

LOK SABHA DEBATE

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LOK SABHA

Thursday, April 24, 1986/ Vaisakha 4, 1908
(Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I think from the agenda papers the obituary reference is missing. Yesterday, so many Ministries were massacred.

MR. SPEAKER : Was that the reason for your absence that you did not want to be a witness to that ?

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Amendment of Film Censorship Rules

*783. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government feel the need for amending the film censorship rules/guidelines in order to promote greater realism in the films without sacrificing their aesthetic value ;

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(b) if so, whether any effort is being made in this direction ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) to (c) No Sir. The existing film certification rules are sufficiently comprehensive and meet the requirements.

SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : I want to know whether the Government is aware of the fact that there is an overdose of unrealistic and unhealthy violence and sex in many films made in India. This happens in spite of the comprehensive censorship rules being in force. This trend in films adversely affects the young minds. Therefore, I would like to know whether the Government would like to have a fresh look at the whole matter.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : Yes, somethings, this type of films do come up and some of them do have an adverse affect on the young mind. The guidelines and the safeguards that have been outlined under the Cinematographic Act make it absolutely clear that certain safeguards and objectives have to be followed. The only dichotomy lies that the certification is done by the Board of Censorship, which is under us, but the enforcement is done and penal clauses are imposed by the State Governments. While the Central Board certifies a film, the exhibition powers lie with the State Governments. That is why, sometimes, even when certain parts are cut out and they are not certified, in interpolation they are exhibited, because that falls within the

jurisdiction of the State Governments. This matter has been taken up on more than one occasion. Therefore, we feel that the guidelines under the Cinematographic Act are really sufficient, but it is really at the exhibiting and enforcing stage, which is done by the State Governments, that the real action lies.

SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : I want to know whether a demand has been made for the setting up of an office of the Regional Censorship Board at Trivandrum ; if so, what decision has been taken ?

MR. SPEAKER : Have you got written supplementaries ?

SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : Yes, Sir. She has got written answers.

MR. SPEAKER : Is it pre-thought or pre-planned ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : If so, please lay it on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : That will be better.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : Sir, can the answer be laid on the Table of the House ?

MR. SPEAKER : I think I will have to devise some method whereby I will disallow all the written supplementaries.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : She can lay the answer to this question also on the Table.

MR. SPEAKER : Later on you can do it.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : Sir, I must say that there is already a Regional Centre at Trivandrum. There are Regional Centres at Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Bangalore and Trivandrum and the one at Hyderabad will start functioning very soon.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister with regard to censorship. The exhibition rights are with the State Governments, as rightly stated

by the hon. Minister, but the censoring of the films is with the Central Government. But there are no proper officers for that. Even in Tamil Nadu, we are producing lot of films every year. More than hundred films we are producing, but censoring is the problem there. Every producer who is producing a film there, is unable to have it censored immediately on the date when he actually wants to release it. That is the problem. Even there is no proper officer. Only a deputed officer from the Information Department has been posted there. He is able to see only one film everyday. Hundreds of films are not being censored properly. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether steps will be taken immediately to see that a proper officer is posted in that office in order to censor the films immediately.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : Sir, we look into that side of the picture as to whether a particular office at a particular place is sufficient or not. Regarding the delay part, I would like to assure the hon. Member that we examined the question and we found that in the case of about 20 per cent films, there is some sort of delay but this delay is not on our part only and the proportion is also not very high. He has mentioned about a particular State and I will look into it.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : Sir, apart from the rules and the guidelines, has it come to the notice of this Government that the complaint is often made that there are producers who have sufficient influence so as to get their 'A' films passed into 'U' films, where there are many producers whose films are cut ? For example, a film, I think *Ram Teri Ganga Maili*, of Raj Kapoor was given 'U' certificate though there are many nude scenes. Therefore, what is the Government's reaction in spite of the fact that this point has been asked times without number, both inside the House and outside ? May I also know from the Government another aspect which I raised during the discussions on the Demands of Information and Broadcasting Ministry, that you have got a children film with an 'A' trailer and in that 'A' trailer all nude scenes are there. Therefore, when you take a child to a children film, well, so far

as the film part is concerned, there may not be anything objectionable, but you cannot see it with the child so far as the trailer is concerned. Therefore, will the Government do something to see that while showing a children film, 'A' trailer will not be shown ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : People complain about such films when they do not see anything in the film also.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : Sir, this question concerns guidelines. Now the Minister of State has stated that the guidelines, as they stand, are sufficient, they are comprehensive they do take into account most of the situations that could be imagined. But no guideline can take into account all the situations. So, as we go along, the guidelines also would have to be improved, may be added to and so on. That is why this is a continuing process and, therefore, I would like to say that at this moment we do not find any need for any change in the guidelines. But this is not a statement for all times to come. This is a battle of wits that is going on. They say we have to be realistic, we say there is a difference between realism and reality. This is not generally appreciated by the producers and we will have to make them appreciate it. We know something about literature, we know about realism, we know about idealism we know about certain other historical and other scenes that are depicted. We cannot call them unrealistic because they take you to a different age, a different era. So, realism as such is not such a simple thing that whether happens outside, you show in a film and call it realistic. Therefore, these are matters into which we have to go. Film certification which has come to this Ministry recently, has been brought here with a purpose, not merely from a negative point of view of stopping a film from being exhibited or asking a film to be cut here and cut there, but in order to positively inculcate the principles on which healthy film making should be done. This is the idea behind bringing it here. As we go along, this will be a continuous process. We will try to talk to the producers. I have had some discussions with the Censorship Board and I think we will continue this

dialogue, so that, ultimately what we really want is improvement in the films and films which do not really deprave the minds of impressionable boys and girls. That is the kind of criterion we have to apply we will apply this. But as we go along, this will have to be improved continuously. There is the question whether along with children's film, trailer for adult film or unlimited certificate film is to be shown or not shown. I have not really gone into the details. I take the suggestion.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : There are a number of instances and number of complaints are there that after the certification by the Censorship Board, the producers incorporate vulgar scenes into the films and also change the name of the films and they are shown in theatres throughout India, especially Malayalam films. Malayalam film which we can see as family, anywhere, are brought to Hindi belt area and the name is changed. Vulgar scenes are introduced and shown throughout the country. There were agitations on all these things. I would like to know whether this kind of thing has come to the notice of the Minister and if so what action he is going to take to stop such practices.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : I share the concern of the Hon. Member. This matter has been brought to the notice of the Government and the Government has also brought it very clearly to the notice of the State Government. But, as I said earlier, this is a part of the job of the State Government and the State Government has to enforce that. The certification is done in order to ensure in future that films as they are certified are shown and the cut parts are not shown in the States or anywhere. Now, we have seen to it that in future a certified copy of the entire feature film or video film will have to be kept with the Board. There has been a writ petition on that because some producers have proceeded against it. But we want it and we are sticking to it saying, certified copy of the film, the film as it is certified, should be kept there. We are conscious of the fact about which you have asked the question. From time to time we are bringing it up. Certain women's organisations and many others hav

also demonstrated. We would like to carry along with the Member, the State Government, so that these things are duly carried out.

Technological Improvements in Railway System

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*784. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :

PROF. K. K. TEWARY :

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any technological improvements in the Railway system in the country are being planned ; and

(b) if so, the details of the same and whether any special agency is being set up to co-ordinate and supervise the implementation of those plans ?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Important areas in which it is planned to upgrade the technology include rolling stock, signalling and telecommunication systems and workshops. Coordination and supervision of implementation of these plans is being done by Railway Board assisted by its subordinate organisations including Central Organisation for Modernisation of Workshops (COFMOW) and Central Organisation for Operations Information Systems (COFOIS).

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Most of the railway accidents are happening because of technical faults and also because the technical systems in the Railways are more or less obsolete. I congratulate the Minister for taking up these new schemes. May I know what are the basic schemes which they are going to take up to modernise the signals and communication system which are very important systems for the efficient functioning of the Railways ? How far are they going to implement these schemes ? What is the Budget allocation for the same ?

SHRI BANSI LAL : Sir, in communication system we are trying to upgrade the technology and the technology is available indigenously in India. We are trying to improve it.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Are you satisfied, Sir ? (*Interruptions*). If you are satisfied, I am satisfied, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : It is you who is to be satisfied.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Anyhow, Sir, for the time being I am satisfied.

My second questions is, in the improvement of technology the Minister has included the rolling stock also. Now, the rolling stock position is in a very deplorable condition. Time and again we have heard that the constraint of funds is there. So, may I know what is the budget allocation for this financial year and whether it will be proportionately distributed to all the divisions or particularly to certain divisions?

SHRI BANSI LAL : Sir, budget allocations were all given in the budget papers and they are available to hon. Member.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, this is a case of derailment.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that the Indian Railways have done a commendable job in bringing about improvements in the field of signalling and telecommunication systems but as you know and so does our hon. Railway Minister that our future needs can be met only through fast running trains. Some developed countries have developed new technology and new system for the trains which run at a speed of 350 to 400 kilometres per hour. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India are doing something to develop new technology and systems for such fast moving trains :