

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION 2198
NO

ANSWERED ON 21.07.2009

FUNCTIONING OF PRASAR BHARATI

2198 Shri ANURAG SINGH THAKUR

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

- (a) whether the pace of the installation of High Power Transmitters/Low Power transmitters/Very Low Power Transmitters has slowed down since the establishment of Prasar Bharati;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to transmit/telecast Doordarshan and All India Radio programmes all over the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN)

(a) & (b) No, Sir. The number of transmitters in Doordarshan network has increased from 924 at the time of formation of Prasar Bharati to 1416 at present. Similarly number of All India Radio (AIR) transmitters has grown from 299 at the time of formation of Prasar Bharati to 374 as on date.

(c) The areas uncovered by terrestrial transmission along with rest of the country have been provided with multi-channel TV coverage through Doordarshan's free to air DTH service "DD Direct Plus". DTH signals can be received in the entire country (except Andaman & Nicobar Islands) with help of a small sized dish receive units. To further increase the AIR coverage all over the country, 200 new transmitters have been approved in spillover scheme under 11th Plan.

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 4366

ANSWERED ON 04.08.2009

IRREGULARITIES IN PRASAR BHARATI

4366 Shri KAVURI SAMBA SIVA RAO

VINAY KUMAR ALIAS VINNU

P. BALRAM

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

- (a) whether financial irregularities have been reported in the Prasar Bharati;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith outcome thereon; and
- (e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, (SHRI C.M.JATUA)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the house.

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 4257

ANSWERED ON 04.08.2009

IMPLEMENTATION OF PRASAR BHARATI ACT

4257 Shri ANIRUDHAN SAMPATH

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to implement sub-section 5(i) of section 3 and section 11 of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 to protect the interests of the employees of Prasar Bharati;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which those sections are likely to be implemented; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (SH. C.M .JATUA)

- (a) ,(b) & (c) As per Sub-Section 5 (i) of Section 3 of Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990 there will be two representatives of the employees of the Corporation in Prasar Bharati Board, of whom one shall be elected by the engineering staff from amongst themselves and one shall be elected by the other employees from amongst themselves.

Election to the representatives of Employees have not been held since the existing employees have not become full fledged employees of the Corporation as their services have not been transferred to Prasar Bharati as per section 11 of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990. No time schedule for implementation can be given at this stage.

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 890

ANSWERED ON 24.11.2009

IRREGULARITIES IN PRASAR BHARATI

890 . Shri PRALHAD VENKATESH JOSHI

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

- (a) whether financial and administrative irregularities have been reported in the Prasar Bharati(PB);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has ordered any inquiry in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith outcome thereof;
- (e) the detail of action taken against the guilty officials alongwith the steps taken to prevent such irregularities;
- (f) whether the Prasar Bharati has not been granted autonomy; and
- (g) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the steps being taken to accord full autonomy to the PB?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, (C. M.JATUA)

- (a) Yes Sir.
- (b) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the house.
- (f) No Sir.
- (g) Does not arise in view of (f)

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 733

ANSWERED ON 24.11.2009

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PRASAR BHARATI

733 . Shri N.S.V. CHITTHAN

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

- (a) whether advisory committees for All India Radio and Prasar Bharati have been constituted at the State and station level;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the functions assigned and discharged by such committees;
- (c) whether any guidelines exists for the setting-up of such committees; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C M JATUA)

(a) to (d): Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati has informed that Programme Advisory Committees (PACs) are constituted at AIR Station level as per the guidelines issued by Directorate General: All India Radio, while Joint Programme Advisory Committees are constituted by Doordarshan at Capital Stations/Kendras. Details of PAC constituted by Doordarshan as well as PACs constituted by AIR are given in Annexure.

Joint PAC is chaired by senior most Programme Head between DD and AIR, while PAC attached to AIR Station is chaired by Station Director concerned. Besides ex-officio members, the number of non-official members is 10 to 15 in PACs attached to major stations/Kendras and 5 to 10 in smaller Stations. Out of these, 50% are women. Non-official members represent different disciplines/interest groups. Panel of non-official members is prepared by Station/Kendra concerned from their coverage zones and is approved by concerned Director General. The term of PACs is for two years. It reviews the programmes broadcast/telecast and makes suggestions for improvement of the programmes.

Annexure

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 733 FOR ANSWER ON 24.11.2009

1. Programme Advisory Committees Constituted by Doordarshan

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. Jalandhar | 2. Jaipur |
| 3. Chennai | 4. Lucknow |
| 5. Kolkata | 6. Delhi |
| 7. Mumbai | 8. Srinagar |
| 9. Raipur | 10. Guwahati |
| 11. Hyderabad | 12. Bangalore |
| 13. Ahmedabad | 14. Ranchi |

2. Programme Advisory Committees Constituted by All India Radio

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 1. Rampur | 2. Jamshedpur |
| 3. Udaipur | 4. Agartala |
| 5. Gorakhpur | 6. Sambalpur |
| 7. Nagpur | 8. Bhadravati |
| 9. Bhuj | 10. Najibabad |
| 11. Panaji | 12. Tiruchirapalli |
| 13. Gwalior | 14. Varanasi |
| 15. Shimla | 16. Dharwad |
| 17. Calicut | 18. Bharamshala |
| 19. Aurangabad | 20. Leh |
| 21. Jeypore | 22. Cuttack |
| 23. Aizwal | 24. Chhattarpur |
| 25. Pune | 26. Siliguri |
| 27. Agra | 28. Rajkot |
| 29. Bhagalpur | 30. Reeva |
| 31. Allahabad | 32. Jammu |

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2938

ANSWERED ON 08.12.2009

IRREGULARITIES IN PRASAR BHARATI

2938 Shri PRALHAD VENKATESH JOSHI

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

(a) whether Delhi High Court has directed for a probe by the Central Vigilance Commission into financial irregularities in Prasar Bharati ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SH. C . M. JATUA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Public Interest Litigation (No.8780/2009) had been filed by Centre for Public Interest Litigation in the High Court of Delhi wherein the issues relating to functioning of the Prasar Bhatati Board and financial irregularities in the Board had been raised. The High Court in its interim order dated 27.7.2009 had inter-alia ordered that the allegations regarding financial and administrative irregularities etc. are referred to the Central Vigilance Commission for appropriate investigation. The same has been referred to Central Vigilance Commission by Prasar Bharati. The High Court in its final order dated 13.11.2009 upheld the interim directions to refer allegations regarding financial and administrative irregularities to Central Vigilance Commission.

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 813

ANSWERED ON 02.03.2010

GRIEVANCES OF PRASAR BHARATI EMPLOYEES

813 . Shri NITYANANDA PRADHAN

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to repeal the Prasar Bharati (PB) Act, 1990 in view of the requests received in this regard;
- (b) the objections raised against the said Act;
- (c) the details of grievances of the employees of Prasar Bharati; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to redress the grievances of the employees of Prasar Bharati in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M.JATUA)

(a) No Sir.

(b) & (c) – A Federation representing mainly the Engineering and Programme staff of Prasar Bharati have been demanding repeal of the Prasar Bharati Act in view of the developments in Electronic Media in the recent years, marked by the presence of a large number of private Television and Radio Channels and apprehension of financial unviability of Prasar Bharati. They have also demanded for retaining of assets and employees with the Government. ‘Deemed deputation’ status is not acceptable to them. Another Association representing mainly the administrative staff have demanded upgraded pay-scales on par with the Programme and the Engineering staff and are willing to be absorbed in Prasar Bharati if the upgraded scales are given to them.

(d) The Group of Ministers on Prasar Bharati has been reconstituted recently to examine various issue pertaining to Prasar Bharati.

STARRED QUESTION NO 166

ANSWERED ON 09.03.2010

PRASAR BHARATI

166 . Shri NITYANANDA PRADHAN

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

- (a) whether the Government had recently ordered a special audit of the Prasar Bharati;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether there exists a gap between the income and expenditure of Prasar Bharati;
- (d) if so, the details in respect of the last three years and the current year; and
- (e) the details of the steps taken by the Government to address various issues plaguing Prasar Bharati?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (Smt. AMBIKA SONI)

(a) to (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) of LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.166 FOR ANSWER ON 09.03.2010.

(a) & (b) Yes Sir, Special audit of Prasar Bharati was ordered on 25.05.2009 and is in progress. The scope of the special audit includes the following:

i. General accounting issues on expenditure incurred by Prasar Bharati from grants-in-aid given by Government of India since its inception, unspent balances not refunded to Government, internal and extra budgetary resources and reconciliation of receipts and bank statements.

ii. Specific issues of financial management brought out by Member (Finance), Prasar

Bharati relating to issues such as acquisition of Radio Broadcast Rights for three cricket series, investment of surplus funds of Prasar Bharati in various banks, verification of imprest balances lying with field offices, Debtors profile, etc.

(c) & (d) Yes Sir, Prasar Bharati being a public service broadcaster is not principally guided by commercial motive in its functioning. The income earned by Prasar Bharati is known as Internal Extra Budgetary Resource (IEBR). The details of income, expenditure and gap for the last three years and the current year are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Financial Year	Income	Expenditure	Gap between Expenditure & Income
2006-07	983.05	1954.67	971.62
2007-08	1035.86	2057.92	1022.06
2008-09	1096.78	2518.88	1422.10
2009-10	1119.00	3098.00	1979.00

For the year 2009-10 figures are provisional. The steep rise in expenditure during the year 2008-09 and 2009-10 is primarily due to the implementation of the 6th Central Pay Commission's recommendations.

The Government has provided financial assistance to Prasar Bharati by way of grant-in-aid and loan in the form of Direct Budgetary Support to meet the plan and non-plan expenditure. The assistance given for the last three years and the current year is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Financial Year	Direct Budgetary Support		
	Grant-in-aid	Loan	Total
	Non Plan	Plan	

2006-07	878.18	255.50	40.02	1173.70
2007-08	974.14	119.13	204.19	1297.46
2008-09	1137.12	81.82	232.11	1451.05
2009-10	1246.42	198.48	150.11	1595.01

For the year 2009-10 figures are provisional.

(e) To consider the financial restructuring and other critical issues plaguing Prasar Bharati a Group of Ministers (GOM) was constituted in March, 2006. The GOM has been reconstituted on 10th February, 2010 to examine various issues pertaining to the functioning of Prasar Bharati.

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 3992

ANSWERED ON 20.04.2010

PAUCITY OF STAFF IN PRASAR BHARATI

3992 Smt. SUSHILA SAROJ

RAJENDRA AGARWAL

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

- (a) the number of employees appointed on deputation basis in Prasar Bharati (PB);
- (b) whether there is paucity of personnel in the Prasar Bharati thereby affecting its efficiency; (
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) the remedial measure taken by the Government to overcome the shortage;
- (e) whether there is any proposal for restructuring of Prasar Bharati; and
- (f) if so, the time by which it is likely to be restructured?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M.JATUA)

(a) Presently there are 30 officers/officials working on deputation in Prasar Bharati.

(b) Yes. However, the efficiency of is not much affected.

(c) to (f) A study on Organizational restructuring of Prasar Bharati has been undertaken by National Productivity Council (NPC). A Group of Minister (GOM) has been constituted to look into various issues relating to Prasar Bharati including issues of financial restructuring of Prasar Bharati and filling up of essential category of posts. Recommendations of (GOM) are awaited.

Restructuring can take place after the receipt and consideration of the NPC report and the recommendations of the GOM. As such no time frame can be given.

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 6142

ANSWERED ON 04.05.2010

IRREGULARITIES IN PRASAR BHARATI

6142 Shri VINAY KUMAR ALIAS VINNU

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

- (a) whether there are reports of alleged financial irregularities committed by certain officials of the Prasar Bharati Board including its Chief Executive Officer;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; (
- (c) whether any inquiry has been initiated in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof alongwith the action taken thereon?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M.JATUA)

(a), (b), (c)&(d) A Public Interest Litigation was filed before the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi wherein the issues relating to the financial irregularities committed by certain officers of Prasar Bharati including its Chief Executive Officer had been raised.

The High Court vide its final order dt. 13.11.2009 ordered that the allegations regarding administrative and financial irregularities etc. be referred to Central Vigilance Commission for carrying out an enquiry . The same has been referred to Central Vigilance Commission by Prasar Bharati.

STARRED QUESTION NO 229

ANSWERED ON 10.08.2010

AMENDMENTS TO PRASAR BHARATI ACT

229 . Shri RAMSINHBHAI PATALBHAI RATHWA

DHARMENDRA YADAV

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

of

AND
BROADCASTING

(a) whether the Group of Ministers (GOM) on Prasar Bharati (PB) inter-alia recommended amendments in the Prasar Bharati Act and setting up of a separate recruitment board and formulation of new recruitment rules for Prasar Bharati;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of follow-up action taken thereon?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI)

(a), (b) & (c) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 229 TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.08.2010.

(a) to (c) : The Group of Ministers (GOM) on Prasar Bharati constituted on 10.02.2010 has recommended that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting may have a comprehensive look at the provisions of Prasar Bharati Act and recommend such amendments as are required to be made in the Act in the light of developments over the last twenty years. These proposals are to be finalized by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and thereafter placed before the GOM thereafter for consideration.

The GOM also directed Prasar Bharati to take steps to frame and notify recruitment regulations and service conditions for all categories of its employees and for setting up of Recruitment Boards as envisaged under the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 and also stipulated timelines for the same.

Prasar Bharati has informed that the Prasar Bharati Board has approved the setting up of Recruitment Boards and is in process of finalizing the Recruitment Regulations and Service Conditions for its employees.

