

Composition of Prasar Bharati Board

†1196. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether since the constitution of Prasar Bharati, a full composition of Prasar Bharati Board has not been done till now;

(b) whether permanent Directors have not been appointed in most of the Akashvani and Doordarshan Centres and posts of other specialists, officers and workers are also lying vacant in large number and promotion of many officers and employees has been pending for many years, if so, details of vacancies; and

(c) whether Government would consider to dissolve Prasar Bharati and again bring Doordarshan and Akashvani Centres under direct control, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) Appointment of Chairman and Members of Prasar Bharati is done in accordance with the Prasar Bharati Act. It is the endeavour of the Government to fill up vacant posts as expeditiously as possible.

(b) Appointment and promotion of officers and employees, arising of vacancies, filling up of vacancies in Prasar Bharati and its components *viz.* Akashvani and Doordarshan, is an ongoing process. In November 2019, 8029 posts in Doordarshan and 15,072 posts in Akashvani were vacant throughout the country. The Central Government has notified the Rules for establishment of Prasar Bharati Recruitment Board.

(c) At present, there is no proposal to dissolve Prasar Bharati.

Misinformation by Press Information Bureau

1197. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether corrective steps are taken in case of publication of misinformation by the Press Information Bureau (PIB), if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government is aware of the fact that the PIB had wrongly published about the release of certain funds by the Central Government to West Bengal State in response to damage caused by Cyclone Bulbul, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the PIB bears any liability for publishing any information shared by Government in Parliament which is factually wrong, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (c) The Press Information Bureau (PIB) endeavours to provide authentic and reliable information through its Press releases. PIB *vide* its Press Release I.D. 1594670 dated 03.12.2019 inadvertently linked the release of funds by Centre to Cyclone Bulbul. Corrigendum was issued *vide* PIB Press Release I.D. 1594965 on the very next date to clarify that the funds are made available to States in their State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) in advance for meeting relief expenditure for natural disasters, including cyclone.

Registration of e-papers

1198. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has proposed a draft to bring e-papers and digital news under its purview to replace Press and Registration of Books (PRB) Act, 1867 with Registration of Press and Periodicals Bill, 2019;

(b) how will the registration of e-papers help in overall development of the sector; and

(c) the reasons as to why the Bill also proposes to do away with the existing procedure or printers before the District Magistrate and its subsequent authentication?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (c) The draft 'Registration of Press and Periodicals Bill, 2019' has been prepared by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to replace the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867. The draft Bill provides that publishers of news on Digital Media shall register themselves with the Registrar of Newspapers of India in such manner and giving such particulars as may be prescribed.

The draft Bill proposes to do away with the existing procedure of furnishing of declaration by publishers/printers before the District Magistrate to simplify the process