

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:101

ANSWERED ON:23.02.2006

PRASAR BHARTI

Suman Shri Ramji Lal;Yerrannaidu Shri Kinjarapu

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

(a) the present financial status of the Prasar Bharati, the public television and broadcast corporation;

(b) whether the Government proposes to make Prasar Bharati into a commercially viable enterprise, and; if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.101 FOR ANSWER ON 23RD FEBRUARY 2006 REGARDING PRASAR BHARATI.

(a) Prasar Bharati switched over from the Government budgeting system to a new accounting system with effect from 1st April, 2000. Pursuant to this, Prasar Bharati receives financial support from the Central Government in the form of Grants-in-aid to cover part of its revenue expenditure (Plan and Non-Plan) and loans to cover part of its capital expenditure (Plan). The revenue earnings, which were required to be credited into the Consolidated Fund of India prior to its delinking from Government budgeting system, are now retained by Prasar Bharati. A part of Prasar Bharati's expenditure both under the Plan and the Non-Plan schemes is met by it through its revenue earnings i.e., Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR).

The funding pattern during the last two financial years is given in the Table below:-

[Rs. in crore]
Year Grant-in-Aid Loan IEBR Total
Non-Plan Plan Total

2003-'04	910	119	1,029	71	568	1,668
2004-'05	924	92	1,016	92	717	1,825

{Note:-Figures provisional}

(b) & (c): The role of Prasar Bharati is different from other private broadcasters as it is not driven on motivated solely by the commercial considerations. The Government has constituted a Committee to suggest a viable capital and financial structure for Prasar Bharati to strengthen its functioning. The ten member Committee is headed by Secretary (I&B) and represented by senior-level officers of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting as well as Prasar Bharati, Advisor (C&I), Planning Commission and the Joint Secretary in the Department of Expenditure under Ministry of Finance. The Committee's recommendations are awaited.