

Implementation of recommendations of Sam Pitroda**Panel on Prasar Bharati**

2289. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Prasar Bharati Act provides for accountability of Prasar Bharati to the Parliament instead of the Executive Ministry;
- (b) if so, the reasons for non-implementation of this provision so far; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government for implementation of the recommendations of Sam Pitroda Panel regarding Prasar Bharati?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI): (a) and (b) The Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 has provided for accountability of Prasar Bharati to the Parliament under Section-13. This section mandates constitution of a Parliamentary Committee to oversee the functioning of Prasar Bharati. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology at present scrutinizes the demand for grants in respect of Prasar Bharati and also reviews the other aspects of functioning of Prasar Bharati. The Group of Ministers (GoM) on Prasar Bharati has recommended for deletion of Section-13 from the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 on the ground that the Standing Committee on Information Technology is playing the same role. Accordingly, a proposal for amendment of the Act *inter-alia* for deletion of Section-13 is under consideration.

In respect of the matter related to laying of Annual report, the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990, under Section-31 envisages that the Central Government shall cause these reports to be laid to the Parliament. Further, the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990, under Section-20(2) envisages that the Annual Financial Statement shall be prepared by the Corporation and forwarded to the Central Government for its approval. Further, under Section-21 of the Act, it is envisaged that the accounts of the Corporation certified by Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) or any other person appointed by him with audit report shall be forwarded by the Corporation to the Central Government before each House of the Parliament. Accordingly, the Annual Report and the Annual Audited Accounts of Prasar Bharati are laid on the Table of Information and Broadcasting.

- (c) The Sam Pitroda Committee has submitted its report to the competent authority recently. It has been decided to put the report in the public domain and invite suggestions.