

**Committee to Observe Functioning of
Prasar Bharati**

769. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI A.C. JOS :

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

(a) whether the ordinance doing away with the 22 member committee of MPs to observe the functioning of Prasar Bharati Corporation was allowed to lapse by the Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to bring further amendments to the Prasar Bharati Act and also to bring forward a new bill to regulate private broadcasting; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) :

(a) Yes Sir,

(b) The Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Amendment Ordinance, 1997 had removed or modified several important provisions in the principal Act relating to (i) establishment of Parliamentary Committee to oversee the functions of the Corporation; (ii) establishment of Broadcasting Council to determine the quality and contents of the programmes being broadcast; (iii) the upper age limit of 62 years for the CEO; (iv) the retirement of one-third of the Members by rotation which provided for continuity in the functioning of the Board; and (v) the appointment of two full-time members for Finance and Personnel and replacing them with only part-time ex-office members. The removal or modification of these provisions is considered detrimental to the proper functions of Prasar Bharati as originally envisaged.

(c) and (d) Government have initiated steps for introducing an Amendment Bill for restoring the provisions of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990 during the current session of Parliament. There is no proposal at present, to bring forward a new Bill to regulate private broadcasting.

**Environment and Forestry clearance to
Projects**

770. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI SADASHIV RAO DADOBA MANDLIK :
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the names and numbers of developmental irrigation projects lying pending for environmental and forestry clearance in the State of Maharashtra;

(b) the forest land required for each project; and

(c) the time by which all projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) There is no irrigation project of Maharashtra pending for environment clearance with the Ministry. There are however 56 irrigation projects of Maharashtra pending for clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. A statement showing names of these projects alongwith forest area involved in each case is attached.

(c) As and when complete details in respect of the proposal are received from the State Government, expenditure action is taken by the Ministry to take a final decision.

Statement

List of Irrigation Projects of Maharashtra pending under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

S.No.	Name of project	Area
1	2	3
1.	Ektai Minor Irrigation Tank, Amravati.	11.29 ha.
2.	Popatkhedha Minor Irrigation Tank, Amravati.	15.50 ha.
3.	Lower Chulband Medium Irrigation Project, Bhandara.	16.858 ha.
4.	Sandavatola Lift Irrigation Scheme, Bhandara.	13.37 ha.
5.	Pendhari Tank, Sonegaon, Bhandara.	13.11 ha.
6.	Murodoli Monor Irrigation Tank, Bhandara.	163.31 ha.
7.	Dhamanewada Minor Irrigation Tank, Bhandara	8.05 ha.