

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1509  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02/08/2021**

**BAN ON BROADCASTS**

**1509. SHRI BINOY VISWAM:**

Will the Minister of **INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of all forms of broadcasting that fall under the Ministry's ambit and the number of Films/ Digital Online Media/ Advertisements that have been banned from public viewing since 2017;
- (b) whether Government reconsidered the lifting of such ban post representation by the producers, if so, number of such bans which were rescinded;
- (c) the procedure followed in banning such broadcasts; and
- (d) the steps Government has taken to ensure that the Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression is not arbitrarily curtailed by excess censorship?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS  
(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)**

(a) to (c): The forms of broadcasting that fall under the ambit of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting are Films, Television, Radio, Print Media, online news websites and Over The Top (OTT) platforms.

Central Board of Film Certification, a statutory body, performs the function of certifying films for public exhibition in accordance with the provisions of The Cinematograph Act, 1952. Exhibition of films is state subject. State Governments have separate laws for licensing and exhibition of films in theatres in the State.

As regards digital media, a code of ethics is to be followed by publishers of news and current affairs on digital media and publishers of online curated content under Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

As regards advertisements, all private television channels are required to comply with the Advertisement Code laid down under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.

(d): The Government is committed to ensure the Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression. Press Council of India (PCI) has been set up under the Press Council Act, 1978 with twin objectives to preserve the freedom of press and to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India.

Guidelines issued under Section 5B(2) of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 for certification of films for public exhibition have the principle objective that the artistic expression and creative freedom are not unduly curbed.

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