

### **Objectionable Film "Maachis" Glamorizing Terrorists**

SHRI K.R. MALKANI (Delhi): Madam, I raise to draw the attention of this august House to a very mischievous movie which is being shown currently in Delhi and elsewhere in the country. It is called 'Maachis', which means 'match boz\*'. But a more appropriate name for it would be 'Mischief'. This film purports to depict what has been happening in the Punjab for the last few years - terrorism. An honest movie on the situation would have been very welcome, very educative. But this film is just the opposite of that.

According to this film the people were innocent; everybody was going about his business. Then the police started misbehaving with them and that is how the people became terrorists. Unfortunately, there is not a word about the fact that behind this terrorism there was a foreign hand, plan, to break up this country by asking for a Khalistan. There is no mention of that. There is no mention either that Hindus and Sikhs were living in peace and amity throughout this period. It was only terrorists *versus* police. The question arises that a film is permitted by the Government to be screened which shows that the police were in wrong. The police said, 'Nothing right'. The terrorists said, 'Nothing wrong'. They have been glamorised in this film. If this is what our movies are going to show, why should the police go and fight with dacoits or terrorists or anybody else? Why should they risk their lives? They not only risk their lives but even lose their lives? This is how we are defending them.

Madam it so happens that in Punjab bulk of the police force is Sikhs. But, in this film, all the policemen are shown as non-Sikh. I would say that it is a very dishonest and mischievous movie. Very many lives have been lost. Why should any life be lost? The fact is that majority of the people killed were Sikhs. In this movie, the majority of all those who have been killed are Hindus.

The mischief does not stop here. A police officer who has been shown to be very mischievous and corrupt is called Khurana. Madam, in India, if you say Khurana, everybody thinks that he is Madanlal Khurana, The former Chief Minister of Delhi. Why did they give this name to a corrupt and criminal police officer? What is their idea behind it? It does not stop there. They show another corrupt politician who becomes a Minister and he has been given the name of Kedarnath and finally he was murdered. What message does the film is trying to convey?

SHRI JOHN. F. FERNANDES (Goa): Madam, all the characters in the film are fictitious.

SHRI K.R. MALKANI: I hope they are all fictitious. This is not a laughing matter, Mr. John. You are sitting securely at Goa. You have no idea of what was happening in Punjab and what kind of fire this kind of film can set off. The entire police force in Punjab which has succeeded in controlling the situation is upset about it. There are a few questions which arise. How did the film get certification from the Board of Film Certification? I have before me the guidelines kindly given by the hon. Ibrahim. The Film Certification Board has certain objectives before it, certain guidelines. The very first guideline says:

"In pursuance of the above objectives the Board of Film Certification shall ensure that (a) Anti-social activities such as violence are not glorified or justified". In this film, Madam, these are glorified and justified. I would like to know how the Board of Censors committed the mistake of okaying this kind of film?

I have two suggestions to make: The first one is, this mischievous film should be immediately withdrawn, corrected suitably and then only it should be screened not otherwise. The second is, the Government should be very careful in appointing members to the Board of Censors. We have to have people who have a sense of responsibility; the mem-

bers of the present Board of Censors have proved themselves utterly unfit to hold the position they are holding. That is all I have to say, Madam. Thank you.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN SOZ: (Jammu and Kashmir): Who is the producer?

SHRI K.R. MALKANI: I do not care for the producer. I do not care for the director. I feel the film is very mischievous. He has to ban it. I do not condemn the sinner. I condemn the sin.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Malkani the point is: where was the film produced — Delhi, Bombay or Calcutta?

SHRI K.R. MALKANI: I think it is Mumbai. But it is immaterial, where it was produced.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Madam, I associate myself with Mr. Malkani.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: (West Bengal): Madam, I would like to congratulate Prof. Malkani for bringing this aspect to our notice; particularly, in the context of the role played by the police in restoring law and order in Punjab and in checking the activities of the militants.

Madam, we cannot forget the fact that 25,000 persons were killed over a period of eight years in Punjab. There is hardly any family which did not fall prey to the atrocities committed, perpetrated, by the militants. It was not an easy task for the police. But the police, today, is projected as a devil. On the other hand, the terrorists and the militants are glorified. In that case, it would not be easy for the law enforcement machinery to enforce law and order in Punjab. Already, we had to pay a bitter price.

Therefore, any such film, in whatever form it may be, should not be permitted to be shown. I am not going into the other aspects of it. A large number of police personnel are, today, being prosecuted for the violation of so-called human rights. That is a judicial process. The law would take its course. I do not

want to comment on it. On the one hand, this is happening. On the other hand, through films and through literature, they are being projected almost as villains, while the militants and the terrorists are glorified.

This type of social and political respectability which is being given to these organisations stands in the way of checking them and combating them. This should be stopped. Particularly, Madam, the spread of the cult of violence through films has almost become obnoxious. I think the Government should do something in regard to improving the censorship and other things. Serious attention should be paid to putting an end to this kind of spread of perverted thoughts and violence through films.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (West Bengal): Madam, it is really disgraceful that such a film passed through the Censors and is being shown.

**श्री राघवजी (मध्य प्रदेश): मैं भी अपने आपको संबद्ध करना चाहता हूँ और गवर्नमेंट से गुजराना चाहता हूँ कि इस गंभीर मामले में कोई कड़े कदम उठाए जाएं ताकि जिन लोगों ने मिसचीफ प्ले किया है उनके खिलाफ कार्यवाही की जानी चाहिये।**

It is very obnoxious. It is very strange that the Censors did not go into the political slant in it. It is going to demoralise our police force.

I entirely agree with what Mr. Malkani and Mr. Mukherjee have said. This film should be taken out of circulation. This is independent of the fact that there might have been excesses here and there; there might have been encounters. But such things should not be generalised. Generally speaking, we should not permit any film which glorifies terrorists and other antisocial elements.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES (Goa): Madam, this is a very serious matter. This is what I said when Mr. Malkani was speaking. In all such cases, these people get away by just giving a footnote saying that the characters in the film are fictitious.

The point is: the censorship should be tightened. We generally see that such movies pass through the Censor Board, but their exhibition is stayed by courts. I think in order to avoid such a thing, before it is taken to the court, there should be a judge, a retired judge or a sitting judge, on the Censor Board to decide this matter judiciously so that this matter would not be adjudicated later on in the court of law. The Government should consider this.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Actually, last year, this matter was raised in the House; about police and the question of vulgarity in films. Then the Minister of Information and Broadcasting took it up. There was a meeting in the Parliament House Annexe where the Members from both the Houses were present; the lady Members were also there.

Apart from this kind of glorification of terrorism and violence, there has been a terrible amount of vulgarity being shown in films. It is very bad.

These films are being shown not only in the cinema halls, but they have come to our homes also through the cable network.

Therefore, it is very necessary that there should be some kind of a censoring of these films. Censoring is more relevant now than ever before. Earlier, you could, at least, stop your children from going to the cinema halls, but it has come to our homes now. It is very, very, unfortunate. I think the Government should take a serious note of it.

Not only this. The police are shown in a bad light in films. The police are shown as joining hands with smugglers. I have seen in some movies that police are shown as fools, or, as joining hands with smugglers. This is something very objectionable. The correct picture of the society should be shown. The correct picture of the various wings of society should be shown. This kind of distortion

which is being done through films should be stopped.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Madam, may I associate myself, very briefly, with Mr. Malkani?

Madam, the general sense of the House is that we are in line with the thinking on this particular film, and what ever he has suggested has to be approved; there should be no objection to that. But we must get our minds enlightened as to what kind of films are being screened. Particularly, this film will have to be screened. After accepting his suggestion, it is also my feeling that this film should be screened for us so that we know what is happening in our country.

PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH (Uttar Pradesh): Madam, to the best of my knowledge and belief, I don't think there has ever been a woman-Chairman of the Censor Board in the country, and I strongly recommend that there should be a Woman-Chairman of the Censor Board, because then the Censor Board would be able to restrict violence and immorality in films. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I don't know whether it should be a woman or man, but anybody who is sensible should be there. Whether it should be a man or woman, it is entirely up to the Government and the people to decide, but there should be someone who is sensible. Even a man can object to such things. Mr. Malkani is a gentleman—and he objected to these things.

PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH: It has been manned by people of different kinds,...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Vested interests!

PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH: ...but women have not ever been Chairmen of the Censor Board. And they have different viewpoints on these two matters—violence and morality.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now I have two more names, Shrimati Malti

कर दीजिए। and Shri John F. Fernandes.  
मालती शर्मा जी नहीं है। जान फर्नांडिस जी जल्दी से

We have already delayed by  
half an hour.

#### **Sexual Exploitation of Minor Children by Foreign Tourists**

SHRI JOHN. F. FERNANDES (Goa):  
Madam, this is also a very serious matter, just  
like what Mr. Malkani has raised. Of late,  
India has been depicted as an  
international tourism destination. We  
welcome foreign tourists as our honoured  
guests because they come to our country to  
see our high traditions, ancient culture and  
rich heritage. But, of late, the focus from  
South-East Asia has been shifted to South  
Asia and India, and India is being sold abroad  
by the tourism industry and hotel industry,  
both here and abroad, as a sex-tourism  
destination. And our laws are so weak that  
the Government is totally apathetic towards  
it. It is high time that the Government of  
India rose to the occasion and did something  
about it.

Madam, the coastal States of Maharashtra,  
Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Pondicherry are  
facing this problem. We see that in the  
western countries, having sexual contact with  
a person below 18 years of age is considered  
as mandatory rape. But in our newspapers we  
read, and there are reports from the United  
Nations, that we have the highest percentage  
of child prostitution in the world. Poor  
children are smuggled across the border from  
Nepal and Bangladesh. It is a matter of great  
shame for our country. We say that we have  
high traditions, high values of heritage and  
culture and morals, but the Government is  
very silent about it.

There is a campaign, off and on, in the  
magazines and newspapers, aided and abetted  
by our own tourism and hotel industries, and  
chartered flights with tourists are brought into  
the country. And our Ministers go abroad.  
Recently, our Chief Minister and Deputy  
Chief Minister went abroad with a 14-  
member

delegation. They are doing nothing for the  
country and for the law of the country. They  
are selling our country for a song. Dollars are  
most welcome, but what is the Government  
doing?

Madam, at the beginning of this century  
there was dumping of opium by certain  
countries in other countries to degenerate  
those countries. Something similar is  
happening now. They are importing AIDS  
from developed foreign countries—I am  
talking of AIDS, not foreign aid—and this  
country is being destroyed totally by these  
vices.

We see in the papers that even minors and  
infants are not spared. Recently France has  
amended its law and said that any sexual  
contact with an infant or minor would attract  
death penalty. Therefore, I request the  
Government to see that our laws are amended.  
And we should amend our laws with a view  
to see that the offenders, the foreigners, who  
go back to their own countries could be  
extradited and brought to this country and  
punished. Madam, I request the Central  
Government to come forth with a suitable  
legislation in this regard.

Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House  
is adjourned till 2.30 p.m. for lunch.

The House then adjourned-for  
lunch at thirty minutes past one  
of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at  
thirty-four minutes past two of the clock, The  
Vice-Chairman (Miss Saroj Khaparde) in the  
Chair.

#### **THE MAHATMA GANDHI ANTARRASHTRIYA HINDI VISHWAVIDYALAYA BILL, 1995**

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ  
KHAPARDE): We will take up the Mahatma  
Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi  
Vishwavidyalaya Bill, 1995.

Mr. Minister.