

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:159

ANSWERED ON:14.07.2009

MEASURES TO CURB PIRACY

Muttemwar Shri Vilas Baburao;Panda Shri Baijayant

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

- (a) whether video piracy has assumed an alarming position in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any action to curb piracy has been initiated; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING(SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a to d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO PARTS (a) to (d) IN THE REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 159 FOR ANSWER ON 14.7.2009 REGARDING "MEASURES TO CURB PIRACY" BY SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA AND SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR.

(a & b) Although no nationwide data to substantiate that video piracy has reached an alarming position in India is available, FICCI-KMPG Report 2009 has estimated that as much as Rs. 2000 crores are lost due to piracy annually in the case of filmed entertainment. Such piracy may take several forms including video, cable and Internet piracy.

(c & d) Several steps have been taken by the Government to curb piracy including requesting State Governments to reduce Entertainment Tax rates. On the pursuance and recommendation of SIMCON (State Information Ministers' Conference), State Governments have lowered entertainment tax rates consistently from peak rate of 70% to 50% over the years. This would attract viewers to cinema theatres reducing the market for pirated videos. Other measures taken to combat piracy are enumerated below:

(i) In order to provide an impetus to setting up of digital cinema theatres, import of digital cinema projects has been given the status of "Project Imports" thereby attracting the concessional customs duty of 7.5% which was further reduced to 5% in 2008-09 Budget. Exemption from service tax has also been provided to digital cinema operators and distributors in relation to delivery of the content of the cinematograph film in digital form after encryption to cinema theatres for exhibition. The digital exhibition of films in cinema theatres helps in curbing production of pirated CDs/DVDs as the films are released simultaneously in smaller cities and towns.

(ii) Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) have constituted a Copyright Enforcement Advisory Council (CEAC) to review the progress of enforcement of the Copyright Act, 1957 periodically and to advise the Government regarding measures - both on policy and implementation front, for improving the enforcement of the Act. Representatives of leading copyright agencies and organizations are among its members including the representatives of Central as well as State Governments, enforcement personnel and copyright experts.

(iii) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had constituted a Core Group to suggest measures to combat piracy of films. Action on the recommendations of the Core Group are being taken to curb piracy.

(iv) Ministry of HRD has persuaded the State Governments for setting up Special Cells for enforcement of Copyright law. These Cells are to be manned by senior officers, usually of the rank of an Inspector General of Police. Most of the states have set up such Cells. Thus, now there exists a single window in State Police apparatus to handle copyright piracy.

(v) Public awareness and vigilance are the best guarantee for enforcement of copyright laws. The Government, therefore, in co-operation with copyright organizations and educational institutions, organizes seminars and workshops in different parts of the country regularly to educate the people about copyright matters. Training programmes are also organized for enforcement personnel like the police. A training module in English and Hindi has been prepared for senior police officers/other Enforcement Agencies on Piracy, which is circulated to the State Governments.

(vi) To create awareness on piracy, the Public Service Broadcasting Trust has produced a film, which has been shown on Doordarshan.

(vii) The Cable Television Network Regulation Act has been amended to prohibit a Cable Operator from transmitting or re-transmitting any programme or channel for which the copyright holder has not granted him a license.

(viii) This Ministry has requested the Chief Secretaries of all States to advise District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police to include anti-piracy measures in their monthly activity reports.

(ix) This Ministry has also asked some of the State Governments to explore the desirability of having an Act on the lines of one adopted by Government of Tamil Nadu viz. Tamil Nadu Prevention of Dangerous Activities of Bootleggers, Drug-offenders, Forest-offenders, Goondas, Immoral Traffic Offenders and Slum-grabbers Act, 1982 and including video piracy also as an offence under the same.