

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:550  
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2010  
OBSCENITY IN FILMS  
Singh Smt. Meena

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

- (a) whether there are reports about depiction of violence and obscenity in films/TV channels.
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;
- (c) whether the Government has any mechanism to check the depiction of such objectionable content; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

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

STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.550 FOR REPLY ON 04.05.2010

(a) Some reports in Media have referred to depiction of violence and obscenity in films though no formal report has been received. A letter was received from National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) enclosing a complaint for banning the movie "High School" on account of obscene content therein. In so far as TV Channels are concerned, complaints/references have been received against scenes of violence and obscenity in TV programmes from time to time;

(b) The film "High School" in Telugu was refused certification by Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). However, the producer of the aforesaid film went in appeal to Film Certification Appellate Tribunal (FCAT), who after excision and modifications therein, found the film fit for "A" certificate. Thus, the said film can be viewed only by adults. NCPCR has been informed about the same. With respect to TV Channels details are annexed.

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir.

Films are sanctioned for public exhibition by a statutory body, i.e., the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). CBFC certifies films in accordance with the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and the Rules and Guidelines. Guidelines for certification of films are very detailed and require, inter alia, that human sensibilities should not be offended by vulgarity, obscenity or depravity and scenes showing sexual perversions and sexual violence against women should be avoided. Further, the certification of films is done by committees comprising members drawn from Regional Advisory Panels who are expected to judge the effects of films on the public. The content on TV Channels is monitored under provisions of the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act 1995. All programmes and advertisements telecast on TV channels, transmitted/retransmitted through the Cable TV network, are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertisement Code prescribed under the above Act and rules framed thereunder. Whenever any violation of the Code is noticed, the Ministry issues Show Cause Notices to the Channels and takes action as per the Rules. Ministry has also constituted an Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) to look into specific complaints of violation of Programme and Advertising codes. Government has also set up an Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC) to monitor the content of private television channels with reference to the violation of Programme and Advertising Codes.