

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1897
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2011
IRREGULARITIES IN PRASAR BHARATI
Singh Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad;Singh Shri Uma Shanaker

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

- (a) whether any action has been taken by the Government against the Chief Executive officer (CEO) of Prasar Bharati (PB) in the recent past on alleged cases of corruption ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ;
- (c) the number of such cases which are still pending against the CEO of Prasar Bharati alongwith the status thereof ;
- (d) the details of action taken /being taken by the Government against the erring officials found guilty or involved in corruption activities in Prasar Bharati ; and
- (e) the measures being taken to bring in transparency in the working of Prasar Bharati ?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) High Court of Delhi in its order passed in WP No.8780/2009 filed by Centre for Public Interest Litigation had directed that the allegations regarding the financial and administrative irregularities in Prasar Bharati be referred to the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) for appropriate investigation and report . Accordingly the allegations were referred to CVC by the Prasar Bharati Board. CVC in its report dated 16.07.2010 has established five out of seven allegations on which enquiry was conducted.

In view of the findings contained in the CVC report and on the advice of Ministry of Law a Presidential Reference has been made to the Supreme Court under section 7(1) of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 for conducting an enquiry and report as to whether Sh.B.S.Lalli , CEO, Prasar Bharati ought to be removed from the office of member, Executive , Prasar Bharati on ground of misbehavior Sh.B.S.Lalli has been placed under suspension by the President of India by an order dated 21.12.2010 till such time the orders are passed by the President of India on the basis of report from the Supreme Court.

Further to the above, a High Level Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri V K Shunglu to look into the issues relating to organizing and conduct of Commonwealth Games Delhi, 2010, in its First Report on Host Broadcasting to the Government has concluded that "action/inaction are strongly suggestive of collusion between CEO, Prasar Bharati and DG:Doordarshan and the service providers(s), SIS LIVE/ZOOM Communications."

With regard to the findings of the HLC, M/o Information and Broadcasting has sought the explanation of Shri B S Lalli, CEO(under suspension), Prasar Bharati on each of the allegations made against them in the report of the Committee. Further, a copy of the report was referred to the CBI through the Department of Personnel and Training for further action as deemed appropriate. CBI has since been permitted by the Ministry under Section 6(A) of Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) for registration of a regular case and initiation of criminal investigation against Shri B S Lalli under Section 120-B r/w 420 IPC r/w 13(2) r/w 13(1)(d) of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

(d) & (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House .