

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3704
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03/01/2019**

CENSORSHIP IMPOSED ON MEDIA

3704. SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of **INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING** be pleased to state the details of important instances of censorship imposed by the Union Government on Newspapers, TV channels and Films since independence, State/UT-wise ?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF
INFORMATION & BROADCASTING
[COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)]**

Regarding Print Media as per Section 13 of the Press Council Act, 1978, objects of the Council shall be to preserve the freedom of the Press and to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India.

All programme and advertisements telecast on private satellite TV channels transmitted/re-transmitted through the Cable TV network are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the rules framed thereunder. The Act does not provide for pre-censorship of any programme and advertisement telecast on such TV channels.

Further, so far Films are concerned, the "Sanctioning of cinematograph films for exhibition is included in Entry 60 of the Union List (List I) of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. Cinemas subject to the provisions of Entry 60 of List I" is included in Entry 33 of the State List. Therefore, as per the Constitutional provisions the Union Government is empowered to legislate in matters pertaining to sanctioning (also called certification) of films for exhibition in India and the State Legislatures are empowered to make laws to regulate the licensing and other related matters pertaining to exhibition of Cinema. In respect of Union territories, the power to make laws to regulate exhibition also vests with the Parliament. In exercise of its power, the Parliament has enacted the Cinematograph Act, 1952 (37 of 1952). Cinemas are certified by a body called Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) in accordance with the Cinematograph Act 1952, Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 1983 and Guidelines for certification of Films for Public Exhibition. All films, music videos, and documentaries meant for public exhibition, irrespective of their length, and media type (Celluloid, Video, CD or DVD version) are subjected to certification by CBFC.
