

Import-Export of Agricultural Commodities

2843. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have constituted any committee to review the present policy adopted import-export of agricultural commodities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of reports submitted by these committees during the year 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Effect of Obscenity and Vulgarity in Films

2844. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the films depicting vulgar and violent scenes are allowed for screening by regional film censor boards without applying the norms prescribed by the Board by Film Certification in this regard; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the films do not contain any vulgar or violent scenes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) (a) Films are examined and certified by the Central Board of Film Certification and its Regional Offices in accordance with the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952.

(b) Government have already issued statutory guidelines to the Board under the relevant provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 for certification of films. These guidelines *inter alia*, lay down that the medium of film remains responsible and sensitive to the values and standards of society without unduly curbing artistic expression and creative freedom. A copy of the guidelines is enclosed as statement.

Statement**GUIDELINES**

Extracts taken from Notification No. 805/1/90-F(C) Dated December 6, 1991 of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, New Delhi, Published in the Extraordinary Gazette of India Part II Section 3 Sub-Section (ii)

S.O. In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 5B of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 (37 of 1952) and in supersession of the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting No. S.O. 9(E), dated the 7th January 1978, except as respects things done or omitted to be done before such supersession the Central Government hereby directs that in sanctioning films for public exhibition, the Board of Film Certification shall be guided by the following principles :—

1. The objectives of film certification will be to ensure that—

- (a) the medium of film remains responsible and sensitive to the values and standards of society;
- (b) artistic expression and creative freedom are not unduly curbed;
- (c) certification is responsive to social change;
- (d) the medium of film provides clean and healthy entertainment; and
- (e) as far as possible, the film is of aesthetic value and cinematically of a good standard.

2. In pursuance of the above objectives, the Board of Film Certification shall ensure that—

- (i) anti-social activities such as violence are not glorified or justified;
- (ii) the *modus operandi* of criminals, other visuals or words likely to incite the commission of any offence are not depicted.
- (iii) scenes—

(a) showing involvement of children in violence as victims or as perpetrators or as forced witnesses to violence, or showing children as being subjected to any form of child abuse;

(b) showing abuse or ridicule of physically and mentally handicapped persons; and

(c) showing cruelty to or abuse of, animals, are not presented needlessly;

(iv) pointless or avoidable scenes of violence, cruelty and horror, scenes of violence primarily intended to provide entertainment and such scenes as may have the effect of desensitising or dehumanising people are not shown;

(v) scenes which have the effect of justifying or glorifying drinking are not shown;

(vi) scenes tending to encourage, justify or glamorise drug

(vi-a)** addiction are not shown;

(vii) human sensibilities are not offended by vulgarity, obscenity or depravity;

(viii) such dual meaning words as obviously cater to baser instincts are not allowed;

(ix) scenes degrading or denigrating women in any manner are not presented;

(x) scenes involving sexual violence against women like attempt to rape, rape or any form of molestation, or scenes of a similar nature are avoided, and if any such incident is germane to the theme, they shall be reduced to the minimum and no details are shown;

(xi) scenes showing sexual perversions shall be avoided and if such matters are germane to the theme, they shall be reduced to the minimum and no details are shown;

(xii) visuals or words contemptuous of racial, religious or other groups are not presented;

(xiii) visuals or words which promote communal, obscurantist, anti-scientific and anti-national attitudes are not presented;

(xiv) the sovereignty and integrity of India is not called in question;

(xv) the security of the State is not jeopardised or endangered;

(xvi) friendly relations with foreign States are not strained;

(xvii) public order is not endangered;

(xviii) visuals or words involving defamation of an individual or a body of individuals or contempt of court are not presented;

EXPLANATION : Scenes that tend to create scorn, disgrace or disregard of rules or undermine the dignity of court will come under the term "contempt of court" and

(xix) National symbols and emblems are not shown except in accordance with the provisions of the emblems and Names (provention of improper Use) Act, 1950 (12 of 1950).

(vi-a)** Scenes tending to encourage, justify or glamorise consumption of tobacco or smoking are not shown. (Added on 15th September, 1997).

3. The Board of Film Certification shall also ensure that the film—

(i) is judged in its entirety from the point of its overall impact; and

(ii) is examined in the light of the period depicted in the film and the contemporary standards of the country and the people to which the film relate provided that the film does not deprive the morality of the audience.

4. Films that meet the above-mentioned criteria but are considered unsuitable for exhibition to non-adults shall be certified for exhibition to adult audiences only.

5. (1) While certifying films for unrestricted public exhibition, the Board shall ensure that the film is suitable for family viewing, that is to say, the film should be such that all the members of the family including children can view it together.

(2) If the Board, having regard to the nature, content and theme of the film, is of the opinion that it is necessary to caution the parents/guardian to consider as to whether any child below the age of twelve years may be allowed to see such a film, the film shall be certified for unrestricted public exhibition with an endorsement to that effect.

(3) If the Board, having regard to the nature, content and theme of the film, is of the opinion that the exhibition of the film should be

restricted to members of any profession or any class of persons, the film shall be certified for public exhibition restricted to the specialised audiences to be specified by the Board in this behalf.

6. The Board shall scrutinise the titles of the films carefully and ensure that they are not provocative, vulgar, offensive or violative of any of the above-mentioned guidelines.

Telephone Exchanges

2845. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applicants waiting for telephone connections in different telephone exchanges under secondary switching areas in Kerala particularly canannore district, district-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to clear the backlog in the State;

(c) whether Government propose to open any new Secondary Switching areas telephone exchanges in the State particularly in Cannore district during the current financial year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which these are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Details of waiting list for SSA-wise and district-wise are given in statement-I enclosed and Status of exchanges in Canannore district are given in statement-II.

(b) Out of the 7.2 lakh waiting list as on 31 10.1998, about 2.37 lakh is likely to be cleared during the current financial year. The remaining waiting list is proposed to be cleared progressively in subsequent years.

(c) to (e) There is no proposal to open new Secondary Switching Areas in the State including Cannanore district.

Statement-I

Number of Applicants Waiting in Kerala Circle

SSA	District	No. of Applicants Waiting As on 31.10.1998
Cannanore	Kasaragof	35567
Cennanore	Cannanore	70753
Cannanore	U/T of Mahe	2800
Calicut	Wynad	17410
Calicut	Calicut	63422
Calicut	Malappuram	75455
Palghat	Palghat	41608
Trichur	Trichur	81052
Emakulam	Emakulam	69622
Emakulam	Idukki	27236
Emakulam	U/T of Lakshadweep	523
Kottayam	Kottayam	47666
Alleppey	Alleppey	43629
Pathanamthitta	Pathanamthitta	33796
Quilon	Quilon	56127
Trivandrum	Trivandrum	54097
Total for Kerala Circle		720763