

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3839
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.01.2019

POWERS OF CENTRAL BOARD OF FILM CERTIFICATION

3839. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has accepted the recommendations of the Committee of Experts chaired by Shri Shyam Benegal, which submitted its report on 26th April, 2016 and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the specific steps taken by the Government to implement the same;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to introduce legislation to remove the powers of pre-censorship of the Central Board of Film Certification and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the time by which such legislation is likely to be introduced; and
- (f) if not, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) : The Committee of Experts constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Shyam Benegal submitted first part of its report in April, 2016 and final part in June, 2016. The recommendations contained in the report require amendment in the Cinematograph Act and Rules. It was felt that implementation of the recommendations, especially those requiring important amendments in the Act/Rules, be done after further consultations.

A Consultation meeting between the then Hon'ble Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Minister of Law and Justice, Minister of Finance and Minister of Human Resources Development was held on 16th March, 2017 to deliberate on the issue of repeal/amendment of the Cinematograph Act. Another round of consultation in this regard by the then Hon'ble Minister with Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra and the representatives of Film Industries was held on 06.06.2017 at Mumbai. However, consensus could not be arrived at in respect of many of the recommendations made by the Committee.

(d) to (f): There is no such proposal under consideration by the Government. As per Entry 60 of Union List (List I) of Constitution of India, sanctioning of cinematograph films for exhibition is the responsibility of Government of India. Government of India has enacted the Cinematograph Act 1952 as per constitutional provisions. The Central Government has constituted the Central Board of Film Certification for the purpose of sanctioning films for public exhibition as per Section 3(1) of the Cinematograph Act.
