

PRESS RELEASE

As we all know, the government is amending the Indian Copyright Act to make it in line with International Treaties as also to protect and give justice to Artists of Music who have been deprived of their rightful royalties for decades by Producers and Music Companies.

While the Producers and Music Companies do get their Copyrights, they have been forcefully taking away the Artists Royalties which legally belong to them.

In November, the Parliamentary Standing Committee, headed by Shri Oscar Fernandes, submitted its Report to the Parliament. But the producers seem to be very upset with the recommended changes to the Copyright Act, because the Producers and Music Companies will no more be able to hijack the Royalties that inherently and legally belonged to the composers and authors.

After meeting the concerned ministers and ministries, the Producers' Bodies have decided to strike work on Jan 6, 2011. Also, as the Producers hold Shri Javed Akhtar to be battling for the rights of the Composers and Authors responsible in getting the amendments in the Bill, their apex body – FFI has decided and declared to ban him from the industry!!!

We, the undersigned Associations very strongly condemn this way of showing displeasure over a matter that is community-based. It is ridiculous that the producers should make this as a personal attack. If the Producers and Music Companies point of view has been considered by the Parliamentary Committee as unreasonable and unfair, why should they retaliate in such a way to ban a single Artist.

If that is the case, We, the entire membership of all the Associations, would like to inform the FFI and its members that they should ban all our members who are composers, because it is not only Javed Akhtar but all the ~~Composers~~ *artistes* of India who share the same point of view.

And, We would appeal to the Government of India to enact this Law at the earliest.

Federation of Western India Cine Employees

Music Composers' Association of India

Film Writers' Association of India

PRESIDENT.

Singers' Association of India

Cine Singers' Association of India, Mumbai.
Hon. Gen. Secretary.