

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1616
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2006
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PRASAR BHARATI
Chinta Mohan Dr. ;Singh Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan)

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

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating to impose cess on the purchase of TV sets to provide financial assistance to Prasar Bharati;
- (b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the amount likely to be provided to Prasar Bharati as financial assistance annually through the said collection?

Answer

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

(a), (b) & (c): A committee under the chairmanship of Secretary I&B was constituted on 30.03.2005 by the Government for suggesting a viable capital and financial structure of Prasar Bharati to strengthen its functioning. The Committee has dealt and deliberated on the restructuring options available and submitted its Report to the Government, which inter-alia, also include a suggestion for introduction of license fee at an ad-velorem rate of 5% / 10% on all the television sets at the point of production, collected through Excise Department. The Report is currently before the Group of Ministers (GoM), constituted by the Government to examine the various options pertaining to functioning of Prasar Bharati. Providing any sort of financial assistance to Prasar Bharati, including the issue of license fee would depend on the decision of GoM.