

**Termination of contractual employees**

1826. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector broadcaster Prasar Bharati has vetoed a proposal in the form of a resolution by Government to terminate the services of all contractual employees of Prasar Bharati;

(b) whether Prasar Bharati has also turned down Government's proposal to hire two senior journalists on grounds of exorbitant emolument packages, appended to the proposal; and

(c) if so, the reasons attributed for the rejection of both proposals of Government by Prasar Bharati?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government has not given any such proposal to Prasar Bharati to hire two senior journalists.

(c) Does not arise.

**Release of Padmaavat film**

1827. SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has adhered to the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court regarding the release of 'Padmaavat' film in the different States of the country;

(b) whether there were so many incidents in some States disrupting the law and order situation and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the direction of Central Government to maintain law and order situation in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) to (c) As per constitutional provisions the Union Government is empowered to legislate in matters pertaining to sanctioning (also called certification) of films for exhibition in India and the State Legislatures are empowered to make laws to regulate the licensing and other related matters pertaining to exhibition of cinema. The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) setup under the Cinematograph Act, 1952 performs the

statutory function of certifying films for public exhibition under the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952. CBFC examined the film and issued certificate to the film "Padmaavat" on 5.1.2018. Exhibition of films is a State subject. State Governments have separate laws for licensing and exhibition of films in theatres.

Hon'ble Supreme Court of India *vide* order dated 18.01.2018 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 36/2018 directed to stay the operation of the notifications issued by the Governments of Gujarat and Rajasthan and also restrained other States to issue notifications/orders in any manner prohibiting the exhibition of the film.

The movie Padmavaat has been released on 25.1.2018 and is being screened all across the country. In the days leading to the film's release there were protests in some States. Stray incidents of violence were also reported. All these incidents have been reported before the release of the movie. The Government is committed to uphold rule of law and ensure maintenance of law and order. The Government has been able to effectively control all acts of violence which occurred before the release of the movie.

#### **Viewership of Doordarshan**

1828. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that viewership for Doordarshan has reduced drastically, due to introduction of many private TV channels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has formulated any plan to arrest this trend and make Doordarshan a popular channel among the public;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) to (e) Prasar Bharati has informed that Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) is an industry body which generates data on viewership of TV Channels. As per BARC data, viewership of Doordarshan National and Regional channels depicts a divergent trend. Gross viewership of Doordarshan and Private Channels are not really comparable as respective mandates are entirely different, the latter being commercial entities whereas Doordarshan is a Public Service Broadcaster.