

कि इसको कम से कम कर दें, एल० पी० जी० निकाल कर कंज्यूमर्स को दें।

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : May I slightly paraphrase what my hon. colleague has said. He has already given the information to the House that it is six million cubicmetres of gas that is being flared up every day. This is being flared up because of lack of compressing facilities and also because certain of the industries to whom we have committed have not been using it to the maximum extent. Compressing facilities, the hon. Members are aware, are being developed. Actually the platforms in Bombay High and other places are being developed fast. Once the compressing facilities are complete, which we expect within about two years, then there would not be any gase of flaring up of gas. This is so far as flaring up of gas is concerned. Actually I have come before the House also previously...

SHRI AMAL DATTA : When will it be completed ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : in about two years' time because in the planning and in the execution, because of various reasons, there had been a slight delay in setting up the platforms at every place. Bombay High, we will now be achieving with South Basin platforms coming up, because that is the only area there which requires complete development.

On the question of the price of the LPG, the position is, already there is quite a good subsidy that is being given (*Interruptions*) Let me explain...

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Then how is the price determined ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : Will you kindly listen ? You don't allow me to speak. I wanted to give better details to you. I did not want to be vague.

The position is to-day the subsidy on the LPG is Rs. 1007.31 per metric tonne. This is the position. Apart from that on the filling of the gas and also on the freight, subsidies are provided. But that does not mean that it is not possible for us to

reduce the prices. I am not denying that. But the actual position is that we have not been able to reduce the prices because with the money that we get we are accelerating the process of exploration and exploitation of the oil fields and there are resource constraints and we wanted to have the resources. Therefore, we were not keen to reduce it. But if reduction is to be effected, then the resources will be less. That is the point.

Anti-Indian Propaganda by Pakistan TV

123. SHRI BRAJA MOHAN +
MOHANTY :
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE
PATIL :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether during this recent visit to Pakistan, he brought to the notice of Pakistan Government the anti-Indian and communal character of the features broadcast by Pakistan Television after the intervention of army in the Golden Temple and repeatedly depicted the Prime Minister of India in a derogatory manner;

(b) if so, the details thereabout; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir. In my public statements and in my talks with the President and the Information Minister of Pakistan, I drew their attention to the slanted and objectionable Pakistani media coverage of developments in Punjab. I told them that such distorted and one-sided media coverage was not conducive to the efforts being made to improve bilateral relations.

SHRI BRAJA MOHAN MOHANTY : In the second part of the question (a) I have asked about repeatedly depicting the Prime Minister of India in a derogatory manner. The answer is silent on it. As a

matter of fact I am happy that the Minister drew the attention of the Pakistan government to the slanted and objectionable coverage of developments in Punjab by the Pakistani media. He should have drawn their particular attention to repeatedly depicting Indian Prime Minister in a derogatory manner. My question is : what is the reaction of the Pakistan Government ? As a matter of fact, since Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Liaquat Ali agreement upto the Simla Accord, a number of agreements we have made with Pakistan regarding friendly relationship and cultural contacts and not depicting one country or the other in a derogatory manner. These matters have been agreed to a number of times. This time what are the broad features of the accord we have reached ?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : As I have submitted, I argued with them about the objectionable covering in their media and also about the derogatory references to the Prime Minister. I did point out a number of instances also. As far as their reaction is concerned, their view was that they had covered the whole thing in an objective manner, that they had taken the news from various reputed news agencies like BBC and others. I told them that does not make any difference as far as the coverage of objectionable, wrong and derogatory news are concerned. In turn Raja Zafrullah, their Information Minister pointed out that so many times India gave wrong information about Pakistan. So to improve things in future we arrived at some understanding—(1) that in future after every 3 months monitoring of the media should be done so as to see that no hostile propaganda is made. (2) Radio correspondents should be exchanged within a period of one month. (3) Radio and Television programmes should be exchanged between the two countries. We have an Indo-Pakistan Commission and we have a Sub-Commission of that and they have already decided that radio and TV programmes should be exchanged. Now, as a result of that we have sent to them a list of TV and radio programmes which we wanted to offer. They had not given the same until I was in Pakistan. Recently they have sent a list of some TV and radio programmes. Also effort should be made for co-production of TV and radio programmes. With regard to newspapers

our suggestion was that we should have exchange on commercial basis whereas they wanted that it should be on government to government basis.

Sir, we wanted to go in for media cooperation in general and our approach was to go in the longest possible way. In regard to films we offered exchange of films, sale of films and exchange of professionals. This applies to Doordarshan and AIR which they agreed. In regard to films they agreed to two film festivals to be held in the two countries. They wanted to make a film about Mohd. Ali Jinnah and they wanted some help. I told them that we were making a film on the freedom struggle of united India and we might require their help for shooting in NWFP and Sind. This remains under consideration. The hon. Member mentioned about the earlier agreements. In the larger aspect of Indo-Pak relations, I think, it would be better to put the question to the Foreign Minister.

SHRI BRAJA MOHAN MOHANTY : My question has not been answered. I want to know whether derogatory remarks about our Prime Minister were an objective featuring ? This is their contention. Allright. Secondly, Sir, the feature films are not covered. It is reported that feature films are being projected and seen in our border areas which result into anti-India and communal propaganda being spread inspite of this agreement. What is the reaction of the government to that ?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : Sir, I have already said that I did very strongly bring it to their notice that there were objectionable coverage by media including derogatory references to the Prime Minister but they gave their own explanation. On feature films they agreed only on film festivals and their argument was that their film industry is weak and, as such, for the time being they are not prepared for sale of films.

SHRI R.R. BHOLE : Sir, while travelling on the border States we noticed lot of transmission on our TV of Pakistan and Bangladesh. So, why does not our Government propose to have more powerful transmitting television machines as well as radio

on the border areas so that if we want to do some publicity and propaganda that could be heard and seen in Pakistan and Bangladesh ?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : Sir, normally the ethics of publicity and putting TV transmitters is that it is meant for coverage of one's own country. Some of their programmes are seen in our areas and some of our TV programmes are seen in their areas. We certainly want to cover our border areas as much effectively as possible so that our people can get the coverage. In some cases we have put the transmitters and certain other proposals are under consideration.

MR. SPEAKER : Question No. 124—
Shri Vajpayee.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Sir, this question should not have been allowed. I do not know how you have allowed this question. You please go through this question. I do not know how it was admitted by your Secretariat. (*Interruptions*)

Control over A.I.R. and T.V.

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*124. **SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE**
SHRI SURAJ BHAN :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to an analysis of A.I.R. broadcasts published in the Times of India, dated June 3 last, showing how Government control over Radio and T.V. is one of the major threats to the fairness of elections, if so, the details of this analysis; and

(b) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Shri N.T. Rama Rao's name was first mentioned by the A.I.R. only when the Andhra Pradesh Assembly election results were out and was never mentioned before during the election campaign; if so, what were the guidelines in the regard ?

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) : (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

Government have seen the news item published in the Times of India of Delhi on 3rd June, 1984. Government do not agree with the analysis and the conclusions in that news item. AIR and Doordarshan have been providing due coverage to Opposition Parties and their leaders in the news. Besides, a scheme of election broadcasts approved by the Election Commission and the political parties for broadcast over AIR Stations/Doordarshan Kendras, has been in vogue from 1977. Under this scheme, various recognised political parties are afforded the facility of broadcasting over AIR Stations/Doordarshan Kendras before elections to the Lok Sabha/State Assemblies.

2. It is not correct that the name of Shri N.T. Rama Rao, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh was not mentioned at all by AIR during the election campaign. His name was duly mentioned in the 2100 hours bulletin on 11th and 15th December, 1982. The Telugu Desam party had similarly been noticed in such bulletins broadcast on 10th December, 1982 and 4th January, 1983. Moreover, AIR's regional news bulletins broadcast from AIR Hyderabad and AIR Vijayawada had devoted 123 lines in the news bulletins to Shri N.T. Rama Rao and 204 lines to the Telugu Desam Party in the news broadcasts from 1.12.1982 to 7.1.1983.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस सवाल पर मैं पूरक प्रश्न पूछने से पहले, मंत्री महोदय ने जो उत्तर दिया है, उसके बारे में एक स्पष्टीकरण चाहता हूँ, जो कि पूरक प्रश्न में नहीं आया है। मंत्री महोदय ने उत्तर दिया है...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह क्वेश्चन की कौन सी कैटेगरी है ?