

appointment to the post of Director General, All India Radio shall be subject to the decision of the OA. The matter regarding appointment to the post of Director General: All India Radio is sub-judice.

Special show of film 'Aarakshan' for SC/ST Commission

†65. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in view of apprehension of hurting the sentiments of a particular community on release of the film 'Aarakshan' in August this year, the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Commission of India had directed the producer of the film to organize a show for the Commission, which was turned down by the producer; and

(b) if so, the action Government is going to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN): (a) and (b) National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) requested Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) for preview of this film by them before the same is released. This request was not acceded to by CBFC as there is no provision in the Cinematograph Act 1952 and the Rules made thereunder to hold previews for constitutional/statutory bodies like NCSC. However, the said film has been certified (UA) by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) in accordance with the above mentioned Act, rules and guidelines framed thereunder.

Illegal telecast of foreign channels

66. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to amend the Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act to check the illegal telecast of foreign channels in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government has identified the number of illegal foreign TV channels operating in the country which are not conducive to the environment in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) to (c) The Ministry is in the process of bringing about certain amendments in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act 1995 to address the problem of illegal Telecast of foreign channels. These amendments *inter-alia* include making transmission of illegal channels a cognizable offence and enhancing the existing financial penalties in the Act with a view to discourage Cable Operators from transmitting illegal channels. It is proposed to introduce a Bill to this effect in the Parliament after the approval of the Cabinet. Security agencies have identified a list of 25 illegal foreign channels and observed that the contents of some of these channels are not conducive to the security environment in the country and pose a potential security hazard. The details of the 25 illegal foreign Channels are as under :

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|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Q TV (Pakistan) | 14. Noor TV(Pakistan) |
| 2. Peace TV (Dubai) | 15. HadiTV(Pakistan) |
| 3. MadniTV(Pakistan) | 16. Aaj (Pakistan) |
| 4. Saudi TV | 17. NTV Bangladesh |
| 5. TV Maldives | 18. XYZ TV |
| 6. ARY TV | 19. Nepal |
| 7. PTV | 20. Filmax (Pakistan) |
| 8. PTV Home | 21. STV (Pakistan) |
| 9. PTV World | 22. Kantipur (Nepal) |
| 10. GeoTV(Pakistan) | 23. Al-Jazeera News |
| 11. Dawn (Pakistan) | 24. Ahmedia Channel (U.K. Based) |
| 12. Express(Pakistan) | 25. Bhutan Broadcasting service |
| 13. Waqat (Pakistan) | |

Free channels in DTH

†67. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.