

अम्बिका सोनी
Ambika Soni



सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रा
भारत सरकार
MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

12 November, 2010

D.O.No.6/15/2010-BP&L

Dear *Mani*,

Please refer to your letter forwarding a representation of Shri V. Gopi Chand, Programme Staff Association of AIR & DD regarding the decision taken in the GOM Meetings. It has been mentioned in the representation that the GOM has recommended 50% cut in the budgetary allocation of Prasar Bharati from the Government.

As explained in detail in the note, enclosed with this letter prepared by the Ministry, the perception of the Association in this context is incorrect. While deciding on the financial restructuring and funding pattern, GOM has taken into account the specific role assigned to Prasar Bharati and has taken due care to ensure Prasar Bharati is financially strengthened in future.

With good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Ambika
(Ambika Soni)

Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar
Member of Parliament
12, Safdarjung Lane
New Delhi - 110 011.

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Subject: Reference received from Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, MP regarding decision taken in the GOM Meeting on Prasar Bharati

Hon'ble Member of Parliament has enclosed a communication received from the Programme Staff Association (PSA) of All India Radio & Doordarshan, Hyderabad for consideration of the Ministry. PSA, in its representation dated 28th July, 2010, has mentioned that the GOM has decided to cut the budgetary allocation to Prasar Bharati from Government by 50% and that the Prasar Bharati will have to tap the capital market for further requirements. In the rest of the representation, justification has been given as to why Prasar Bharati will need continued support from the Government and why it cannot be run on the lines of other commercial broadcasters.

2. It is submitted that the representation is based on a misunderstanding of the decision taken by the GOM. No such decision has been taken to reduce the budgetary allocation to Prasar Bharati by 50% from the present level, as has been understood by the PSA. On the contrary, the fact of the matter is that the GOM went into the present structure of Plan and Non-Plan funding. It also analysed as to how the present operating expenses of Prasar Bharati are being met and what is the percentage of the funding from the budgetary grants and from the Internal Extra Budgetary Resources(IEBR) generated by Prasar Bharati. It was

observed that as the situation exists, approximately 50% of the total operating expenses of Prasar Bharati are being met from the budget and the rest are already being met by Prasar Bharati through its internal resources. Accordingly, the GOM took the view that this could be the principle governing the non-plan funding from Government in future also for the next five years starting from 2010-11 to 2014-15. GOM also decided that the accumulated arrears of space & spectrum charges, which come to about a thousand crores, may be waived. To further reduce the burden on Prasar Bharati, the GOM further took the view that the Plan funding by the Government to Prasar Bharati may henceforth be in the form of grant-in-aid and not in the form of loan. GOM has also recommended conversion of the existing outstanding loans of Prasar Bharati into grants and also to write-off the outstanding interest on Prasar Bharati.

3. It will, therefore, be seen that the GOM has taken a holistic view to revamp the financial structure and funding pattern of Prasar Bharati to further strengthen it in future. It is also implicit in the decision that if the expenses of Prasar Bharati increase for any reason whatsoever, the Government will be committed to share 50% of such increase. GOM has taken cognizance of the specific role assigned to Prasar Bharati under the Prasar Bharati Act and assured Government support in future also.

4. Accordingly, the perception of PSA with regard to the GOM decision, is misconceived and incorrect and there is no cause for any apprehension with regard to the future Government support to Prasar Bharati.

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