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

- a) Whether it is a fact that despite the Cinematograph (Amendment) Act, piracy continues to pose a serious threat to India's creative economy, affecting industries such as film, music, publishing, software, and gaming every year;
- b) Whether the coordination between the Cinematograph Act and other laws, like the Copyright Act and IT Act, has improved enforcement against piracy;
- c) Whether the current penalties under the Cinematograph (Amendment) Act are sufficient to discourage large-scale piracy networks;
- d) If so, the details thereof; and
- e) If not, the reasons thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*143 FOR REPLY ON 01.08.2025

(a) to (e): The government remains conscious of the adverse impact of piracy on the creative economy. In this regard, a multi-pronged approach through legislation, strict enforcement, and awareness efforts is being undertaken to address the issue of piracy:

Legal measures:

The Copyright Act, 1957:

- Provision of civil & criminal remedies against piracy, including provision of imprisonment for up to three years under Section 63.
- Section 65A criminalizes the circumvention of technological protection measures used to safeguard copyrighted works

Cinematograph Act, 1952:

In 2023, the Government amended Cinematograph Act, 1952 to include measures to tackle digital piracy

- Section 6AA and 6AB of Cinematograph Act prohibit unauthorized recording and transmission of films.
- Punishment of a minimum 3 months imprisonment and fine of Rs. 3 lakh, which can be extended up to 3 years imprisonment and fine up to 5% of the audited gross production cost (**Section 7(1A)**)
- Section 7(1B)(ii) enables the Government to notify the intermediaries hosting pirated content under section 79(3) of the Information Technology Act, 2000

The Information Technology Act, 2000:

- Section 66 penalises computer-related offences such as unauthorized access, data theft, & misuse of digital content with imprisonment up to 3 years or a fine up to ₹5 lakh, or both
- Offender is also liable to pay compensation for the damages to the person so affected (Section 43)

Intermediary obligations under IT Rules, 2021

- Online intermediaries are required to take due diligence measures to prevent the hosting or transmission of infringing content
- Rule 3(1)(b)(iv) of the IT Rules, 2021 prohibits explicit content that “*infringes any patent, trademark, copyright or other proprietary rights*”
- Rule 3(1)(d) of the IT Rules, 2021 mandates platforms to remove infringing content upon receiving court orders, government notices, or user complaints

The coordinated application of these Acts, including intermediary obligations under IT Rules, 2021 enables the timely takedown of pirated content and stronger deterrence through stricter penalties.

Process reforms:

- CBFC & MIB are empowered to receive complaints for copyright infringement & issue necessary directions to intermediaries for hosting such content
- So far, intermediaries and ISPs have been directed for disabling access to pirated content hosted on approximately 700 websites
- Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC), with members from key Ministries including Home Affairs, MeitY, DPIIT, and DoT, has been set up to strengthen anti-piracy strategies and formulate coordinated action plans
- During the World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES 2025), a competition was also held to develop technical solutions to combat digital piracy.

The Government continues to review and enhance coordination mechanisms. Awareness campaigns, engagement with intermediaries, industry stakeholders and State governments are ongoing to ensure robust protection of intellectual property and creative content.
