

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:113

ANSWERED ON:16.11.2010

IRREGULARITIES IN PRASAR BHARATI

Bhagora Shri Tarachand;Rajukhedi Shri Gajendra Singh

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

- (a) whether certain financial irregularities in the Prasar Bharati involving some senior officers have been reported in the recent past and are under examination by the Central Vigilance Commission;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether despite confirmation/concurrence of such irregularities by different legal entities, the Government has sought further legal advice in the matter;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the details of the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against the erring officials and expedite the process in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF 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 THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 113 FOR ANSWER ON 16.11.2010

(a) to (e) Hon'ble High Court of Delhi vide its orders passed in Writ Petition No. 8780/2009 filed by the Centre for Public Interest Litigation had, inter alia, directed that the allegations regarding financial and administrative irregularities etc., in Prasar Bharati be referred to the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) for appropriate investigation and report. Accordingly the allegations were referred to CVC by Prasar Bharati Board.

CVC, in its report dated 16th July 2010, has established 5 out of 7 allegations on which the enquiry was conducted. These pertain to contracts for management of advertisement revenue arising from the telecast of cricket matches on Doordarshan during 2007, the non-telecast by Doordarshan of T-20 cricket World Cup matches held in South Africa in September 2007, engagement of legal entities to represent Prasar Bharati, purchase of Radio Broadcasting Rights for 13 cricket series held during 2007-2009 and hiring of transport and accommodation for the conduct of Commonwealth Youth Games Pune, 2008. CVC has held CEO Prasar Bharati to be responsible in respect of four of these allegations

On receipt of the CVC report dated 16th July, 2010, this Ministry sought the advice of Law Ministry on the further course of action to be taken, as per Section 7 of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990, in view of the findings contained in the CVC report. The advice of the Additional Solicitor General and the Law Ministry, was considered by the Government. Further examination was sought from the Attorney General (AG) by the Law Ministry. The Attorney General, in his advice, duly endorsed by the Law Ministry, has required this Ministry to seek comments of CEO, Prasar Bharati on the CVC report. The AG while furnishing his advice, has also taken into account the advice earlier furnished by the Additional Solicitor General. The Ministry has accordingly sought the comments of CEO, Prasar Bharati on the CVC report. CEO, Prasar Bharati has been asked to submit his comments by 18.11.2010.