

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:156

ANSWERED ON:04.12.2012

PRASAR BHARATI

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Yadav Shri Dinesh Chandra

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

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING. (SHRI MANISH TEWARI)

(a) to(e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS

(a) TO

(e) of LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 156 FOR ON 04.12.2012

(a) & (b) No Sir, Prasar Bharati is not facing any financial crisis at present as the Government provides Direct Budgetary Support to meet 100% of its requirement of Salary and Salary related establishment expenses which works out approximately to Rs.1780 crore at the close of the current financial year.

The limited internal resources of Prasar Bharati are being utilized for meeting its other operating costs.

(c) to (d) As part of the Financial Restructuring package for Prasar Bharati, the Government has recently approved various measures, the salient features of which are as follows:

To meet 100% expenses towards Salary and Salary related establishment expenses during the next five years from 2012-13 to 2016-17 while all other items of operating expenses are to be borne by Prasar Bharati from out of its internal resources.

Converted the Capital Loans provided to Prasar Bharati into Grants-in-aid only.

'Plan' Capital support in future to be provided by the Government in the form of Grants-in-Aid.

Waive accumulated interests on the loan-in perpetuity (amounting to Rs. 2980.66 crore).

Waive accumulated interests on Capital loans and penal interest thereon (amounting to Rs. 1102.22 crore).

Waive the accumulated arrears of space segment and spectrum charges of Prasar Bharati upto 31.3.2011 (of Rs. 1349.54 crore).

The above decision of the Government which would be implemented from the current financial year, would enable Prasar Bharati to become a financially viable and sustainable organization.

(e) Prasar Bharati is endowed with considerable operational autonomy already under the Prasar Bharati Act. However, Prasar Bharati being a public service broadcaster also has to perform as per the mandate given to it under the Prasar Bharati Act. Its functioning can not therefore be guided purely by commercial motives though revenue generation is also an important objective for Prasar Bharati.

In view of its public service mandate, Section 17 of the Prasar Bharati Act has provided 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.