

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2431

ANSWERED ON:16.08.2011

FUNDING OF PRASAR BHARATI

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Virendra Kumar Shri ; Viswanathan Shri P.; Yadav Shri Dharmendra

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to prepare a new road map to improve the functioning of Prasar Bharati (PB);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the details of recommendations made by the Group of Ministers (GOMs) constituted by the Government for the purpose alongwith the action being taken on such recommendations so far;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to provide a sum of Rs. 2000 crore in funding to PB;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government also proposes a greater ministerial control over PB;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon so far;
- (g) whether PB Board recommended a new funding pattern; and
- (h) if so, the steps taken by the Government to take control over the PB?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes, sir. The Government has re-constituted a Group of Ministers under the chairmanship of Home Minister to examine various issues pertaining to the functioning of Prasar Bharati. GoM has made several recommendations on capital and financial restructuring, funding pattern, manpower issues, including constitution of Recruitment Board, formulation of recruitment rules and filling up of vacancies and demands of employee organizations of Prasar Bharati. The GoM has also undertaken a comprehensive review of the provisions contained in the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990 (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and has recommended certain amendments to the Act. Follow up action on the recommendations of the GoM are under way.

(c) & (d): Funds are being provided as per the budgetary provision available for Prasar Bharati. GoM recommendations on future funding pattern will be implemented after and as per the approval of the Cabinet.

(e) & (f): The amendments suggested by GoM in the Act, with regard to, inter-alia, the composition of the Board, the eligibility criteria and the tenure of Chairperson and other Members of the Prasar Bharati Board, the procedure for appointment, suspension and removal of Chairperson and Members of 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.

(g) & (h): Based upon the projections on income and expenditure provided by Prasar Bharati, GoM had initially recommended that 50 % of the annual operating expenses of Prasar Bharati should be borne by Prasar Bharati and the remaining 50% will be met from Non-Plan grants-in-aid by the Government. However, in view of the concerns expressed by Standing Committee on Information Technology as also by various employee organizations of Prasar Bharati on the revenue earning potential of Prasar Bharati, the GoM had subsequently directed Prasar Bharati to re-work its net revenue earning projections. The projections of Prasar Bharati, duly approved by PB Board, were considered by GoM and it recommended that during the next five years, the Government non-Plan support would be extended for meeting 100% expenses towards salary and salary related expenses and augmentation /replacement of capital assets. All other items of operating expenses shall be borne by Prasar Bharati from out of its internal revenue earnings.

The recommendations of the GoM on the revised funding pattern of Prasar Bharati is based on future revenue earning potential of PB and its role as a Public Broadcaster as also to address the concerns of employee organizations and is not with the objective of exercising any control by Government over PB. However, as detailed in reply to (e) and (f) above, certain amendments have been recommended by GoM with a view to ensure effective government supervision over the functioning of Prasar Bharati, improve governance and ensure accountability.