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Title: Need to repeal the Prasar Bharti Act, 1990 to bring Doordarshan and All India Radio under direct Government control.

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE): The All India Radio and Doordarshan has a dual role of National as well as Public Service Broadcaster. Till 1997, both were Government organisations. With the intention to have a competent media and to take on the Private sector, Prasar Bharthi was constituted with autonomy. But this autonomy has not served its intended purpose. Today, about 5679 posts are required in addition to the existing posts to man the 458 projects. In the last 10 years no posts have been sanctioned. Today these projects are run on weekly basis or by posting staff on temporary duty. For example, Calicut which is my constituency has a well equipped studio but not a single staff has been sanctioned for this. Similarly there is no OB in the entire region and OBs are brought either from Bangalore or from Chennai. I am told that about 2900 engineering posts are lying vacant against the sanctioned 12000 posts.

I feel that it is high time the Government should reconsider its decision and repeal the PB Act, 1990 so that the institution will one again come under the direct purview of the Government and that it could fulfil its primary role as a national as well as Public Service Broadcaster. This will also give the Government a chance to infuse the required staff so that the service reaches to the remotest part of the country. This may also reduce the unwanted expenses now being incurred through the PB and bring out accountability.