

(c) if so, what action, Government has taken to ensure proper representation as well as impartial news reporting with respect to marginalized sections of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) to (c) There is no such instance brought to the notice of the Ministry.

As per existing regulatory framework, all programmes and advertisements telecast on private satellite TV channels and transmitted/re-transmitted through the Cable TV network are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Cable Television Network Rules, 1994 framed thereunder. The Act does not provide for pre-censorship of any programme and advertisement telecast on such TV channels. However, it prescribes that all programmes and advertisements telecast on such TV channels should be in conformity with the prescribed Programme and Advertising Codes. These codes contain a whole range of parameters to regulate programmes and advertisements on TV channels.

In so far as Print Media is concerned, in order to preserve the right to freedom of expression enshrined in Article 19 of the Constitution of India, the Government does not interfere in the functioning of newspaper industry, as per its policy to uphold the freedom of press. However, The Press Council of India (PCI), a statutory autonomous body has been set up under the Press Council Act, 1978 with twin objectives to preserve the freedom of the Press and to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India.

Impact of shifting of News Service Division on Sindhi and Urdu

2486. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the News Service Division of All India Radio is being shifted to various States according to the languages;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the complete line of action; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that there are many languages like Sindhi and Urdu for which there are no native States and these languages may suffer a death knell?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that they took a decision about shifting of Indian language news bulletins to their respective regional units at various capital stations of AIR because their continuation in Delhi after the advent of satellite communication

system was unwarranted and a cause of unnecessary expenditure. The national news bulletins continues to be aired in their respective languages from the State capitals without any change in time or number of bulletins to ensure optimum utilization of News Readers-cum-Translator in various regional languages posted in News Services Division of AIR.

(c) Presently, the Sindhi Unit, which was shifted to Ahmedabad in 2005, is working effectively for more than a decade now. The casual News Reader-cum-Translators in Sindhi are adequately available in that particular region. There is no plan to shift the Urdu Unit from the Headquarters, Delhi.

Overhauling of Prasar Bharati

2487. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is pending with Government to overhaul the Prasar Bharati in view of repeated failure of the broadcaster to garner sufficient revenue to run its affairs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati's primary mandate is to organize and conduct public broadcasting service with the intent to inform, educate and entertain the public and to ensure a balanced development of broadcasting on radio and television in the country. Hence, revenue generation is not the main objective of Prasar Bharati. However, Prasar Bharati is generating its revenue through Internal Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR) to meet its operating expenses. The Government is also providing 100% salary support to Prasar Bharati and plan grant for creation of capital assets and content development.

Defunct publications

2488. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are a large number of defunct publications in the country;

(b) if so, the number of such publications; and