

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 89  
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.07.2023)**

**PRASAR BHARATI NEWS SERVICE**

**89. SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government plans to shut down Prasar Bharati News Service;
- (b) whether its head has resigned and several of its employees assigned elsewhere;
- (c) the amount spent directly and indirectly on this News Service since inception and how much it earned from Government agencies and from outside of Government;
- (d) the amount that has been paid under all heads put together to Hindustan Samachar, PTI and ANI in the last three years; and
- (e) the budget or estimate for payments to these three agencies in the current Financial Year?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b) No Sir. Prasar Bharati News Service (PBNS) is a part of Digital platform of Prasar Bharati setup to strengthen its digital presence.

Head of PBNS was engaged on contract basis and has resigned. The contractual staff in Prasar Bharati is deployed as per the organizational requirements of Prasar Bharati.

(c) During the years 2018-19 to 2021-22, PBNS was in inception stage and its expenditure was met from the consolidated budget of Prasar Bharati Secretariat. The provisional expenditure of PBNS for the year 2022-23 was Rs. 5.14 crore.

The total earnings of Prasar Bharati from all Digital platforms including PBNS from 2018-19 to 2022-23 is Rs. 10.58 crore.

(d) Total amount paid to News agencies by PBNS is Rs. 6.72 crore in the last 3 years.

(e) The Budget Estimate for 2023-24 for payment to the News Agencies by Prasar Bharati is Rs. 3.00 crore.

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