

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that DD Urdu channel was launched on 15th August, 2006 to promote Urdu language. The budget allocation in respect of DD Urdu channel is Rs. 11.50 crores under Non-Plan and Rs. 4.00 crores under Plan for the current financial year 2012-13.

(c) and (d) Prasar Bharati has informed that a total number of thirty one regular/casual employees have been engaged for DD Urdu channel. Forty one in-house programmes based on Mushairas, Qawwalies, Ghazals, Seminars, Anniversaries/Festivals and Personality etc. have been made and telecast by DD Urdu channel during 2011.

Losses of Prasar Bharti

†397. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prasar Bharati has been registering revenue losses for the last three years (2009-12);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor along with the details of its revenue and expenditure;

(c) whether Government is taking any measure to resolve this issue; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati being a public service broadcaster, can not be principally guided by commercial motives. Such revenue constitutes an average ranging from 40-50% of its annual Operating Cost/Expenditure. The details of revenue earned and expenditure incurred during the last three years are given below:

(Rs. in crore)			
Component	2009-10	2010-11*	2011-12*
Revenue Earned	1176.26	1310.26	1409.54
Operating Cost	2682.80	2547.02	2890.79
Deficit	1506.54	1236.76	1481.25

* Subject to reconciliation of accounts. Revenue figures are inclusive of Service Tax.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) Government had constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to look into various issues pertaining to the functioning of Prasar Bharati. The GoM had examined some of the important financial, administrative, manpower and employee related issues of Prasar Bharati.

The GoM has, *inter-alia*, made the following recommendations for the financial restructuring of Prasar Bharati:

- Government should extend financial assistance to Prasar Bharati from Non-Plan funds to meet 100% expenses towards its salary and salary related expenses and augmentation/replacement of capital assets during the next five years from 2011-12 to 2015-16. All other items of operating expenses shall be borne by Prasar Bharati from out of its internal resources.
- Accumulated arrears of space segment and spectrum charges of Prasar Bharati upto 31.03.2011 should be waived.
- Loans provided by the Government to Prasar Bharati should be converted into Grants-in-aid.
- Interests accrued on the loans provided by the Government to Prasar Bharati to be waived

The above recommendations which are under the active consideration of Government, would enable Prasar Bharati to become a financially viable and sustainable organization.

Telecast of Olympics by Prasar Bharti

†398. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the largest public sector broadcaster in India, Prasar Bharati has got any share in the live telecast of the Olympics being organized in London;

(b) if so, whether the Prasar Bharati would be able to successfully broadcast Olympics news to the Indian viewers who take interest in all types of games; and

(c) the number of officers and staff of Prasar Bharati sent to London for this purpose?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.