

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:27
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2011
GRIEVANCES OF PRASAR BHARATI EMPLOYEES
Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai

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

Whether the employees of Prasar Bharati (PB) have observed country wide strike in the recent past;

(a) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the details of grievances and demands of the said employees and the steps taken /being taken by the Government to redress the grievances amicably;

(b) whether the Government proposes to repeal the PB Act, 1990 in view of the requests received in this regard;

(c) if so, the objections raised against the said act;

(d) whether the recommendations made by the Group of Ministers on Prasar Bharati constituted in the recent past have been cleared by the government;and

(e) if not , the reasons therefor and the time by which these are likely to be implemented?

Answer

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

(a) Yes Sir, the employees of Prasar Bharati represented by the National Federation of Akashvani and Doordarshan Employees Association (NFADE) went on 48 hours of boycott of duties from 23rd November 2010 to 25th November, 2010.

(b) The strike call given by National Federation of Akashvani and Doordarshan employees association (NFADE) representing about 22,000 employees of Prasar Bharati resulted in disruption of services of All India Radio and Doordarshan across the country. Notice for another agitation from 13th to 16th December, 2010 followed by a call for indefinite strike was also given by the association. The employees demanded repeal of Prasar Bharati Act, 1990. Alternatively they demanded retaining assets and employees of AIR and Doordarshan with Government of India. A conciliation process was undertaken by the Regional Labour Commissioner (Central) in this regard. During the course of negotiations with the federation , they demanded that a committee may be constituted in the Ministry with 5 members from the NFADE to discuss comprehensive amendments to the Prasar Bharati Act. In response , the Ministry conveyed that while it did not consider it necessary to constitute a committee in the Ministry , it was agreeable to give due consideration to the suggestions and views from different stakeholders including different associations and also have discussions with representatives of NFADE on the suggestions made by them. The strike call was withdrawn on the assurance of the Ministry and the Prasar Bharati.

(c) There is no proposal before the government to repeal the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 as demanded by the NFADE. However, the Group of Ministers on Prasar Bharati (PB) has mandated the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting to consider such amendments in the Act as are necessary in the light of the developments subsequent to the operationalisation of the Act in 1997 and bring it before the GOM for consideration.

(d) The demand of the federation was to retain the assets and employees of AIR and Doordarshan with the Government.

(e) & (f) The processing of the recommendations of GOM are at various stages in the government.