

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4566
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.03.2023)

CONTRACT BY PRASAR BHARATI WITH HINDUSTAN SAMACHAR

4566. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

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

(a) whether the Prasar Bharati, which runs Doordarshan and All India Radio (AIR), has signed an exclusive contract with Hindustan Samachar for daily newsfeed and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government is aware of reports that Hindustan Samachar having an ideological slant raising concerns of objectivity in news reporting and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the process under which the Prasar Bharati empanels a news agency for providing newsfeed;

(d) whether a panel was involved in selecting the newsfeed provider for Prasar Bharati and if so, the details of panelists and news providers who were shortlisted;

(e) whether the Press Trust of India was revoked of its contract upon termination of their contract period of subscription with Prasar Bharati; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): No, Sir. Prasar Bharati gets news feeds from multiple sources including Hindusthan Samachar, which is one of the agencies. Hindusthan Samachar was providing services to All India Radio and Doordarshan in the 1970s, even before formation of Prasar Bharati. Based on requirement of All India Radio and Doordarshan, Prasar Bharati engaged the services of Hindusthan Samachar.

(c) & (d): Prasar Bharati enters into an agreement with the news agencies for obtaining and using their news feed with pre-defined terms and conditions as mutually agreed.

(e) & (f): Prasar Bharati has informed that it availed the subscription to the Press Trust of India (PTI) services on the basis of an ad-hoc pro-rata arrangement from the year 2006 onwards. Prasar Bharati informed PTI on 15.10.2020 that Prasar Bharati Board had decided to end the ad-hoc arrangement.
