

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1631

ANSWERED ON:27.02.2003

EXPERT COMMITTEE ON STATUTES OF I&B

A. VENKATESH NAIK;ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Censor Board of India formaking Liberal Code in the freedom of expression and the censor`s scissors on the US Pattern;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons advanced by the Censor Board in this regard.
- (c) whether the Government have constituted an Expert Committee to review some of the statutes related to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the contracting terms and reference to the said Committee;
- (e) whether the said committee has submitted its report to the Government; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASHAD)

(a) : No Sir.

(b) : Does not arise

(c) & (d): Yes, Sir. The Government constituted an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri P.M. Bakshi to review the laws, rules and regulations administered by the Ministry of I&B. The terms of reference of the said Committee were as under: -

(i) To make study of the Information, Broadcasting and Film Sector in the country and evaluate their needs for existing Laws, Rules, Regulations to govern the Sectors.

ii) To specify the areas where legislation/regulation is required and which are not covered by existing laws.

(iii) Make recommendations regarding proposed laws. Rules and regulations in these areas alongwith their rationale

(iv) Review existing laws in order to:

(a) identify the obsolete provisions

(b) identify the provisions which need to be amended to suit the changing times.

(c) Make recommendations regarding proposed required amendments to the laws, rules and regulations.

(e) & (f) : The Committee submitted, in all, six reports on the following :-

i) First Report (dated 20.09.2000) – Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995;

ii) Second Report (Dated 13.10.2000) –Parliamentary Proceedings (Protection of Publication) Act, 1977;

iii) Third Report (Dated 7.11.2000) –Press Council Act, 1867;

iv) Fourth Report (Dated 15.12.2000)-Cinematography Act, 1952; Fifth Report(Dated 15.12.2000) –Press & Registration of Books Act, 1867; and

vi) Sixth Report(Dated 27.12.2000) – Prasar Bharati(Broadcasting Corporation of India)Act, 1990. The Reports of the Expert Committee are under consideration.