

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Obscene advertisement of foreign films
in Newspapers

SHRI VISHVIJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH (Maharashtra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for allowing me to make this Special Mention. I am raising the question of obscene advertisement of foreign films in the newspapers.

This is a question which has got different kinds of ramifications involving different departments of the Government of India and also different laws which are being contravened. The major thing is that all these films are imported under the NRI scheme through the Government of India, through the NFDC. Therefore, the Government acquires, by itself, a certain responsibility because it is a Government agency which is channelizing the import of these films. Government itself owes a certain responsibility to the people, to see that films of good quality come in and not films which are merely meant for the baser instincts of man. I would like to quote this advertisement and just show you what kind of stuff is being advertised. This is a responsible newspaper. The Statesman. And what does it say? It says:

"Hollywood's New Lolita! If this one doesn't excite you, you are already dead! Sexy sixteen seduces naughty forty!"

Just imagine! And there is, of course, a provocative picture.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you come under that? Are you under naughty forty?

SHRI VISHVIJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH: I am forty-one, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are entering naughty forties!

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Andhra Pradesh): In retrospect!

SHRI VISHVIJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH: You will not believe it, Sir. Last year there was a film which was imported, entitled *Disco Fever*. The advertisements for this

film came out in the form of a serial. Every day there was a girl who was shown in the picture and day after day there were less and less clothes on her. Every day! It was carried by magazines also. Finally the advertisement had to be withdrawn because of public protest. . . (Interruptions)...

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): What is wrong in its? . . . (Interruptions)...

SHRI VISHVIJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH: I know, my honourable friend would like to see everything, but I would prefer if all this were covered up. This is a very wrong thing. As I said, the first thing is that the Government must have proper guidelines about the import of these films, to see that none of this kind of material comes in.

[The Deputy Chairman in the Chair.]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (**SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA**): He is only jealous because he is a bachelor!

SHRI VISHVIJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH: I am afraid it is a question of nomenclature: I am a *brahmachari*.

Madam, the second ramification is that of censorship. What is the Censor Board doing? If such a film has been imported advertently or inadvertently, is the Censor Board sleeping? The Censor Board must do something about it. . . (Interruptions)...

Madam, I seem to have struck a sensitive chord in the House: everybody is excited about it!

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV (Maharashtra): The subject is so exciting!

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: They are not dead. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI VISHVIJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH: May I please carry on? This is not something which you should laugh about.

The second part is about the Censor Board. Why is the Censor Board not effective? Why does it not see that this does not happen?

The third aspect is general, one of public morals. How can we allow this to happen? Why is there not a protest? Why are the newspapers, responsible newspapers, responsible media, all of them, doing this? This is the "STATESMAN". This is supposed to be a very responsible newspaper. Fortunately, the "PATRIOT" stopped it. They used to carry a large number of such advertisements. We must see to it that a campaign starts so that all this stops.

Lastly, there is the moral issue and the main issue. There are Acts passed in Parliament. I remember, I took part in the debate. We passed the Act regarding banning of indecent representation of women. This is an indecent representation of women. I do not know what the Government is doing about it. They are not doing anything about it.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: The Government is encouraging it.

SHRI VISHVJIT PRITHVJIT SINGH: The Government is not encouraging. The Government must stop this.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: When you give interview to the "Penthouse" magazine, how can you stop it? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VISHVJIT PRITHVJIT SINGH: I do not want to go into the ramifications. He knows exactly what the story is. He is just saying to annoy us. I am not going to react to it. It does not matter. (*Interruptions*) I am not going to react to it. It is all right. I am not going to come down to his level.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI VISHVJIT PRITHVJIT SINGH: I know the time is running out. I am concluding. The main point is that we must try and see that all this must stop. The Acts which Parliament has passed, must be implemented, and we must see that none of these films is allowed to be imported, thereby reducing public morals to absolute zero.

Thank you, Madam.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: We object to giving interview to the "Penthouse" magazine.

Spread of AIDS in India

DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, I want to mention not the so-called aid given by the developed countries, but the real AIDS, the AIDS virus. "India is warned about the spread of the AIDS"—this caption appeared, and it is a very grave situation, I think, for the world because this is the most important health issue for the decade. The number of countries reporting this disease in these four years has gone up to 144.

This virus was isolated for the first time in India by Prof. Pradip Seth of the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences, three weeks ago from the blood sera obtained from three prostitutes of Madras. According to Prof. Seth, further typing and characterisation of the virus could not be done at the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences as it lacked containment facilities. The imported test kits which are being currently used in India for screening AIDS, were designed to detect the strain of the AIDS virus occurring in the United States and Europe. The tests would be useless if the strain which is reported in India is an Asiatic strain, and by the time we are going through this particular point, the isolated virus might have spread and might have infected thousands of persons because it is so virulent. The modes of its spreading, I think, everybody in the House is aware of. Three to four weeks have already passed after the isolation of the virus. Till now, the Government of India has not made any effort to see that the strain is identified. I request the Government of India to take immediate steps to see that this virus is identified and preventive measures are taken because it is a very very important subject. Four weeks have elapsed. Till now no effort has been made. I think, this strain should be sent to other laboratories, and we must identify the strain and take necessary steps in this regard.

Thank you, Madam.

Problems of Bombay Commuters

***SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV** (Maharashtra): Madam Deputy

*English translation of the original speech delivered in Marathi.