

COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2021-2022)

73

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

SEVENTY-THIRD REPORT

REVIEW OF PENDING ASSURANCES PERTAINING TO THE
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

Presented to Lok Sabha on

05/08/2022



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

August, 2022 / Shravana, 1944 (Saka)

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*Implementation Report laid on the Table of the House on 27.07.2022

**COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE
ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES*
(2021 - 2022)**

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL - Chairperson

MEMBERS

2. Prof. Sougata Ray **
3. Shri Nihal Chand
4. Shri Gaurav Gogoi
5. Shri Nalin Kumar Kateel
6. Shri Ramesh Chander Kaushik
7. Shri Kaushlendra Kumar
8. Shri Ashok Mahadeorao Nete
9. Shri Santosh Pandey
10. Shri M.K. Raghavan
11. Shri Chandra Sekhar Sahu
12. Dr. Bharatiben D. Shiyal
13. Shri Indra Hang Subba
14. Smt. Supriya Sule
15. Vacant

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. Shri J.M. Baisakh | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. Dr. Sagarika Dash | - | Director |
| 3. Shri Krishna C. Pandey | - | Deputy Secretary |

* The Committee have been constituted w.e.f. 09 October, 2021 *vide* Para No. 3202 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 18 October, 2021

** Nominated to the Committee *vide* Para No 4711 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 06 June, 2022 *vice* Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay resigned on 01 June, 2022

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Committee on Government Assurances (2021-2022), having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Seventy-Third Report (17th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Government Assurances.

2. The Committee on Government Assurances (2021-2022) at their sitting held on 18th April, 2022 took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting regarding pending Assurances.

3. At their sitting held on 28th July 2022, the Committee on Government Assurances (2021-2022) considered and adopted this Report.

4. The Minutes of the aforesaid sittings of the Committee form part of the Report.

5. For facility of reference and convenience, the Observations and Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the Report.

NEW DELHI;

04 August, 2022

13 Shravana , 1944 (Saka)

RAJENDRA AGRAWAL,
CHAIRPERSON,
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

(iii)

REPORT

I. Introductory

The Committee on Government Assurances scrutinize the Assurances, promises, undertakings, etc., given by the Ministers from time to time on the floor of the House and report the extent to which such Assurances, promises and undertakings have been implemented. Once an Assurance has been given on the floor of the House, the same is required to be implemented within a period of three months. The Ministries/Departments of the Government of India are under obligation to seek extension of time required beyond the prescribed period for fulfillment of the Assurance. Where a Ministry/ Department is unable to implement an Assurance, that Ministry/Department is bound to request the Committee for dropping it. The Committee consider such requests and approve for dropping it, in case, they are convinced that grounds cited are justified. The Committee also examine whether the implementation of Assurances has taken place within the minimum time necessary for the purpose and the extent to which the Assurances have been implemented.

2. The Committee on Government Assurances (2009-2010) took a policy decision to call the representatives of various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, in a phased manner, to review the pending Assurances, examine the reasons for pendency and analyze operation of the system prescribed in the Ministries/Departments for dealing with Assurances. The Committee also decided to consider the quality of Assurances implemented by the Government.

3. The Committee on Government Assurances (2014-2015) decided to follow the well established and time tested procedure of calling the representatives of the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, in a phased manner and review the pending Assurances. The Committee took a step further and decided to call the representatives of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs also as all the Assurances are implemented through it.

4. In pursuance of the *ibid* decision, the Committee on Government Assurances (2021-2022) called the representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to render clarifications regarding delay in implementation of the pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting at their sitting held on 18th April, 2022. The Committee examined in detail the following 17 Assurances (Appendices – I to XVII):

Table 1

Sl.No.	SQ/USQ No. dated	Subject
1.	USQ No. 27 dated 22.02.2011	Grievances of Prasar Bharati Employees (Appendix-I)
2.	USQ No. 2420 dated 11.03.2016	Inter-Operability on Set Top Boxes (Appendix-II)
3.	USQ No. 1090 dated 08.02.2017	New FM Radio Stations (Appendix-III)
4.	USQ No. 1121 dated 08.02.2017	National Information Policy (Appendix-IV)
5. *	SQ No. 159 dated 26.07.2017	Restructuring of Prasar Bharati (Appendix-V)
6.	SQ No. 37 dated 19.07.2018	Review of Uplinking/Downlinking Guidelines (Appendix-VI)
7.	SQ No. 112 dated 28.06.2019	Shri Shyam Benegal Committee (Appendix-VII)
8. *	USQ No. 5690 dated 26.07.2019	Tax on Cinema (Appendix-VIII)

*Implementation Report laid on the Table of the House on 27.07.2022

9.	SQ No. 161 dated 29.11.2019 (Supplementary by Shri Sunil Kumar Pintu, M.P)	Programme on Government Schemes (Appendix-IX)
10.	SQ No. 263 dated 06.12.2019 (Supplementary by Shri Ajay Tamta, M.P)	Setting up of FM Tower/Stations (Appendix-X)
11.	USQ No. 3435 dated 13.03.2020	New Set of Regulations for Print Industry (Appendix-XI)
12.	USQ No. 4473 dated 20.03.2020	Amendment in Cable Television Networks Regulation Act. (Appendix-XII)
13.*	SQ No. 68 dated 05.02.2021	News in Sanskrit (Appendix-XIII)
14.	USQ No. 785 dated 05.02.2021	Complaints regarding Auction System in Doordarshan (Appendix-XIV)
15.*	Special Mention dated 12.02.2021 by Shri Santosh Pandey, M.P	Broadcasting of news in Chhattisgarhi language (Appendix-XV)
16	SQ No. 161 dated 12.02.2021 (Supplementary by Shri Ajay Bhatt, M.P)	Vacant Posts in Doordarshan and Akashwani (Appendix-XVI)

*Implementation Report laid on the Table of the House on 27.07.2022

17	USQ No. 2049 dated 12.02.2021	Digitization of Medium Wave Transmitter in Kerala (Appendix-XVII)
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5. The Extracts from the Manual of Parliamentary Procedures in the Government of India, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs laying guidelines on the definition of an Assurance, the time limit for its fulfillment, dropping/deletion and extension, the procedure for fulfillment, etc., besides maintenance of Register of Assurances and periodical reviews to minimize delays in implementation of the Assurances are reproduced at Appendix-XVIII.

6. During the oral evidence, the Committee emphasized that the Ministries/Departments are required to implement an Assurance within a period of 3 months and if the Ministries/Departments are unable to fulfill the Assurance within that time period, then it is imperative for them to seek extension of time. The Committee drew the attention of the representatives to the pending list of 17 Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Out of these, 01 Assurance pertained to 15th Lok Sabha, 5 Assurances to the 16th Lok Sabha and 11 Assurances to the 17th Lok Sabha. As the Assurance belonging to the 15th Lok Sabha was very old and pending for more than 11 years and there was inordinate delay in fulfillment of this Assurance, the Committee enquired about the monitoring and periodical review of the Assurances and the system in place in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for Implementation of the Assurances. The Committee also desired to know the details and frequency of the meetings held in the Ministry to take care of the Assurances. In this regard, the representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting responded as follows:-

"The Ministry reviews the Assurances, special mentions and statement given in Parliament on monthly basis at the level of senior officers and Secretary. Additional Secretary/ Joint Secretary also review their divisions on monthly basis. There is a regular system to review pending Assurances, preparing implementation report for fulfilled Assurances and seek extension of time for those are not fulfilled. The Ministry takes it most seriously"

Observations/Recommendations

7. The Committee note that as many as 17 Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting were pending for implementation. The Assurance mentioned at SI No. 01 belongs to 15th Lok Sabha and is pending for more than 11 years. Another 05 Assurances belonging to the 16th Lok Sabha and the remaining 11 Assurances belonging to 17th Lok Sabha were also pending for more than one to three years. This indicates that monitoring and follow up action taken for implementation of the Assurances by the Ministry needs further improvement. The Committee, therefore recommend that the existing mechanism/system may be further streamlined with a view to ensuring timely implementation of the pending Assurances. The Committee also desire that the minutes of the review meetings in Ministry regarding implementation of Assurances may be forwarded to Committee.

II. Review of the Pending Assurances of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

8. In the succeeding paragraphs, the Committee deal with some of the important pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting which have been examined/ reviewed by them at their sitting held on 18.04.2022.

A. Grievances of Prasar Bharati Employees

USQ No. 27 dated 22.02.2011 regarding 'Grievances of Prasar Bharati Employees (SI. No. 1)

9. In reply to USQ No. 27 dated 22.02.2011 (Appendix-I), it was *inter-alia* stated that the employees of Prasar Bharati represented by the National Federation of Akashvani and Doordarshan Employees Association (NFADE) went on 48 hours of boycott of duties from 23rd November 2010 to 25th November, 2010. The strike call given by National Federation of Akashvani and Doordarshan Employees Association (NFADE) resulted in disruption of services of All India Radio and Doordarshan across the country. Notice for another agitation from 13th to 16th December, 2010 followed by a call for indefinite strike was also given by the Association. The employees demanded repeal of Prasar Bharati Act, 1990. Alternatively they demanded retaining assets and employees of AIR and Doordarshan with Government

of India. A conciliation process was undertaken by the Regional Labour Commissioner (Central) in this regard. During the course of negotiations with the federation, they demanded that a committee may be constituted in the Ministry with 5 members from the NFADE to discuss comprehensive amendments to the Prasar Bharati Act. In response, the Ministry conveyed that while it did not consider it necessary to constitute a committee in the Ministry, it was agreeable to give due consideration to the suggestions and views from different stakeholders including different associations and also have discussions with representatives of NFADE on the suggestions made by them. Thereafter, the Group of Ministers on Prasar Bharati (PB) has mandated the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting to consider such amendments in the Act as are necessary in the light of the developments subsequent to the operationalisation of the Act in 1997 and bring it before the GOM for consideration. The demand of the federation was to retain the assets and employees of AIR and Doordarshan with the Government. The Ministry informed that processing of the recommendations of GOM is at various stages in the government.

10. In its status Note furnished in April, 2022, the Ministry informed that a comprehensive draft amendment Bill was circulated through a draft Cabinet Note in 2013, which was withdrawn in 2014 for further assessment and analysis. After assessment and analysis a draft comprehensive amendment proposal was again submitted however it was decided in the Ministry to process those amendments which are of imminent necessity. Accordingly another draft amendment bill was circulated through a draft Cabinet Note dated 15.11.2018. With the approval of Hon'ble Minister of Information and Broadcasting (HMIB), the bill was formally withdrawn on 20.11.2019. Decision on amendments in the Act recommended by Group of Ministers (GoM) is under consideration in the Ministry.

11. During oral evidence, the representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting responded similarly before the Committee with regard to the Assurance as under:-

"A group of Ministers had been constituted to redress the issues of Prasar Bharati employees. The Group had given many recommendations to improve the functionality of Prasar Bharati. A draft bill along with cabinet note had been moved to other Ministries in 2013, but it was withdrawn in 2014 to add some more points. Bill was again moved in 2018 but it was withdrawn in 2019 because

some points arised during consultation which needed some more work on it. The Ministry feels that there is no need for comprehensive amendment as recommended by the Group of Ministers and requirement has been fulfilled, therefore, Assurance may be dropped”.

Observation/Recommendation

12. The Ministry had informed that recommendations of Group of Ministers (GoM) including the grievances of employees of Prasar Bharti are under consideration of Government. A draft amendment Bill to address the grievances of Prasar Bharati employees had been circulated through a draft Cabinet Note in 2013, which was withdrawn in 2014 for further assessment and analysis. After assessment and analysis, a draft comprehensive amendment proposal was again submitted. However it was decided in the Ministry to process those amendments which are of imminent necessity. Accordingly, another draft amendment bill was circulated through a draft Cabinet Note dated 15.11.2018. This bill was also withdrawn on 20.11.2019. Decision on amendments in the Act recommended by GoM is under consideration in the Ministry. During evidence, when the Committee desired to know the status of fulfillment of the Assurance, the Ministry have informed that some more points came up during consultation which required further consideration. It was stated in evidence that there is no need for comprehensive amendment as recommended by the GoM and since the requirement has been fulfilled the Assurance be dropped. The Ministry have not furnished any details as to how the Assurance has been implemented. In the absence of detailed information Committee are not in a position to comment on the fulfilment of the Assurance. The Committee desire the Ministry to furnish further details of implementation of the aforesaid Assurance.

B. Inter Operability on Set Top Boxes

USQ No. 2420 dated 11.03.2016 regarding 'Inter Operability on Set Top Boxes' (Sl. No. 2)

13. In reply USQ No. 2420 dated 11.03.2016 regarding Inter Operability on Set Top Boxes (Appendix-II), it was inter-alia stated that the issue of technical inter-operability of Set top Boxes is under the purview of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), the regulator in the field. The objective of STB inter-operability is to make available STBs in open market, which will provide an exit option to the consumers who want to change their service providers due to some reasons or the other. This is expected to facilitate competition and improve quality of services offered to the consumers. TRAI has informed that some of the service providers have raised their concerns about feasibility of technical interoperability due to various technical and commercial reasons and it is in a consultative process to understand their concerns before arriving at a solution. The regulatory framework of TRAI mandates the commercial interoperability by prescribing that the STBs/Customer Premises Equipments (CPE) to be provided on outright purchase basis, hire purchase basis and rental basis. TRAI has also notified Tariff orders for Digital Addressable Cable TV Systems which prescribes a standard tariff package for offering of STBs to the subscribers. The tariff order provides an easy exit option to the subscribers, ensures availability of STBs at reasonable price, and at the same time, protects the interest of the service providers. Similarly, for DTH services, TRAI has prescribed a tariff order which prescribes certain restrictions on the DTH operators offering schemes of Customer Premises Equipment. The applicable tariff order for DTH services namely the Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services (Seventh) (the Direct to Home Service) Tariff Order, 2015 (2 of 2015) dated 01.04.2015 is sub-judice.

14. Status Note furnished in April, 2022, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting appraised the position regarding implementation of the Assurance as under:-

"The Recommendations made by TRAI on "Inter-operability on Set Top Boxes" on 10.04.2020 are under examination. "

15. Giving an update on the implementation of the Assurance during oral evidence, the representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting deposed as under:-

"There was a demand for Inter-operability on Set Top Boxes in order to avoid repeated purchase of it. The Telecom Regulatory Authority (TRAI) has given recommendations as to how specifications of set top boxes may be standardise

to make common for all operators. The Ministry consulted with industries as they produce it with their own specifications, they are reluctant to do this, but consultations are still on for the future. The ministry is also considering that all set top boxes may be made in India, but its some component as chips etc. are still not made in India. The industries have assured that it will be done phase wise under "Make in India" movement, during last month BIS was contacted, there are some issues, we are trying to resolve it, therefore Ministry is requesting for extension of time for implementation"

Observation/Recommendation

16. The Committee note that the issue of technical inter-operability on Set top Boxes is under the purview of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), the regulator in the field. The inter-operability of Set Top Boxes will make it available in open market, which will facilitate competition and improve the quality of services offered to the consumers. The Committee are given to understand that some of the service providers have raised concerns about feasibility of technical interoperability due to various technical and commercial reasons and TRAI is in a consultative process to understand their concerns before arriving at a solution. On the status of implementation, the Ministry further informed during evidence that TRAI has given standardization of specification for Set Top Boxes and the Ministry are in consultation with Industry on this. Some of the components of Set Top Boxes such as chips etc. are still not made in India. The industries have assured that it will be done phase wise under "Make in India" movement. While the Committee are fully aware of issues in interoperability of Set top boxes such as standardization of specifications, tariff issues and indigenous production etc, the Committee cannot lose sight of the huge benefits it is going to bring to consumers at large. The Committee recommend the Ministry to work out the modus operandi of fulfilling the Assurance in consultation with industry and stakeholders in a definite time frame and submit the requisite implementation Report.

C. National Information Policy

**USQ No. 1121 dated 08.03.2017 regarding 'National Information Policy'
(Sl. No. 4)**

17. In reply USQ No. 1121 dated 08.03.2017 regarding 'National Information Policy (Appendix-IV), it was inter-alia stated that the State Information Ministers' Conference (SIMCON) was held during 9-10 December, 2016. Various issues concerning State and Central Governments on integrated and effective dissemination of information were discussed and it was decided that the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting would formulate a Media Communication Policy to address communication needs. The policy will be formulated and finalized in consultation with States. Integrating Government communication with development and enabling participation from citizens to improve decision making and implementation of Government programmes will be the aims of the policy. The broad objectives of the policy are expected to enhance access to information, promote national dialogue on development issues by all citizens and ensure timely, orderly and effective growth and dissemination of Government information, It is well known that facilitating systematic use of communication and information strategies contributes in large measure to more effective use of Government resources and better implementation of Government programmes and policies thereby contributing to improved quality of life of citizens.

18. Status Note furnished in April, 2022, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting appraised the position regarding implementation of the Assurance as under:-

"For formulation of National Media Communication Policy, a Committee was constituted in the Ministry of I&B on 02.05.2019 under the chairpersonship of the then Addl. Secretary (I&B). Thereafter, the committee has again been reconstituted in the Ministry on 15.11.2021. Several meetings are being held by the Committee for finalization of the National Media Communication Policy."

19. During oral evidence, the representatives of the Ministry responded before the Committee with regard to the Assurance as under:-

"Draft of National Information Policy had been prepared but due to lockdown it was little halted, now it has been initiated again, a committee has also been constituted. The ministry is consulting with various media units; a draft of 'Public Communication Policy' has been prepared, but it will take some more time."

20. The Committee enquired about expected time to be taken in implementation of this report, the representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting stated as under:

"The process is time consuming; we will share it with some in house people, after finalization it will be uploaded on public domain for further consultation. Thereafter, a cabinet note will be prepared for its approval."

Observation/Recommendation

21. The Committee note that in the State Information Ministers' Conference (SIMCON) held in December, 2016, various issues concerning State and Central Governments on integrated and effective dissemination of information were discussed and it was decided that the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting would formulate a Media Communication Policy to address communication needs. The policy was to be formulated and finalized in consultation with States. The main aim of the policy was to integrate Government communication with development and enable citizens participation to bring in improvement in decision making. The committee further note that a Committee was constituted in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on 02.05.2019 for formulation of National Media Communication Policy and several meetings were held for finalization of the aforesaid policy. On the current status of the policy, the Ministry have informed that they are in the process of consultation with various media units and it will take some more time. Keeping in view that the National Media Communication policy will enhance access to information and facilitate effective dissemination of information to citizens thereby contributing to improve the quality of life, the Committee recommend the Ministry to finalize the policy and fulfill the Assurance in a time bound manner.

D. Shri Shyam Benegal Committee

**SQ No. 112 dated 28.06.2019 regarding 'Shri Shyam Benegal Committee'
(Sl. No. 7)**

22. In reply USQ No. 112 dated 28.06.2019 regarding 'Shri Shyam Benegal Committee' (Appendix-VII), it was inter-alia stated that the Committee of Experts constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Shyam Benegal submitted first part of its report in April, 2016 and final part in June, 2016. The report submitted by Committee of Experts was examined clause wise in the Ministry. The Committee of Experts has, inter-alia, recommended that there should be no system of imposing excisions, modifications and changes to the film and that the CBFC functions purely as a certification body. The Committee has recommended new categories of certification, viz. UA12+, UA15+ and AC (Adult with Caution) and suggested that the scope of CBFC should largely only be to decide what category of audiences can watch a particular film, unless the film violates provisions of Section 5B (2) of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 or exceed the limitations defined in the highest category of certification recommended by the Committee. Majority of the recommendations contained in the report require amendment in the Cinematograph Act and Rules. It was felt that implementation of the recommendations, especially those requiring important amendments in the Act/Rules, be done after further consultations. A Consultation meeting between the then Hon'ble Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Minister of Law and Justice, Minister of Finance and Minister of Human Resources Development was held on 16th March, 2017 to deliberate on the issue of repeal/amendment of the Cinematograph Act. Another round of consultation in this regard by the then Hon'ble Minister with Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra and the representatives of Film Industries was held on 06.06.2017 at Mumbai. However, due to intricate complexities involved in the matter no decision has been taken by the Government.

23. Status Note furnished in April, 2022, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting appraised the position regarding implementation of the Assurance as under:-

"The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting vide its order dated 01.01.2016 constituted a Committee of Experts headed by Shri Shyam Benegal to evolve

broad guidelines/procedures with respect of certification process being followed by CBFC within the ambit of Cinematograph Act, 1952 and Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 1983. The Committee submitted first part of its report in April, 2016 and final part in June 2016. The recommendations of the Benegal Committee have been examined in the Ministry and it entails amendment in the Cinematograph Act, Rules and formulation of Guidelines. The Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill 2019 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 12.02.2019 in order to have enabling provisions in the Cinematograph Act, 1952 to check film piracy. The Bill was then referred to the Standing Committee on Information Technology (SCIT), Lok Sabha for examination. The SCIT presented its report on the Bill in the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha on 16th March, 2020. The recommendations/ observations contained in the report of the SCIT were examined in the Ministry for making necessary amendment to clauses in the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill 2019. Simultaneously, a review of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 was undertaken in the Ministry to address the various issues concerning the certification process in a comprehensive manner. Accordingly, it is proposed to withdraw the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2019 and introduce the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2022 which inter-alia incorporates the provisions to check film piracy. The Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2021 proposes to make the process of sanctioning of films for exhibition more effective, in tune with the changed times and curb the menace of piracy. The proposal to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952 is at consultation stage and no final view has been formed."

24. During oral evidence, the representatives of the Ministry responded before the Committee with regard to the Assurance as under:-

"Shyam Benegal Committee had been constituted to look in to guidelines, certification and its procedure under Cinematograph Act for films. Committee was entrusted to make suggestions for its improvement. Earlier

it had been introduced and referred to Standing Committee, now it has come to Ministry. A new draft has been prepared and public consultation has already been done. We are trying to move the bill with cabinet note for approval till next session of the House"

Observation/Recommendation

25. The Committee note that the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (*vide* its order dated 01.01.2016) had constituted a Committee of Experts headed by Shri Shyam Benegal to evolve broad guidelines/procedures with respect of certification process being followed by CBFC within the ambit of Cinematograph Act, 1952 and Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 1983. The Committee submitted its report in 2016. The recommendations of the Benegal Committee were examined in the Ministry and it entailed amendments in the Cinematograph Act, Rules and formulation of Guidelines. Accordingly, the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill 2019 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 12.02.2019 in order to have enabling provisions in the Cinematograph Act, 1952 to check film piracy. The clauses of the Bill were also examined by the Ministry in the light of recommendations of standing Committee on Information Technology for making necessary amendments in the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill 2019. Simultaneously, a review of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 was undertaken in the Ministry to address the various issues concerning the certification process in a comprehensive manner. The Ministry now proposes to withdraw the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2019 and introduce the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2022 which inter-alia incorporates the provisions to check film piracy. The Committee are given to understand that proposal to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952 is at consultation stage and public consultation has already been done on the new draft. The committee are extremely unhappy to note that though Benegal Committee submitted its report way back in 2016 and Ministry had given an Assurance regarding amendment of Cinematograph Act, in the year 2019, the Ministry are way behind in implementation of the said Assurance. The Ministry have assured the Committee

that they are trying to move the Bill by next Session. The Committee recommend the Ministry to move positively in the direction so that the Assurance is fulfilled at the earliest.

NEW DELHI;

04 August, 2022

13 Shravana, 1944 (Saka)

**RAJENDRA AGRAWAL,
CHAIRPERSON,
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

Appendix - I

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 27

ANSWERED ON: 22.02.2011

GRIEVANCES OF PRASAR BHARATI EMPLOYEES

VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MAADAM

Whether the employees of Prasar Bharati (PB) have observed country wide strike in the recent past;

(a) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the details of grievances and demands of the said employees and the steps taken /being taken by the Government to redress the grievances amicably;

(b) whether the Government prop oses to repeal the PB Act, 1990 in view of the requests received in this regard;

(c) if so, the objections raised against the said act;

(d) whether the recommendations made by the Group of Ministers on Prasar Bharti constituted in the recent past have been cleared by the government;and

(e) if not , the reasons therefor and the time by which these are likely to be implemented?

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

ANSWER

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

(a) Yes Sir, the employees of Prasar Bharati represented by the National Federation of Akashvani and Doordarshan Employees Association (NFADE) went on 48 hours of boycott of duties from 23rd November 2010 to 25th November, 2010.

(b) The strike call given by National Federation of Akashvani and Doordarshan employees association (NFADE) representing about 22,000 employees of Prasar Bharati resulted in disruption of services of All India Radio and Doordarshan across the country. Notice for another agitation from 13th to 16th December, 2010 followed by a call for indefinite strike was also given by the association. The employees demanded repeal of Prasar Bharati Act, 1990. Alternatively they demanded retaining assets and employees of AIR and Doordarshan with Government of India. A conciliation process was undertaken by the Regional Labour Commissioner (Central) in this regard. During the course of negotiations with the federation, they demanded that a committee may be constituted in the Ministry with 5 members from the NFADE to discuss comprehensive amendments to the Prasar Bharati Act. In response, the Ministry conveyed that while it did not consider it necessary to constitute a committee in the Ministry, it was agreeable to give due consideration to the suggestions and views from different stakeholders including different associations and also have discussions with representatives of NFADE on the suggestions made by them. The strike call was withdrawn on the assurance of the Ministry and the Prasar Bharati.

(c) There is no proposal before the government to repeal the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 as demanded by the NFADE. However, the Group of Ministers on Prasar Bharati (PB) has mandated the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting to consider such amendments in the Act as are necessary in the light of the developments subsequent to the operationalisation of the Act in 1997 and bring it before the GOM for consideration.

(d) The demand of the federation was to retain the assets and employees of AIR and Doordarshan with the Government.

(e) & (f) The processing of the recommendations of GOM are at various stages in the government.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION D. NO. 2420
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.3.2016)

INTER-OPERABILITY ON SET TOP BOXES

2420. SHRI ANANTKUMAR HEGDE:
SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSING SHANKARRAO:
SHRI STAV RAJEEV:
SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:
SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government is working on introducing inter-operability on set top boxes which allow television watchers to change their DTH or cable TV service providers without changing the set top box, if so, the details and objectives thereof;
- (b) whether cable television providers and direct to home players have expressed doubts about the technical viability of such a system;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether the Government had earlier introduced commercial inter-operability for STBs, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING {COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)}

(a) to (c): The issue of technical inter-operability of Set top Boxes is under the purview of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), the regulator in the field. The objective of STB inter-operability is to make available STBs in open market, which will provide an exit option to the consumers who want to change their service providers due to some reasons or the other. This is expected to facilitate competition and improve quality of services offered to the consumers. TRAI has informed that some of the service providers have raised their concerns about feasibility of technical interoperability due to various technical and commercial reasons, and it is in a consultative process to understand their concerns before arriving at a solution.

(d) & (e): The regulatory framework of TRAI mandates the commercial interoperability by prescribing that the STBs/Customer Premises Equipments (CPE) to be provided on outright purchase basis, hire purchase basis and rental basis. TRAI has also notified Tariff orders for Digital Addressable Cable TV Systems which prescribes a standard tariff package for offering of STBs to the subscribers. This tariff order provides an easy exit option to the subscribers, ensures availability of STBs at reasonable price and, at the same time, protects the interest of the service providers. Similarly for DTH services, TRAI has prescribed a tariff order which prescribes certain restrictions on the DTH operators offering schemes of Customer Premises Equipment. The applicable tariff order for DTH services namely the Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services (Seventh) (the Direct to Home Services) Tariff Order, 2015 (2 of 2015) dated 01.04.2015 is sub -
judice.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1090
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2017)

NEW FM RADIO STATIONS

1090. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV:
SHRI ARJUN LAL MEENA:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up new FM radio stations and if so, the details thereof, State-wise especially in Rajasthan and Bihar;
- (b) the time by which these are likely to be set up;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the details of the FM radio stations functioning in Rajasthan and Bihar at present; and
- (e) whether some of the FM stations sanctioned have not started services and if so, the details thereof especially in Bihar and the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING

{COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)}

(a) to (e) Yes madam. Prasar Bharati has informed that 116 new FM radio Stations including 52 nos. of 100 W FM Relay Stations have been approved for installation in various parts of the country. State-wise details including Rajasthan & Bihar are given in Annexure-I. All India Radio is taking all the necessary steps to set up these stations as early as possible.

Details of the existing FM radio stations functioning in Rajasthan and Bihar are given in **Annexure-II**.

**ANNEXURE AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (e) OF LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1090 TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2017**

**List of 116 places where FM Transmitters approved to be set up under 12th Plan
including Cont. Schemes of earlier Plans**

S. NO.	PLACE	STATE	POWER OF NEW FM TRANSMITTER
1.	KAKINADA	ANDHRA PRADESH	10 KW
2.	ANINI / NAMSAI	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	1 KW
3.	BOMDILA	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	1 KW
4.	CHANGLANG	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	1 KW
5.	DAPORIJO	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	1 KW
6.	KHONSA	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	1 KW
7.	BARIRIZO	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	100 W
8.	BHALUKPONG	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	100 W
9.	BOLENG	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	100 W
10.	CHYANGTAJO	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	100 W
11.	GENSI	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	100 W
12.	HAYULIANG	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	100 W
13.	KOYU	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	100 W
14.	MARIANG	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	100 W
15.	MECHUKA	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	100 W
16.	NAMPONG	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	100 W
17.	PALIN	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	100 W
18.	RAGA	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	100 W
19.	RUMGONG	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	100 W
20.	SAGALEE	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	100 W
21.	SANGRAM	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	100 W
22.	TUTING	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	100 W
23.	YACHULI	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	100 W
24.	YINGKIONG	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	100 W
25.	GOALPARA	ASSAM	1 KW
26.	KARIMGANJ	ASSAM	1 KW
27.	LUMDING	ASSAM	1 KW
28.	BAKULIAGHAT	ASSAM	100 W
29.	BARPETA	ASSAM	100 W
30.	DUDNOI	ASSAM	100 W
31.	LANKA	ASSAM	100 W
32.	SARIHAJAN	ASSAM	100 W
33.	UDALGURI	ASSAM	100 W
34.	SILCHAR	ASSAM	5 KW
35.	MUZZAFFARPUR	BIHAR	10 KW
36.	AMBIKAPUR	CHHATTISGARH	5 KW
37.	KINNAUR (KALPA)	HIMACHAL PRADESH	1 KW
38.	GREEN RIDGE	JAMMU & KASHMIR	10 KW
39.	HIMBOTINGLA	JAMMU & KASHMIR	10 KW
40.	PATNITOP	JAMMU & KASHMIR	10 KW
41.	NAUSHERA	JAMMU & KASHMIR	10 KW
42.	DHANBAD	JHARKHAND	10 KW
43.	ALAPPUZHA	KERALA	5 KW
44.	RATLAM	MADHYA PRADESH	10 KW
45.	REWA (AIR SITE)	MADHYA PRADESH	10 KW
46.	CHHATARPUR	MADHYA PRADESH	5 KW
47.	GWALIOR	MADHYA PRADESH	5 KW
48.	JALGAON	MAHARASHTRA	5 KW
49.	TAMENGLONG	MANIPUR	1 KW
50.	UKHRUL	MANIPUR	1 KW
51.	CHINGAI	MANIPUR	100 W
52.	TAMEI	MANIPUR	100 W
53.	CHERRAPUNJEE	MEGHALAYA	1 KW

S. NO.	PLACE	STATE	POWER OF NEW FM TRANSMITTER
54.	BAGHMARA	MEGHALAYA	100 W
55.	TURA	MEGHALAYA	5 KW & 100 W
56.	CHAMPHAI	MIZORAM	1 KW
57.	KOLASIB	MIZORAM	1 KW
58.	TUIPANG	MIZORAM	1 KW
59.	CHIAHPHURI	MIZORAM	100 W
60.	KHAWBUNG	MIZORAM	100 W
61.	PUKZING	MIZORAM	100 W
62.	VANLAIPHAI	MIZORAM	100 W
63.	ZAWNRGBIN	MIZORAM	100 W
64.	PHEK	NAGALAND	1 KW
65.	WOKHA	NAGALAND	1 KW
66.	ZUNHEBOTO	NAGALAND	1 KW
67.	HENIMA (TENNING)	NAGALAND	100 W
68.	MELURI	NAGALAND	100 W
69.	JORANDA	ODISHA	1 KW
70.	SORO	ODISHA	1 KW
71.	AMRITSAR	PUNJAB	20 KW
72.	KOTA	RAJASTHAN	1 KW
73.	BUNDI (TV SITE)	RAJASTHAN	10 KW
74.	CHAUNTAN HILL	RAJASTHAN	20 KW
75.	AJMER	RAJASTHAN	5 KW
76.	CHUNGTHANG	SIKKIM	100 W
77.	DENTAM	SIKKIM	100 W
78.	GYALSHING	SIKKIM	100 W
79.	LACHEN	SIKKIM	100 W
80.	LACHUNG	SIKKIM	100 W
81.	MANGAN	SIKKIM	100 W
82.	NAMTHANG	SIKKIM	100 W
83.	SORENG	SIKKIM	100 W
84.	YUKSUM	SIKKIM	100 W
85.	OTTACAMUND	TAMILNADU	10 KW
86.	NUTAN BAZAR	TRIPURA	1 KW
87.	UDAIPUR	TRIPURA	1 KW
88.	AMBASSA	TRIPURA	100 W
89.	CHAWMANU	TRIPURA	100 W
90.	DAM CHHARA	TRIPURA	100 W
91.	GANDACHHARA	TRIPURA	100 W
92.	JOLAIBARI	TRIPURA	100 W
93.	SAKHAN	TRIPURA	100 W
94.	SILACHARI	TRIPURA	100 W
95.	VANGMUN (BHANGHMUN)	TRIPURA	100 W
96.	LONGTHERAI	TRIPURA	5 KW
97.	MEERUT	UTTAR PRADESH	10 KW
98.	ETAWAH	UTTAR PRADESH	10 KW
99.	AGRA	UTTAR PRADESH	5 KW
100.	MATHURA	UTTAR PRADESH	10 KW
101.	CHAMPAWAT	UTTARAKHAND	1 KW
102.	DEHRADUN	UTTARAKHAND	10 KW
103.	HALDWANI	UTTARAKHAND	10 KW
104.	HARIDWAR	UTTARAKHAND	100 W
105.	ALMORA	UTTARAKHAND	5 KW & 1 KW
106.	KRISHNANAGAR	WEST BENGAL	10 KW
107.	BARDHAMAN	WEST BENGAL	10 KW
108.	COOCH BEHAR	WEST BENGAL	10 KW
109.	DARJEELING	WEST BENGAL	10 KW
110.	KURSEONG	WEST BENGAL	10 KW
111- 116	10 KW FM TRANSMITTER AT 06 LOCATIONS ALONG INDO- NEPAL BORDER	ALONG INDO-NEPAL BORDERING STATES	10 KW

ANNEXURE AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1090 TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2017

List of Existing FM Stations in Bihar & Rajasthan (State-wise)

Sl. No.	PLACE	STATE	POWER OF TRANSMITTER
1.	AURANGABAD	BIHAR	100 W
2.	BETTIAH	BIHAR	100 W
3.	BHAGALPUR	BIHAR	100 W
4.	FORBESGANJ	BIHAR	100 W
5.	GAYA	BIHAR	100 W
6.	KISHANGANJ	BIHAR	100 W
7.	MADHUBANI	BIHAR	100 W
8.	MOTIHARI	BIHAR	100 W
9.	MUZAFFARPUR	BIHAR	100 W
10.	PATNA	BIHAR	10 kW & 6 kW
11.	PURNEA	BIHAR	6 kW
12.	SASARAM	BIHAR	6 kW
13.	SITAMARHI	BIHAR	100 W
14.	SUPAUL	BIHAR	100 W
15.	ALWAR	RAJASTHAN	10 kW
16.	ANUPGARH	RAJASTHAN	100 W
17.	BANSWARA	RAJASTHAN	10 kW
18.	BHARATPUR	RAJASTHAN	100 W
19.	BIKANER	RAJASTHAN	10 kW
20.	CHITTORGARH	RAJASTHAN	10 kW
21.	CHURU	RAJASTHAN	6 kW
22.	JAIPUR	RAJASTHAN	10 kW & 6 kW
23.	JAISALMER	RAJASTHAN	10 kW
24.	JHALAWAR	RAJASTHAN	6 kW
25.	JHUNJHUNU	RAJASTHAN	100 W
26.	JODHPUR	RAJASTHAN	6 kW
27.	KARALI	RAJASTHAN	100 W
28.	MOUNT ABU	RAJASTHAN	6 kW
29.	NAGPUR	RAJASTHAN	6 kW
30.	NATHDWARA	RAJASTHAN	100 W
31.	SAWAI MADHOPUR	RAJASTHAN	6 kW
32.	UDAIPUR	RAJASTHAN	1 kW

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1121
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08/02/2017**

NATIONAL INFORMATION POLICY

**1121. SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR, SHRI T RADHAKRISHNAN,
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO, SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN,
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA, SHRI KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH,
SHRI PRATAP SIMHA, DR. SUNIL BALIRAM GAIKWAD**

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

- (a) whether the Government has decided to formulate a National Information Policy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the aims and objectives of the same;
- (c) whether the Government has consulted the States in this regard and if so, the details thereof and the response of the State Governments thereto;
- (d) the time by which the policy is likely to be come into force; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve quality of life of people by facilitating the effective use of communication and Information strategies?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

[COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)]

- (a) to (c) The State Information Ministers' Conference (SIMCON) was held during 9-10 December, 2016. Various issues concerning State and Central Governments on integrated and effective dissemination of information were discussed and it was decided that the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting would formulate a Media Communication Policy to address communication needs. The policy will be formulated and finalized in consultation with States.

Integrating Government communication with development and enabling participation from citizens to improve decision making and implementation of Government programmes will be the aims of the policy.

The broad objectives of the policy are expected to:

- i) enhance access to information;
- ii) promote national dialogue on development issues by all citizens;
- iii) ensure timely, orderly and effective growth and dissemination of Government information;

It is well known that facilitating systematic use of communication and information strategies contributes in large measure to more effective use of Government resources and better implementation of Government programmes and policies thereby contributing to improved quality of life of citizens.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 159
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.7.2017)**

RESTRUCTURING OF PRASAR BHARTI

***159. SHRI R.P. MARUTHARAJAA:**

Will the MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Prasar Bharti is facing shortage of talent and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is proposed to restructure Prasar Bharti and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be restructured?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
[SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI].**

- (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 159 FOR ANSWER ON
26.7.2017.**

(a) to (c): Yes Madam. There is an overall shortage of talent in Prasar Bharati. Many of the sanctioned posts are vacant. Based on the recommendation of Sam Pitroda Committee report, Prasar Bharati is in the process of conducting manpower audit to look into the issue. This audit is expected to be completed during 2017-18.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *37
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.07.2018

REVIEW OF UPLINKING/DOWNLINKING GUIDELINES

*37. SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether the present uplinking and downlinking guidelines which came into effect from 5th December, 2011 are now more than 5 years old and require changes and if so, the facts in this regard;

(b) whether his Ministry has felt any need to review/amend some of the provisions of these guidelines to ensure healthy growth of the broadcasting sector and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recommended several measures on "Ease of Doing Business in Broadcasting Sector"; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government for implementation of the aforesaid recommendations?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING {COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)}

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement as referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 37 for 19.07.2018.

(a) & (b): The present Policy Guidelines for Uplinking of television channels from India and Policy Guidelines for Downlinking of television channels came into effect on 5th December, 2011.

The Central Government has felt the need for changing the extant Guidelines to facilitate healthy growth of the broadcasting sector along with a sound regulatory network, and for this purpose had requested Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on 21.08.2017 for giving its recommendations. TRAI has furnished its recommendation on 25.06.2018 which is under consideration of the Government.

(c) & (d): Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has furnished its recommendations on "Ease of Doing Business in Broadcasting Sector" on 26.02.2018, which are under consideration of the Government.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *112
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.06.2019

SHRI SHYAM BENEGAL COMMITTEE

***112. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:**

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry is in agreement with the recommendations of the Report of the Committee of Experts constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Shyam Benegal regarding the need to remove the pre-censorship powers of the Central Board of Film Certification, so that it functions purely as a certification body;
- (b) if so, the details of the steps taken to introduce a legislation to this effect; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE;
AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR):**

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

STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c)
OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*112 FOR REPLY
ON 28.06.2019

(a) to (c): The Committee of Experts constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Shyam Benegal submitted first part of its report in April, 2016 and final part in June, 2016. The report submitted by Committee of Experts was examined clause wise in the Ministry.

The Committee of Experts has, inter-alia, recommended that there should be no system of imposing excisions, modifications and changes to the film and that the CBFC functions purely as a certification body. The Committee has recommended new categories of certification, viz. UA12+, UA15+ and AC (Adult with Caution) and suggested that the scope of CBFC should largely only be to decide what category of audiences can watch a particular film, unless the film violates provisions of Section 5B(2) of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 or exceed the limitations defined in the highest category of certification recommended by the Committee.

Majority of the recommendations contained in the report require amendment in the Cinematograph Act and Rules. It was felt that implementation of the recommendations, especially those requiring important amendments in the Act/Rules, be done after further consultations.

A Consultation meeting between the then Hon'ble Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Minister of Law and Justice, Minister of Finance and Minister of Human Resources Development was held on 16th March, 2017 to deliberate on the issue of repeal/amendment of the Cinematograph Act. Another round of consultation in this regard by the then Hon'ble Minister with Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra and the representatives of Film Industries was held on 06.06.2017 at Mumbai. However, due to intricate complexities involved in the matter no decision has been taken by the Government.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5690
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2019

TAX ON CINEMA

5690: SHRI JAYADEV GALLA:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that Indians are one of the largest film consumers in the world with more than three billion tickets sold every year, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Ministry is aware that the rate of tax in many countries of the world on cinema exhibition is in single digit and in other countries, the rate is half of the normal rate of tax, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is true that rate of tax in China on cinema exhibitions is just 5.8 percent whereas India has 28 percent of GST here, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Ministry is aware that due to higher rate of tax, the number of screens has actually come down from 11,000 to 9,500, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Ministry has given any serious thought to this bias/ discrimination meted out to cinema exhibition in India, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE;

AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR):

(a) and (b): No such data is available.

(c) In GST regime, cinema tickets of price Rs. 100 or less attracts GST of 12% and tickets of price more than Rs. 100 attracts GST of 18%. Input tax credit (ITC) of tax paid on goods and input services is also freely available.

As compared to this, pre GST era weighted average of entertainment tax on admission to cinema, based on Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) data, was more than 30%. Input tax credit (ITC) of tax paid on goods and input services was also not available, thereby making the effective incidence of tax even higher.

Therefore, under GST regime, tax on cinema tickets has significantly reduced.

(d) The subject exhibition of cinema and regulation of cinema screens/ theatres fall within jurisdiction of respective State Government. However, as per report of Economic Survey 2018-19, number of screen in the country has been reached upto 9601 in 2018 from 9530 in 2017.

(e): The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in the process of introduction of a component 'Incentive to State Governments/ Union Territories to increase theatre density' under-sub scheme Audio Visual Services of Champion Services Sectors Scheme. Under this component, financial incentive will be provided through respective State Governments/ Union Territories to such applicants who are interested in establishing single screen cinema theatres in non-metro (tier II and III) cities of the country.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. *161
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.11.2019)

PROGRAMME ON GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

*161. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR PINTU:

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

- (a) whether any programme is being implemented by his Ministry to make the people aware of the Government schemes being implemented in the country so that they can get the maximum benefit of the same; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE;
MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND
MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES
{SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR}**

(a) & (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *161 FOR ANSWER ON
29.11.2019

(a) & (b) Publicity of the policies and programmes of the Government of India is undertaken by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting through its media units mainly through Press Information Bureau (PIB) and Bureau of Outreach and Communication (BOC).

Press Information Bureau (PIB) disseminates information about Government decisions and also the flagship schemes/ programmes of the Government by issuance of Press Releases, organizing media interactive sessions at national, regional and district levels. Press tours are also undertaken to showcase success stories of various flagship programmes. Vartalaaps (workshops for rural media) are conducted at regional/ local levels to create awareness about Government policies and programmes at grassroot level.

Bureau of Outreach and Communication (BOC) undertakes Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns on behalf of Ministries/Departments of Government of India in respect of Schemes/Programmes implemented by them for creating awareness about these Schemes/Programmes among the intended beneficiaries and general public, to enable the targeted beneficiaries to avail of the benefits of the developmental schemes of the Government, to elicit enhanced participation of the people in the process of development and governance.

Prasar Bharati, as a public broadcaster, has a mandate to inform and educate its viewers/ masses by telecast/ broadcast of programmes on policies and schemes implemented by Central Government and other State Governments. All Schemes announced by the Government and its related aspects are regularly disseminated by Prasar Bharati through All India Radio and Doordarshan in coordination with concerned Ministries/ Departments through TV/ Radio and other means of communication for the benefit of general masses.

श्री सुनील कुमार पिंटू : महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी का जवाब प्राप्त हुआ है। सरकार द्वारा विभिन्न योजनाओं का प्रचार-प्रसार करने के बारे में उन्होंने अपने उत्तर में रेडियो, टीवी चैनल्स आदि का जिक्र किया है।

महोदय, आप भी इस बात को स्वीकार करते हैं और मुझे लगता है कि पूरा सदन इस बात को स्वीकार करेगा कि जो सरकार की योजनाएं हैं, चाहे हमारे राष्ट्रपिता महात्मा गाँधी जी का या माननीय नरेन्द्र मोदी जी का सपना है कि दिल्ली से जो योजना चल रही है, वह योजना गाँव के सबसे निचले तबके के व्यक्ति तक पहुँचे। 'आयुष्मान भारत' जो माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी का ड्रीम प्रोजेक्ट चल रहा है, उसके प्रचार-प्रसार में कहीं न कहीं सरकार के स्तर पर कमी है। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि 'आयुष्मान योजना' के अंदर आधार कार्ड, राशन कार्ड और आयुष्मान कार्ड में किसी के नाम में थोड़ा सा भी अंतर होने के कारण वे सेवा से वंचित हो जाते हैं। उनको यह कह दिया जाता है कि आधार कार्ड में आपका नाम कुमार की जगह प्रसाद है या अन्य कुछ है और उन्हें सेवा से वंचित कर दिया जाता है। क्या सरकार इसका प्रचार-प्रसार करेगी कि कैसे वे अपने नाम में सुधार कर सकते हैं, ताकि वे उस योजना का लाभ ले सकें या अन्य सरकारी योजनाओं का लाभ ले सकें।

इसके साथ ही साथ क्या नीचे के स्तर पर सांसद निधि से गाँवों तक प्रचार-प्रसार करने के लिए सरकार विचार रखती है, ताकि उसके माध्यम से गाँव के निचले तबके के व्यक्तियों तक सरकार की योजनाओं की विस्तार से चर्चा हो सके। *h

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श्री प्रकाश जावड़ेकर : सरकारी योजनाएं जो जनकल्याण की हैं, उनकी पहुँच सही लाभार्थियों तक हो और सबको उसकी जानकारी हो, इसके लिए विभिन्न प्रकार से कार्यक्रम भी होते हैं और सभी प्रकार के इशितहार दिए जाते हैं। उसमें मूल मुद्दा लोक शिक्षण होता है। आपका जो सुझाव है, उसके दो हिस्से हैं। मैं हेल्थ मिनिस्ट्री से यह जरूर कहूँगा कि इस तरह से सुझाव आया है कि जिनको किसी छोटे कारण से 'आयुष्मान योजना' में कार्ड नहीं मिला है, तो उसके लिए क्या प्रोसेस है, वे उसका इशितहार दे दें। विभिन्न मंत्रालय जो इशितहार देते हैं, हम उसे छापते हैं। हमारा काम वह है और इसलिए उस संबंधित मंत्रालय को मैं आपका सुझाव जरूर दूँगा।

श्री सुनील कुमार पिंटू : महोदय, मेरा एक दूसरा भी सवाल था। माननीय मंत्री जी, आपने कहा था कि दो पहलू आए हैं।

माननीय अध्यक्ष : माननीय सदस्य, आप दो प्रश्न एक साथ पूछ लेते हो।

श्री सुनील कुमार पिंटू : महोदय, मंत्री जी ने हमारे एक ही प्रश्न का जवाब दिया है।

माननीय अध्यक्ष : एक ही जवाब दिया है। वे एक जवाब और दे देंगे।

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श्री सुनील कुमार पिंटू : मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न यह था कि क्या नीचे के स्तर तक सांसद निधि के श्रू प्रचार-प्रसार करने का सरकार का कोई विचार है, ताकि गाँव के नीचे के तबके तक इसकी खबर पहुँच सके।

श्री प्रकाश जावड़ेकर : महोदय, आज एमपीलैड में प्रसिद्धि के लिए या योजना पहुँचाने के लिए अलग से कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है, लेकिन एमपीलैड के बारे में नियम ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय संचालित करता है, प्रोग्राम इम्प्लिमेंटेशन करता है। मैं उनको भी यह बताऊँगा कि इस तरह से सुझाव है और क्या एमपीलैड का भी इसमें उपयोग हो सकता है। मैं आपकी यह भावना उन तक पहुँचा दूँगा।

श्री मनीष तिवारी : महोदय, आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद कि आपने मुझे प्रश्न पूछने का अवसर दिया।

मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि दिसम्बर, 2018 तक जो एनडीए/भाजपा की सरकार है, उसने 5,245.73 करोड़ रुपया इशितहारों पर खर्चा था, चाहे वे अखबारों के इशितहार हों, चाहे चलचित्र के इशितहार हों या सोशल मीडिया के इशितहार हों। मैं इस बात पर नहीं जाना चाहता कि आपने कितना पैसा खर्चा था और उससे पहले हमने कितना पैसा खर्चा था। माननीय मंत्री जी, मेरा आपसे यह सवाल है कि क्या आपने ऐसा कोई कॉस्ट बेनीफिट एनालॉसिस करवाया है कि सरकार जो पैसा इशितहारों पर खर्च करती है, जो पैसा अखबारों को देती है, टेलीविजन चैनल्स को देती है, सोशल मीडिया को देती है, उसका सरकारी नीतियों के प्रचार-प्रसार में कितना असर पड़ता है? यह मेरा आपसे सवाल है।

श्री प्रकाश जावड़ेकर : आपने यह बहुत अच्छा सवाल पूछा है। पहले 5 साल में कितना खर्चा हुआ, अभी कितना हुआ, माननीय सदस्य वह नहीं पूछ रहे हैं। अभी हमने समाचार पत्रों के रेट्स भी बढ़ा दिए थे, तो सेंटीमीटर वाइज भी आंकड़े मौजूद हैं और वे दिए गए हैं। आपका जो सुझाव है, वह सही है कि एडवर्टीजमेंट, यह कॉस्ट बेनीफिट एनालॉसिस-हम करते हैं या नहीं, तो हमने तीन बदलाव किए हैं। आपने देखा होगा कि अभी हम थ्रीमैटिक एडवर्टीजमेंट्स दे रहे हैं। आप इस तरह से समझिए कि योगा डे के एडवर्टीजमेंट में प्रीवेंटिव हेल्थ के जितने कार्यक्रम हैं, चार-पाँच मंत्रालयों के, आयुष मंत्रालय से लेकर बाकी मंत्रालयों के जो हेल्थ के कार्यक्रम होंगे, उन सबको भी एडवर्टाइज करते हैं। एक-आधा पेज इशितहार का ज्यादा से ज्यादा उपयोग हो और ढंग से लोगों तक जानकारी पहुँचे, यह एक नया प्रयास है। माननीय सदस्य का सुझाव अच्छा है कि इसका भी कॉस्ट बेनीफिट एनालॉसिस लोगों तक कितना पहुँचता है और कितना परिणाम करता है, यह अच्छा सुझाव है।

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION No. 263

(TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.12.2019)

SETTING UP OF FM TOWER/STATIONS

***263. SHRI AJAY TAMTA:**

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

(a) whether Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) had sent a proposal to set up FM tower/stations in the border districts of Pithoragarh, Gangtok, Tawang, Jaigaon, Supaul and Gorakhpur so as to counter anti-India propaganda and if so, the action taken in this regard;

(b) whether there was any decision/ announcement in February, 2018 regarding setting up of a FM radio station in Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand, if so, the progress made in this regard so far; and

(c) the time by which a FM radio station/transmitter is likely to be set up in Pithoragarh district?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE
CHANGE; MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING;
AND MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC
ENTERPRISES**

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *263 FOR ANSWER ON
06.12.2019.**

**(a) Government has approved 7 nos. of projects for setting up of
FM transmitters at premises of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) to
strengthen FM coverage along Indo-Nepal border. These are for
Bathnaha (Araria), Narkatiaganj (West Champaran) and Sitamarhi
in Bihar, Gadaniya (Lakhimpur Kheri), Nanpara (Bahraich) and
Maharajganj in Uttar Pradesh and Champawat, Uttarakhand.**

**(b) & (c) AIR has an operational 100 W FM Transmitter at
Pithoragarh.**

श्री अजय टम्टा : माननीय अध्यक्ष जी, मेरे संसदीय क्षेत्र का सीमांत जनपद पिथौरागढ़ नेपाल की सीमा से सटा है और सामारिक दृष्टि से भी अति महत्वपूर्ण स्थान है। महोदय, नेपाली एफएम के माध्यम से हमारे पिथौरागढ़ जनपद में लगभग 70 परसेंट कार्यक्रम हिन्दी और कुमाऊंनी में प्रसारित होते हैं। पिथौरागढ़ में एफएम ट्रांसमीटर लगाने के लिए विभाग के पास भूमि भी उपलब्ध है और साइट की लोकेशन यूनीक होने के कारण से पाँच किलोवाट का एफएम ट्रांसमीटर लगाना है। स्मृति ईरानी जी, पूर्व माननीय मंत्री पिथौरागढ़ जनपद में आई थीं। उन्होंने वहाँ पर कार्यक्रम करके और विभाग के सारे अधिकारियों के साथ रहकर 23 फरवरी, 2018 को पाँच किलोवाट के एफएम ट्रांसमीटर की जानकारी ली थी। माननीय अध्यक्ष जी, अधिकारियों की सहमति के बाद भी दो वर्ष पूरे हो गए हैं, मगर अभी तक उसमें कोई कार्रवाई नहीं हो रही है। पिथौरागढ़ में पाँच किलोवाट का टावर लगाने के लिए सारी चीजें उपलब्ध हैं। विभाग की सहमति और विभाग के लोग थे, पूर्व माननीय मंत्री जी गई थीं। मेरा कहना है कि अगर इसको हम करेंगे तो इससे हमें बहुत बड़ा लाभ होगा। कुमाऊं के पूरे क्षेत्र में अगर यह पाँच किलोवाट का ट्रांसमीटर लग जाएगा तो एफएम की सुविधा लोगों तक पहुंच पाएगी। क्या माननीय मंत्री जी इसके बारे में बताएंगे? *h

श्री प्रकाश जावड़ेकर: अजय टम्टा जी ने अच्छा सवाल पूछा और इसका ब्रीफ लेते समय मुझे यह पता चला कि वहाँ कार्यक्रम हुआ था। पूर्व मंत्री ने वहाँ आश्वासन दिया था। कल मैंने रिव्यू भी लिया है और आपकी मांग पूरी होगी। आज मैं इतना ही कह सकता हूँ।

श्री अजय टम्टा : माननीय मंत्री जी का बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद। माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी द्वारा 24 नवम्बर, 2019 को 'मन की बात' कार्यक्रम के दौरान उत्तराखण्ड के धारचूला में रंग समुदाय द्वारा अपनी बोली-भाषा को बचाने के प्रयास की सराहना की है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि उत्तराखण्ड में स्थित आकाशवाणी केन्द्रों से कुमाऊंनी, गढ़वाली, जौनसारी, सौका, रंग, तोल्छा, माल्छा, थारू, बोक्सा, वनराजि आदि स्थानीय भाषाओं के कार्यक्रमों के प्रसारण हेतु क्या प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं, जिससे इन भाषाओं में स्थानीय जनता को जोड़ा जा सके तथा इनका संरक्षण हो सकें?

श्री प्रकाश जावड़ेकर : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आकाशवाणी का महत्वपूर्ण उद्देश्य है कि भारत की सभी भाषाओं का प्रचलन बढ़े और विकास हो। उसके लिए सभी आकाशवाणी केन्द्रों पर उस राज्य में जो अलग-अलग बोली-भाषाएं बोली जाती हैं, उसमें भी कार्यक्रम करने के लिए बढ़ावा देते हैं। स्पेसिफिक दो भाषाओं का नाम मैंने पहली दफा सुना है तो उसके बारे में आप पत्र दीजिए। हम उसमें भी कार्रवाई करेंगे, लेकिन मैं आश्वस्त करना चाहता हूँ कि radio is a very important tool of communication, भाषा जीवंत रखने के लिए और उसका प्रचलन बढ़ाने के लिए यह कारगर साबित होता है।

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

Appendix - XI

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3435
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.03.2020)

NEW SET OF REGULATIONS FOR PRINT INDUSTRY

3435. DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY:
DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR:
SHRI RAJA AMARESHWARA NAIK:
SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI BHOLA SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the Government is planning to amend the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 to bring new set of regulations in the registration of print and publishing industry in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including proposed sections of the Act to be amended;
- (c) whether the Government has invited suggestions from stakeholders on the draft "Registration of Press and Periodicals (RPP) Bill, 2019";
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other steps being taken by the Government to make the Act in sync with new developments in digital media?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE;
MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER
OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES
{SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR}**

(a) to (e): The draft 'Registration of Press and Periodicals Bill, 2019' has been prepared by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to replace the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867.

The draft Bill was placed on the website of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for inviting suggestions/ comments from stakeholders and is available under the link <https://www.mib.gov.in/information/information-codes-guidelines-and-policies>.

Appendix - XII

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4473
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.03.2020)**

AMENDMENT IN CABLE TELEVISION NETWORKS REGULATION ACT

4473. SHRI P. RAVEENDRANATH KUMAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government has invited comments/ suggestions from various stakeholders in connection with the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2020;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any recommendations have been received by the Government regarding non-renewal of license under this new bill from the State Governments so as to restrict them to run TV channels; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND
MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)**

(a) to (d) : Based on the recommendations of various specialized agencies, Government has proposed certain amendments to the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, which have been put up in public domain on the website of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, www.mib.gov.in, for inviting comments/ suggestions from general public/ stakeholders.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO.*68

(TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.02.2021)

NEWS IN SANSKRIT

***68. DR. T.R. PAARIVENDHAR:**

SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has recently ordered mandatory telecast/broadcast of Sanskrit news in all regional channels of Doordarshan and All India Radio (AIR);**
- (b) if so, the details and the objectives thereof along with the reasons therefor; and**
- (c) the details about the viewership for Sanskrit news in the regional channels/stations of Doordarshan and AIR, State/UT-wise?**

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE
CHANGE; MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING;
AND MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC
ENTERPRISES (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)**

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

ANNEXURE AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.68 FOR ANSWER ON 05.02.2021

Annexure A

PROGRAM: VAARTA (SANSKRIT NEWS)

DD CHANNELS

Performance Period: 3rd week of December, 2020 to 2nd week of January, 2021

Average Viewership in 000s

Time: 7:15 am - 7.30 am, All Days

Channel **	Average Viewership in 000s
DD Punjabi	346
DD Oriya	97
DD News	54 * (4 weeks average of September, 2020)
DD Bangla	38
DD Chandana	32
DD Girnar	30
DD Rajasthan	24
DD Podhigai	20
DD Bihar	13
DD Saptagiri	12
DD Malayalam	7
DD Kashir	6
DD Uttar Pradesh	4

Source: Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC)

*** BARC has not monitored News channels since October, 2020.**

**** Data for other channels is awaited.**

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*68 FOR ANSWER ON
05.02.2021**

(a) & (b): Prasar Bharati as a public service broadcaster has a mandate to promote all Indian languages and accordingly, broadcasts programmes and news in these languages. To fulfil this policy, All India Radio has been broadcasting Sanskrit news bulletin daily on its network across the country since 1974. These are now available on more than hundred stations of All India Radio. A weekly news magazine programme called "Sanskrit Saptahiki" has also been started from 4th July, 2020. Similarly, Doordarshan channels are also telecasting Sanskrit news bulletin "Vaarta" (daily) and Sanskrit news magazine "Vaartavali" (weekly).

(c): TV Viewership data for Sanskrit News (Vaarta) telecast on Doordarshan channels is placed at Annexure A.

No data is available for Terrestrial/Satellite Medium Wave Radio Listenership presently..

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 785

(TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.02.2021)

COMPLAINTS REGARDING AUCTION SYSTEM IN DOORDARSHAN

785. SHRI ANTO ANTONY:

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

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints from Doordarshan with regard to by-passing auction system by some private television channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether Doordarshan has suffered a loss of Rs. 52 crore due to the fraud committed by these channels; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE
CHANGE; MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING;
AND MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC
ENTERPRISES**

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (d) Doordarshan (DD) Free Dish is a Free to Air Direct-to-Home (DTH) platform. Reference was received from Prasar Bharati regarding reception of some channels of the private broadcasters on the Set Top Boxes of DD Free Dish subscribers which were not part of channels downlinkable from that platform. This situation has arisen due to co-location of signals and non-mandatory requirement for encryption of signals of a Free-to-Air TV Channel. The Ministry proposes to address this issue in the new uplinking and downlinking guidelines for private TV channels to be notified by the Government.

51

Special Mention dated 12.02.2021 regarding "Broadcasting of news in Chhattisgarhi language by Shri Santosh Pandey, R.P.

22.12 hrs

SUBMISSION BY MEMBER

Re: Recognizing Chhattisgarhi language and to start radio in Chhattisgarhi language

श्री संतोष पान्डेय (राजनंदगाँव): सभापति महोदय, आपने मुझे समय दिया, इसके लिए मैं आपका आभारी हूँ। "अरपा पैरी के धार, महानदी है अपार, इंद्रा नदी है परखारे तोरे पैया, जय हो जय हो छत्तीसगढ़ मैय्या।" जिस प्रकार से पूरे विश्व में भारत को माता का दर्जा दिया गया है, माता से संबोधित करते हैं, उसी प्रकार से पूरे हिंदुस्तान में, देश में यदि कोई महतारी, कोई माता का दर्जा किसी प्रदेश को है, तो छत्तीसगढ़ को माता का दर्जा है।

महोदय, जिस प्रकार से अयोध्या भगवान राम की जन्मभूमि है, उसी प्रकार से कौशल्या की जन्मभूमि छत्तीसगढ़ है। वे छत्तीसगढ़ की हैं। छत्तीसगढ़ को, कौशल्या की भूमि को उनकी भाषा चाहिए। आज मेरे लिए सबसे बड़ी खुशी की बात है कि सदन में इससे संबंधित प्रसारण मंत्री सम्माननीय जावड़ेकर जी उपस्थित हैं। मैं उनसे निवेदन करता हूँ कि पूरे छत्तीसगढ़ में सरगुजा से लेकर बस्तर तक, छत्तीसगढ़ी भाषा 2 करोड़ लोग बोलते हैं। टेलीविजन में समाचार छत्तीसगढ़ी में प्रसारित किया जाए। सम्माननीय जावड़ेकर जी यहां बैठे हुए हैं।

मैं आपके माध्यम से कहना चाहूंगा कि आज इससे बढ़कर और कुछ नहीं हो सकता। माननीय जावड़ेकर जी से निवेदन है कि इसको आप अवश्य प्रसारित करेंगे। मेरा निवेदन है कि आप इसके लिए आदेश देंगे।

पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्री; सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री तथा भारी उद्योग और लोक उद्यम मंत्री (श्री प्रकाश जावड़ेकर): भारतीय भाषाओं का सम्मान इस सरकार की नीति है। इसके बारे में विचार करके, क्या तुरन्त किया जा सकता है, वह करेंगे।

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 161
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.02.2021)

VACANT POSTS IN DOORDARSHAN AND AKASHWANI

***161. SHRI AJAY BHATT:**

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

- (a) the details of various categories of posts lying vacant in the Directorate General, Doordarshan and Directorate General, Akashwani as on date;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to fill the vacancies in Himalayan States of the country including Uttarakhand;
- (c) the status and progress made in filling up the vacancies as a result thereof; and
- (d) the time limit fixed for the purpose?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE;
MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER OF
HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)**

(a) To (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *161 TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.02.2021 ON VACANT POSTS IN DOORDARSHAN AND AKASHWANI.

(a): The information is given in the enclosed Annexure.

(b) & (c): Prasar Bharati Recruitment Board has been constituted on 01.07.2020 in accordance with Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Notification dated 12.02.2020, for filling up of Direct Recruitment vacancies in Akashvani (All India Radio) and Doordarshan carrying scale of pay less than that of a Joint Secretary to the Government of India. The process of recruitment to fill up the backlog vacancies for physically impaired persons has been initiated by the Board.

Before establishment of Prasar Bharati Recruitment Board, limited recruitment has been undertaken as a special dispensation through Staff Selection Commission for critical Group B and Group C vacancies, approved by the Government on an all India basis in 2013. 220 vacant posts were filled up in the Himalayan States including Uttarakhand.

As regards filling up of the vacancies by promotion, continued efforts have been made by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Prasar Bharati in accordance with extant instructions of Department of Personnel & Training (DoP&T).

(d): Every effort is made to fill up the posts expeditiously. Promotions and recruitment are on-going processes depending upon vacancies available on a year to year basis, as such no time limit can be given.

Groupwise Vacancy details in respect of Doordarshan

Group	Sanctioned Posts	Employees in position	Vacancies
A	1116	494	622
B	4183	2112	2071
C	16401	8847	7554
Total	21700*	11453	10247*

*2038 posts abolished from Annual Direct Recruitment Plan (ADRP) 2002 to ADRP 2008-09 by MIB.

Groupwise Vacancy details in respect of Akashwani

Group	Sanctioned Posts	Employees in position	Vacancies
A	2002	800	1202
B	12056	7128	4928
C	12071	6115	5956
Total	26129	14043	12086

एडवोकेट अजय भट्ट : मान्यवर, मैं उत्तराखंड के परिप्रेक्ष्य में ही माननीय मंत्री जी से कुछ जानकारी चाहता हूँ। अभी तक उत्तराखंड में आकाशवाणी के जो केन्द्र हैं, वे 21 हैं। इनमें से तीन पूरी तरह से काम कर रहे हैं और शेष रिले सेन्टर हैं। वहाँ पर जो गोपेश्वर हैं, वह पहले से ही चल रहा था, लेकिन अचानक छह महीने के बाद उसे बंद कर दिया गया। इससे आपदाओं में हमें बहुत कष्ट हो रहा है, क्योंकि अफवाहें फैल जाती हैं, पहाड़ी क्षेत्र है। जब तक यह काम कर रहा था, यह बहुत अच्छा रिले सेन्टर है।

मान्यवर, एक तो मैं यह जानना चाहूँगा कि क्या गोपेश्वर के स्टेशन को फिर से सरकार प्रारंभ करेगी? दूसरा, आकाशवाणी देहरादून इतना महत्वपूर्ण है, लेकिन यहाँ पर कोई भी एनाउंसर का पद स्वीकृत नहीं है। वहाँ वाद्य कलाकारों का पद भी स्वीकृत नहीं है। सहायक निदेशक का एक पद है, लेकिन वह भी खाली है। इस तरह से यहाँ पर काफी पद खाली हैं और अल्मोड़ा का भी वही हाल है। डिप्टी डायरेक्टर (प्रोग्राम) का एक पद है, जो खाली चल रहा है। सहायक कार्यक्रम अधिकारी के पाँच पद हैं, लेकिन इनमें से चार खाली हैं। उद्घोषक के छह पद हैं, लेकिन चार खाली हैं।

मान्यवर, रेडियो रिपोर्टर का पद काफी महत्वपूर्ण होता है, इसके बिना काम नहीं चलता है, लेकिन यह पद भी खाली है।

माननीय अध्यक्ष: माननीय सदस्य, पूरा उत्तर आप ही नहीं पढ़ दीजिए। आप सिर्फ प्रश्न पूछिए।

एडवोकेट अजय भट्ट : मान्यवर, वहाँ वाद्य कलाकार भी नहीं है। वहाँ ऑल इंडिया रेडियो में जो रिक्त पद हैं, क्या इन्हें भरा जाएगा?

मान्यवर, इसी प्रकार दूरदर्शन की भी स्थिति है। जब वर्ष 2000 में हमारा राज्य बना तो हमारे यहाँ वर्ष 2001 में दूरदर्शन का केन्द्र आपके द्वारा दिया गया। उसके बाद वर्ष 2005 में एक घंटे का प्रसारण प्रारंभ किया गया। वर्ष 2007 में दो घंटे का प्रसारण किया गया और 9 मार्च, 2019 को छह घंटे का प्रसारण प्रारंभ किया गया। 1 अप्रैल, 2020 से 24 घंटे का प्रसारण आरंभ तो कर दिया गया, लेकिन जो स्टॉफ वर्ष 2001, 2005, 2007 और वर्ष 2019 में थे, उससे भी कम स्टॉफ आज वहाँ हो गए हैं। अभी वहाँ कम से कम 10 प्रोग्राम एक्जिक्यूटिव एवं 10 प्रोग्राम असिस्टेंट्स होने चाहिए। वहाँ कोई भी प्रोग्राम एक्जिक्यूटिव नहीं है, जो एक बहुत ही की-पोस्ट होती है। इसी प्रकार से कैमरामैन नहीं है, जबकि वहाँ 10 कैमरामैन की माँग की गई है।

माननीय अध्यक्ष: माननीय सदस्य, आपकी माँग क्या है?

माननीय सदस्य, आप एक मिनट के लिए बैठिए। मैं सभी माननीय सदस्यों से आग्रह करना चाहता हूँ कि यह प्रश्न काल बहुत महत्वपूर्ण समय होता है। मेरी कोशिश रहती है कि अधिकतम माननीय सदस्यों का इस लॉटरी में नाम आए और अधिकतम सदस्यों को मौका मिले। इसलिए, प्रश्न पूछने वाले माननीय सदस्य सिर्फ प्रश्न पूछें। जब आप शॉर्ट में प्रश्न पूछेंगे तो आपको उत्तर भी ठीक से मिलेगा।

एडवोकेट अजय भट्ट : महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि दूरदर्शन में जो रिक्त पड़े पद हैं, क्या उनको शीघ्र भरने की कोई कार्रवाई करेंगे? *h

श्री प्रकाश जावड़ेकर: यह गलत फहमी बहुत जगह हुई है, क्योंकि जो ट्रांसमीटर्स पुराने हो गए, उनको बाहर करके, नये ट्रांसमीटर्स आ रहे हैं या उनकी नई टेक्नोलॉजिकल व्यवस्था हो रही है। लेकिन मैं साफ

करना चाहता हूँ कि दूरदर्शन केंद्र, आकाशवाणी का ही मुख्य मुद्दा है, तो एक भी आकाशवाणी केंद्र बंद नहीं होगा और कोई एक भी डाउनग्रेड नहीं होगा।

दूसरा मुद्दा है कि कैमरामैन 10 थे। अब जमाना बदल गया है, टेक्नोलॉजी बदल गई है। लोग मोबाइल से फोटो लेते हैं और मोबाइल से यहां अपने संसद के प्रांगण से लाइव करते हैं। जब ये कर सकते हैं, अब जबकि टेक्नोलॉजी बदल गई तो उतने परमानेंट पदों की जरूरत नहीं होती है। स्टिंगर्स होते हैं, जो असाइनमेंट बेसिस पर बहुत अच्छा काम देते हैं, बहुत अच्छी सेवा देते हैं। उनको जो भी काम बताया जाता है, वे करते हैं। यह अनुभव है। वह भी इंप्लायमेंट का एक दूसरा तरीका है। हमने पहले मैनेजमेंट ऑडिट किया और अब यह स्थिति साफ हो गई कि कितने लोग हैं, कितने पदों की वैकेंसीज़ हैं, लेकिन कितने की जरूरत है। उसके अनुसार हम नई योजना बना रहे हैं, रिक्रूटमेंट बोर्ड आ गया है और भर्ती प्रक्रिया शुरू होगी।

एडवोकेट अजय भट्ट : जैसा मैंने कहा कि पद पूरी तरह से खाली हैं, क्योंकि हम पर्वतीय क्षेत्र के लोग हैं, वहां पर नई टेक्नोलॉजी अभी नहीं पहुंची है। इसमें बहुत देर लगेगी। ढोलक, बांसुरी, हुड़का, सितार बजाना वहां का लोकल कल्चर होता है। ये जो पद पहले से स्वीकृत थे, जिनको वहां भेजा जाता था, क्या इस पर सरकार पुनर्विचार करेगी?

श्री प्रकाश जावड़ेकर : मैं यह फिर बता रहा हूँ कि इंस्ट्रूमेंटलिस्ट्स बेरोजगार नहीं हुए हैं। पद पर जो परमानेंट लोग थे, उनकी जगह पर असाइनमेंट बेसिस पर जब भी प्रोग्राम का निर्माण आकाशवाणी केंद्र में होता है, तो वहां इंस्ट्रूमेंटलिस्ट्स बुलाये जाते हैं। बिना इंस्ट्रूमेंट्स के गाने थोड़े ही बजेंगे। जो प्रोग्राम होता है, उसके लिए जो भी कलाकार हो, जो भी आवश्यक लोग हों, उन सबको बुलाया जाता है। अनेक लोग इसमें कांट्रैक्ट पर भी हैं। अब हमने इसका रिव्यू लिया है।

श्री रितेश पाण्डेय : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूँ, खास तौर से उत्तर प्रदेश में अगर आप देखेंगे तो जो पद वहां पर अभी सृजित हुए हैं, चाहे प्रोड्यूसर का पद हो, उसकी जो आयु लिमिट है, वह 21 से 25 साल और 50 साल तक की भी है। मेरा यह कहना है कि यह थोड़ा सा आउट डेटेड लगता है, क्योंकि कई महिलायें या बुजुर्ग लोग जो हैं या महिलाओं को ही आप ले लीजिए, अगर वे मैटरनिटी लीव पर जाती हैं और नौकरी छोड़ने के बाद वापस आती हैं या बुजुर्ग महिलायें होती हैं, जो वर्क फोर्स से बाहर चली जाती हैं, तो उनको वापस आने के लिए अगर ये उम्र के क्राइटेरियाज़ लगे रहते हैं तो बहुत मुश्किल हो जाती है। मुझे आपसे यह जानना है कि क्या गवर्नमेंट कोई प्लान कर रही है कि इन जॉब्स से एज लिमिट को हटा दिया जाए, क्योंकि नौकरियों की बहुत ज्यादा जरूरत है? एज लिमिट खास तौर से इस इलाके में बहुत ज्यादा हो जाती है। क्या इसको हटाने का भी कोई प्रावधान है?

श्री प्रकाश जावड़ेकर : आपको मालूम है कि मोदी सरकार की प्रागतिक नीति से कोई मैटरनिटी लीव लेता है तो उसे 6 महीने की पूरी तनखाह के साथ लीव मिलती है। अब नौकरी छोड़कर जाना और बाद में फिर से आना, ऐसा करना नहीं पड़ता है।

दूसरी महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि यंग एज में जितनी प्रतिभा प्रदर्शित होती है, दिखती है, खिलाड़ियों में भी आपको मालूम है, जैसे 25 साल उनका चरम पर होता है और 30-

35 साल के अंदर वे रिटायर भी होते हैं। कलाकारों में भी यही देखा जाता है। उम्र ज्यादा होने पर उन्हें लेंगे, यह करेक्ट नहीं है। उल्टे ज्यादा फ्रेश ब्लड आना चाहिए, तभी ये कार्यक्रम ज्यादा अच्छे चलेंगे और लोकप्रिय होंगे।

SUSHRI MAHUA MOITRA : Hon. Speaker, Sir, thank you. With your permission, I would like to ask the hon. Minister this question.

In Akashvani a number of Radio Jockeys are working. Some of them had been working for 20 or 25 years at a salary of between Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 13,000 rupees each, which is not a very high amount. But during the COVID time, about 40 or 50 of these Radio Jockeys were let go.

Given that COVID was a difficult time for all of us and most private sector employers also pitched in and made sure that they did not try and cut the workforce. This obviously hurt those people who had been working for a long time. They have lost their only source of employment and their salaries were quite minimal. So, I would request the hon. Minister to look into this issue.

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: As you are all aware, COVID has impacted all sectors. Likewise, All India Radio and FM Radios have also definitely suffered. But one good had happened, that is, the RJs have done wonderful public awareness duty during the COVID time. I am in touch with them. I am in touch with the FM industry. Let me assure that things are becoming better in the last two months and all will be back on job very soon. That is my hope.

*

श्री जगदम्बिका पाल : माननीय अध्यक्ष जी, मैं आपका बहुत आभारी हूँ। आज भी सबसे ज्यादा लिसनर्स आकाशवाणी के हैं। आज माननीय मंत्री जी ने आश्चस्त किया है कि एक भी आकाशवाणी स्टेशन बंद नहीं होंगे और न ही डाउनग्रेड किए जाएंगे।

मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि हमारी सरकार ने नीति आयोग द्वारा 112 जिले एस्पिरेशनल डिस्ट्रिक्ट घोषित किए गए थे, जो कुछ पैरामीटर्स में पीछे रह गए हैं। ऐसे एस्पिरेशनल डिस्ट्रिक्ट हैं, भारत-

नेपाल सीमा पर जैसे सिद्धानगर, बलरामपुर, श्रावस्ती और बहराइच में नेपाल रेडियो आता है। क्या ऐसे एस्पिरेशनल डिस्ट्रिक्ट में नए स्टेशन खोलने की सरकार की कोई योजना है या लोकल एफएम स्टेशन के लिए क्या कोई योजना है? इस बारे में माननीय मंत्री जी बताने की कृपा करेंगे।

श्री प्रकाश जावड़ेकर: अध्यक्ष महोदय, अभी नये आकाशवाणी केन्द्र कारगिल और लेह में भी शुरू हो रहे हैं, इसके लिए सब कुछ तैयार है। आपने मुझे पहले ही बताया है कि नेपाल सीमा पर जो भी केन्द्र है, हम उसको भी मास्टर प्लॉन में समावेश करेंगे। उससे ज्यादा महत्वपूर्ण कम्युनिटी रेडियो है, आप लोग भी इसमें उत्साह से भाग ले सकते हैं। आज तीन सौ से ज्यादा कम्युनिटी रेडियो ऑपरेटिव है, पांच से ज्यादा कम्युनिटी रेडियो सैंक्शन किए गए हैं। पन्द्रह किलोमीटर के रेडिएस में एफएम का पूरा प्रक्षेपण मिलना कम्युनिटी रेडियो की स्ट्रैन्थ है, वह भी उपयोग कर सकते हैं।

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2049

(TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.02.2021)

DIGITIZATION OF MEDIUM WAVE TRANSMITTER IN KERALA

2049. SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN:

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

- (a) whether majority of States in India have been provided DRM transmitters in AIR except Kerala and If so, the reasons therefor;**
- (b) the steps taken to digitalize medium wave transmitters of AIR stations in Kerala; and**
- (c) whether Medium Wave transmitters in Kozhikode AIR have exhausted their lifespan and if so, the steps likely to be taken to digitalize Kozhikode medium wave station, which has a huge strength of listeners?**

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE
CHANGE; MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING;
AND MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC
ENTERPRISES**

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) AIR has installed 35 DRM transmitters in MW Band & 3 DRM transmitters in SW Band in 16 States and 1 Union Territory across the country. The scheme for replacement of 35 MW & 3 SW transmitters by DRM transmitters was approved in April 2010 under 11th Plan. Under the Plan, only those MW & SW transmitters which had completed useful service life and were having poor performance at that time in 2009-2010 were identified for replacement.

(b) and (c) Testing is currently underway to evaluate latest Digital Terrestrial Radio Technologies/ Standards that are both backward compatible and ubiquitously available as well as in line with emerging standards such as 5G Direct to Mobile Broadcasting. Roadmap for further digitalization of terrestrial radio services will be based on evaluation of these latest technologies and their viability.

AIR Kozhikode Medium Wave transmitter has outlived its useful lifespan and is functioning on reduced power. AIR's FM transmitters at 14 places viz. Alappuzha, Kannur, Coimbatore, Kalpetta, Kasargod, Kavaratti, Kochi, Kozhikode, Mangalore, Manjeri, Mercara, Mysore, Ooty and Trichur are also covering about 87% coverage area of MW transmitter at Kozhikode. In addition to this, AIR services including those from Kerala are available all over India on DD Free Dish DTH and "NewsOnAir" App on Android and iOS Platforms.


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Chapter 8

Assurances

8.1 During the course of reply given to a question or a discussion, if a Minister gives an undertaking which involves further action on the part of the Government in reporting back to the House, it is called an 'assurance'. Standard list of such expressions which normally constitute assurances as approved by the Committee on Government Assurances (CGA) of the respective House, is given at Annex-3. As assurances are required to be implemented within a specified time limit, care should be taken by all concerned while drafting replies to the questions to restrict the use of these expressions only to those occasions when it is clearly intended to give an assurance on the floor of the House.

Definition

8.2 An assurance given in either House is required to be fulfilled within a period of three months from the date of the assurance. This limit has to be strictly followed.

Time limit for fulfilling an assurance

8.3 To ensure early fulfillment of assurances, entire process beginning from culling out of assurances from the proceedings of the House to the submission of Implementation Report including extension of time, dropping and transfer of assurances have been automated through a Software Application named "Online Assurances Monitoring System" (OAMS). Requests for extension of time, dropping or transfer of assurances and submission of Implementation Report through any other offline mode shall not be entertained under any circumstances.

Online Assurances Monitoring System (OAMS)

Culling out of Assurances

8.4 When an assurance is given by a Minister or when the Presiding Officer, directs the Government to furnish information to the House, it is extracted by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, from the relevant proceedings and communicated to the Department concerned online through 'OAMS' normally within 20 working days of the date on which it is given on the floor of the House.

Deletion from the list of assurances

8.5 If the administrative Ministry/Department has any objection to treating such a statement as an assurance or finds that it would not be in the public interest to fulfill it, it may upload its request at 'OAMS' within a week of treating such statement as assurance for getting it deleted from the list of assurances. Such action will require prior approval of the Minister concerned and this fact should be clearly indicated in their communication containing the request. If such a request is made towards the end of stipulated period of three months, then it should invariably be accompanied with a request of extension of time. The department should continue to seek extension of time till the decision of the Committee on Government Assurances is conveyed through 'OAMS'. Requests received through offline mode shall not be entertained by either Rajya Sabha/Lok Sabha Secretariat or Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

Extension of time for fulfilling an assurance

8.6 If the Department finds that it is not possible to fulfill the assurance within the stipulated period of three months or within the period of extension already granted, it may seek further extension of time as soon as the need for such extension becomes apparent, indicating the reasons for delay and the probable additional time required alongwith details of action taken/progress made in the matter. All such request should be submitted at 'OAMS' for decision by CGA thereon with the approval of the concerned Minister.

Registers of Assurances

8.7.1 The particulars of every assurance will be entered by the Parliament Unit of the Ministry/Department concerned in a register as at Annex 4 after which the assurance will be passed on to the concerned section

8.7.2 Even ahead of the receipt of communication from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs through 'OAMS' the section concerned should take prompt action to fulfill such assurances and keep a watch thereon in a register as at Annex 5.

8.7.3 The registers referred to in paras 8.7.1 and 8.7.2 will be maintained separately for the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha assurances, entries therein being made session wise.

The Section Officer in charge of the concerned section will:

Role of Section Officer and Branch Officer

- (a) scrutinize the registers once a week;
- (b) ensure that necessary follow-up action is taken without any delay whatsoever;
- (c) submit the registers to the branch officer every fortnight if the House concerned is in session and once a month otherwise, drawing his special attention to assurances which are not likely to be implemented within the period of three months; and
- (d) review of pending assurances should be undertaken periodically at the highest level in order to minimize the delay in implementing the assurances.

8.8 The branch officer will likewise keep his higher officer and Minister informed of the progress made in the implementation of assurances, drawing their special attention to the causes of delay.

8.9.1 Every effort should be made to fulfill the assurance within the prescribed period. In case only part of the information is available and collection of the remaining information would involve considerable time, an Implementation Report(IR) containing the available information should be uploaded at 'OAMS' in part fulfillment of the assurance, within the prescribed time limit. However, efforts should continue to be made for expeditious collection of the remaining information for complete implementation of the assurance at the earliest.

Procedure for fulfillment of an assurance

8.9.2 Information to be furnished in partial or complete fulfillment of an assurance should be approved by the Minister concerned before it is uploaded at 'OAMS' in both English and Hindi versions in the prescribed pro forma as at Annex-6 . together with its enclosures. After online submission of the Report for fulfillment of the assurance partial or complete as the case may be, four hard copies each in Hindi and English version with one copy of each version duly authenticated by the officer concerned should be sent to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for laying until e-laying is adopted by the concerned House.

8.9.3 The Implementation Report should be submitted at 'OAMS' only. Implementation Report sent by any other mode or sent to Rajya Sabha/Lok Sabha Secretariat directly, will not be considered for laying.

Laying of the Implementation Report on the Table of the House

8.10 The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, after scrutiny of the Implementation Report, will arrange to lay it on the Table of the House concerned. A copy of the Implementation Report, as laid on the Table, will be forwarded by Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to the member(s) concerned. Details of laying of Implementation Report submitted by the Ministry/Department concerned would be made available by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs at 'OAMS'. The Parliament Unit of the Ministry/Department concerned and the concerned section will, on the basis of information available at 'OAMS', update their records.

Obligation to lay a paper on the Table of the House vis-à-vis assurance on the same subject

8.11 Where there is an obligation to lay any paper (rule/order/notification, etc.) on the Table of the House and for which an assurance has also been given, it will be laid on the Table, in the first instance, in fulfillment of the obligation, independent of the assurance given. After this, a formal report regarding implementation of the assurance indicating the date on which the paper was laid on the Table will be submitted at 'OAMS' in the prescribed pro forma (Annex-6) in the manner already described in para 8.9.2

8.12 Each House of Parliament has a Committee on Government Assurances nominated by the Chairman/ Speaker. It scrutinizes the Implementation Reports and the time taken in the fulfillment of Government Assurances and focuses attention on the delays and other significant aspects, if any, pertaining to them. Instructions issued by Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs from time to time as available on 'OAMS' are to be followed strictly.

Committees
on Government
Assurances
RSR 211-A
LSR 323, 324

8.13 The Ministries/Departments will, in consultation with the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, scrutinize the reports of these two Committees for remedial action wherever called for.

Reports of the
Committees on
Government
Assurances

8.14 On dissolution of the Lok Sabha, the pending assurances do not lapse. All assurances, promises or undertakings pending implementation are scrutinized by the new Committee on Government Assurances for selection of such of them as are of considerable public importance. The Committee then submits a report to the Lok Sabha with specific recommendations regarding the assurances to be dropped or retained for implementation by the Government.

Effect on assurances
on dissolution of
the Lok Sabha

MINUTES

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2021-2022)
(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)
EIGHTH SITTING
(18.04.2022)

The Committee sat from 1530 hours to 1630 hours in Committee Room No. 'C', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Rajendra Agrawal - **Chairperson**

MEMBERS

2. Shri Nihal Chand
3. Shri Ramesh Chander Kaushik
4. Shri Kaushalendra Kumar
5. Shri Ashok Mahadeorao Nete
6. Shri M.K. Raghavan

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri J.M. Baisakh - Joint Secretary
2. Shri T.S. Rangarajan - Director
3. Shri S.L. Singh - Deputy Secretary
4. Shri Vineeta Sachdeva - Under Secretary

WITNESSES

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

1. Ms. Neerja Sekhar, Additional Secretary
2. Shri Sanjiv Shankar, Joint Secretary (B)
3. Shri Vikram Sahay, Joint Secretary (P&A)

PRASAR BHARATI

1. Shri Shashi Shekhar Vempati, CEO, Prasar Bharati
2. Shri Deba Prasad Tripathy, Additional Director

Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

1. Shri P.K. Haldar - Under Secretary

At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them that the sitting has been convened to (i) Consider and adopt 03 Draft Reports (ii) consider 20 Memoranda containing requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping of 38 pending Assurances; and (ii) take oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting regarding pending Assurances.

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XXXXX XXXXX XXXXX XXXXX XXXXX XXXXX

5. Thereafter, the representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs were ushered in. Welcoming the witnesses to the sitting of the Committee, the Chairperson impressed upon them not to disclose the deliberations of the Committee to any outsider. The Committee then took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting regarding pending Assurances. Considering the long pendency of a large number of Assurances of the Ministry, the Chairperson asked the representative of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to give an overview of the pending Assurances of the Ministry and also enquired about the internal mechanism and system of monitoring and reviewing the implementation of pending Assurances in the Ministry.

6. The Additional Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, accordingly briefed the Committee in this regard. The Chairperson asked the representatives of the Ministry to furnish the Minutes of their review meetings for monitoring of pending Assurances.

7. The Chairperson and Members thereafter raised various queries and sought certain clarifications on the 17 pending Assurances (Annexure-III) taken up for the day. The witnesses responded to these queries and also provided clarifications. As some queries required detailed reply and inputs from various quarters, the Chairperson asked the witnesses to furnish written replies on the same in due course.

8. The evidence was completed.

9. The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for deposing before the Committee and furnishing the available information on the queries raised and clarifications sought by them.

10. The witnesses, then, withdrew.

11. A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

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COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES (2021-2022) LOK SABHA

Statement of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting discussed during Oral Evidence held on 18.04.2022.

Sl.No.	SQ/USQ No. dated	Subject
1.	USQ No. 27 dated 22.02.2011	Grievances of Prasar Bharati Employees
2.	USQ No. 2420 dated 11.03.2016	Inter-Operability on Set Top Boxes
3.	USQ No. 1090 dated 08.02.2017	New FM Radio Stations
4.	USQ No. 1121 dated 08.02.2017	National Information Policy
5. *	SQ No. 159 dated 26.07.2017	Restructuring of Prasar Bharti
6.	SQ No. 37 dated 19.07.2018	Review of Uplinking/Downlinking Guidelines
7.	SQ No. 112 dated 28.06.2019	Shri Shyam Banegal Committee
8. *	USQ No. 5690 dated 26.07.2019	Tax on Cinema
9.	SQ No. 161 dated 29.11.2019 (Supplementary by Shri Sunil Kumar Pintu, M.P)	Programme on Government Schemes
10.	SQ No. 263 dated 06.12.2019 (Supplementary by Shri Ajay Tamta, M.P)	Setting up of FM Tower/Stations
11.	USQ No. 3435 dated 13.03.2020	New Set of Regulations for Print Industry
12.	USQ No. 4473 dated 20.03.2020	Amendment in Cable Television Networks Regulation Act.

*Implementation Report laid on the Table of the House on

27.07.2022

13.*	SQ No. 68 dated 05.02.2021	News in Sanskrit
14.	USQ No. 785 dated 05.02.2021	Complaints regarding Auction System in Doordarshan
15.*	Special Mention dated 12.02.2021 by Shri Santosh Pandey, M.P	Broadcasting of news in Chhattisgarhi language
16	SQ No. 161 dated 12.02.2021 (Supplementary by Shri Ajay Bhatt, M.P)	Vacant Posts in Doordarshan and Akashwani
17	USQ No. 2049 dated 12.02.2021	Digitization of Medium Wave Transmitter in Kerala

*Implementation Report laid on the Table of the House on ~~27.07.2022~~ 27.07.2022

MINUTES
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2021-2022)
(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)
ELEVENTH SITTING
(28.07.2022)

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1600 hours in Room No. 216, (Chairperson's Chamber), 'B' Block, EPHA, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Rajendra Agrawal - Chairperson

Members

2. Shri Nihal Chand
3. Shri Ramesh Chander Kaushik
4. Shri Kaushalendra Kumar
5. Shri Ashok Mahadeorao Nete
6. Shri Santosh Pandey
7. Shri Chandra Sekhar Sahu
8. Smt. Supriya Sule

Secretariat

1. Shri J.M. Baisakh - Joint Secretary
2. Dr. (Smt.) Sagarika Dash - Director
3. Shri K.C. Pandey - Deputy Secretary
4. Smt. Vineeta Sachdeva - Under Secretary

At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them regarding the day's agenda. Thereafter, the Committee considered and adopted the following Six (06) draft Reports without any amendments:-

- (i) Draft Sixty-Eighth Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Requests for Dropping of Assurances (Acceded to)';
- (ii) Draft Sixty-Ninth Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Requests for Dropping of Assurances (Not Acceded to)';
- (iii) Draft Seventieth Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Requests for Dropping of Assurances (Acceded to)'

- (iv) Draft Seventy-First Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Requests for Dropping of Assurances (Not Acceded to)';
- (v) Draft Seventy-Second Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Review of Pending Assurances Pertaining to the Ministry of Tourism'; and
- (vi) Draft Seventy-Third Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Review of Pending Assurances Pertaining to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting'

2. The Committee also authorized the Chairperson to present the Reports during current session.

The Committee then adjourned.