

statutory corporation and the Government does not decide upon these. Prasar Bharati have intimated that it has not been found possible to telecast Bengali news bulletin from Doordarshan Kendra, Silchar on daily basis due to constraints of manpower and other infrastructural facilities. However, the kendra is already telecasting two weekly round ups of 20 minutes and 5 minutes respectively with a view to cater to the needs of the Bengali population in its service zone.

New Broadcasting Bill

54. P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new Broadcasting Bill is being introduced in the Winter Session of Parliament;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed legislation;

(c) whether the proposed legislation would include provisions for exclusive D.T.H. (Direct-To-Home) Broadcasting rights for Doordarshan for an initial period of five years as per the recommendations of the group of Ministers set up by the previous Government; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) The Government intends to formulate a new Broadcasting Bill for introduction in the Parliament at the earliest, details of which are yet to be finalised.

Special audit of AIR and Prasar Bharati

55. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry had made a request to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) to conduct a special audit of the A.I.R. and Prasar Bharati in some key areas like commercial services and procurement and pricing of commissioned and sponsored programmes;

(b) if so, whether the C.A.G. has since carried out the audit and submitted a report and if so, the details thereof; and