

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2016
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.02.2021)**

AMENDMENT TO SPORTS BROADCASTING SIGNALS (MANDATORY SHARING WITH PRASAR BHARTI) ACT 2007.

2016. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:

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

- (a) whether the objective of the Sports Broadcasting Signals (Mandatory Sharing With Prasar Bharti) Act 2007 is being achieved, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has any plans to amend the said Act, especially in light of the Supreme Court Judgement in Civil Appeal No. (S) 10732-10733 of 2017 delivered on August 22, 2017 and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has undertaken any consultation process for amending the said Act, if so, progress and details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has re-evaluated the need of the Sports Broadcasting Signals (Mandatory Sharing With Prasar Bharti) Act 2007 in light of the transformation of the public consumption of content over mobile and internet and if so, details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has framed any policy or guidelines for notifying matches of national importance under the Act and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE;
MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER OF
HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)**

(a): Yes, Sir. The Sports Broadcasting Signals (Mandatory Sharing with Prasar Bharati) Act, 2007 was enacted to provide access to the largest number of listeners and viewers, on a free to air basis, of sporting events of national importance through mandatory sharing of sports broadcasting signals with Prasar Bharati and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Keeping in view the enabling provisions of the Act, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has been notifying national or international sporting events, held in India or abroad, as 'sporting events of national importance' for the purpose of sharing of the live broadcasting signal, without its advertisements, of these sporting events with Prasar Bharati by the content rights owner or holder. Thus, the content is available to largest number of listeners and viewers, on a free to air basis through Prasar Bharati.

(b), (c) & (d): The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had initiated a proposal to amend Section 3(1) of the Sports Broadcasting Signals (Mandatory Sharing with Prasar Bharati) Act, 2007 in consultation with various stakeholders so as to enable

Prasar Bharati to retransmit the live broadcasting signals on its own terrestrial network and Direct-to-Home network and on other television distribution platforms / networks where it is mandatory to broadcast mandatory channels notified by the Union Government under Section 8 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.

A Writ Petition challenging provisions of the Act is pending before Hon'ble High Court of Delhi. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has decided to maintain status-quo in the matter.

(e): Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, under the Sports Broadcasting Signals (Mandatory Sharing with Prasar Bharati) Act, 2007, has been notifying national or international matches, as 'sporting events of national importance' from time to time in consultation with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and the Prasar Bharati. Further, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 7 of the Sports Broadcasting Signals (Mandatory Sharing with Prasar Bharati) Act, 2007, the Central Government has notified the Sports Broadcast Signals (Mandatory Sharing with Prasar Bharati) Rules, 2007.
