



National Film Archive of India

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
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Interview of old Cine Artist Zunzharrao Pawar

Interviewer : Film Industry began in Kolhapur and has created a different type of history. Great people like, Baburao Painter, Anantrao Painter are the reasons why this film Industry came into being. A year before Dadasaheb Phalke began this journey and Baburao Painter who is considered to be important as one who worked along with Dadasaheb Phalke. You were the one who was with him right from the beginning. In that context, you have a big importance. Can you tell me something about your personal life like where were you born, in Kolhapur or out of Kolhapur? Can you brief me on it?

Zunzharrao : I was born in Kolhapur in the year 1892, on 13th June.

Interviewer : What was your father doing? Was he having any family business or was he a farmer? How was your family's condition?

Zunzharrao : My father was not a farmer, but an officer. We were a quite OK family.

Interviewer : What is your educational qualification? Did you go to high school?

Zunzharrao : No, I studied until matriculation.

Interviewer : Did you take part in any kind of sports in school?



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Zunzharrao : Yes, We used to play football, hockey. There is an open ground near School called Dasara Chowk, where we used to play.

Interviewer : OK...

Interviewer : Ok. Then how did you enter in Film Industry? Was your educational qualification useful in your filmy career or playing sports were useful in this career?

Zunzharrao : Entering the film industry was just a coincidence. Now there is post, Shaniwar Post Office, at that time previously, there was a theatre built for drama by Narayan Media. Afterwards, Baburao Painter had taken that theatre for the cinema world.

Then he started showing cinemas at that theatre.

Interviewer : Ok...

Zunzharrao : How I get into the film industry? It is like this.. I was staying right behind that post office.

To go to play at Dasara chowk, I used to pass that theatre very frequently. While passing by I got to know the people of the theatre. Afterwards, what happened, Baburao Painter stopped showing cinema but turned towards producing his own film. He established his own cinema company in 1917. They used to hold their cinema practice. I was known to the people over there, used to go there very often. One day, I just happened to go there. At that time, they were rehearsing for the movie 'Sita Swayamwar'. In Sita Swayamwar, there was a sub-story of Ahilya Uddhar. They were rehearsing for this scene. A character named Gautam Rishi was absent on that day.

Interviewer : That actor did not turn up?

Zunzharrao : The rehearsal was going on and he did not turn up. Since I was standing there, Baburao Painter asked me to do that role. I did that role and Baburao liked it. From that day, I entered the film world. For this, I did not have to do anything extra. It was just sheer coincidence. From that day, I continued with Film Industry.

Interviewer : Your acting in the film was not known to your family or other people in Kolhapur?

Zunzharrao : Yes, this is the big question. My family did not know anything till 'Sairandhri' movie was completed and released.

The shooting used to take place in the daytime, nothing was done at night. At that time, there were no artificial lights. So shooting had taken place during the daytime. I used to go whenever I was needed otherwise stay at home. During the daytime, I used to complete the shooting and return home by evening. So no one in the family could suspect me acting in the film.

Interviewer : What happened to 'Sita Swayamwar' movie?

Zunzharrao : Sita Swayamwar movie got cancelled. I think they could not get proper Sita. They could not get a good actor to play the role of Sita. So it was cancelled. Afterwards, he had decided to make Kichak Vadh.

Interviewer : That is Sairandhri.

Zunzharrao : Yes

Interviewer : Who all were your co-actors? On the screen and off the screen also?

Zunzharrao : There were many. I will tell you the main actors, me, Balasaheb Yadav, Manajirao, Ganpatrao Bakare, like many more. It is very difficult to take the names. There was Anusayabai, Sushilabai, even Gulab bai like that people were there.

Interviewer : At that time, Damle, Fatte Lal, Dhaibar...

Zunzharrao : Yes, Damle, Fatte Lal, Dhaibar these all people were there.

Interviewer : Your first movie was Sairandhri. What role you had played in that?

Zunzharrao : I had played the role of 'Kichak'.

Interviewer : Who else was there in that film?

Zunzharrao : Balasaheb acted as a Bheem, Gulab bai was Sairandhri, and Anusuyabai was Sudeshna, Ganpantrao Bakare's uncle, Kishabapu Bakare had acted as Raja.

Interviewer : Ok, Where was this studio? How was this studio?

Zunzharrao : Now there is Peth whom you called Mangalwar Peth. At that place, there was a drama theatre called Shivaji Theatre. This Maharashtra Film Company went there. That theatre had tins at the back. On that tin, they used to spread white sheets. For reflectors, they had wrapped thin silver shining paper on the light and used as reflectors.

Interviewer : After Sairandhri, which all pictures you did?

Zunzharrao : Vatsala Haran.

Interviewer : Ok and...

Zunzharrao : Maya Bazar

Interviewer : Ok, What role you had played in Vatsala Haran?

Zunzharrao : Vatsala Haran was taken two times. The first time, I had played the role of Shakunimama.

Interviewer : Two times means

Zunzharrao : After the first movie of Vatsalaharan, Maya Bazar was going to take place. The story was the same and Mayabazar had taken first.

Interviewer : Which role you played in Vatsalaharan?

Zunzharrao : I played the role of Shakunimama

Interviewer : And in Maya Bazar?

Zunzharrao : In Maya Bazar, I played role of Narad..

Interviewer : Who all were with you in Vatsalaharan?

Zunzharrao : Many were acting with me. Not possible to take the names.

Interviewer : Baburao was the director of many of your films? How was his direction?

Zunzharrao : He used to take rehearsals. He used to explain to everyone how to talk, how to act. He was getting work done by those actors and sees to that where they go wrong.

Because of this actor's concentration and intelligence and Baburao's guidance together used to work out very well.

Interviewer : I think in the initial period, Baburao had started with mythological films then historical like Sinhagad, Shaha la shah, Kalyan Khajina like that. I think Sinhagad was the first historical film.

Zunzharrao : Yes, Sinhagad was the first.

Interviewer : In that Sinhagad what was your role?

Zunzharrao : Sinhagad was his first historical talkie film. In that, I played the role of Udaybhan. It was the role of Villain. Till that time, I was doing all villain roles. After that my career as Villain got a turn. I acted in Savakari Pash.

Interviewer : How is that?

Zunzharrao : It is like this. I was having my own farm, so I was in touch with rural people.

So I knew how they talk, how they walk, what they do. Considering this in mind, Baburao had selected me and got the role for me. It was done very well.

Interviewer : In the 'Savkari Pash' movie, he had projected reality. Now if you go to a village, what kind of life you see, it was projected in that movie. Even I heard, for this movie he had not applied makeup for most of the people.

Can you explain this?

Zunzharrao : Very few were with make-up. Many of them were without make-up.

Interviewer : To give good real effect to this movie what Baburao had done?

Zunzharrao : The story was so effective...

Interviewer : Can you narrate the story?

Zunzharrao : The story was like this. A farmer and landlord were having a farm side by side. For some reason, this farmer had taken a loan from the landlord. Whenever possible, he used to return the money in small installments. The landlord was very cunning. He wanted to grab farmers' land. So every now and then he used to ask the farmer for money. The farmer had told him whenever possible I will return his money. He told the farmer that if I sell Jaggery, groundnuts, rice or whatever products I sell, against that, I will return your money. The farmer was an illiterate person. He did not know how to keep the track of the money he had returned.

He had one earthen pot. Whenever he gave any amount to the landlord, he used to put the stone in that pot. If it is Rs.100/- then big stone and if it is Rs.50/- then small stone. Like that, If the amount is big, he used to deposit a big stone in that pot and he returns his money. The landlord was a greedy and cunning person. He takes the farmer home and forcefully takes his thumb impression on his land papers.

Interviewer : What happens next?

Zunzharrao : What is next? Afterwards, the farmers' son comes there and a big fight takes place. The landlord calls the police and the police arrests the farmer's son and puts him in jail. The farmer loses his land and everything. Even he couldn't get enough food. His condition becomes very bad and finally, he reaches the last stage of life. With no food to eat, he had become a skeleton. In the end, on his last days of his life, when people gather around him that time, with a tearful eye he tells them that whatever happens, but do not take any loan from Landlords. If you remain hungry but still do not take a loan. If you take the loan, your condition will be like mine. This dialogue when he says with tearful eyes and sobbing so well and so expressive that the tear comes to your eyes. In the end, the coincidence is that his son is released from jail and he gives up the life. The landlord gets carried away by the dancer. The farmer's role gets so much sympathy that the audience starts crying.

This I have witnessed with my own eyes.

Interviewer : What was the audience's reaction?

Zunzharrao : Sometimes, we used to sit in the theatre along with the audience. At that time, we could see the movements of people and used to hear the sobbing of the audience. It was so effective Movie, 'Savkari Pash'.

Interviewer : You had done two versions of the movie, Talkie also and before that Silent. Who was working in silent movie?

Zunzharrao : First silent and then talkie. The direction was of Baburao Painter.

Interviewer : Correct.

Zunzharrao : Talkie was released in Shalini Film City and Silent one was released on Maharashtra Film City.

Interviewer : Who all had acted in this movie? You had acted as Aged Farmer?

Zunzharrao : It was a fixed Role.

Interviewer : But who else was with you in this silent film?

Zunzharrao : Mandhare

Interviewer : Mandhare had acted in Talkie. Who had acted in silent movie?

Zunzharrao : Shantaram Bapu

Interviewer : Which role he had played?

Zunzharrao : Shantaram Bapu had played the role of Anyaba's son.

Interviewer : That means your son's role

Zunzharrao : Yes. Of my son. Gulab bai had played the role of the daughter-in-law.

Interviewer : I think Bhagvat was also in that movie.

Zunzharrao : Yes. Bhagvat was there.

Interviewer : I think he had played the role of Landlord's son's friend.

Zunzharrao : Yes. Of Son's friend.

Interviewer : Was Vishnupant Aundhkar was with you?

Zunzharrao : No, he was in Talkie.

Interviewer : Then who had played the role of Landlord?

Zunzharrao : Kishabapu Bakre. He was Ganpatrao's uncle. He had acted as Landlord.

Interviewer : Ok. There is one scene. It was like some robbers come to the village. Who had played the role of the leader of the robber in silent movie?

Zunzharrao : No, I don't remember much. If someone is very engrossed in his own role, he doesn't know much about the other actors. If the actor is so busy in his own role when he trying to give his best, he can give his best, he does not know who is standing next to him. Even many years have passed.

Interviewer : Nearly 50 years back.

Zunzharrao : yes. 50 years have passed so it is not possible to remember.

Interviewer : I want to ask you one thing. You had played the role of Udaybhan in Sinhgad. Balasaheb Yadav was also with you. This picture was a big hit.

I heard you all were felicitated in Mumbai. Can you say something about it? Who had done this felicitation?

Zunzharrao : It was done at Majestic Cinema.

Interviewer : What year was it?

Zunzharrao : I think it was in the year, 1923.

Interviewer : Ok

Zunzharrao : It must be in the year 1923 and Balasaheb and I were felicitated at that time.

Interviewer : who had done it? By whose hand was it done?

Zunzharrao : I don't remember. It must be the owner of that theatre. It is not possible to remember it.

Interviewer : Ok. Had you given any speech at that time?

Zunzharrao : No, no. I had not given any speech.

Interviewer : How exactly it was done?

Zunzharrao : They told the audience that these are the actors who

played role in this movie.

Interviewer : Did Lokmanya Tilak felicitate you?

Zunzharrao : No, I could not get to experience this. It was experienced by Baburao Painter.

Interviewer : That was for which movie?

Zunzharrao : It was for Sairandhri.

Interviewer : Do you have any memories of it?

Zunzharrao : It was his felicitation, so I don't know what had happened between them. Even we never enquired about what had happened there.

Interviewer : When your silent movies used to release, were they used to give any article on it in the newspaper?

Zunzharrao : Yes. There were articles on us in the newspaper.

Interviewer : Did they write anything about your acting?

Zunzharrao : Yes. I heard roughly about it. They have written about me like, he has acted well and done like this, etc. When fighting scenes started in movies and were done very well. That is the time, fighting scenes were started in the movies. The fighting scenes have started with 'Sinhgad' movie.

Interviewer : Who all were in that fighting?

Zunzharrao : Between Balasaheb, Shelar mama, and me.

Interviewer : You had acted as Udaybhan.

Zunzharrao : Yes. Balasaheb had acted as Tanaji and I think **Shelarmama played his role was by Shantaram.**

Interviewer : I think Baburao Painter had also acted in that Sinhgad movie.

Zunzharrao : Yes, he had acted as Shivaji.

Interviewer : You had fought with him also?

Zunzharrao : No, no. I had not fought with him. The question does not arise of fighting with him. Tanaji was deputed to conquer the Sinhagad Fort. Udaybhan was a keeper of the fort. So Tanaji had gone there at night and there was a fight between both of them. Shivaji Maharaj was not there. He had sent Tanaji to conquer the fort. When he won the battle and conquer the fort, they lit the fire by setting dry grass on fire so that Shivaji Maharaj will come to know about the victory.

Interviewer : Where this shooting took place? At Sinhagad or Panhalagad.

Zunzharrao : At Panhalagad.

Interviewer : That means Sinhagad movie was not shot at Sinhagad fort?

Zunzharrao : There was no need to go to Sinhagad. All the forts are usually look alike. Towers and other things are the same with all the forts.

Interviewer : You said there were no artificial lights and Tanaji climbs the fort with the help of Iguana at night. Then how did you manage to shoot?

Zunzharrao : Do you have any idea about chandrajyot?

Interviewer : Do you mean the same one we used at Diwali?

Zunzharrao : yes. Daru, consider it as gun powder. At the time of war, we used to keep this gun powder at some particular places and lit up this gun powder. You must be knowing Divtya (fire stick). How that gives effect similarly this gun powder used to give on-off effect. Same as light-dark, light-dark. It was very effective, more than the bulb light.

Interviewer : That is why it was a more effective scene.

Zunzharrao : Yes. Whenever there was a night scene, this method was used.

Interviewer : Just tell me one thing, Baburao Painter started with Mythological movies then Historical. Then have taken some usual costume film which has neither mythological nor historical background. He directed the film Savkari Pash, which is based on rural background. How he jumped on this kind of story?

Zunzharrao : How can I tell you, what exactly was in his mind. How does his brain works? We were just actors. He used to create a story the way he wanted. Do you remember, any English picture at that time? Whatever there are no two ways about his intelligence.

Interviewer : When Baburao was undertaking any film and used to decide who will do photography or which actor/actress to be appointed or whom to give roles, does he ever took you in confidence? Was he ever took you in confidence and ask whether this kind of role you can do? What is your opinion? Was this kind of discussion ever took place?

Zunzharrao : No, he was very much aware of whom he has to give the role.

He was sure which role will suit him better.

Even people also were not that kind of to ask for the role they want. Whatever they used to get, was performed well.

Interviewer : Maharashtra film company had produced 25/26 films. Out of those most important films you have already named. Which other movies you have acted in?

Zunzharrao : In addition to the above films, I must have acted 16 more films. Amongst that Rana Hamim, Kans, Krishna Janma etc etc. were historical films and in all that films, I have acted as a villain. My career took a turn with Savkari Pash film.

This movie had a rural background, so I got a different type of role other than a villain. We left this topic in between. Since I was brought up in that atmosphere, I was allotted a different kind of role. Otherwise, whatever role I got was all of Villain. From Baburao's point of view, my opinion and even the audience liked my villains' role.

Interviewer : What was audience feedback on your villain's role? Were they looked at you with hatred?

Zunzharrao : Yes, they used to look at me with hatred. In that background, I will tell you what happened in Bangalore. I was doing all villain roles at that time. I was walking on the road and some children started following me and were abusing me.

Interviewer : That means after you left Maharashtra Film Company.

Zunzharrao : After leaving Maharashtra Film Company, I went to Bangalore. There was a gentleman, named Haribhai Desai. He was from Mumbai. He had set up his company named Surya Film Company and so he called me there.

Interviewer : What must be that year roughly.

Zunzharrao : It must be 1927/28. I am not sure. There also I got all villain roles. The first movie was Heart of the King. In that, I got the role of king. The story was on that king. The first shot of that film was taken on me. This is the same as how Maharashtra Film Company started with taking the first shot on me. There also I was getting villain's role. Those films were also based on fighting, stunts etc.

Interviewer : That means, after doing Mythological, Historical and also the films which gave a turn to your career, Savkari Pash in Maharashtra Film Company, you started getting different stunt roles.

Zunzharrao : Yes, whatever films were produced at that time, I have acted in all that movies.

Interviewer : Ok.

Zunzharrao : After every one or two months, the film used to get released. I have done stunts/fighting in those films. There were movies like Rajraje, Daivi Khadge, Kishori. The most important thing I can tell you here is that I had done the double role. A film named Kubda (Hunch back) had a double role and in the Gorilla. That was of monkeys. I don't remember the names but was something like, Hawk and tyrant. Both roles were a big hit.

Interviewer : Just tell me one thing, you left Maharashtra Film Company and joined Surya Film company. What was the reason? What was your salary at that time?

Zunzharrao : We never worked on salary. Even we did not ask for salary.

Interviewer : Oh, Ok.

Zunzharrao : Balasaheb Yadav, Manajirao, these were jolly good people. No one was on salary. Everybody used to work for free.

Interviewer : Then what was the reason to leave the company?

Zunzharrao : There was no such reason. I don't remember right now.

This Surya Film Company had called me there. When Maharashtra Film Company had done Lanka Dahan, the problems had been raised.

Interviewer : Ok. After reaching Bangalore and joining Surya Film Company, you were a villain then who was a hero and heroine?

Zunzharrao : The heroines were ladies from Karnataka. They were Kanada speaking. The film was silent so there was no question of conversation. There were two groups. I and Bacchu was one group and Bakre and Wamanrao Kulkarni were the other group.

Interviewer : Bakre means Ganpatrao Bakre?

Zunzharrao : Yes, Ganpatrao Bakre. I had taken him along with me to Bangalore. This way, the shooting had taken place with two groups.

Interviewer : That means you were working on one film!

Zunzharrao : I was in one story and Ganpatrao was in another and in case any problem arises, then we used to help each other.

Interviewer : Ok Ok

Zunzharrao : But he had kept two groups

Interviewer : That means you were villain and Bacchu hero.

Zunzharrao : Yes and Bacchu was hero. In another group, Bacchu hero and Wamanrao Kulkarni was the villain.

Interviewer : Ok

Zunzharrao : In case if there is a need of changing the role, we used to exchange it.

Interviewer : Suppose you are Villain and Ganpatrao Bakre is a hero, then?

Zunzharrao : No, This usually did not happen.

Interviewer : Ok. Which all other movies you have acted in?

Zunzharrao : like, film of Baba Pendharkars'.

Interviewer : In a silent movie? You have mentioned 2/3 movies like Heart of the King, Hunch Back, Hawk, Daivi Khadge. Like these were there any more films you have acted in? Or was it like the period of the silent movie was coming to an end?

Zunzharrao : When I went to Bangalore at that time, the company was nearly winding up. Afterwards, it closed down.

Interviewer : That means the silent movie period was ending up and talkie movies were coming up.

Which was your first talkie film?

Zunzharrao : From there I came down to Kolhapur.

Interviewer : From where?

Zunzharrao : From Bangalore.

Interviewer : Ok

Zunzharrao : When Maharashtra Film Company closed down, at that time, Balasabeb Yadav had opened a new Company called Chhatrapati Cinetone. Nisekar Saheb, there was one person by the name, Kale was with him. Balasaheb Yadav called me. He was director of the company and I was assistant director.

Interviewer : Ok

Zunzharrao : That means, the film was taken under our guidance.

Interviewer : Ok. Which was his first movie?

Zunzharrao : It was Marathyachi Duhi, Santaji Ghorpade.

Interviewer : Marathyachi Duhi in other words, Santaji Ghorpade.

Zunzharrao : Right.

Interviewer : What role did you play in this movie?

Zunzharrao : I played the role of Gahinaji.

Interviewer : Who had acted as Santaji?

Zunzharrao : Balasaheb Yadav acted as Santaji. He was always a hero.

Interviewer : There was one Dhanaji Jadhav character. Who had played that role?

Zunzharrao : Dhanaji Jadhav !!

Interviewer : Was it played by Ganpatrao Bakre?

Zunzharrao : No, he was not there. He had not acted in this film.

Interviewer : Ok.

Zunzharrao : After that, Balasaheb had directed Kurukshetra. In that, I played the role of Dushasan.

Interviewer : Ok. That means it is the beginning of talkie.

Zunzharrao : Yes, this is a talkie. Whatever, I am informing you now, is talkie!

Interviewer : Your first talkie started with Chhatrapati?

Zunzharrao : No. Before that, when I was in Bangalore, I had acted in Hunch Back talkie film. I came down to Kolhapur. At that time, Haribhau Desai came to Kolhapur and took me to Mumbai. He got that movie done by me and that is also in Hindi. That was my first Hindi movie, Hunch Back (Hawk). After that, I joined Chhatrapati. Balasaheb Yadav and I together directed the film at Chhatrapati Cinetone. Balasaheb Yadav always used to discuss with me about scenes. After consulting each other, we used to take the scenes.

Interviewer : What would like to say about Balasaheb Yadav?

Zunzharrao : He was a very nice person. He was a Hero in real life. Even in the film world, he was a Hero.

Interviewer : In what sense you are saying this?

Zunzharrao : By his physique, looks, expressions, from all angles, he was a hero. He was quite tall, of 6' height. He used to look like exactly Tanaji. His personality was

exactly suitable to Tanaji's character, no two ways about it. His groomed physique was like a hero.

Interviewer : Since Balasaheb was a hero and you were a villain, was there any fight between the two of you, on the war front or at the palace?

Zunzharrao : Yes. Fighting had taken place in the Sinhagad movie.

Interviewer : with Sword?

Zunzharrao : Yes, with a sword. Secondly, wrestling took place in Sairandhri. There was a fight between Kichak and Bheem. It is the last scene when Sairandhri goes there with wine, Kichak comes and tries to rape her. Same time, Bheem comes out who was hiding there and both of them had fought. Balasaheb was Bheem and I was Kichak, we fought. We had decided how to do wrestling stunts, how to jump, what stunts to do and accordingly we acted. With wrestling tricks, Bheem knocks me; I mean to Kichak, down and sit on his chest. Then he separated his head from his body. His body was throbbing. His blood was oozing out of his head. This scene had affected the audience's mind.

Interviewer : How did you manage to do this scene? How did you show the scene of separating the head from the body?

Zunzharrao : It was all a trick scene. If I will tell you how we had done then I will lose the secret of it. People will give importance to such a scene till they don't know the secret.

Once the secret is out then it loses its importance.

Interviewer : It is like that....

Zunzharrao : Ok, let me tell you. We had made a dummy without the head. Baburao Painter had made my status which looks exactly like me. When he pulls out the head, his intestines were hanging down and blood starts coming out like a fountain. Like that, this scene was taken. His body was throbbing and finally, he gives up his life.

Interviewer : You had mentioned earlier that at the time of this movie, particularly for this scene, the first time Censor board had objected.

Before this, the Censor board had not objected.

Zunzharrao : I will not be able to tell you what action must have taken by the Censor board. They must have objected and cuts down the scene from the film.

Interviewer : What was the audience's reaction to this scene after censoring the scene from the film.

Zunzharrao : This scene was effective.

Interviewer : You have mentioned earlier that you shifted from Maharashtra Film co to Surya film. You did some film there. At Maharashtra Film Company, you worked honorary. It was all in friendship. You joined Surya Film Company as a villain, was it on a salary basis? What was your salary?

Zunzharrao : They were giving me Rs300/-. On top of it, if I need money to go home, they used to give me. At that time, I mean, around 1928, this was quite a big amount.

Interviewer : Zunzarrao, as you mentioned earlier, Marathyanchi Duhi and Kurukshetra, these are the only two films you had worked with them or any more?

Zunzharrao : Two more films I had done with them.

Interviewer : which are these?

Zunzharrao : One was Baji Deshpande.

Interviewer : what role you had played in that?

Zunzharrao : I had done the role of Gainaji. After that, Jadugarin movie was done.

Interviewer : What role you had played in that?

Zunzharrao : I was a villain in that but that picture was never released. Because of some people, it remained unattended. It should have released.

Interviewer : You had done 2/3 films with Chhatrapati Cinetone, was it only Marathi or Hindi and Marathi languages?

Zunzharrao : No, it was only in Marathi.

Interviewer : ok.

Zunzharrao : I was an assistant to Balasaheb Yadav.

Interviewer : Ok.

Zunzharrao : And all pictures were in Marathi.

Interviewer : Ok.

Zunzharrao : Jadugarin movie was in both, Marathi and Hindi. It should have been released.

Interviewer : After that, where did you go? There Kolhapur Cinetone even Shalini Cinetone. Did you work with any of them?

Zunzharrao : After that, Shalini Cinetone called me for Savkari Pash in a talkie. Previously, it was silent so for talkie, they called me.

Interviewer : Who all acted in that film? What was your role?

Zunzharrao : My role was of Anyaba. The role I played in silent, same role was given to me for talkie. Chandrakant Mandhare, Aundhkar, Thengade, Raja Paranjape, Keshavrao Date, Vishnupant Jog and Sardarbhai, these all people were there.

Interviewer : Previous Savkari Pash and new Savkari Pash, actors were same as you? You acted as Anyaba and Baburao Painter as Director, the rest of the people were the same?

Zunzharrao : Director was the same for both films similarly, the role of Anyaba was done by me in both films. Other roles were played by different people.

Interviewer : This film was released in 1937-38, what you did afterwards?

Zunzharrao : Afterwards, Baba called me.

Interviewer : For which film?

Zunzharrao : Baba called me for Mith-Bhakar film.

Interviewer : Mith-Bhakar...

Zunzharrao : Then Shiva Ramoshi, Tambadi Mati. I acted in these movies of Baba. Also acted in Bahirji Naik.

Interviewer : Bahirji Naik was before Mith-Bhakar.

Zunzharrao : Yes, Bahirji Naik was before Mith-Bhakar.

Interviewer : It came around 1943-44 and 1937, Savkari Pash was released. In that gap of four to five years, what you did?

Zunzharrao : which year you are talking about?

Interviewer : In 1937, Savkari Pash was released and in 1942-43, Bahirji Naik was released. There is a gap of nearly 4/5 years. What did you do in that period?

Zunzharrao : I had not done anything. I was looking after my farm.

Interviewer : For Baba's first movie Mith Bhakar...

Zunzharrao : No, before Mith Bhakar, immediately he had taken Bahirji Naik. Then after a long period....

Interviewer : What role did you play in Bahirji Naik of Baba?

Zunzharrao : I think of a spy, not sure

Interviewer : Ok. After that, you acted in Mith Bhakar.

Zunzharrao : Yes. In Mith Bhakar.

Interviewer : what big role you played in that?

Zunzharrao : I played role of Tatyaba Desai.

Interviewer : What kind of movie was it? Was it Social, Mythological, historical or any kind of movie?

Zunzharrao : It was a rural movie.

Interviewer : That means it was similar to Savkari Pash.

Zunzharrao : Yes. It was similar to Savkari Pash.

Interviewer : How you had played the role of an old farmer in Savkari Pash, was it similar to that?

Zunzharrao : Yes, yes.

Interviewer : Who all were with you to work in Baba's Mith Bhakar film?

Zunzharrao : Chandrakant, Vitthal Mhatre, Tambe, Sulochanabai, Anjalibai, these all people were with me.

Interviewer : You had acted as Villain first in silent, then talkie.

Usually, songs are done by a hero or heroine. Did you ever sing in any of the films?

Zunzharrao : Yes, I have sung. I have sung in Mith Bhakar (Laugh)

Interviewer : ok.

Zunzharrao : In the Mith Bhakar movie, for one scene I sang a song. It was like devotional song

Interviewer : After that, did you sing anything? (laugh)

Zunzharrao : No, after that, I never got a chance. That song was like a devotional song. The song was with a sad note.

Interviewer : First silent film then talkie film started. You did the villain's role in those films.

Afterwards, you got the roles of old men.

That means you had become a character artist. What all roles you got after that?

Zunzharrao : Savkari Pash, then Mith Bhakar, then Shiva Ramoshi, these rural-based films I started getting. Tambdi Mati was not on rural-based movie.

Interviewer : Your last movie with Baba was Tambdi Mati.

Zunzharrao : Yes, in Tambdi Mati.

Interviewer : I remember, despite that, you had acted in the films of Dinkarrao Patil and Hambapkar. You have done some roles in their movies.

Zunzharrao : You are right. Patlache Por of Dinkarrao Patil, Sasar Maher of Hambapkar.

Interviewer : These are the roles you have done.

Zunzharrao : yes.

Interviewer : In Patlache Por, Patil's character had first time entered. I think Dada Salvi must be there.

Zunzharrao : Yes.

Interviewer : Which role you had done in that film.

Zunzharrao : Must be of Patil. I must be the father of that girl.

Interviewer : Which was your last role in the film?

Zunzharrao : After Tambadi Mati, I did not do any role.

Interviewer : ok. Roughly, What was your age at that time of Tambadi Mati?

Zunzharrao : I was around 80 years old.

Interviewer : After that, you took an exit from the film industry, what was the reason? Was it because of your age or change in the atmosphere of the film industry? Or was it like you had a big farm so you must have thought that what is the use to work?

Zunzharrao : I had always done good acting of villain and also done the good role of rural. What kind of role they will give me at this old age?

When you go on top it is very difficult to come down. So, it is better that I should not work. Even I am financially better than why I should accept a lower role.

Interviewer : That's right. In your entire career of silent and talkie films, you have nearly worked with 50 films.....You have set a benchmark as a Villain in the film industry, have worked in more than 50 films. You had mentioned that in the year 1923, you were felicitated. Like that did you were ever felicitated again?

Zunzharrao : I was felicitated in the year, 1923. After that, when the film industry completed 50 years, at that time, all the actors were felicitated by Chief Minister, Vasanttrao Naik. I was one of those actors. Then, at Kolhapur, I was felicitated by Chief Minister, Sharadraoji Pawar.

Interviewer : What was that year? 1974-75?

Zunzharrao : Yes, must 1974/75

Interviewer : Zunzarraoji, what is your age today?

Zunzharrao : I must be of 86 years old now.

Interviewer : Zunzarrao ji, you have seen the film industry right from the beginning. You have lived with it. Do you go to see any movie now? What do you feel about present films? The actors, the condition and atmosphere of industry of your time and now, do you want to give any comments on that?

Zunzharrao : I don't go to see the movie now. There are lots of development taking place. How someone will like the movie you cannot predict.

Interviewer : Ok. At the age of 1986, you have retired from the film industry. You have a sound financial background. By the grace of God, you have good health. Whatever the remaining life you will have, will go smoothly. I pray to God that you will complete your 100 years of your life and I end my interview.