

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO07.03.2011
ANSWERED ON
COLLISION OF PRASAR BHARATI WITH SIS LIVE .

1164

Smt. Kusum Rai

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

- (a) whether, as per the report of V.K. Shunglu Committee, Prasar Bharati deliberately colluded with SIS live, a UK based firm, and changes were made in the broadcast contract without approval of the Ministry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether CAG in its audit, has also found that SIS Live's deal with Zoom Communication has harmed Doordarshan ;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of action taken / proposed to be taken against the guilty and the details of the person whose responsibility has been fixed in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (Dr. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry authorized Prasar Bharati to finalize and execute the contract while conveying its approval on the selection of M/s SIS Live in accordance with the draft contract annexed to the Request For Proposal (RFP), as approved by the Competent Authority, subject to such legal vetting as deemed necessary. However the entity desired a number of changes on which serious differences did crop up amongst Members of Host Broadcaster Management Committee (HBMC) and accordingly the issues got referred by Prasar Bharati to the learned Solicitor General who ultimately settled the draft. The draft so settled was also subsequently approved in the HBMC meeting. As advised by Solicitor General, two changes got referred to the Competent Authority, of which one pertaining to changing the payment schedule was not accepted and the other pertaining to waiver of Bank Guarantee for the release of first two payments was accepted.

(c) CAG is yet to submit its final report to the Government.

(d) Doesn't arise.

(e) Director General, Doordarshan has been reverted to her parent cadre following the expiry of her tenure on 19.02.2011. Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has sought the explanation of Shri B.S. Lalli, CEO, Prasar Bharati (under suspension) and Ms. Aruna Sharma, the then DG:Doordarshan on each of the allegations made against them in the report of the Committee. Further action will be initiated by the Ministry after receipt and examination of their explanations.

A copy of the report of High Level Committee has been referred to the Central Bureau of Investigation through Department of Personnel & Training for further action as deemed appropriate. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has since been permitted by the Ministry under Section 6(A) of Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946 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.