

any amendment, the Constitution (Fifty-first Amendment) Bill, 1984, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 23rd August, 1984."

(iv) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 25th August, 1984, passed, in accordance with the provisions of article 368 of the Constitution of India, without any amendment, the Constitution (Fifty-second Amendment) Bill, 1984, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 23rd August, 1984."

(v) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the rules of procedure and conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 25th August, 1984, passed in according with the provisions of article 368 of the Constitution of India, without any amendment, the Constitution (Fifty-third Amendment) Bill, 1984, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 23rd August, 1984."

11.33 hrs.

#### PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Two hundred twenty eighth, two hundred twenty ninth and two hundred thirteenth Reports

SHRI SUNIL MAITRA (Calcutta-North East): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and

English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee :

- (1) Two Hundred and Twenty-eighth Report on Conversion of Viramgam-Okha-Porbandar Section.
- (2) Two Hundred and twenty-ninth Report on Action Taken on Hundred and fifty-third Report relating to opening of a new automatic exchange and Bagh Bazar, Calcutta and projects for installation of three telephone exchanges at Railway-pura, Ahmedabad.
- (3) Two Hundred and Thirtieth Report on Customs Receipts-Duty Exemption Entitlement Scheme.

#### COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

##### Tenth Report

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): Sir, I beg to present the Tenth Report. (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Government Assurances.

11.34 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : CERTAIN INFORMATION GIVEN BY MINISTER IN REPLY TO SQ. NO. 124 AT 31-7-84 REGARDING CONTROL [OVER ALL INDIA RADIO AND TELEVISION

SHRI SURAJ BHAN (Amballa): Starred Question No. 124 answered on 31 July, 1984 related to times of India report carrying Shri L.K. Advani's analysis of AIR coverage during the Andhra-Karnataka elections. The Minister in his answer stated that the analysis was incorrect. Shri Advani's analysis was based on the records kept in the Parliament Library.

According to Shri Advani's analysis the coverage of national leaders during the poll campaign period by AIR's principal English news bulletin

Mrs. Gandhi	243 lines (of these 130 lines were devoted exclusively to poll coverage).
Shri Morarji Desai	7 lines
Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee	6½ lines
Shri E.M.S. Namboodiripad	13½ lines
Shri Jagjivan Ram	9½ lines

The clarificatory note sent by the Ministry has given the following facts :—

Mrs. Gandhi	251 lines (of these 137 lines pertain to poll matters).
Shri Morarji Desai	7 lines
Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee	8 lines
Shri E.M.S. Namboodiripad	13½ lines
Shri Jagjivan Ram	10 lines

You will agree that the analysis made by Shri Advani is substantially confirmed by this clarification. In fact, even more lines have been given to Mrs. Gandhi than were alleged by Shri Advani.

Then, again, Shri Advani's analysis had said that not once was any opposition leader favoured with any headlines while on as many as nine occasions Mrs. Gandhi's speeches were covered in the headlines. The clarification sent by the Ministry endorses this saying :

“It is a fact that Prime Minister had been headlined on 9 occasions during this period. On the other hand, there was no headline covering any of the Opposition leader.”

On this point also the Minister's claim that Shri Advani's analysis was wrong is proved baseless by the clarification itself.

On page 2838 of the cyclostyled Lok Sabha Debates the Minister had

(9 p.m.) was partisan and that the comparative figures in terms of lines given were as follows :—

given a number of figures which had no relevance either to the main question or to any of the supplementaries. The Ministry in their note has stated that the figures given by the Minister in House also related to another article by Shri Advani published in the Gentleman of June 1984. My charge thus that the Minister's replies were irrelevant and misleading also stands vindicated.

I demand that the Minister may clarify the position in the House.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : In the Starred Question No. 124 in the Sabha on 31.7.1984 there was a reference to the news items in the Times of India New Delhi, of 3rd June, 1984. According to that news item, Shri L.K. Advani had, *inter-alia*, stated that as to how the money power and media power have become to major threats to the

fairness of the electrons. The news item also implied that according to his study of the principal AIR news bulletins in English at 9.00 P.M. between December 15, 1982 and January 7, 1983, the broadcast coverage was partisan. The news item also contained the details of the number of lines given to the Prime Minister and those to the Opposition leaders as well as the number of occasions on which Prime Minister's speeches had been headlined.

2. The following questions arose *viz.*

- (a) Whether the poll broadcasts may be said to be partisan;
- (b) Whether only the 4 Opposition

1. Shri Vajpayee	8 lines
2. Shri Morarji Desai	7 lines
3. Shri Jagjivan Ram	10 lines
4. Shri E.M.S. Namboodiripad	13.5 lines
5. Shri Charan Singh	7.5 lines
6. Shri Chandra Shekher	2.5 lines
7. Shri Subramaniam Swamy	4 lines
8. Dr. Mangal Sain, BJP	7 lines
9. Smt. Vijaya Raje Scindia	3 lines
10. Shri Shyam Nandan Mishra	4 lines
11. Shri Rubi Ray	7 lines
12. Shri H.N. Bahuguna	6 lines
13. Shri Rajeshwar Rao	3 lines

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82.5 lines

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4. In the news item, there was no mention of the Opposition Leaders other than S/Shri Vajpayee, Morarji Desai, Jagjivan Ram and E.M.S. Namboodripad.

5. During the same period, 251 lines had been devoted to the Prime Minister, out of which 114 lines were devo-

Leaders mentioned in the news items alone had been covered during the period; and

- (c) Whether the headlines devoted to the Prime Minister were on poll matters.

In all these three aspects, Shri advani's conclusions as mentioned and implied in the news item were not correct.

3. During the period in question, namely, 15th December, 1982 to 7th January, 1983, AIR's 9 00 P.M. news bulletin in English had given coverage as detailed below to the Opposition Leaders :

ted to policy and other pronouncements made in her capacity as the Prime Minister. 137 lines related to election campaign. On the other hand, the total lines to the Opposition Leaders were 82.5 lines.

6. Another relevant point is that under the scheme of election broadcasts,

[Shri H.K.L. Bhagat]

representatives of many Opposition parties viz. Janata Party, Lok Dal, BJP, etc. had broadcast over AIR Stations in Andhra Pradesh in December, 1982—January, 1983.

7. The above would show that the statement that Media Power has become a threat the fairness of the elections or that poll broadcasts were partisan, is not correct.

8. The headlines to the Prime Minister during this period were not on matters relating to electioneering. They were in the nature of pronouncements made in the interest of integrity and the unity of the country. I am reading below some of the headlines devoted to the Prime minister :

1. Mrs. Gandhi has warned the people to beware of the divisive forces in the country (December 16, 1982).
2. Mrs. Gandhi says unity and discipline among the people is the only answer to the grave threat from neighbouring countries (December 18, 1982).
3. Mrs. Gandhi has said the country is almost self-reliant producing 90 per cent of its requirements. (December 21, 1982).

These haedlines cannot be described as partisan or as elaction propaganda.

9. Headlines in the news bulletins are given to items on the basis their newsworthiness, topicality, importance etc. This is assessed on every occasion, on merits, with reference to the total newsfall for each occation. The fact that the statements of the Opposition Leaders had not been headlined cannot mean that AIR had been partisan.

10. It was on the basis of these facts that I had pointed out that analysis given by Shri Advani was incorrect.

11. In one more respect also, Shri Advani's statement in that news item was wrong also mis-leading. He had said that "Shri N.T. Rama Rao found a place in the radio news bulletns only on January 7, 1983 when he thanked the Andhra electorate for the confidence reposed on him". This gave the impression that no news bulletins of AIR during December, 1982 and January, 1983, ever mentioned Shri N.T. Rama Rao. The facts are different. AIR's regional news bulletins in Telugu, which were broadcast over AIR, Hyderabad and Vijayawada devoted 123 lines to the speeches and statements made by Shri N.T.R. on different occasions during this period. I may add that during this period, the Telugu Desam Party was also devoted 204 lines.

12. My attention was also drawn to an artical by Shri L.K. Advani which was published in the June, 1984 issue of the monthly 'Gentlemen'. The analysis in the article not only referred to the period mentioned in the news-item in the *Time of India* but also to another period viz. 15th December, 1983 to 15th January, 1984. Thedetails in respect of that period were not correct. Therefore while dealing with some supplementaries on 31st July 1984, I had furnished the comparative details for the other period namely December 1983 to January 1984 also and the comparative figures given by Shri Advani for that period were also quoted. Shri Advani had mentioned in that article that during this period, 298.5 lines had been devoted to opposition parties whereas, in fact, the number of lines devoted was 501.5.

11.35 hrs.

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION  
PLANNING BOARD BILL\*

MR. SPEAKER : Now Mr. Buta  
singh.