

In order to provide better quality signals in the uncovered/fringe areas of border districts of J & K and NE States in the above said schemes, the power of 7 Nos. of existing Transmitters is being upgraded. 6 Nos. of existing transmitters are being replaced and 132 Nos. of new Transmitters of various capacities are being installed apart from augmentation of power supply equipment.

Financial status of Prasar Bharati

4085. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public broadcaster, Prasar Bharati, is in danger of a complete exhaustion of its resources and making it financially liable to Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that during the last four years, against average annual earnings of Rs. 1,100 crore, Prasar Bharati has posted an average deficit of Rs. 1,500 crore;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Prasar Bharati has initiated any steps to raise revenues to meet operational cost and set its house in order; and

(e) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN) : (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that, there has been an increase in expenditure during the last few years mainly impacted by implementation of various recommendations of 6th Central Pay Commission, while the Government grants have remained static during these years. The details of revenue earned and budget gap met out of IEBR support are shown in the table below:

Description	2008-09	2009-10*	2010-11*	(Rs. in crore)
				2011-12 (upto February 2012)*
Revenue earned	1096.80	1176.26	1310.26	1182.82
Total Expenditure	2227.72	2682.80	2547.02	2850.96
Deficit met out of IEBR	1090.60	1435.59	1134.67	1388.61

*Subject to reconciliation of accounts.

(d) and (e) Prasar Bharati has informed that it has taken various steps to increase revenue generation, which 'inter alia' include adopting aggressive marketing strategy and putting into best use of the spare infrastructure available with Prasar Bharati, content improvement, introduction of DTH services, sharing of towers, etc.

However, Prasar Bharati being a public service broadcaster has to perform as per the mandate on broadcasting and in accordance with the established norms. Therefore, it is not principally guided by commercial motives while the revenue generation being the by-product of Prasar Bharati.

Nonetheless, Section 17 of the Prasar Bharati Act provides that Government would make available financial support to Prasar Bharati for the purpose of enabling the Corporation to discharge its functions efficiently under the Act by way of equity, Grants-in-aid or loan and Prasar Bharati is largely dependent on Government grants.

Transfer policy in CBFC

†4086. DR. YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Government's policy in place for the transfer of the staff and officers of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC);

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and whether establishing links and forming a nexus with the film producers and their agents with Government staff and officers looms large if they remain at the same place for a long time;

(c) if so, the reasons why the film examining officers and staff are working at the same place in Mumbai office for years;

(d) whether Government would examine the facts and ask for a report of such people immediately; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN) : (a) to (e) Regional Officers of Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) are appointed on deputation basis for a period not exceeding four years. All other officers and employees of CBFC are

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.