

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1522  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.08.2025**

**POWER OF CBFC TO MANDATE CHANGE IN FILM TITLES**

**1522: SHRI HARIS BEERAN**

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

- a) whether Government is aware that the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), while processing the certification of the Malayalam feature film Janaki v/s State of Kerala, directed the producer to change the title of the film and the name of the lead character 'Janaki', allegedly citing religious connotations;
- b) If so, the details thereof; and
- c) under what statutory authority does the CBFC have the powers to mandate changes to film titles or fictional character names, particularly when such names are widely prevalent in Indian culture and cinema?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND  
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS  
(DR. L. MURUGAN)**

(a) to (c): The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) examines the film for public exhibition in accordance with the Cinematograph Act, 1952, rules framed & guidelines issued thereunder.

- While certifying films, the CBFC ensures compliance with guidelines framed under Section 5B of the Act.
- As per Section 4(2)(iv), it may direct necessary modification before certification.
- Film titles are also reviewed to ensure they meet regulatory norms.
- All decisions are based on a holistic assessment of the film's content and impact.

Accordingly, the film, erstwhile titled "JSK - Janaki Vs State of Kerala", was recommended with modifications in accordance with the guidelines framed under Section 5B of the Act.

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