

LOK SABHA

Thursday, May 8, 1969/Vaisakha
18, 1891 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[Mr. Speaker in the Choir]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

फिल्म सेंसर बोर्ड में तथा कथित भ्रष्टाचार

+

*1561. श्री बलराज मधोक :

श्री नारायण स्वरूप शर्मा :

श्री भारत सिंह चौहान :

श्री राम स्वरूप विद्यार्थी :

श्री अशोक प्रकाश त्यागी :

क्या सूचना तथा प्रसारण और संचार
मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान इस बारे में जनता में असन्तोष तथा समाचार पत्रों में आलोचना की ओर दिलाया गया है कि फिल्म सेंसर बोर्ड में भ्रष्टाचार व्याप्त है जिसके कारण अन्धाधुंध तरीके से अश्लील चलचित्र स्वीकार किये जा रहे हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या जनता द्वारा उक्त बोर्ड पर लगाये गये आरोपों की जांच करने के लिए सरकार कोई आयोग नियुक्त करेगी;

(ग) क्या सरकार का विचार उक्त बोर्ड को पुनर्गठित करने तथा इसके नियमों में संशोधन करने का है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो प्रस्ताव क्या है ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) Government have not received any specific complaint alleging that any particular obscene film has been passed due to corrupt practices. However, there has been some public criticism about censorship being too liberal or too rigid particularly with regard to sex, violence and crime.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). In response to a Resolution in the Rajya Sabha Government have already set up an Enquiry Committee on Film Censorship under the Chairmanship of Justice G. D. Khosla, which is going into the whole question of censorship including the rules and procedure thereof.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : While the Khosla Committee is still looking into the matter, may I know whether it is a fact that in reply to a question that was raised in the Rajya Sabha it was stated that the Government of India is thinking of setting up a small committee to go into the whole question? If so, whether it is the same Khosla Committee which was appointed or some other committee is going to be appointed? Secondly, may I know whether it is a fact that the Government itself admitted that the Board of Film Censors can only make cuttings or prunings in the films whereas certain films are of such a very low moral standard and do not keep in mind any of the social and moral values that prevail in the country that they should not be permitted to be exhibited at all? In view of this, may I know whether government will take steps to see that such films which fall below a particular moral and social standard are not accepted at all because there is no question of cutting or pruning such poor films?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : So far as the first question is concerned, it was in response to a Private Member's Resolution in the Rajya Sabha about film censorship that the

Khosla Committee was appointed. This Committee is expected to submit its report at the latest by the end of next month. Therefore, the question of appointing any other committee does not arise. Then, I am one with my hon. friend that there is every need to raise the general taste of the public, so far as films are concerned. Government is worried about it, worried not only from the point of view that in films only certain cuts could be effected but over the larger question of the general toning up of the films and raising the public taste. For that positive steps are required.

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN : Taste of the public or taste of the producers ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Ultimately it is the consumer who matters. If a producer does not have a good taste, he should not be allowed to play to the taste of the public. That is the basic thing.

SHRI RANGA : Would you suggest ghetto ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : No, I am not suggesting that. I am suggesting some other things. Here I want to give one more information. Last year we came to take note of 11 imported films about night life etc. in various countries and we totally banned their circulation in this country because we do not want such films to be exhibited in this country. As a result of the Khosla Committee Report, as a result of the setting up of the Film Council and as a result of our giving more positive aid to films through the Film Finance Corporation and the strenge thing of the Films Institute, things could improve.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : May I know whether it is a fact that for propaganda proposes and for attracting a large number of customers, those parts of the films which are censored are displayed in posters and hoardings ? If so, will government take steps to see that those parts of the films which have been censored are not displayed either in posters or in hoardings ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : I go one step further. Sometimes hoardings have no relevance to the films whatsoever, either censored or un-censored. But, so far as posters and hoardings are concerned, the

difficulty is that it is a State subject. If some obscene posters appear on the walls of Delhi, only the local administration can take necessary action. We have been drawing the attention of the local authorities from time to time. We will again draw their attention.

SHRI HEM BARUA : When they have not defined 'obsenity' how can they speak about obscenity ?

श्री श्रीम प्रकाश त्यागी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, वर्तमान युग में फिल्मों लोगों पर प्रभाव डालने का एक बहुत बड़ा साधन है और हमारे देश के बच्चों और युवा-वर्ग पर, हमारे देश की सन्तान पर, इन फिल्मों का बहुत प्रभाव पड़ रहा है। दुर्भाग्यवश फिल्मों के निर्माण का काम पूंजी-पतियों के हाथ में है, जो अपनी मनमानी कहानी लिखवाते हैं, उनमें मनमाने गन्दे सीन जुड़वाते हैं और फिर रिश्बत का पैसा देकर उन गन्दी फिल्मों को सेंसर बोर्ड से पास करा लेते हैं। आप देश के चाहे जिस किसी परिवार में चले जाइये, उसमें माता-पिता रोते हुए मिलेंगे कि उनके बच्चे फिल्मों के द्वारा भ्रामा बना दिये गये। यह प्रश्न बार-बार यहाँ आता है और पत्रों में भी इस बारे में क्लिटिसिज्म होता है। मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि जनरल पब्लिक का टेस्ट देख कर फिल्में बनाई जाती हैं। अगर पब्लिक का टेस्ट देखना है, तब तो नाइट क्लब खुलवाने चाहिए और गन्दी फिल्में बनानी चाहिए। प्रश्न यह है कि क्या पब्लिक के टेस्ट के पीछे चलना चाहिए या पब्लिक में अच्छा टेस्ट क्रीएट करना चाहिये।

विदेशों से जो गन्दी फिल्में आ रही हैं, उनके काम्पीटीशन में भारत की फिल्में इसलिए नहीं चल रही हैं कि विदेशी फिल्मों की तरह उनमें स्त्रियों के नंगे चित्र, गन्दे दृश्य और दूसरी ऊट-पटांग बातें नहीं होती हैं। लेकिन विदेशी फिल्मों से काम्पीटीशन करने की दृष्टि से हमारी फिल्मों में भी गन्दी बातें आ रही हैं। क्या सरकार यह व्यवस्था करेगी कि सेंसर बोर्ड द्वारा ऐसे नियम बनाये जायें कि जो फिल्में हमारी संस्कृति, हमारे लक्ष्य और

उद्देश्य के विपरीत बातें प्रदर्शित करती हैं, चाहे वे फिल्में विदेशी हों या भारतीय, उनको पास नहीं किया जायेगा और इस प्रकार की फिल्मों को बाहर से इस देश में नहीं आने दिया जायेगा ?

श्री इ० कु० गुजराल : मुझे अफसोस है कि माननीय सदस्य ने मेरी पहली बात को उल्टा समझा है। मैंने यह कभी नहीं कहा है कि हम लोगों के टेस्ट के पीछे चल रहे हैं। मैंने कहा है—और मैं फिर कहता हूँ—कि हमें लोगों के अच्छे टेस्ट के लिए अच्छी फिल्में बनानी चाहिए। बाहर से जो फिल्में आती हैं, हम उन को पूरी तरह सेन्सर करते हैं। अगर माननीय सदस्य सेन्सर के मुताल्लिक रूज को पढ़ेंगे, तो उन्हें मासूम होगा कि जिन बातों की तरफ वह ध्यान दिला रहे हैं, वे उन रूज में मौजूद हैं। जहां तक सेन्सर बोर्ड का ताल्लुक है, मैं एस्टीमेट्स कमेटी की सेटेस्ट रिपोर्टें में से कुछ शब्द पढ़ना चाहता हूँ :

"The Committee have reasons to believe that Censors try to perform their onerous duties of interpreting the Code, in the absence of any informed public opinion to guide them in this direction, honestly and conscientiously and it would be uncharitable to regard their judgment as coloured or biased in favour of one film or the other."

Therefore, I would like to say that when we make remarks about the Censor Board as such, we should be more restrained.

DR. RANEN SEN : The rules or guidelines for the Board of Film Censors were framed long ago. In view of the changed tastes inside the country and in view of the more modern ideas gradually coming inside the country, may I know whether government have taken any steps to change the rules that guide the Board of Film Censors in regard to obscenity and similar things?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : While slight differences in attitude may keep on coming from time to time, yet, the fundamental approach of our society still remains the same. The rules are in conformity with that fundamental approach of Indian society. And even

when we are keen to transform society, let us always keep one thing in mind, that the transformation always take us to the higher level us ; it should ever to the lower level. So, Government would not be a party to the lowering of society to the lower level.

SHRI ANANTRAO PATIL : May I know the qualifications for appointment to the Board of Film Censors ? Is it a fact that most of the members of the Board do not know anything about the film industry and they are appointed because they have to be accommodated somewhere ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : I am unable to accept this contention of the hon. Member and I hope it is not correct for us to make such sweeping remarks against the leading public men of our society. We take leading public men in the Censor Board, keeping in view their social attitudes. They may not be aware of the detailed working of the film industry ; but that is not their function. Their function is to judge whether a film is in conformity with the social norms or not.

SHRI HEM BARUA : May I know if government have defined 'obscenity' at all ? Do government consider amorous alliance between two young souls leading to kissing obscene ? If they do, may I know why they allow profusion of kissing in foreign films and debar it from Indian films ? Why do they have two sets of censorship, one for foreign films and another for Indian films?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : If Shri Hem Barua were to ask me outside this House whether I am going to permit kissing or not, I would have had a different reply. But here I am dealing with films, and films have a bigger audience than Shri Hem Barua. The main point which the Film Censor Board has to take into account is the type of audience to which it is addressed and the impact which the film may have on that audience. For instance, an act may not be useful for children but the same act may have an impression on an adult audience. Similarly, a certain attitude is different in a film using non-Indian languages. The idea is, it is dealing with the different type of audience. It is not a question of having uniformity of approach. The approach has to be uniform but the audience reaction and impact has to be kept in mind.

SHRI HEM BARUA : I asked about foreign films.

MR. SPEAKER : He has answered that foreign language films cater to a different audience because of the language.

SHRI HEM BARUA : He has not answered my question. Why should there be two different sets of standards, one for our films and another for foreign films ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA) : Because our culture is different.

SHRI HEM BARUA : Our culture is different. But allowing kissing in foreign films you vitiate our culture.

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA : Many things are allowed in their society which are not allowed here.

चन्दा समिति का प्रतिवेदन

+

*1562. श्री कंवर लाल गुप्त :

श्री दुर्ज भूषण लाल :

श्री अटल बिहारी बाजपेयी :

श्री सूरज भानु :

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी :

क्या सूचना तथा प्रसारण और संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सरकार ने चन्दा सभिति के विभिन्न प्रतिवेदनो में की गई किन-किन सिफारिशों को क्रियान्वित कर दिया है और किन-किन सिफारिशों को क्रियान्वित नहीं किया है;

(ख) उनके क्रियान्वित नहीं किये जाने के क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) क्या सरकार का विचार आकाशवाणी के लिए कोई प्रबन्ध समिति बनाने का है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसके सदस्य कौन-कौन से होंगे ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d). Chanda Committee's recommendations regarding organisational set-up of AIR are under Government's consideration and no decision has been taken as yet.

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN : Is it a proper answer for this ?

MR. SPEAKER : Let Mr. Kanwar Lal Gupta put a supplementary.

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN : May I make a submission ? It was years ago that the report was submitted. It is not as if the State Governments or some other organisations have got to do anything with the report. It is entirely the responsibility of this Ministry to see that recommendations are carried out. What sort of a reply is he giving ?

श्री कंवर लाल गुप्त : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह बड़े शर्म की बात है कि मंत्री महोदय यह कहें कि यह इन्फार्मेशन क्लेक्ट की जा रही है। हमारे पास यह चन्दा कमेटी की रिपोर्ट है और यह लक्ष्मण एक साल पहले आ गई थी। इसके अन्दर करीब 200 रेकमेडेशंस हैं। यह किताब है और इसमें एक घंटे के अन्दर यह मालूम किया जा सकता है कि कौन-कौन सी रेकमेडेशंस पूरी की कौन-कौन सी नहीं की। कितनी शैबिली इस रिपोर्ट को यह ट्रीट करते हैं। यह इस जवाब से पता लगता है।

अब मैं सवाल यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि इसमें एक सबसे पहली रेकमेडेशन यह है कि इस ग्राल इंडिया रेडियो को आटोनामस कारपोरेशन सरकार क्यों नहीं बनाती ? उसके लिए क्या कारण है ? क्या सरकार इसका अपने प्रोपर्टी के एक साधन बनाती है ? यह देश के लिए एक जो इंडियेडेंटली देश की इच्छा पैदा करे जैसे कि दूसरे देशों में होता है, इस प्रकार का इसको क्यों नहीं बनानी है ?