

Budgetary allocation to Prasar Bharati

1301. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any decision to cut the budgetary allocation to the Prasar Bharati by 50 per cent from the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government to ensure that All India Radio and Doordarshan maintain their core values and standards of decency in the midst of fierce competition while generating revenue/profit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Prasar Bharati is a Public Service Broadcaster and its primary objective is to inform, entertain and educate the people of India. Moreover, the Programme and Advertisements Codes of AIR and DD ensure that no content which offends against good taste and decency is allowed while also remaining competitive.

Quality of TV broadcast

1302. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quality of TV broadcast is still not upto the mark in the country;

(b) if so, the action taken/being taken by Government to improve the quality of TV broadcast in the country particularly in the hilly States like Himachal Pradesh;

(c) whether any record is maintained in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether some parts of Himachal Pradesh are still left out of TV coverage; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken/being taken by Government to cover such areas?