

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5567
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2013
COMMUNICATION AGENCY
Thamaraiselvan Shri R.

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to set up an exclusive communication agency, which could include television channels and radio stations to publicise its policies and activities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also true that two-thirds of the budget of the Ministry is earmarked for Prasar Bharati ; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): At present there is no such proposal for setting up an exclusive communication agency. However, in a workshop held by the Sam Pitroda Committee, wherein various Working Groups were deliberating on different subjects with respect to Prasar Bharati, certain ideas were floated and deliberated upon.

(c) & (d): Out of the total allocation of Rs.3035.65 crores of the Ministry for the financial year 2013-14, the budgetary support by the Government to Prasar Bharati is Rs 2244.02 Crore (Non-Plan-Rs. 1730.02 Cr and Plan- Rs.514.0 Cr) which is more than two third (73.92%) of the budget of the Ministry.