

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 684**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 06<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2018/ MAGHA 17, 1939 (SAKA)**

**PLAYING OF NATIONAL ANTHEM AT CINEMAS**

**684. SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN:**

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

**(a) whether the Government has issued any directive mandating the playing of the National Anthem at film shows in the cinema halls across the country;**

**(b) if so, the details thereof;**

**(c) whether many instances of vigilant patriot groups resorting to violence against fellow audience for their failure to stand up during the playing of the National Anthem have come to notice;**

**(d) whether the Supreme Court is seized of a matter regarding the playing of the National Anthem during the cinema shows and if so, the details thereof;**

**(e) whether the Supreme Court on the suggestion of the Ministry, has ruled that the playing of the National Anthem during the exhibition of films in the cinema halls is not mandatory; and**

**(f) if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)**

**(a) to (f): The Supreme Court, in its interim order dated 30.11.2016, in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 855/2016, inter-alia directed that all the cinema halls in India shall play the National Anthem before the feature film starts**

**and all present in the hall are obliged to stand up to show respect to the National Anthem. In pursuance of these directions, instructions were issued to all State Governments/Union Territories and Ministries/Departments of the Government of India. However, the Hon'ble Supreme Court, in its order dated 09.01.2018, disposed of the Writ Petition inter-alia, directing that the order passed by the Supreme Court on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 is modified to the extent that the playing of the National Anthem prior to the screening of feature films in cinema halls is not mandatory but optional or directory. Accordingly, instructions have been issued to all concerned. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has left it to Government to take decision in this regard without being constrained or influenced by any of the interim directions of the Court.**

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