

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