

Regulation for electronic media

2079. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Act which regulates the electronic media, like the Press and Registration of Books Act (PRB) that regulates the print media and the press, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether there is any system in place to regulate the private radio stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) and (b) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting exercises statutory powers conferred by Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994 framed thereunder. Private radio stations are governed by the Private FM Radio Phase-II and Phase-III Policy Guidelines approved by the Union Cabinet.

Film certification rules

2080. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is planning changes in the Film Certification Rules, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of the suggestions made by the Shyam Benegal committee in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) and (b) The Government periodically reviews the certification process of films with a view to meet the present day challenges. As part of this initiative, an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Shyam Benegal was constituted to recommend broad guidelines /procedures to set principles which shall guide the Board with respect to certification of films. The Committee submitted first part of its report in April, 2016 and final part in June, 2016. The following are some of the major recommendations in the report:

- (i) CBFC not to order excisions, modifications or amendments. The scope of certification process to be limited only to suggest what category of audiences [age groups] can watch a particular film.

- (ii) Guidelines to be revised for each category of certification in order to empower viewers to make informed viewing choices by specifying the category.
- (iii) New categories of certification other than 'U', 'A' or 'UA' are proposed.
- (iv) Films violating the provisions of Section 5B(1) of the Cinematograph Act, i.e. film depicting scenes against the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the State, friendly relation with foreign States, public order, decency or morality, defamation or contempt of court etc. to be refused certification.
- (v) CBFC Chairperson & Board Members to play a role in guiding the Board at apex level than participating in routine certification process.
- (vi) Number of members in the Board should be reduced.
- (vii) Role envisaged for NCW/NCPCR/film professionals in making nominations to Examining Panels.
- (viii) The Advisory Panel for Revising Committees to be selected from amongst persons of in depth understanding of Indian society, i.e. sociologists, anthropologists or psychologists or persons of eminence. To have 20% representation from film industry at each region.
- (ix) Out of turn (Tatkal Scheme) film certification.
- (x) Re-examination of the films by the CBFC on complaints received after certification in certain cases for violation of provisions of Section 5B (1) of the Act.

Radio stations in country

†2081. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of radio stations Government was planning to set-up in the country in the years 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16;
- (b) the number of radio stations set-up in the country per year; and
- (c) the number of radio stations planned to be set-up in the year, 2016-17?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.