

(b) if so, the reaction of Government on such comments made by the Chairperson of Prasar Bharati;

(c) whether the performance of Doordarshan and All India Radio (AIR) would be upgraded to compete with private channels; and

(d) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to confer full autonomy to Prasar Bharati ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) to (d) Prasar Bharati has informed that their Chairperson has stressed the need to professionalise Doordarshan and All India Radio (AIR). They have further informed that the performance of Doordarshan and AIR would be upgraded to compete with private channels. The Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990 provides full functional autonomy to Prasar Bharati. The general superintendence, direction and management of Prasar Bharati is vested in the Prasar Bharati Board which exercises all powers and does all acts and things on behalf of the Corporation, as enshrined in the Act.

Vacancies in All India Radio and Doordarshan

2659. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts lying vacant in All India Radio and Doordarshan in the country and by when these vacancies will be filled up, State-wise;

(b) the details of measures which have been taken to fill up the vacancies in the Eastern and North Eastern States; and

(c) by when the vacancies in Odisha will be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that there are 16764 vacancies in All India Radio (AIR) and Doordarshan (DD).

The measures taken to fill up the vacancies, including the posts vacant in the Eastern and the North Eastern States and the State of Odisha, are as follows:

(i) Approval of the Department of Expenditure has been conveyed for revival of 3067 posts.

- (ii) Pending setting up of Prasar Bharati Recruitment Board, the Government has approved recruitment for Group 'B' and 'C' posts, through the Staff Selection Commission (SSC), as a one-time special dispensation.
- (iii) SSC has recommended 2367 candidates for appointment against the revived posts. The pre-appointment formalities of these candidates have been initiated.

Irregularities in DD Kashir

2660. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has ordered a series of probes including one on DD Kashir and another in the number of consultants hired by the public broadcaster;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that an internal audit by Prasar Bharati, in 2013 revealed almost 5000 programmes produced for DD Kashir between 2010 and 2012 has not been telecast till October, 2013; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that an inquiry found 90 per cent of the contents unfit for telecast?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that there are complaints with regard to fresh commissioning of programmes on DD Kashir and settlement of payment liabilities for some inhouse productions. There has also been a complaint from some displaced persons seeking greater participation in programming.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Prasar Bharati has informed that a Committee set up by DD reviewed a small sample of these programmes and reported that many of the programmes were not of the desired standards.

Licence fee for Direct-to-Home service providers

2661. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Direct-to-Home players have sought further reduction in licence fee;