

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2193
ANSWERED ON:27.03.2012
COMMITTEE ON PIRACY
Tagore Shri Manicka

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

- (a) Whether the government had constituted a committee to look into the issue of piracy in film, video, cable and music and to suggest measures for combating the same;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) The details of the recommendations made by the committee; and
- (d) The action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN)

- (a) Yes, Sir. A Committee has been constituted to recommend measures to combat film, cable and music piracy.
- (b) A Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Uday Kumar Verma, the then Special Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. The composition of the Committee is annexed.
- (c) Some of the major recommendations of the Committee include carrying out effective and all encompassing multi-media campaign involving all the relevant stakeholders, upscaling of the level of sensitization of the official machinery mandated to implement Copyright Act, simultaneous or near simultaneous release of films across platforms, geographies and formats, conversion of traditional cinema theatres into digital ones, lowering of prices of genuine DVDs, and theatre owners to ensure that camcording does not take place inside a cinema theatre. The detailed recommendations of the Committee are available at Ministry of Information & Broadcasting's website www.mib.nic.in.
- [d] The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has only an advisory role to play in addition to coordinating among the various stakeholders/agencies involved in combating piracy. This Ministry has taken/been taking the following steps in this regard:
 - # Highlighted the negative impacts of piracy among all the stakeholders.
 - # Urged the State Governments in the SIMCON meetings to reduce Entertainment Tax rates. This has had positive effect and State Governments have reduced the Entertainment Tax rates to 50% or less from rates which were as high as 70%.
 - # Suggested to the State Governments to enact anti-piracy legislations like the one enacted by the Government of Tamil Nadu (Goonda Act).
 - # Prepared a 176 page compact reading material on enforcement of copyright and prevention of piracy using the expertise of experts at Indian Institute of Mass Communication. These have been sent to Chief Secretaries of all the State Governments for use by senior level police officers.
 - # A letter dated 14.12.2011 has been issued to all exhibitors and their associations of the country requesting them to screen 30 sec/60 sec Video clips (to be provided by FICCI) on anti-piracy before commencement of exhibition of a movie. The issues pertaining to other Departments have been forwarded for taking appropriate action.
 - # A new scheme has been initiated during 12th Five Year Plan to create awareness among the consumers regarding anti-piracy. The main objective of the Scheme is to create awareness among all the stakeholders against the piracy and educate on the need to combat the same. The scheme proposes to carry forward the steps that have already been taken by the Ministry in this regard. The scheme envisages launching multi-media campaign involving all the stakeholders from film, broadcasting and music industry. Personalities from film and media would be requested to campaign asking people to refrain from buying pirated goods. These campaigns would be carried on Doordarshan/AIR and private TV channels and private FMs. Training programmes, workshops in different parts of the country for police, judicial and administrative officials would be conducted to sensitize about the Copyright Act. Research on the effects of piracy would be conducted to enable development as well as implementation of public private initiatives to combat piracy.