

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) on what terms the sanction has been given;
- (d) to what extent and in what way it affects national media and press; and
- (e) what steps Government envisage to take to protect national media and national press from this invasion ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) to (e) Do not arise.

Coverage of National Political Events

5512. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government have laid down guidelines about coverage of national political events and its news telecast;
- (b) if so, what are the guidelines and the rationale behind them;
- (c) if not, whether the media enjoys perfect autonomy to select and decide coverage, without any discriminational or political interference;
- (d) the reasons for which Government project preponderantly their perception of espousing Dunkel/GATT proposals, totally sidelining the opposition's stand in this regard; and
- (e) what were the reasons for political bias in minimum coverage given to BJP in Delhi on the 6th April, 1994?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) The following guidelines laid down by the Government from time to time are followed by Doordarshan while telecasting news about national political events:

- (i) Political activities are noticed based on their news worthiness.

- (ii) Unbiased reportings of the news in respect of all the political parties.
- (iii) Coverage of differing viewpoints in the same bulletin to the extent possible.
- (iv) Avoiding in the news bulletin the use of labels such as "progressive" and "communal" etc.
- (v) In case of controversy about nomenclature of a political party, following the name as approved by the Election Commission of India or by a court of law.
- (vi) Coverage of political controversies based on objectivity and fair play.

The rationale behind this is to telecast factual, accurate and objective news stories selected primarily on the basis of their news value.

- (c) Does not arise.

- (d) Different viewpoints on the proposals on Dunkel/GATT have been included in Doordarshan's news bulletins.

- (e) The rally was covered extensively in the news bulletins on 6-4-1994.

Title Clearance of Newspapers

5513. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the number of applications received by the Registrar of Newspapers during the period 1st April, 1993 to 31st March, 1994 for title clearance of new newspapers;
- (b) the number of titles cleared during the said period; and
- (c) the number of applications for title clearance pending as on the 1st April, 1994 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) During the period from 1-4-93 to 31-3-94, Registrar of Newspapers for India received 17,554 applications for verification of titles.

- (b) 10,627 titles were verified during this period.