

Enhancement in coverage area of regional Radio Station, Kodaikanal

950. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the F.M. Radio run by Government with entire India coverage from the Regional Radio Stations such as Kodaikanal in Tamil Nadu to cover Ramnathpuram coastal area, and the entire Sivaganga, district through KODAI F.M. Radio; and

(b) if so, whether the capacity of transmitting unit will be further enhanced to reach the Tamil population in Sri Lanka (North, East, and Central)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE) : (a) and (b) Prasara Bharati has informed that presently, most of the area of Sivaganga district is covered by 10 kW Frequency Modulation (FM) transmitter functional at All India Radio(AIR), Kodaikanal. A 100 Watt FM transmitter is functional at Rameshwaram (Ramanathapuram) which provides coverage area of around 10 km radius. A 10 kW FM transmitter at Nagarcoil and 1 kW FM transmitter at Tuticorin are also functional in the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu. It is not possible to enhance the FM AIR coverage upto Sri Lanka, as FM wave has limitations of distance and of propagation due to curvature of earth.

Corruption in Central Board of Film Certification

951. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU : Will the MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the alleged corruption in Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC);

(b) whether any investigation had been carried out to know the truth, and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether in view of the allegation the Ministry is also considering to implement Mudgal Committee Report recommendations in the selection of Panel Members?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE) : (a) and (b) Central Bureau of Investigation, Anti Corruption Branch, Mumbai had registered a case against the then Chief Executive Officer, Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), Mumbai

on 12.08.2014. The officer belongs to IRPS cadre of the Ministry of Railways and was on deputation in the CBFC. The officer was arrested on 18.08.2014. Following the arrest the Officer has been placed under suspension in terms of Sub Rule (2) of Rule 10 of Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1965 and has since been repatriated to his parent cadre *w.e.f.* 03.09.2014.

(c) The Mudgal Committee which was constituted to look into various aspects of certification under the Act submitted its report and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is in the process of amending the existing provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952.

Resignation of Chairperson of the CBFC

952. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M. P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) and several other members of the body resigned due to the alleged corruption and interference by the Ministry in the functioning of the Board; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE) : (a) and (b) The tenure of then Chairperson Smt. Leela Samson had expired on 31.3.2014 and tenure of 14 other members had expired on 24.5.2014. Rule 3(2) of the Cinematograph(Certification) Rules, allows her continuation as Chairperson till substitute is appointed. This provision is not applicable in the case of other members and their tenure was extended until further orders. Smt. Leela Samson the then Chairperson, Central Board of Film Certification(CBFC) submitted her resignation on 16.1.2015 alleging interference. 9 other Board Members of CBFC whose tenure has extended *viz.* Ms. Ira Bhaskar, Smt. Lora K Prabhu, Ms Mamang Dai, Shri Pankaj Sharma, Shri Rajeev Masand, Shri K.C. Shekhar Babu, Shri Saji Karun, Ms. Shubhra Gupta and Shri T.V. Thyagarajan had also submitted their resignation alongwith her. The resignation submitted by the Chairperson and the other Board Members were accepted by the competent authority and Shri Pahlaj Nihalani appointed as Chairperson of CBFC *w.e.f.* 19.1.2015. Ten other new Board Members were