

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1524
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.08.2025**

IMPACT OF NEW LEGAL PROVISIONS ON PIRACY

1524: SHRI JAGGESH

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

- (a) whether the Cinematograph (Amendment) Act, 2023 has been effective in protecting the creative economy from the growing threat of piracy;
- (b) whether piracy is still causing substantial financial losses to filmmakers and content creators despite the new legal provisions;
- (c) whether Government has conducted any assessment or study to determine the impact of the new legal provisions;
- (d) whether any organized groups or cybercrime networks have been identified as being responsible for these pre-release leaks, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government to safeguard the Indian creative economy and entertainment sector from piracy?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): The government remains conscious of the adverse impact of piracy on the creative economy especially to the filmmakers, content creators, and the entertainment

industry. The Government remains committed to tackling these threats through coordinated enforcement and stakeholder collaboration.

Legal measures:

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
- During the World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES 2025), a competition was also held to develop technical solutions to combat digital piracy.

The government regularly monitors the implementation of provisions to address the important issue of piracy. An 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.
