

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2636
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.03.2023)**

PRASAR BHARATI NEWS SERVICE

2636. SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR:

Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

- (a) when was Prasar Bharati News Service (PBNS) set up as a distinct digital arm of Prasar Bharati and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether it is meant to fill the gap of PTI;
- (c) the details of its commercial income and expenditure since then;
- (d) the reasons as to why Hindusthan Samachar is engaged, if PBNS is successful;
- (e) the amount that has been paid to Hindusthan Samachar, year-wise, or whether it will be paid under the new arrangement; and
- (f) the amount paid by Prasar Bharati and Doordarshan to ANI for different purposes in the last five years?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

(a) & (b): Prasar Bharati News Service (PBNS) is a part of Digital platform of Prasar Bharati which was setup to strengthen its digital presence to reach the domestic as well as global audience in the fast emerging digital world whereas Press Trust of India (PTI) is a news agency which was earlier providing news feed to Doordarshan and All India Radio.

(c):

(Figures in Rs. crore)

Financial Year	Income from Digital Platform	Expenditure of Prasar Bharati News Service (PBNS)
2018-19	0.48	Till the year 2020-21, consolidated budget was being allocated to PB Secretariat which included the budget for PBNS
2019-20	1.02	
2020-21	2.57	
2021-22	2.94	2.32 (approx.)
2022-23*	3.10	4.05

* upto January, 2023

(d): Hindusthan Samachar has been engaged to provide News Feed for National coverage in Hindi, Urdu and in Marathi, Odiya, Bangla, Asamiya, Punjabi, Kannada, Telugu, Gujarati, English and Nepali for Regional coverage whereas Prasar Bharati News Service (PBNS) is a part of Digital platform of Prasar Bharati which was setup to strengthen its digital presence to reach the domestic as well as global audience in the fast emerging digital world.

(e): The services of Hindusthan Samachar have been engaged by Prasar Bharati based on a commercial agreement as per the rates fixed after following due process.

(f): The services of ANI have been engaged by Prasar Bharati based on a commercial agreement as per the rates fixed after following due process.
