

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2161

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2010

IMPROVEMENT IN WORKING OF PB

Bajirao Shri Patil Padamsinha ;Singh Shri Dhananjay ;Viswanathan Shri P.

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

- (a) the reasons for not carrying out quantitative and qualitative improvement in the working of Prasar Bharati (PB);
- (b) whether the Government proposes to formulate a policy for restructuring of PB to strengthen and develop the broadcasting services; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which such policy is likely to be formulated/implemented?

Answer

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

(a)to(c) : Improvements, both qualitative and quantitative, in any organization are a continuing process. The process of such improvements is ongoing in Prasar Bharati. This covers the transmission quality, the expansion of network, diversity and quality of programmes etc. Certain steps have already been taken in respect of capital restructuring of Prasar Bharati on the basis of recommendations of the Group of Ministers which would help in not only better financial health of the organization but would also enable the organization to strengthen and develop the broadcasting services. Among the GOM recommendations are the following:-

50% of the annual operating expenses of Prasar Bharati should be borne by Prasar Bharati from its Internal Extra Budgetary Resources while remaining 50% from Government grants.

The level of support by the Government may be maintained for the next 5 years i.e. 2010-2011 to 2014-2015 and will be reviewed thereafter.

Space segment and Spectrum charges to be included in the total operational expenses.

Accumulated arrears of Space Segment and Spectrum charges upto 31.3.2010 to be waived.

Section 22 of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 may be restored in its original form. The recommendation may be submitted to the Ministry of Finance for its consideration.

Plan capital funding by Government to Prasar Bharati may be in the form of grant-in-aid and not in the form of loan.

Loan-in-perpetuity and capital loan to be converted in to grants

Interest on loan-in-perpetuity, capital loan and penal interest to be waived.

Property and Assets to be transferred on book value to Prasar Bharati. Normal accounting principles will be followed to determine their future value.

The ban on recruitments in Prasar Bharati to be relaxed.

Prasar Bharati to frame and notify Recruitment Regulations and Service conditions for its employees and set up Recruitment Boards.

Constitution of a committee of four Joint Secretaries to look into various demands of employee organizations of Prasar Bharati

These recommendations are aimed at improving the functioning of Prasar Bharati both quantitatively and qualitatively and strengthen it structurally and steps have been initiated to follow up on the recommendations.

In addition, Doordarshan/AIR has initiated digitalization of its network and services in phased manner. Digitalization will enable Doordarshan/AIR to provide world class TV viewing/listening experience to public with a larger choice of channels and would also enable efficient use of spectrum. Scheme of Rs.620 crores has been approved for DD and scheme worth Rs.908 crores for AIR for this purpose under XIth Plan, which are under implementation.