

(c) whether it is also a fact that a Committee has been constituted for this purpose;

(d) if so, terms of reference given to the Committee and by when it is likely to submit its report; and

(e) whether the Ministry is trying to bring under its purview Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and Twitter which are presently under domain of the Ministry of Communications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) to (d) The Ministry of I&B had constituted a Committee on 4th April, 2018 for framing regulations for online media/news portals and online content including digital broadcasting which encompasses entertainment/infotainment and news/media aggregators. However, since Government had constituted an inter-Ministerial Committee on “Investment in Critical National Infrastructure, Digital Broadcasting and related issues” which in its first meeting held on 10th May, 2018 observed that some of the Terms of References (ToRs) and issues of the two Committees are common, a decision was taken to dovetail the ToR of the Committee constituted by this Ministry with that of the Committee on “Investment in Critical National Infrastructure, Digital Broadcasting and related issues”. There is no existing Committee for this purpose in Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

(e) There is no such proposal with the Ministry.

Blue print for Prasar Bharati

1992. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Prasar Bharati is focusing on preparation of a blue print for the future in terms of technology, the model of operation as well as a revenue generating business model;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to make Prasar Bharati better equipped to tackle growing competition;

(c) whether the Government proposes a major change and intends to rationalise role of Prasar Bharati; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) Prasar Bharati has intimated that induction of latest State-of-the-art technology for efficient operations and phasing out of obsolete technology is a continuous process. Due to decline of terrestrial TV viewership, Prasar Bharati has initiated the following actions:—

- (i) Phasing out analog terrestrial TV transmitters;
- (ii) Investment in digital platforms;
- (iii) Migration to HD platform;
- (iv) Rationalisation of Medium Wave and Short Wave Radio transmission of AIR;
- (v) Expansion of FM Stations;
- (vi) Investment in digital radio and internet radio capabilities;
- (vii) Greater monetization of digital content and archival content.

(b) to (d) In pursuance of the recommendations given by an expert Committee chaired by Dr. Sam Pitroda in its report, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) advised Prasar Bharati (PB) to get Manpower Audit and HR Planning exercise conducted to map workforce requirements for the future in view of the changes in technologies. Accordingly, PB has awarded the contract for carrying out Manpower Audit of PB in-line with the aforesaid recommendations.

Web news policy

1993. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is working to introduce a legislation to codify web media and news portals;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government is going to introduce legislation for mandatory registration of web news portals; and
- (d) the stand of Government to regulate the web news media?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) to (d) There is no such proposal with the Government to introduce a legislation to codify web media and news portals or to introduce legislation for mandatory registration of web