

Case :- PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION (PIL) No. - 657 of 2020

Petitioner :- Santosh Kumar Jaiswal

Respondent :- Union Of India And 6 Others

Counsel for Petitioner :- Chandra Prakash Awasthi, Om Prakash Singh
(Senior Adv.)

Counsel for Respondent :- A.S.G.I.

Hon'ble Mrs. Sunita Agarwal, J.

Hon'ble Saumitra Dayal Singh, J.

1. Heard learned counsel for the petitioner and Sri Manoj Kumar Singh, learned counsel appearing on behalf of the Union of India.
2. The present petition has been filed seeking a direction to restrain re-telecast of Episode Nos.47 to 62 of a television serial 'Vishnu Puran' on certain channels of the national broadcaster, namely the Door Darshan.
3. Perusal of the writ petition reveals that the petitioner has a strong objection to the representation of certain characters in the said serial, inasmuch as, it is the contention of the petitioner that Lord Vishnu and other deities in whom he has belief have been misrepresented in the said television serial.
4. Without allowing for any debate to arise, as is being sought by the petitioner, it is undisputed that the objectionable work is basically a work of art for entertainment. It may be based on certain scriptures or ancient works and therefore it may suffer from inaccuracy and mistakes either deliberate or otherwise.
5. Leaving that possibility apart, ancient work such as the 'Vishnu Puran' and other texts are always open to debate and discussion resulting in multiple views arising and being discussed even at the level of religious teachers and people spiritually inclined. That in part is the beauty of plurality that our society practices.
6. In that view of the matter, we do not consider it proper to act on the apparent over sensitivity of the petitioner who believes in a particular line of thought and finds himself opposed to another view or thought being represented in the TV serial of which he is neither a creator nor the participant, but a mere spectator that too with an option to watch or not to watch such a show.

7. As to other submission with regard to non-clearance by the censor board etc., we do not find any substance in the pleadings, and in any case, the pleadings are not supported by any actionable evidence as may warrant any interference by this Court in exercise of its extraordinary jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution of India.

8. Accordingly, in our considered opinion, the public interest litigation is merely an exercise to attract controversy or to create one where none exists. The writ petition is **dismissed**.

9. No order as to costs.

Order Date :- 24.6.2020
Shubham