

Setting up of Broadcast Regulatory Authority of India

770. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

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

- (a) whether Government plans to set up a Broadcast Regulatory Authority of India on the lines of telecom regulator TRA1, to address various issues concerning this sector;
- (b) if so, whether the modalities of setting up such a body have been worked out;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the manner in which the proposed body plans, if any, to exercise control over various private T.V. channels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) to (d) The Ministry is engaged in consultations with the different stakeholders with a view to build a consensus on the draft of the Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill, 2007. It is available on this Ministry's website www.mib.nic.in and inter-alia provides terms of reference, objectives, functions, powers and composition of the proposed Broadcasting Services Regulatory Authority.

Consultations were required in view of the concerns expressed by various sections in the media with respect to the need, scope, functional and financial autonomy and independent functioning of the Regulator as proposed in the Draft Bill 2007.

The draft Bill has been discussed in various fora from time to time, however, no consensus could emerge. With a view to carry forward the consultations in a structured format, a Task Force has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in November, 2009 to hold wide ranging consultations with stakeholders to understand their perspective on the need, scope, jurisdiction, organizational structure, powers and functions of an independent Broadcast Regulator and the issues relating to regulation of content and furnish its recommendations to the Government.

The Task Force includes two representatives each of broadcasting associations like Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF), News Broadcasters Association (NBA) and Broadcast Editors' Association (BEA) along with the Ministry officials.

The Task Force has held consultations with other broadcasters associations, namely Cable Operators Federation of India, MSO Alliance, DTH Association, IPTV Forum, Association of Radio Operators of India as also with CII, ASSOCHAM and FICCI. It also held discussions with media experts, members of the civil society, Resident Welfare Associations, academia and consumer groups. It elicited the views of statutory bodies like National Commission for Women (NCW) and National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).

The Task Force has not submitted its report to the Government so far.

Affairs of Prasar Bharati

771. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the affairs of Prasar Bharati are in a very poor condition;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether most of its programmes are being run on adhoc and contract basis and the payments are not made to the artists and staff for a long time;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps being taken to put the Prasar Bharati back on track?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Banned TV Channels

772. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

SHRI SABIR ALI:

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