

The Government had constituted a committee for reviewing the existing Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 to provide greater specificity to the provisions of existing codes. The Committee has made recommendations in the form of draft 'Self-regulation Guidelines for the Broadcasting Sector' which is available on the Ministry's website <http://mib.gov.in> under the heading "Codes Guidelines Policy".

Ministry has been holding consultations with all concerned stakeholders to arrive at a broad consensus on the recommendations of the Committee. Recently a Task Force has been set up under the Chairmanship of Secretary (I&B) for holding wider consultations with stakeholders to arrive at a consensus regarding the provisions of the draft content code.

#### **Investigation against Prasar Bharati CEO**

700. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), in its report on corruption against CEO, Prasar Bharati, found him guilty alongwith other officers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the matter has been reported to CBI to file criminal cases against all, to arrive at final conclusions; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) and (b) Hon'ble High Court of Delhi *vide* its orders passed in Writ Petition No. 8780/2009 filed by the Centre for Public Interest Litigation had, *interalia*, directed that the allegations regarding financial and administrative irregularities etc., in Prasar Bharati be referred to the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) for appropriate investigation and report. Accordingly the allegations were referred to CVC by Prasar Bharati Board.

CVC, in its report has established 5 out of 7 allegations on which the enquiry was conducted. These pertain to contracts for management of advertisement revenue arising from the telecast of cricket matches on Doordarshan during 2007, the non-telecast by Doordarshan of T-20 cricket World Cup matches held in South Africa in September 2007, engagement of legal entities to represent Prasar Bharati, purchase of Radio Broadcasting Rights for 13 cricket series held during 2007-2009 and hiring of transport and accommodation for the conduct of Commonwealth Youth Games Pune, 2008. CVC has held CEO, Prasar Bharati, to be responsible in respect of four of these allegations.

On receipt of the CVC report, this Ministry sought the advice of Law Ministry on the further course of action to be taken, as per Section 7 of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990, in view of the findings contained in the CVC report. The advice of the

Additional Solicitor General and the Law Ministry was considered by the Government. Further examination was sought from the Attorney General (AG) by the Law Ministry. The Attorney General, in his advice, duly endorsed by the Law Ministry, has required this Ministry to seek comments of CEO, Prasar Bharati on the CVC report. The AG while furnishing his advice, has also taken into account the advice earlier furnished by the Additional Solicitor General. The Ministry has accordingly sought the comments of CEO, Prasar Bharati on the CVC report.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

#### **Efforts to ensure participative journalism**

701. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is ensuring that journalism becomes more participative in each field with concerted efforts including private persons engaged in journalism;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken in this direction during the last five years, State-wise and the committees appointed so far to implement it and the recommendations received, so far; and
- (c) the demands still pending in this regard and by when action would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) to (c) The Government does not interfere in the functioning of the press in India. The journalists are free to take up any field of journalism. The Government facilitates journalists, most of whom are from private sector, in carrying out their professional activities. Press Information Bureau (PIB) provides accreditation to journalists based in Delhi and in its vicinity. Accredited journalists are invited to cover various Government functions. Besides, the Government provides various facilities to accredited journalists, such as free information in the form of press releases, feature articles, backgrounders, etc., concession in rail fares and duty concession on import of professional equipments.

#### **Broadcasting rights of CWG**

702. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Commonwealth Games broadcasting rights of Rs. 246 crore contract was given to London based SIS Live despite its dubious legal status and objections raised against awarding broadcasting rights to it;
- (b) if so, the details thereof for taking such a decision;
- (c) the reasons for awarding contract to this firm; and
- (d) the amount accrued to Prasar Bharati while telecasting Commonwealth Games worldwide?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. All broadcasting rights vest with the