



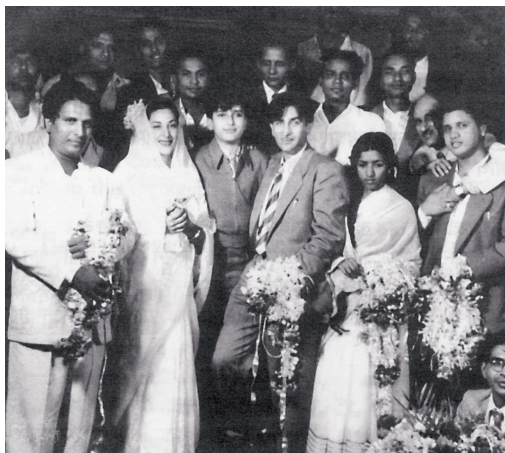
Just before the recording, Lata was in the HMV studio and she saw Ram Ganguly rehearse the same tune with another singer for another movie! Immediately she informed Raj about this incident. A livid Raj promptly sacked Ganguly and asked Shankar to take over as *Barsaat's* music director.

Anyone else would have jumped at the offer, but Shankar said that he would take up the offer only if his friend Jaikishan could join him! Raj tried to dissuade Shankar for a while - for Jai was then just a teenager! But Shankar remained adamant - it was either a combined deal or no deal. Finally Raj relented; Shankar-Jaikishan were entrusted joint responsibility of composing music for *Barsaat*. The rest, as they say, is history!

*Barsaat* did make history. It drenched the RK banner in a shower of name, fame and money! It brought stardom for so many artistes. *Barsaat* launched the careers of actress Nimmi, writer-director Ramanand Sagar, cinematographer Radhu Karmarkar and lyricists Shailendra and Hasrat Jaipuri. *Barsaat* made Raj Kapoor and Nargis the hottest screen couple of the 1950s. Most important, *Barsaat* first presented Shankar-Jaikishan as trend-setting composers and reconfirmed Lata Mangeshkar's status as a peerless singing phenomenon.

*Barsaat* was the first gramophone record where playback singers' names got a mention on the record label, doing away with the previous practice of mentioning the screen character's name as the 'singer'! The Hindi film and music industry was finally waking up to the increasing importance of the playback singers' contribution. Quite rightfully it was Lata Mangeshkar's name which dominated that album's song list!

*Barsaat* was the first film soundtrack where one singer sang for different screen characters. Here, Lata sang for the two heroines - Nargis and Nimmi as well as for the character actress Bimla. It was a rather obvious effect of Lata's versatile virtuosity! Just take a look at the dazzling array of evergreen songs: 'Hawaa Mein Udtaa Jaaye', 'Jiyaa Beqarar Hai', 'Barsaat Mein Tumse Mile Ham', 'O Mujhe Kiseese Pyaar Ho Gayaa', 'Bichhde Huye Pardesee', 'Prem Nagar Mein Basnewaalon', 'Meree Aankhon Mein Bas Gaya Koe Re' and 'Ab Meraa Kaun Sahaaraa' and you will be surprised to know that after first listening to them, Lata cried inconsolably as she felt that she had not done full justice to the songs! In reality, millions of listeners were swept away by her fabulous rendition!



Shankar, Nargis, Shashi Kapoor, Raj Kapoor, Lata and Jaikishan



Nargis, Lata, Shankar and Jaikishan

