

the assurance of the Ministry, that it was agreeable to give due consideration to the suggestions and views of different associations regarding amendments in the Prasar Bharati Act (1990). The Cabinet Secretary was closely monitoring the developments and reports in this regard were furnished to him.

#### **Committee on paid news**

1927. SHRI RAASHID ALVI:

SHRI A. ELAVARASAN:

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

(a) whether Government has constituted a Committee to examine the issue of paid news in detail and to suggest remedial measures including imposing heavy penalty on media houses found indulging in such practices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the committee would also suggest a comprehensive policy and institutional mechanisms to tackle paid news;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the committee would also examine the reports that have been previously prepared by the Press Council of India, a statutory body governing the conduct of Indian media; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) and (b) The Government has constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to examine the issue of 'Paid News'.

(c) to (f) The terms of reference of GoM are, as follows:

- to give its views on a comprehensive policy and institutional mechanism to address the phenomenon of Paid News, and
- to examine the 'Report on Paid News' prepared by the Press Council of India.

#### **Appointment of DGs of AIR and Doordarshan**

1928. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that regular appointment to the post of DG, Doordarshan and DG, AIR are denied to internal professionals;