

செய்தி வெளியீடு எண்:384

நாள்:06.07.2021

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அண்மையில் ஒன்றிய அரசு, 1952 ஆம் ஆண்டு ஒளிப்பதிவு சட்டத்தில் சில முக்கிய திருத்தங்களை, வரைவு ஒளிப்பதிவு (திருத்த) மசோதா 2021 என வெளியிட்டுள்ளது. இந்த வரைவுச் சட்டத்தில் உத்தேசிக்கப்பட்டுள்ள திருத்தங்கள் மத்திய திரைப்படச் சான்றிதழ் வாரியம் (Central Board of Film Certification) மற்றும் மாநில அரசுகளின் அதிகாரங்களைக் குறைக்கும் வகையிலும், கருத்துச் சுதந்திரத்தைப் பறிக்கும் வகையிலும் உள்ளதால், இந்த வரைவு ஒளிப்பதிவு (திருத்த) மசோதாவைத் திரும்பப் பெறுமாறும், இது தொடர்பான முயற்சிகளைக் கைவிடுமாறும் கோரி, மாண்புமிகு தமிழ்நாடு முதலமைச்சர் திரு. மு.க. ஸ்டாலின் அவர்கள், ஒன்றிய தகவல் ஒளிபரப்புத் துறை அமைச்சர் திரு. ரவிசங்கர் பிரசாத் அவர்களுக்கு இன்று (6-7-2021) கடிதம் எழுதியுள்ளார்.

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PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. Letter No.962/CMO/2021, Dated 6-7-2021 of Thiru M.K. Stalin, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu addressed to the Hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice, Communications, Electronics and Information Technology, requesting to withdraw the proposed amendment to Cinematograph Act, 1952:

I am writing this with reference to the apprehensions brought to my notice by the members of the film industry in Tamil Nadu on the proposed Draft Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

The draft bill has given rise to serious apprehensions not only in the minds of the film fraternity and film industry but also among all well-meaning sections of the society that cherish freedom of expression. As you are aware, a vibrant democracy must provide adequate space for creative thinking and artistic freedom. However, the proposed amendment to the Cinematograph Act seeks to restrict it by restoring the revisionary powers of the Union Government that was struck down by the Supreme Court two decades ago.

The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) accords certification to the films if they meet all the criteria mentioned in the section 5(a) of the Cinematograph Act. The Act also provides for rejection of certification for a film on certain prescribed valid grounds. Moreover, adequate provisions for exercising control over the film making is available in the form of guidelines that have been

provided under section 5(b) of the Act. Given all these, it is considered as excessive to add more Laws and Acts to throttle the freedom of a creative form in the 21st Century.

Following the prescribed guidelines and procedures, if a film is certified for public viewing by the CBFC, it falls within the domain of the State Governments first and hence, it must be left to the States as the Law and order is a State subject. But now, the Union Government, by the proposed Act tries to go against the spirit of cooperative federalism and transgress the powers of the State Governments and its own Central Board of Film Certification. Incidentally, as a prelude to this amendment, the Film Certification Appellate Board which was functioning as an appellate body against the CBFC was dismantled.

I wish to reiterate that the Draft amendment restoring the "revisional power" to the Centre after it is certified by the CBFC is a misuse of "reasonable restriction" clause under Article 19(2) of the Constitution of India and this Draft amendment itself is against the spirit of promoting rightful thinking in Civil Society. Curbing the creative thinking of the Film Fraternity and imposing conditions on them on how films are to be made are totally unjustified and in fact, it is quite opposite to the very ideals of our Constitution. Taking away the right to freedom of thought will only weaken our democracy- which has to be vibrant always irrespective of the parties in power.

Further, I wish to point out that there are certain provisions which have practical difficulties in implementation like the age-wise grouping of the certification under three categories and certain

amendments that makes the film making a very risky and uncertain industry like the provision enabling the Union Government direct the Chairman of the CBFC to re-examine a film after certification.

Considering the above points and genuine concerns raised by the film fraternity and various sections of the society across India, I urge you to withdraw the proposed Amendment to Cinematograph Act 1952 and also allow for functional autonomy of the CBFC, so that we remain as a progressive nation, and where creative thinking, that includes art, culture and film making, blossom without fear or favour.

Issued By: - DIPR, Secretariat, Chennai - 9.