

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *288
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.03.2018**

AGREEMENT ON FILM CO- PRODUCTION

***288. SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO: SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA**

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

- (a) whether the Government has set up a Committee on Promotion and Facilitation to facilitate permission for foreign and domestic filmmakers for shooting feature films and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has signed an Agreement on film co-production between India and Israel recently and if so, the details thereof along with the terms and conditions of the Agreement;
- (c) the benefits likely to be accrued to the country as a result of the Agreement;
- (d) whether the Government has signed similar Agreements with other countries and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to promote Indian cinema in other countries?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
[SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI]**

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) OF THE
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- (a):** No Madam, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has not set up any Committee on Promotion and Facilitation to facilitate permission for domestic filmmakers for shooting in India, but has set up Film Facilitation Office (FFO) to facilitate permission to foreign filmmakers for shooting in India. FFO has been set up with a view to promote and facilitate film shootings by foreign filmmakers.
- (b):** On behalf of the Government of the Republic of India, the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has signed an Agreement on Film Co-production with the Government of the State of Israel on 15.01.2018 in New Delhi. Copy of the Agreement on Film Co-production between the Government of the State of Israel and the Government of the Republic of India will be available on the website of the Ministry, once it becomes operational. The salient features of the Agreement are:
- (i) Any co-production produced in pursuance of this Agreement shall be considered by the Competent Authorities as a national film and shall be entitled to all the benefits which are or may be accorded to national films by each of the Parties under their respective national laws. These benefits accrue solely to the co-producer of a country that grants them.
 - (ii) These films shall be entitled to claim all state support and benefits available to the film and video industries and the privileges granted by the provisions in force in the respective countries.
 - (iii) The Parties shall facilitate the temporary entry and the re-export of any film equipment necessary for the production of an approved co-production film, subject to their respective domestic legislation(s). The Parties shall also do their best to enter and reside the persons employed in the making/ promotion of an approved co-production film in its territory for the purpose of participation.
- (c):** The key attraction of a co-production especially under a Treaty, is that it qualifies as a National production in each of the partner nations and can access benefits that are available to the local film and television industry in each country. Benefits may include Government financial assistance, tax concessions and inclusion in domestic television broadcast quotas. Such treaties not only enable Indian film makers to leverage tax rebate but also benefit from relatively relaxed visa norms in partner countries. The benefits are as under:
- Access to a common pool of creative, artistic, technical, financial and marketing resources.

- National films status to such co-produced films in both countries and their participation in the film festivals as domestic productions of both countries.
- Incentive for carrying out production and post-production work in participating countries.
- Access to resources through co-production country which may otherwise may not be available in the home country.

(d): India has signed co-production treaties with Italy, Germany, Brazil, UK & Northern Ireland, France, New Zealand, Poland, Spain, Canada, China, Korea, Bangladesh and Israel.

(e): The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has introduced “Film Promotion Fund” as an additional activity under the existing component “Participation in Film Markets in India and abroad” of the 12th Plan Scheme “Development, Communication and Dissemination of Filmic Content” to provide financial assistance to film makers whose films are selected in any competition section of any international film festivals for repute or an award event. The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting also participates in different film festivals like Cannes Film Festival, Berlin International Film Festival, BRICS etc. to promote Indian cinema abroad.