

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1171  
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2004  
PIRACY OF INDIAN FILMS AND MUSIC  
Babbar Shri Raj

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

- (a) Whether piracy of Indian films and music is being done by various companies violating the provisions of the Copyright Act and thus causing heavy loss to the film industry;
- (b) if so, the name of such companies against whom action has been taken during the last three years; and
- (c) the steps taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government to check the violation of Copyright?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRI S.JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) & (b) The Copyright Act, 1957, which falls under the purview of the Ministry of Human Resource Development provides the legal basis for the subsistence of copyright in cinematograph films and music. The responsibility for dealing with offences under the Copyright Act rests with the police authorities of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Copyright Enforcement cells have been set up in most States/UT Administrations headed by a senior police officer to deal with such offences.

The Copyright Act is amended from time to time to keep it in consonance with International Copyright Law.

(c) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has taken several initiatives to mitigate piracy of films as follows:

- i) On the basis of a recommendation made by the Committee for Development of the Entertainment Sector, the Indian Institute of Mass Communication has been asked to formulate appropriate training modules for police officers to train them for anti-piracy work.;
- ii) To create an anti-piracy mind-set and to promote cooperation among stakeholders, this Ministry had brought film producers, multi-service operators and cable operators together, and they had jointly resolved not to exhibit films without valid permission from the copyright holders.
- iii) In an effort to check cable piracy, the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act has been amended in 2000, enabling the Government to prohibit a Cable operator from transmitting or re-transmitting any programme or channel for which he has not been granted a license by the Copyright holder.
- iv) A recommendation made by the Committee for Development of the Entertainment Sector, that a realistic ceiling level for entertainment tax to be imposed by the State Governments could be 60%, since high rate of entertainment tax facilitates piracy, has been communicated to all State Governments. In its last meeting, the Committee has recommended that State Governments could further lower this ceiling to 45%.
- v) In its last meeting, the Committee for Development of the Entertainment Sector, also recommended appointment of senior police officers in States to work in co-ordination with the entertainment industry, as nodal officers.
- vi) During the Budget of 2003-04, audio CDs were exempted from excise duty to do away with the price advantage available to pirated CDs.