

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 382
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.03.2018

SALARIES OF THE EMPLOYEES OF PRASAR BHARATI

*382. SHRI SUMAN BALKA :
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether her Ministry has not released the funds meant for the payment of salaries to the employees of Prasar Bharati since December, 2017 and the organization had to pay the salaries of its employees for January and February, 2018 from its own contingency funds and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether there was a delay in releasing funds, as a result of which salaries of thousands of Doordarshan and All India Radio(AIR) staff had not been paid and if so, the details thereof ; and
- (c) whether her Ministry has not released the grants-in-aid to Prasar Bharati so far during the current year, if so, the details thereof and the reason therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
[SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI]

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement as referred in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 382 for answer on 22/3/2018

(a) & (b): The release of funds to Prasar Bharati which is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is linked to signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry and Prasar Bharati. As per the recommendations of the Expenditure Management Commission chaired by Dr. Bimal Jalan, Eminent Economist/Public Policy Expert, each Ministry /Department should enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with their Autonomous Bodies, on the same lines as done for Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), clearly laying down the performance parameters as also the roadmap to carry out the intended course of action. As per the report, Organizations that distinctly serve “a public purpose” specially in sectors with significant externalities need to be strengthened further and at the same time may be encouraged to raise internal resources.

Rule 229(xi) of General Financial Rules, 2017 also prescribes the requirement of signing of MoU by the Autonomous Organizations with their Administrative Ministry/Department. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has been pursuing with Prasar Bharati, since March 2017, to sign the MoU and several reminders have been issued to them. However, Prasar Bharati had not furnished the MoU as per prescribed norms. Nevertheless, the Ministry has released funds amounting to Rs.1989 crore under Grants-in-Aid Salaries to Prasar Bharati from April, 2017 to December 2017. The salaries of Prasar Bharati's employees for the months of January and February, 2018, have been paid by Prasar Bharati from their Internal Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR).

The revised MoU received from Prasar Bharati has been considered in the Ministry and sent to them with some modifications to take further steps for signing the MoU with the Ministry.

Prasar Bharati earns nearly Rs. 1400.00 crore per year which is their IEBR. The total financial requirements of Prasar Bharati are met by combining IEBR with Grant-in-Aid releases from the Government. Prasar Bharati has to pay for Spectrum Charges and Satellite Charges from IEBR but for past several years has not been making any payment to Department of Space and Department of Telecommunications and the dues mounted to Rs. 1824.24 crore.

(c) No Madam. The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has released Grants-in-Aid to Prasar Bharati in the current financial year (2017-18) as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Object Head	Grant released from April 2017 to December 2017	Grant released from January 2018 to till date
1.	Grant-in-aid - Salaries	1989.00	2.75
2.	Grant-in-aid-General (Leave Salary & Pension Contribution)	49.175	87.655
3.	Grants for Creation of Capital assets	179.86	-
4.	Grant-in-aid - General for Kisan Channel	25.45	12.00
