

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 07.03.2011
ANSWERED ON
CORRUPTION CASES AGAINST CEO OF PRASAR BHARATI .

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Shri Ram Kripal Yadav

Will the Minister of COALINFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether Government has suspended CEO of Prasar Bharati on his pending corruption cases;
- (b) if so, which are those cases pending against him ;
- (c) what are the developments on those cases so far ;
- (d) the details thereof and the action taken , so far ?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M.JATUA)

(a) Yes Sir. In terms of section 7(2) of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990, Sh B S Lalli, has been placed under suspension by an order of the President dated 21.12.2010, till such time the orders of the President are made on the report of the Supreme Court, in respect of a Presidential reference made to it under section 7(1) of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990, on the basis of report of CVC.

(b) High Court of Delhi in its order passed in WP No.8780/2009 filed by Centre for Public Interest Litigation had directed that the allegations regarding the financial and administrative irregularities in Prasar Bharati be referred to the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) for appropriate investigation and report . Accordingly the allegations were referred to CVC by the Prasar Bharati Board. CVC in its report dated 16.07.2010 has established five out of seven allegations on which enquiry was conducted. These pertained to contracts for management of advertisement revenue arising from the telecast of cricket matches on Doordarshan during 2007, the non telecast by Doordarshan of T-20 cricket World Cup matches held in South Africa in September, 2007, engagement of legal entities to represent Prasar Bharati , purchase of Radio Broadcasting Rights for 13 cricket series held during 2007-2009 and hiring transport and accommodation for conduct of Commonwealth Youth Games Pune, 2008. CVC has held Chief Executive Officer, Prasar Bharati to be responsible in respect of four of these allegations. Further to the above, a High Level Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri V K Shunglu to look into the issues relating to organizing and conduct of Commonwealth Games Delhi, 2010, in its First Report on Host Broadcasting to the Government has concluded that “action/inaction are strongly suggestive of collusion between CEO, Prasar Bharati and DG:Doordarshan and the service providers(s), SIS LIVE/ZOOM Communications.”

(c) & (d) In view of the findings contained in the CVC report and on the advice of Ministry of Law a Presidential Reference has been made to the Supreme Court under section 7(1) of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 for conducting an enquiry and report as to whether Sh.B.S.Lalli , CEO, Prasar Bharati ought to be removed from the office of member, Executive , Prasar Bharati on ground of misbehavior Sh.B.S.Lalli has been placed under suspension by the President of India by an order dated 21.12.2010 till such time the orders are passed by the President of India on the basis of report from the Supreme Court. The supreme court in its preliminary hearing on 14.2.2011 heard the matter and has ordered that the statement of the case be filed within 3 weeks and the response thereto be filed within 3 weeks thereafter. With regard to the findings of the HLC, M/o Information and Broadcasting has sought the explanation of Shri B S Lalli, CEO(under suspension), Prasar Bharati and another officer on each of the allegations made against them in the report of the Committee. Further, a copy of the report was referred to the CBI through the Department of Personnel and Training for further action as deemed appropriate. CBI has since been permitted by the Ministry under Section 6(A) of Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) for registration of a regular case and initiation of criminal investigation against Shri B S Lalli under Section 120-B r/w 420 IPC r/w 13(2) r/w 13(1)(d) of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.