

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:283
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2011
AMENDMENTS IN PRASAR BHARATI ACT
Naik Dr. Sanjeev Ganesh

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

- (a) Whether a Group-of-Ministers (GoM) has been set up to consider proposed changes than can ensure more equitable division of powers between the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Prasar Bharati and the political authorities without curtailing the independence of the broadcaster;
- (b) if so, the main suggestions, made by the GoM;
- (c) whether in view of the recommendations made by the GoM, the Government has decided to amend the Prasar Bharati Act;
- (d) if so, the details of the proposed amendments and the time by which these are likely to be introduced; and
- (e) the extent to which it would be effective in providing checks and balances in Prasar Bharati?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): The Group of Ministers (GOM) on Prasar Bharati, set up to examine various issues pertaining to the functioning of Prasar Bharati, has also looked into the issue of relationship between the Government and Prasar Bharati as also between Chief Executive Officer, Prasar Bharati and the Prasar Bharati Board. It has also examined the existing governance structure and how it can be strengthened. The GOM has done comprehensive review of the provisions contained in Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990, and has recommended certain amendments to the Act. The GoM, inter-alia, has made recommendations with regard to the composition of the Board, the eligibility criteria and tenure of Chairperson and other Members of the Prasar Bharati Board, the procedure for appointment, suspension and removal of Chairperson and Members of the Board, powers of Central Government to obtain information from and issue directions to Prasar Bharati amongst others. It is expected that these changes will enable Government to effectively supervise the functioning of Prasar Bharati, improve governance within Prasar Bharati and make the functionaries more accountable.

Based on the recommendations of the GoM, it is proposed to introduce a Bill in the Parliament to amend the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990, after getting the approval of the Cabinet. No time limit for the same has been fixed.