

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:46

ANSWERED ON:13.03.2012

PRASAR BHARATI

Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvarya Swamy

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

- (a) whether the financial health of Prasar Bharati has deteriorated during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has proposed to financially restructure the Prasar Bharati;
- (d) If so, the details of the action taken so far in this regard;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to amend the Prasar Bharati (PB) Act; and
- (f) If so, the details of the major amendments proposed to be made in the said Act and the time by which such amendments are likely to be effected?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (Dr.S.JAGATHRAKSHAKAN)

(a) & (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that the Operating Cost of Prasar Bharati has increased during the last three years in the wake of implementation of various recommendations of 6th Central Pay Commission, while there was a gradual growth of revenue over the relevant years as shown in the table below.

(Rs in crore)

Operating cost of Prasar Bharati

Years 2008-09 2009-10 2010-11

Non-Plan 2233.20 2470.40 2528.74

Revenue Plan 70.44 79.39 67.77

Capital Plan 215.23 150.62 148.53

Total 2518.88 2700.41 2745.04

Revenue: 1000.91 1146.43 1270.81

#subject to reconciliation of accounts. These figures are inclusive of Service Tax.

(c) & (d) Yes. The Group of Ministers (GOM) in its 5th meeting held on 23.6.2011 considered the financial restructuring of Prasar Bharati and recommended that during the next five years from 2011-12 to 2015-16, (i) Government Non-Plan support would be extended for meeting 100% expenses on account of salary and salary related expenses and augmentation/replacement of capital assets, (ii) all other items of operating expenses should be borne by Prasar Bharati from out of its internal revenue earnings and (iii) the matter would be reviewed after five years, if required.

The proposal for financial and administrative restructuring of Prasar Bharati as per the recommendations of GOM have been circulated for inter-ministerial consultations/comments and so far comments from Department of Personnel & Training (DOPT) and the Department of Expenditure are awaited on the proposal.

(e) & (f): The Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Amendment Act, 2011 for amending Section 11 of the Act has already been notified on 09th January, 2012. The proposal for comprehensive amendments to the Prasar Bharati Act is under consideration of the Government.