

Gandhi defeated in tenth Indian state

By SEEMA SIROHI
Associated Press Writer

NEW DELHI, India — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party suffered a crushing election defeat yesterday in the key Hindu state of Haryana, the 10th state it has lost control of since he came to power in 1984.

The election was seen as a barometer of the party's appeal in its traditional base — the northern Hindi-speaking Ganges River plain. Haryana is the first state in the so-called Hindi belt that the Congress Party has lost.

With results complete in 50 of 87 state assembly races, the Congress Party had won just two seats, losing at least 18 districts where it previously had control. Gandhi's government, in the middle of a five-year term, has been plagued by accusations of corruption.

A powerful farmer-based opposition coalition won 41 seats in Wednesday's voting. An analysis on government television projected it could win a two-thirds majority in the state.

Five state assembly seats were gained by independent candidates, and one each went to India's

two communist parties in their first victories in the state.

Partial results in other districts showed the same trend.

The loss leaves 14 of India's 25 states under Congress control. The rest, including the entire south, are governed by various opposition groups.

More than two-thirds of Haryana's 8.4 million voters cast ballots in an election marred by scattered violence and alleged poll irregularities.

Haryana, a state of more than 13 million people nestled strategically between the Indian capital and Sikh-dominated Punjab state, is part of the densely populated heartland whose vote determines who will rule India.

Analysts attributed the opposition sweep to the hard-driving campaign by Devi Lal, the 73-year-old opposition leader who stressed allegations of corruption in Gandhi's administration.

Opposition parties issued statements yesterday demanding Gandhi's resignation, saying he had lost the confidence of the people. But the Congress Party still holds more than 400 of the 544 seats in the ruling lower house in the national Parliament.

Besides corruption, the Punjab crisis and rural

development were the major issues in the Haryana campaign. More than 400 people have been killed this year in neighboring Punjab in attacks blamed on Sikh radicals seeking an independent nation. Many of the victims were Hindus.

Eight people were wounded in shootings by political activists during Wednesday's balloting. Police arrested eight campaigners on charges of rioting.

The 42-year-old prime minister's popularity was established with the largest Congress victory in national elections in 1984, after he had taken power with the assassination of his mother, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

But his image has lately suffered. Allegations of corruption in his administration include charges that a man close to Gandhi received \$39 million in commissions in a \$1.7 billion Swedish gun deal.

Gandhi also suffered a setback after campaigning heavily in March in three state elections, two of which his party lost.

Election officials ordered repolling yesterday and today in parts of four districts because of allegations of voting irregularities.

Congressman airs censorship grievances

By CHRISTOPHER CALLAHAN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A congressman said yesterday he was shocked to learn that the U.S. government censors what it shows on the armed forces television station in South Korea, with bans ranging from news stories critical of the Korean government to "M-A-S-H" reruns.

"To allow any government de facto control over any political opposition voices being heard by American servicemen is beyond credence or explanation," said Rep. Chester Atkins, D-Mass.

Atkins, a member of the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Asian and Pacific affairs, urged the

administration to immediately drop the policy. Rep. Stephen J. Solarz, D-N.Y., chairman of the panel, called the policy "utterly unacceptable" and vowed to hold separate hearings on the issue.

Atkins' comments came after a subcommittee hearing during which administration officials submitted a report by Gaston Sigur, assistant secretary of state for east Asian and Pacific affairs, outlining the government's policy.

Sigur said that in Japan and some other countries, the Armed Forces Television and Radio Service must use cable. But in South Korea, where troops are in isolated areas and laying cable lines would be prohibitively expensive, the United States has its own broadcast fre-

quencies that can be picked up by the Korean public.

"Our ability to broadcast over the airways in Korea is a privilege, not a right," Sigur wrote. "That unusual privilege also conveys a certain responsibility towards the sensitivities of our hosts as well, regardless of whether we share their perspectives."

The American Forces Korea Network picks up entertainment and news programs from ABC, CBS, NBC, the Public Broadcasting Service and Cable News Network to show to the 40,000 troops stationed in South Korea and their families.

Sigur said censorship is rare. Atkins aide Anita Dunn said the congressman feared that all U.S. news programs on the recent

widespread demonstrations against the regime of South Korean President Chun Doo-hwan have been blacked out.

But Jordan Rizer, director of the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service, said in a telephone interview that there has been no censorship on the Korean network since last summer.

He said U.S. network reports on the Korean unrest, including a special "Nightline" show Wednesday night with opposition leader Kim Dae-jung, have been aired in full.

Sigur said the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service has a seven-point checklist of "host-country sensitivities" that determine whether an item should be reviewed for possible censorship.

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