

[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. The details 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.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, SPORTS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a Planning Board for the preparation of a plan for the development of the National Capital Region and for co-ordinating and monitoring the implementation of such plan and for evolving harmonized policies for the control of land uses and development of infrastructure in the National Capital Region so as to avoid any haphazard development of that region and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a Planning Board for the preparation of a plan for the development of the National Capital Region and for co-ordinating and monitoring the implementation of such plan and for evolving harmonised policies for the control of land uses and development of infrastructure in the National Capital Region so as to avoid any haphazard development of that region and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The Motion wa adopted.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : I introduce the Bill.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL (Jaipur) : Sir, did you see the order paper to-day, i.e. items 12 to 18 ? There are seven Bills listed for passing to-day. Why should Government rush through the business on the last day? It is possible to do them all to-day ?

MR. SPEAKER : Let us see. We always face uphill tasks...and do them.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL : I strongly protest against this.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) : I also protest against this,

11.38 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) Need to take over the ownership of Yavatmal Murtizapur railway line from British Central Provinces Company

SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL (Yavatmal) : The railway line between Yavatmal and Murtizapur is actually operated by the Indian Railways, but the ownership of the line still continues to be vested in British Central Provinces Company. According to the agreement between the said Company and Indian Railways, the contract can be revoked in the year 1987, and thus the Indian-Railway will have the statutory ownership right.

I would request the Government of India and Ministry of Railways to take early steps to finalise the matter, so that the Railway in question may be taken over and run like the other Railways and to get same operational efficiency.

So, there is urgent need for the Railways to take early decision and start in advance, preliminary preparation for taking over the above Railway line for the benefit of the general public. I hope Government of India will not allow the foreign agency to continue its ownership of this line any more.

- (ii) Need for immediate repairs of Greater Mahananda embankment at Dhubal Bihar with army help

DR. GOLAM YAZDANI (Raiganj): Both West Bengal and Bihar have been affected by serious floods this year. Large areas of northern part of Malda district in West Bengal have been flooded, and also large adjoining parts of Bihar due to breach of the greter Mahananda embankment at Dhubal in Bihar portion of the embankment. The breach has been complete to the extent of about 2,000 feet. The flood started entering northern parts of Malda district viz, Harischandrapur P. S.