

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017

### Notes of Sameer film's Censor Certificate Screening

On 8<sup>th</sup> March, my Censor agent Mr. Mitin Shah called me up and he informed me that tomorrow on 9<sup>th</sup> March Censor board has organized the screening of my film "Sameer". I reached to Famous Studio at 10.45 AM, the Preview Theatre was suggested by CBFC to show the film. At around 11.45 Mr. Rajinder, a projector operator came and we begun to dump the film on studio hard disk.

It took 2 hours to dump the whole film on studio hard disk.

At 2.30 around my agent Mitin Shah came. We were sitting in the lobby of the preview theatre. Suddenly, a boy came and he called up to Mitinbhai first and then Mitinbhai called me and he told me that we can't seat in the lobby, we need to go in the separate room. Myself, Mitinbhai and my Assistant Aarif Mirza were given a separate room called 101, it was comfortable room and we sat and kept waiting for CBFC Committee members.

Out of our knowledge, Committee members came and they begun the screening, we came to know around them 3.45 pm that screening is already started! The person who came with the food bill order he told us that screening is already begun.

Around 5.55 PM a boy came in the room and said that Committee members are calling us. Myself and Mitinbhai and my producer partner Bankim went in the Preview theatre lobby. We were told by boy to seat in the lobby until committee members call us. After almost one hour, Committee members called us in the preview theatre. Myself and Mitinbhai and Bankimbhai enter into the preview theatre and an old lady told us that they allow only 2 members not 3. My producer partner went outside.

It was around 6.50 pm when we enter into the preview theatre. When I enter into preview theatre, it looked that everybody was in hurry to go, they did not tell me where I should sit or stand to respond their queries. I was hastily informed by Old lady, a Sr. member that I have to remove all abuse words from the film, she showed me list of abuse words and I said I am fine with it but I also noticed that one abuse word (I don't remember now) that was mentioned in the sheet is not spoken anywhere in my film! Then she told me that I need to remove the dialog "Moot Piyenga", "Musalmaan hai?", I was just about to ask "Why" but she just moved to another remark and did not responded me. Then I was told that in my post blast scene, I have used nil that is on the face of one of the dead body, to remove it. A young lady told me there are some shots where people are injured and piece of glass are pricking on their body. I was clueless and was figuring out that there are no such shots except some broken glass bottles on the ground due to blast. I told them that there are no such shots but further I told them that if you have noted down TCR, I will look into it. Then they told me that I couldn't use words "Mann Ki Baat", I was

shocked! I said, why? What is the problem with it. Everybody was looking to each other's faces. Then one of the male members of the committee said that because "Mann Ki Baat" is the PM's Radio Show. I shocked and said thanks to inform me but what is the relation with PM's Radio Show and my dialog "Mann Ki Baat"? They said that all five members understood to whom I want to do satire! I told them that no, It's a fiction film and I don't have an intention to defame anybody. But they denied my arguments...now by this time almost everybody was ready to move...They also told me that I cannot use "Chutiya" word when my character says "Chai Se Chutiya", one of the lady said, Chai is fine but I cannot use Chutiya. Old lady was not comfortable to speak "Chutiya" word which I understood so young lady was keep speaking "Chutiya" word. I told them if I keep it like "Chai Se \_\_\_\_\_ instead of abuse word..." young lady interrupted and said "you mean "Chutiya", I said "I am sorry, you are a woman I can't speak this word in front of you, my film is fiction, on screen I may use this work as per my scene demand but I cannot speak such word in front of a woman" and she satirically smiled and was ready to go. I suggested that if I keep the dialog like "Chai se Ollu Banana aap hi se to sikha hai" then what is the problem. Another young lady jumped in and immediately said that Ya, "Ollu" word is fine", old lady got angry on young lady and spoke in Marathi, I guess she told that why you are agreeing without discussion and told her not to agree with this. I understand Marathi a bit.

By this time. Old lady was signing some sheet, all other members where also signing and old lady told me that in the beginning film have a torture scene, it's a 1 mint long torture scene and I can't keep it that long in the film, she suggested me to cut down to 3 to 4 sec from one mint and used word like "Flash to flat" something. I told her that I am sorry but I am first time facing Censor committee as this is my first film so I don't know what is this term 'Flash to Flat", she told me that I need to cut down the scene from one minute to just 3 to 4 seconds. I was shocked that how she can decide the time of my torture scene that how long it should be! I told to old lady that I am sorry but it is not possible. It's an important scene of my film where my main character got scared by watching torture and he become ready to be "Undercover" of ATS. Within 4 sec, it is impossible to create the whole scene, which give frightening experience to my lead character. My whole film builds up from this scene and you are asking me to cut it down to 4 sec! She was rudely told me that no...no...we can't grant you to show such violence. Young lady jumped in and said that you can't show "3<sup>rd</sup> Degree' torture in the film. I interrupted and told her that "I excuse, but it is not a "3<sup>rd</sup> Degree" torture at all. 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree is much more then horrible then what I have shown in the film. I have watched so many films, which have extremely brutal torture, and what I have shown is nothing in compare to those scenes. I also admit that I can reduce length but cutting down whole scene from one mint to 4 sec is not possible at all.

By this time, they have signed on the remark sheet and I tried to convince old lady that I understand that in UA certificate I have to mute abuse words...Old lady interrupted and said 'Who are giving you UA certificate, we will give you A certificate", I again shocked and my agent told that Madam we have applied for UA

certificate not A. I put my argument that if I am having A certificate then why should I remove abuse words and all sequences as these are permitted according to A certificate definition. Old lady told me "no...no...you can't use it, if you want, you may go for RC (Revising Committee) but we can't give you UA certificate and they begin to walked out. I and my agent followed them till outside and I was keep telling that my film is not at all a "A" certificate film and this is not fair but old lady, while walking out, said "go to Revising Committee".

It was almost 7.20 PM was just looking at them going to their home back and I turned to my agent who was also shocked, clueless and speechless. Later on we decide that let the letter come from the committee and will take action accordingly.

Dakxinkumar Bajrange (Chhara)  
Director, Sameer