

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 866
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.02.2026

CONCERNS REGARDING ARBITRARY CENSORSHIP DECISIONS BY CBFC

866: SHRI MANISH TEWARI:

SHRI T.R. BAALU:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of increasing concerns from filmmakers and artists regarding arbitrary or inconsistent censorship decisions by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC);
- (b) the number of films which were subjected to major edits, delays or denial of certification during the last five years along with the reasons for the same;
- (c) the details of cases which certificates were issued in deference to court orders without any modifications or changes insisted by CBFCs along with the action taken to avoid recurrence of such incidents;
- (d) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to ensure consistency and transparency across regional CBFC offices to avoid subjective or politically influenced decisions and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to review and reform existing censorship guidelines and digital content regulations to uphold freedom of artistic expression in Indian cinema?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (e): The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), a statutory body under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, certifies films for public exhibition under the Cinematograph Act 1952, Cinematograph Certification Rules 2024 and related guidelines.

Cuts or modifications are recommended only if the content violates statutory parameters concerning sovereignty and integrity of India, security, public order, decency, morality, defamation, contempt of court or incitement to offence.

Over the last five years (2020–21 to 2024–25), CBFC has certified 71,963 films.

The Cinematograph Act provides for an appeal against the order of the Board before the High Court. Such cases are dealt in accordance with the outcome of the judicial proceedings.

The Government is committed to maintaining a transparent and accountable certification process, while protecting creative freedom and discharging its obligations under the Cinematograph Act.
