

(b) if so, the reasons for which DTH service providers are allowed to stop services of all free to air channels instantly on the monthly recharge date, in case of recharge delay; and

(c) appropriate action taken by Government to ensure that consumers continue to get free to air channels without any interruption even in case of delay in monthly recharge by the consumer?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (c) As per new regulatory framework of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), the subscribers have to pay a minimum amount equal to the network capacity fee declared by the distributors of television channels (*i.e.* the Direct-To-Home (DTH) operators, Multi-System operators (MSO), Headened-In-The-Sky (HITS) operators and Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) operators) which would be a maximum ₹ 130/- (excluding taxes) per month for subscribing a network capacity of upto initial 100 Standard Definition (SD) channels. Payment of network capacity fee (NCF) as declared by Distribution Platform Operators (DPOs) is necessary to be active on the platform and to receive any channel including Doordarshan channels.

#### **Censorship powers of CBFC**

878. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of the Report of the Committee of Experts constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Shyam Benegal regarding the change of pre-censorship powers of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), so that it functions purely as a certification body has been accepted by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (c) The Committee of Experts constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Shyam Benegal submitted first part of its report in April 2016 and final part in June, 2016. The report submitted by Committee of Experts was examined clause-wise in the Ministry.

The Committee of Experts has, *inter alia*, recommended that there should be no system of imposing excisions, modifications and changes to the film and that the CBFC functions purely as a certification body. The Committee has recommended new categories of certification, viz. UA12+, UA15+ and AC (Adult with Caution) and suggested that the scope of CBFC should largely only be to decide what category of audiences can watch a particular film, unless the film violates provisions of Section 5B(2) of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 or exceed the limitations defined in the highest category of certification recommended by the Committee.

Majority of the recommendations contained in the report require amendment in the Cinematograph Act and Rules. It was felt that implementation of the recommendations, especially those requiring important amendments in the Act/Rules, be done after further consultations.

A Consultation meeting Between the then Hon'ble Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Minister of Law and Justice, Minister of Finance and Minister of Human Resources Development was held on 16th March, 2017 to deliberate on the issue of repeal/amendment of the Cinematograph Act. Another round of consultation in this regard by the then Hon'ble Minister with Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra and the representatives of film industries was held on 06.06.2017 at Mumbai. However, due to intricate complexities involved in the matter, no decision has been taken by the Government.

#### **Misleading advertisements in different media**

879. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of the rise in misleading advertisements in different media including television in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the complaints received about such campaigns/ advertisements and the action taken against brands and channels for violating the norms/guidelines;

(c) steps taken by Government to monitor the contents of the advertisements being telecast;