

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1123
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2012
FINANCIAL STATUS OF PRASAR BHARATI
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether the gap between income and expenditure of Prasar Bharati has been continuously widening;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year along with the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to minimize the gap between income and expenditure of Prasar Bharati?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): Prasar Bharati has informed that there has been an increase in expenditure during the last three years and the current year mainly impacted by implementation of various recommendations of 6th Central Pay Commission, while Prasar Bharati witnessed a gradual growth of revenue over the relevant years as shown in the table below.

(Rs in crore)

Budget head 2008-09 2009-10 2010-11 2011-12 (Upto January 2012)

Non-Plan 2233.21 2470.40 2528.74 2239.74

Revenue Plan 70.44 79.39 67.77 118.67

Capital Plan 215.23 150.62 148.53 168.97

Total 2518.88 2700.41 2745.04 2527.38

Revenue: 1000.91 1146.43# 1270.81# 1077.38#

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

Prasar Bharati, being a public service broadcaster, has to perform as per the mandate on broadcasting and in accordance with the established norms. Therefore, it is not principally guided by commercial motives while the revenue generation being the by-product of Prasar Bharati.

(c): Prasar Bharati strictly follows the austerity measures and other economy instructions already in vogue and issued by the Ministry

of Finance from time to time for reducing its operating cost and also makes sincere efforts in maximizing the revenue generation by adopting aggressive marketing strategy and putting into best use of the spare infrastructure available with Prasar Bharati, content improvement, introduction of DTH services, sharing of towers, etc.

Nonetheless, Section 17 of the Prasar Bharati Act provides that Government would make available financial support to Prasar Bharati for the purpose of enabling the Corporation to discharge its functions efficiently under the Act by way of equity, grant-in-aid or loan and Prasar Bharati is largely dependent on Government grants.