

SHOOTING OF FOREIGN FEATURE FILMS IN INDIA

A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

The Government of India invites foreign film teams to shoot their films in India – a country with locations of untold beauty. We have also simplified the procedure for shooting of films by foreigners in India and the ensuing paragraphs, we hope, will answer all your questions regarding the procedure to apply for shooting permission.

WHAT SHOULD ACCOMPANY YOUR APPLICATION?

- Ø You need to send us a simple letter, telling us of your intention to shoot in India, mentioning the dates of shooting, particulars of the cast and crew, and your chosen locations. Please address your letter to the relevant address a month before your planned shooting schedule, and enclose four copies of the final, detailed shooting script, a draft/cheque for US\$ 225 drawn in favour of Pay & Accounts Officer, Ministry of I&B, (MS), New Delhi (that is a fee for scrutiny of the script), detailed shooting locations and particulars regarding the cast and crew coming to India. *No fee is required for shooting documentaries in India.*
- Ø Your permission to shoot will normally *not take more than three weeks* to process. The permission letter issued by the Government of India will facilitate your permission from other local authorities, which may, in some cases, need to be obtained directly from these authorities.
- Ø In case any living personality is portrayed in the film as a Character, we suggest that you share the script with that personality or his/her legal heirs, before beginning the shooting, and obtain a 'No Objection Letter'. This letter will expedite the clearance of your application, and also guard against the possibility of any defamation or libel suits.
- Ø If you propose to shoot your film as a co-production, a copy of the agreement between your company and the Indian party indicating the role of each party, its responsibilities and liabilities, must accompany the application.
- Ø If your film requires shooting in the scenic but sensitive areas of Jammu & Kashmir, the North Eastern India or border belts, and your application will be considered for specific approval in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs. In such cases, you would need to allow more time to process your application.

WHAT THE INDIAN MISSION IN YOUR COUNTRY WILL DO FOR YOU

- Ø Do submit the detailed particulars of all the members of the shooting team, to the Indian Mission in the country from which they would be departing for India at the time, indicating your intention to shoot in India. Our mission will issue them visas in the normal course.

OTHER THINGS THAT YOU MAY WANT TO KNOW

- Ø An expert from a panel constituted by us for this purpose will scrutinize your script. If considered necessary, to facilitate the shooting, a liaison officer may be attached to a film shooting team. This officer will help you to get local clearances, and provide an interface with any local institutions. Where a liaison officer is so attached to the shooting team, the Government of India will bear his expenses. In exceptional cases you may need to show the completed film to a representative of the Government of India, in India or in an Indian Mission abroad, before its release anywhere in the world. This requirement will apply only to films made on subjects of political, religious or socio cultural sensitivity, and is focused on ensuring that the film has been shot in accordance with the scrutinized script and that the film has nothing objectionable from the point of view of presentation of a correct and balanced perspective on the topic covered.
- Ø During the shooting of the film if it is felt that any material changes or deviation from the approved script is necessary, permission may be taken from this Ministry before shooting these scenes.

- ii **SEND YOUR APPLICATIONS FOR SHOOTING FEATURE FILMS/ TELEFILMS IN INDIA TO:**

THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, 'A' WING, SHASTRI BHAVAN, NEW DELHI – 110 001

- ii **SEND YOUR APPLICATIONS FOR SHOOTING DOCUMENTARIES IN INDIA TO:**

THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(EXTERNAL PUBLICITY DIVISION)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, 'A' WING, SHASTRI BHAVAN

NEW DELHI – 110 001

To

The Secretary,
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India, New Delhi.

Sub:

Sir,

With reference to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting's letter No..... dated we hereby give the following undertakings: -

- (i) Shooting of the film will be done in locations in India in accordance with the script as approved by the Government of India. If we consider any material changes are necessary in the script, we shall obtain, the prior approval of the Government of India for such changes.
- (ii) We shall furnish the detailed particulars of the members of the shooting team and the exact locations where the shooting would take place in India at least one month in advance of the arrival of the team in India. We note that prior approval of the Government of India is necessary for the fixing of locations for shooting in certain areas.
- (iii) We note that in the case of assistance to be obtained from other Ministries such as Defence, Education etc. separate agreements as stipulated by these Ministries, are required to be signed with them.
- (iv) We shall shoot the film only in the presence of a Liaison Officer *where* attached to the team by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- (v) We accept that part of the Liaison Officer's duty will be to ensure that nothing detrimental in the depiction of India or the Indian people shall be shot or included in the film. In the event of any disagreement arising between the team and the Liaison Officer in this respect, the matter will be immediately referred to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting whose decision will be final. We shall ensure that India's security interests are not compromised in any manner.
- (vi) We undertake to show our completed film to the representative of the Government of India/the Indian Mission in*_____ for scrutiny if recommended by the Ministry of I&B and we further undertake to delete and destroy the portions of the film that may be

found objectionable on such scrutiny by the Government of India, before the film is utilized for public exhibition anywhere in the world.

- (vii) After the shooting of the film is completed in India we shall provide, in duplicate, to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting a narrative report about the details of shooting done in India.**

Yours truly,

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