

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1578
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2003
RECOMMENDATIONS OF GEETHAKRISHNAN COMMITTEE
M. JAGANNATH

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

- (a) whether the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is overstaffed as stated by the Geethakrishnan Committee and highlighted by the Asian Age, dated August 4, 2003;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether the Committee has suggested to minimise the staff strength of the Ministry; and
- (d) if so, the action taken by the Government on the recommendations of the Committee?

Answer

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

(a), (b) & (c): The Expenditure Reforms Commission has inter alia recommended winding up Films Division, Photo Division, Song & Drama Division, Directorate of Field Publicity, Directorate of Publications Division, letting the Film Industry handle institutions like Film & Television Institute of India, Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Directorate of Film Festivals and Children's Film Society, India, disinvesting National Film Development Corporation Limited and Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited and reducing/ rationalizing the role of other units.

(d): The government has not accepted the recommendations regarding closure or hiving of the media units in view of the functional requirements of government publicity and the needs of the media and entertainment sectors. However, 1334 posts have been identified for abolition in a phased manner, out of which 334 posts have already been abolished. The government believes in rightsizing and not downsizing.