

Do singers have voice over royalty rights?



Chennai: SPB, who has rendered many hits composed by Ilayaraja over the past some decades, said he now cannot perform the maestro's compositions following the legal notice. Speaking to News Today, SPB, said, "An announcement on my concert was made much earlier. But I did not get any communication from Raja's office asking me not to perform his songs. I received it only in the US."

"As I said earlier, if it is a law, so be it and I obey it," he said and added, "Let me say, I am ignorant of these legalities."

When contacted, a an up and coming playback singer, said, "I am not aware of such rules quite like SPB sir. It is time that we have to be educated."

Though such measures are necessary to safeguard our interests of creators, one wonders how it can be done in the era where pirates and torrents have reached every individual, he said added, "The association of playback singers should urge the Centre to amend rules in such a way that interests of the singers should be protected in someway."

Meanwhile several hundred small and big music troupes that perform songs of Ilayaraja across the State on concerts were surprised and shocked at the legal notice to SPB.

One of the organisers of a music troupe, said, "It is humanly impossible to approach every music director and get their permission before our concert. We do it with passion and love towards music composers."

Rather than shooting legal notice at us, they should appreciate us for taking their compositions to common public even in remote parts of the State, he added. We are planning to convene a meeting of Light Music Artistes Association soon and discuss the issue. Legal experts would be called to get more clarity on the rights issue, they said.

Meanwhile an industry tracker, said, "Ilayaraja may be legally right, but morally wrong for issuing notice to SPB, who collaborated with him for several thousand songs."

UNION MINISTER STEPS IN

Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting M Venkaiah Naidu today tweeted, "I was surprised hearing controversy surrounding Sh SP Balasubrahmanyam singing Sh Ilayaraja compositions. Hope it gets positively resolved."