

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1525
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.08.2025**

**SURVEILLANCE OF WEBSITES AND SOCIAL MEDIA PROMOTING PIRATED
CONTENT**

1525: SHRI JAGGESH

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

- (a) whether the enforcement of the Cinematograph (Amendment) Act, 2023, is strong enough to safeguard the interests of the film and entertainment industry;
- (b) whether Government has taken steps to enhance surveillance and monitoring of websites and social media channels promoting pirated content;
- (c) whether international piracy networks are contributing to the unauthorized circulation of Indian films on the dark web or torrent platforms;
- (d) whether the lack of international cooperation is hindering efforts to stop piracy websites hosted abroad; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

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 including the film and entertainment industry. In this regard,

government has adopted a multi-pronged approach through legislation, strict enforcement, and awareness efforts to address the issue of piracy:

Cinematograph (Amendment) Act, 2023 has strengthened the legal framework to deter film piracy. It contains strict penal provisions to prevent the harm to film and entertainment industry:

- 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

Information Technology Act, 2000

The act provides an institutional setup to prevent the pirated content from being hosted and transmitted on websites and social media channels

- 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.

Further, 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.

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.
