

Government of India
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

Dated: 16th February, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Inviting comments on the proposal to discontinue the Priority Scheme for film certification under the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 2024.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting proposes to amend the **Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 2024** to discontinue the existing Priority Scheme for film certification. This proposal aims to restore equity and orderly processing within the film certification framework, ensuring fair access for small and independent filmmakers.

2. Background and Justification:

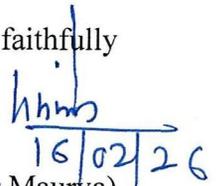
- a. While the Priority Scheme was introduced with the objective of facilitating certification for urgent cases, routine resort to it dilutes its intended purpose of addressing exceptional urgency and exacerbates systemic delays. Its implementation has had the unintended effect of undermining the principle of fairness and orderly processing inherent to a statutory certification regime.
- b. The growing reliance on priority processing risks creating a two-tier certification system, where applicants with greater financial capacity are able to secure faster clearances at the cost of others.
- c. In this context, the immediate discontinuation of the Priority Scheme is considered a more effective interim measure to restore equity, predictability, and orderly processing.

3. Proposed Amendments:

- a. **Rule 33(2):** Discontinuation of the provision allowing for priority screening upon payment of three times the examination fee.
- b. **Rule 37(3):** Removal of the proviso allowing the Regional Officer to alter the order of examination based on priority applications.

4. Submission of Comments: The feedback/comments may be submitted by **17th March, 2026** at the email address **sk.maurya75@gov.in**.

Yours faithfully


16/02/26

(Santosh Kumar Maurya)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

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