

**Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017**

**Minutes of meeting with Pehlaj Nihlani, CBFC Chief.**

I reached at 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of CBFC office at 2 p on 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2017. I wanted to see CBFC chairman Mr. Pehlaj Nihlani.

Peon gave me piece of paper and I write down details of my visit for example Name, Purpose of meeting etc. Then I was called in the office but security personal ask me to give my cell phone to him. I was not allowed to keep my cell phone with me in the office. I gave my cell phone to security personal and put it on flight mode. I entered into office and gave my introduction and my purpose of visit. He told me to sit down on the chair.

I had a paper of EC's officer letter for cuts. First, I told him that I had an EC screening on 9<sup>th</sup> March but I was not given an opportunity for Oral Hearing about the cuts and EC members show me cuts and they did not hear me.

Mr. Nihlani was just listening to me, not reacted.

Then, I begun to talk that I was given absolutely wrong cut but then he bit in irritation, he ask me that how can they can give you "wrong Cuts" show me what are these cuts?

I gave him EC letter and he just had a look on cuts section paragraph.

I explained that I am told to cut down one minute torture scene into "flash" (max 4 sec) is absolutely wrong and can damage my film as it is the scene where my lead character scared to see torture on other person and become undercover of ATS. It is main motivational scene in my narrative and to cut down it 4 seconds will damage the main portion of the film.

Mr. Nihlani: I haven't watched the film so how can I comment; you apply for revising committee and will see.

I told him that I have seen extremely level of violence in the film like Vissarnai that has horrible torture and then also it got UA certificate so in compare to Vissarnai, Sarabjeet films' tortures, torture scene in my film is nothing. ATS officer is beating a person on foots of the person and then he crack his bone. I can reduce it bit but I cannot reduce it to 4 second. I asked, "By the way, what is this "Flash to 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree" term. I said that this is my first film and I don't know this term. Mr. Nihlani said you have to show scene in flashes. I said, sorry sir, I don't understand. Can you please explain?

In bit irritation, Mr. Nihlani explained; for example you are showing kiss scene, both characters come together, closer...closer...closer till the lips touch together and then you cut it. So people will understand that both characters did kiss but you are not showing it on screen.

I was listening him and nod positively and again argued.

“Sir, this is my torture scene, if even I show it in flashes, it is impossible to show impact of torture in 4 seconds”

He responded “even I haven’t watched the film but I am responding you not as a Chairperson but as a film Director. You know I have been in direction?”

I said; Oh yes, I am aware about it.

Then he moved to second cut which are abuse words I have used in the film. His expression to read abuse words was very bad. He said, ‘Oh these many abuse words and see what sort of abuse words are...’

I responded; “Sir, I have already told to Examining Committee that I will mute these all words if I am having UA certificate but if my film is having A certificate then except women oritend abuse words, why should I remove other abuse words as they are allowed in A certificate as well. Sir, I have seen many film that has UA certificate but has abuse words so why my film...”

He did not responded and just moved to another cut

“Musalmaan hai kya?” what is this, why you used community name? asked by Mr. Nihlani.

Sir, I haven’t use it to hurt religious sentiments, its in a different context. My film villain is Terrorist and his name is Yasin so ATS chief suggest to ATS officer that if he is Musalmaan then send him to Yasin’s home in Ahmedabad as ATS’ undercover informer to dig out information about Yaseen’s whereabouts...

No..No.... you can’t use community name in any context, Mr. Nihlani responded. He gave me example of old film and said that there were words in the song “Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Isaai” but we also did changes in it as nobody can use any community’s name no matter what context you are using. He also gave me example that none can use “Chamaar” word...

I interrupted; yes because this word is ban according to Atrocity Act.

“But no one can use community name” Mr. Nihlani said. He moved to another cut. He read it “BJP flag....” I told: “that I will remove it as it came accidently. Then he further read “Al-Jazeera” ...I told him. Sir, I can remove it but let me tell you that I haven’t use

it to defame any organization but anyway, I can remove it as its not that important for my film.

He just gives back paper to me by pushing it towards me. I said:

Sir, what about this “Mann ki Baat” words, what wrong in it.

He took paper again and said “Change it, “Mann ki Baat “ is PM’s Radio Show so you can’t use it. Change it to “Tann ki baat”, Dil ki Baat”, mute “Mann” and use some word...I said “but sir, my whole sound design...he interrupted “What sound design”, I spoke; I mean, I have to convince to my Sound Designer...and replacing three word on big screen won’t look good...I was trying to make him understand that it won’t look good on big screen to replace such words and he blatantly responded.

“You know I am also a director, right” I said, ‘Yes’ . He said, “you know, there is no sound designer technicians at all, kya kaam hota hai usaka...you are director and you can do whatever you want.

“But Sir, context of my dialog is not related to any Radio Show its...” I argued.

“No..no...you can’t use it....when there is Gujarat politics related film...”, He did not complete his sentence.

When I found that he would not agree with me then I told him that I will go in revising committee. He suggested me that you should show revised cut to examining committee again and see what they says rather to go to Revising Committee. They may increase cuts, may not. You need to do fresh application and we will close down this file and see what happen in second examining committee screening. When you present revised version of the film with all these cuts they may change your certification category as well.

I said “I will think about it”

He said; “its your conviction, your call.”

I said “Yes, thanks for time for meeting”

And I came out from the office. Took my mobile from security person and leave the office.

Dakxinkumar Bajrange (Chhara)  
Director, Sameer

