

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1314
ANSWERED ON:16.11.2010
ASSISTANCE TO NEWS AGENCIES
Reddy Shri K. Jayasurya Prakash

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

- (a) whether the Government provides any assistance to news agencies functioning in the public and private sector including the Press Trust of India (PTI);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has announced any special assistance for the PTI on the occasion of its diamond jubilee including for the benefit of the staff and media related personnel; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b): Press Information Bureau facilitates functioning of the news agencies by providing accreditation to the correspondents and camerapersons of the news agencies. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting does not have any scheme to provide financial assistance to news agencies. However, interest free loan of `1.75 crores was given to PTI in the year 1996 for making initial contribution towards establishment of Asia-Pacific Consortium of News Agencies.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.