



# National Federation

of

## Akashvani and Doordarshan Employees (NFADE)

Room No. 333, Akashvani Bhawan, New Delhi - 110001

Website : [www.nfade.org](http://www.nfade.org)

NFADE/ MIB/ 2009/14

27/11/09

Ref. No. :-

Date : .....

Chairman  
Anilkumar S.  
9818759192

Smt. Ambika Soni,  
Hon'ble Minister  
Ministry of Information & Broadcasting  
New Delhi.

Secretary General  
Kulbhushan Bhatia  
9968272157

**Sub: Repeal Prasar Bharati Act 1990**

**Ref: Various letters and meetings with your goodself.**

Ma'm,

We are grateful to your goodself for the meeting granted on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2009 in which you were kind enough to extend a patient hearing on the issues raised by this Federation for the interest of AIR & Doordarshan and its employees.

We have received positive approach from your goodself on our demands of

***Repeal of PB Act,***

***Starting of the meetings of Departmental Council,***

***Starting of the meeting of the committee constituted to decide the status of Prasar Bharati, under the chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of I&B and***

***Funding of AIR& DD directly from the Ministry.***

We request your kind attention to the following few points which proves that the relevance of PB Act today is not as was, compared to the situation prevailing way back in 1978, 1990 & 1997.

**The experiments over the last 12 years proved that Prasar Bharati is not only financially unviable but defeated its very basic concept.**

Your goodself is aware that the concept of Akash Darshan was brought in 1978 by Sh. L. K. Advani, the then Minister for I&B and the Hon'ble Parliament passed the PB Act in 1990. The scenario in 1978, 1990 & 1995 was totally different from today. There was allegedly a monopoly of Govt. during those days which was criticised by various political parties and even the hon'ble court.

The verdict of Hon'ble High Court, Calcutta & Hon'ble Supreme Court has freed the airwaves from the Monopoly of any agency/individual including the

1 ARTEE

2 PSA OF AIR&DD

3 ADTEA

4 ADEA

5 Akhil Bharatiya  
Akashvani Gr.D  
Karamchari Sangh

6 AIR&DD Motor Drivers  
Association

7 AIR&DD Stenographers  
Association

8 DD Group D Union

9 Akashvani Announcers  
Association

10 DPPA

11 DPPU

12 AIR CCW Employees  
Union

13 JE Association CCW, AIR

14 AEs(E) of CCW

15 Audience Research  
Employees Association

16 DDNP Forum

17 ARSA

18 ADLSA

19 DCWA

20 Broadcasting Musician  
Association of AIR

21 CPEA of AIR&DD

7/11/09



Govt. in 1995 thus opened the Indian media to Commercial (Private) Broadcasters. Today we have 454 TV channels and 248 Radio channels (with another 320 waiting for license) in the private network- as Commercial Broadcasters; the public now has many options at the press of the few buttons of remote control.

Many of the countries around the world have the concept of '**National Broadcasters**' as well as '**Public Service Broadcasters**' with distinct identities, in addition to the **Commercial Broadcasters**.

**The duties of the "National Broadcaster" include ensuring the integrity & security of the country while informing the masses about the policy initiatives of the Government.**

*It is also accepted worldwide that it is the responsibility of the Government of the Day of the Country to ensure the existence of the National Broadcaster in the interest of the country.*

**The duties of the "Public Service Broadcaster" is to inform, educate and entertain the population of the country without any discrimination on the basis of cast, language, gender, age, geographical conditions etc...etc.**

*It is accepted principle worldwide that the existence of the Public Service Broadcaster is the necessity and thereby the responsibility of the democracy of the country.*

**AIR & Doordarshan is the unique organisation in the world endowed with the dual role of National as well as Public Service Broadcaster. Both these roles are clearly laid out in Section 12 of PB Act. Hence it shows that it is the responsibility of the Government as well as the democracy of this country to ensure the existence of AIR & Doordarshan in India.**

The experience of the last nine years and the movements of the employees under the platform of NFADE proved beyond doubt that Prasar Bharati **cannot survive financially** while serving the dual responsibilities to the Nation and it cannot be compared with any broadcaster of the world.

**The developments for the last 7-8 months proved it undoubtedly that the Prasar Bharati Board is least bothered about the organisation or its employees. The management group is instead being seen as a group of self-serving officials. Things are in total mess in both AIR&DD, in the absence of futuristic policies and guidelines from the Ministry of I&B. It seems everything is being taken for granted by Prasar Bharati Management.**

Most of the political parties have reconciled to the opinion that Prasar Bharati board is not able to come up to the expectations. Leaders of major political parties have echoed the sentiments in discussions, that Prasar Bharati board has neither brought any major changes to its functioning nor gave any contribution to the country since its inception.

Though the Hon'ble Supreme Court expressed its reservations on handling of media by any individual agency, if we go by the holding patterns we find that the Private Channels in India are being run by individuals or agencies only!

*Moreover the Hon'ble Supreme Court, in the ongoing case (since 2005) did not direct the Govt to implement the Act, rather it directed the govt to take any credible decision on employees, i.e. to take them to Corporation or to retain with the Govt. Hon'ble Court have repeatedly pointed out that their duty is to ensure the implementation of the law/Act passed by the Executive (Govt) but it is for the Govt to take decisions on creation/amendment/withdrawal of any Law/Act.*



Repeal of Prasar Bharati Act will purely be a political decision in the larger interests of the nation. If the prevailing circumstances are an indication, handing over the 1800 stations and more than 38000 workforce to a Corporation, may prove to be unsustainable risk to the cause of the integrity and security of this Nation.

*It is also a fact that most of the countries ranging from America to China and Angola to Zimbabwe are maintaining their National Broadcaster for protecting the interests of respective country.*

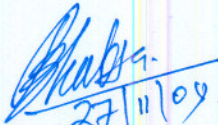
*But we are confident that if your goodself seek a report on the performance of Prasar Bharati for the last 12 years, it will be disheartening to note that prior to 1997 AIR & Doordarshan were fulfilling the responsibilities of National Broadcaster & Public Service Broadcaster better in comparison with the Prasar Bharati Era. This proves clearly that Prasar Bharati has failed in its basic responsibility. Board members, whoever it may be, were busy with their wishful agendas- all signs of a white elephant.*

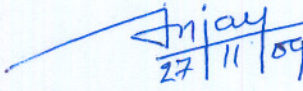
While considering all these factors, we request your goodself to kindly think seriously for repealing the Prasar Bharati Act 1990 and thereby taking the responsibility of the smooth functioning of the National Public Service Broadcaster of the country.

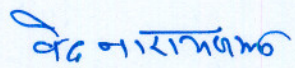
May we recall that madam, your goodself was kind enough to assure in the meeting held on 26/10/09 that we will be granted a full fledged meeting to discuss our presentation on the status of Prasar Bharati, in detail. We request your goodself to kindly grant an urgent meeting so that we can bring the matter in detail to your kind notice.

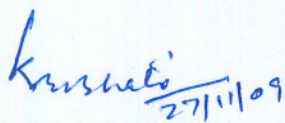
With warm regards,

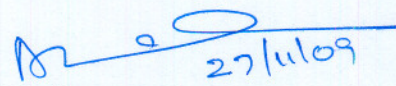
Sincerely yours

  
(P. N. Bhakta)  
Vice Chairman  
Ph: 9868915663

  
(Sanjay Kumar)  
Vice Chairman  
Ph: 9868470208

  
(V. N. Jha)  
Vice Chairman  
Ph: 9818075427

  
(Kulbhushan Bhatia)  
Secretary General  
Ph: 9968272157

  
(Anilkumar S)  
Chairman  
Ph: 9818759192