

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3192
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2012
PRASAR BHARATI
Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to make PrasarBharati a fully autonomous institution;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and
- (d) the extent to which it would help to improve the functioning of the PrasarBharati?

Answer

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

(a) to (b): Government had constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to look into various issues pertaining to the functioning of PB. The GoM had examined some of the important financial, administrative, manpower and employee related issues of PB and made a number of recommendations which, inter-alia, include the following:-

To make amendments to section 11 of the PrasarBharati(Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990, to settle issues regarding various categories of employees serving in PB.

3452 essential category posts in PB should be filled up to address manpower shortage.

Government should extend financial assistance to PB from Non Plan funds to meet 100% expenses towards salary and salary related expenses and augmentation/replacement of capital assets during the next five years from 2011-12 to 2015-16. All other items of operating expenses shall be borne by PB from out of its internal resources.

Accumulated arrears of space segment and spectrum charges of PB up to 31.3.2011 should be waived

Restoration of section 22 of the PrasarBharati(Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990 in its original form to exempt PB from paying Income Tax.

Loans provided by the Government to PB should be converted into grants-in-aid

Interests accrued on the loans provided to PB to be waived.

PrasarBharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act 1990 should be amended comprehensively to improve its functioning.

(c) The recommendations of the GoM regarding status of employees in PrasarBharati have been implemented by amending Section 11 of the PrasarBharati Act, 1990. The Ministry has prepared a Cabinet Note for implementing various recommendations of the GoM with regard to financial restructuring and filling up of essential category posts and the same is under inter-ministerial consultation.

(d) The above recommendations would enable PB to become a financially viable and sustainable organization.