

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

also appointed in place of those whose resignation were accepted and also against one existing vacancy.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has always respected the Board's decisions and has never interfered in the decision making process of the Board. There was no coercion on the Chairperson or any other Member of the CBFC by the Ministry as alleged by them. At no point had the Ministry communicated with the Chairperson or Board members of the CBFC relating to certification of any film. The legal regime with regard to the functioning of the CBFC is well laid out and it is the Board alone which decides within its jurisdiction. Any aggrieved producer has the right to move the Film Certification Appellate Tribunal, which is headed by a former Judge of the High Court which decides matters of appeal in accordance with Cinematograph Act.

Reduction in licence fee for Direct To Home service providers

953. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has reduced licence fee for Direct To Home (DTH) service providers;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that service providers are requesting further reduction of licence fee; and
- (d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE) : (a) to (d) As per DTH Licence Agreement, DTH operators are required to pay 10% of Gross Revenue (GR) to the Ministry as Licence Fee every year. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) *vide* its recommendations dated 23.07.2014 has *inter-alia* recommended that the licence fee in the new DTH licensing regime should be charged @8% of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) where AGR is calculated by excluding Service Tax, Entertainment tax and Sales tax/VAT actually paid to the Government, from the Gross Revenue. It has also been mentioned by TRAI in its recommendations dated 23.07.2014 that some DTH players have requested to peg the licence fee initially at 6% of Adjusted Gross Revenue which may be reviewed later, based on the financial state of the industry. For calculating