

Mudgal Committee report on the Cinematograph Act, 1952

*83. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Mudgal Committee which was constituted to update the Cinematograph Act, 1952, has submitted its report to Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the said Committee has proposed for legal check on States banning films;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said committee has also submitted model Cinematograph Bill to replace the Cinematograph Act, 1952; and

(d) if so the views of the Government on the report submitted by the said committee and whether Government is considering to implement the recommendations, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Expert Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Justice Mukul Mudgal to examine the issues of certification under the Cinematograph Act, 1952 has submitted its report on 28.9.2013.

(b) The Committee proposed for inclusion of a statutory provision in Cinematograph legislation to provide that ordinarily the exhibition of a film shall not be suspended. If circumstances arise during the public exhibition of such certified film which lead to a breach of public order or likelihood of such breach, then the Central Government either *suo motu* or at the behest of the relevant State Government may proceed to pass an order of suspension of exhibition of such film. Such order of suspension may not be passed without first giving an opportunity to the producer/holder of the rights to be heard, informing him of the ground of the proposed suspension and asking him why the film should not be suspended. Any order passed suspending the exhibition of a certified film must be appealable to the FCAT. The Committee has also observed that the constitutional and legislative framework as regards cinema should be within the domain of the Central Government.

(c) and (d) Yes, the proposed Cinematograph Bill, 2013 submitted by Mudgal Committee has been uploaded in the Ministry's website www.mib.nic.in for seeking comments from the public on the proposed Bill. The Report, as well as the proposed Bill are under examination in the Ministry.