HINDUSTHAN SAMACHAR AGENCY

4519. SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN:

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

(a) whether Prasar Bharati has entered into agreement with Hindusthan Samachar Agency, if so, the details of the agreement;

(b) whether it is true that agreements were earlier entered with Hindusthan Samachar Agency by Prasar Bharati and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there will be any verification mechanism of the news being provided by Hindusthan Samachar Agency before publishing, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Prasar Bharati has such agreement with any other news agencies nationally and internationally, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether as part of agreement Prasar Bharati has to pay money to Hindusthan Samachar Agency, and if so, the details thereof and financial repercussions on Prasar Bharati as a result of this move?
THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND
MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS (SHRI ANURAG SINGH
THAKUR)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati has recently signed an agreement with M/s Hindusthan Samachar for the period 14.02.2023 to 31.03.2025 for providing News Feed in different languages. An agreement was signed between Prasar Bharati and M/s Hindusthan Samachar on 30th January 2020 for the period from 14.02.2020 to 13.02.2021 and by another agreement, the period was extended for further two years from 14.02.2021 to 13.02.2023.

(c) & (d): Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati gets news feeds from multiple sources nationally and internationally which includes Asian News International (ANI), Reuters & AVN. All the content broadcast/telecast on AIR and DD is in accordance with the objectives of Prasar Bharati Act of 1990 and in compliance with the approved guidelines of Prasar Bharati.

(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.