

“ Save Akashvani & Doordarshan”
– the National & Public Service Broadcaster of India

Dear colleagues and comrades,

The tireless efforts of NFADE for the last 6 years brought a lot of fruits for us. some of these are :- Protecting the status of Govt. Employee henceforth restoration of facilities (of Central Government Employees) such as General Pool Accommodation, CGHS facility, admission of wards in Central School etc, benefits of 6th Central Pay Commission and MACP to the entire employees of AIR & DD (along/at par with other Central Government employees), decision of Hon'ble GoM and thereafter by the Union cabinet to retain the employees of AIR&DD, joined upto 05/10/2007 as Central Government employees on deemed deputation in Prasar Bharati etc..etc.

You are all aware that the proposed mass casual leave of 17th March 2010 was deferred on written assurance of CEO & Ministry officials that our demand of Repeal Prasar Bharati Act, will be forwarded to the GoM. But unfortunately, the Prasar Bharati & Ministry did not present the demand of NFADE before the GoM held on 16/4/2010 (CEO accepted this when we met him on the night of 16/4/2010 - his excuse was that the agenda for 16th April meeting was financial restructure only). We came to know that the GoM did not discuss our demand in that meeting.

On the other hand, CEO Prasar Bharati succeeded in misleading the GoM by claiming revenue, more than 55% of the expenditure of Prasar Bharati. Immediately we have submitted a letter to the Hon'ble Ministers of the GoM, seeking a meeting to discuss the real financial status of Prasar Bharati. Copies of the letter to Sh. P. Chidambaram & Smt. Ambika Soni are available in www.nfadeindia.org.

Prasar Bharati & Ministry of I&B has proposed to Hon'ble GoM, in its meeting held on 17th June 2010 but Hon'ble GoM decided to constitute two committees one to propose necessary amendments in the Prasar Bharati Act and the other to propose on staff matters. It is learnt that PB & Ministry of I&B were asked to constitute the Prasar Bharati Recruitment Boards at the latest by 30th September 2010 to recruit the employees for Prasar Bharati. The CEO, Prasar Bharati and the task force are at full pace to start the recruitments. It is also learnt that the recruitment process will take place only for the vacancies as per the report of National Productivity Council, which recommended a huge reduction in employees of AIR & DD with a single concept to reduce the employees.

Meanwhile Prasar Bharati Secretariat started formalities for re-notification of recruitment rules and prepare the service conditions for the employees recruited after 05.10.2007 and for future recruitments. It is also learnt that Prasar Bharati is still making efforts for recruitment on 3600 posts on 5 year contractual system through its own recruitment board. Once this recruitment is started, PB will quickly recruit thousands of its own employees (whether regular or contractual) who will be deputed to major Kendra's. In this case we will loose our bargaining power. Please remember, till today whatever we have achieved it is because of our Unity and bargaining power. Once we loose these, we will be at the mercy of Management. Our fate may be similar to the fate of so many organizations, converted to corporations like DESU, National Airport Authority, BSNL, MTNL, BALCO, NALCO, ITDC etc. Our job, Salary, Pensions everything will come under severe threat.

On the other hand efforts are being made to implement the recommendations of National Productivity Council, which has recommended, without being aware of the different types of working system in various stations of AIR & DD. The report was rejected by the directorates of

both AIR & Doordarshan, immediately after it's submission. The NPC report proposes to curtail 50% of the present regular employees to make Prasar Bharati a financially viable organization (in addition to the assurance from the Govt to grant salary for the employees who joined upto 05.10.2007). It is ironical that the same Prasar Bharati has been demanding from Govt and GoM for the sanction to fill up the vacant posts (near about 12000) in AIR & DD and on the other hand planning to run the organization with half of the present strength. Same is the condition for Finance: PB used to maintain a reserve fund (non lapsable fund) of Rs.571 Crores to face any exigencies. It is learnt that the entire amount has been drained out to meet the day to day expenditure in addition to the Grant in aid from the Govt and the income from AIR&DD under IEBR. It was clarified to Ministry of I&B by Hon'ble GoM that Prasar Bharati don't have any amount in its non lapsable fund. The organization has suffered a lot in the maintenance of assets and equipments for the last some years due to the shortage fund. The transmitters and stations established in borders of the country with the National interest are now performing very badly since the Prasar Bharati don't have money to procure spare equipments and accessories. It is the reality for the last 15 months that Salary for some station were not been paid even upto the first weekend till the pressure from the Federation & Associations. The normal bills like OTA, Medical, Tour TA/DA are pending for months in most of the stations. Even the employees are deprived of training courses due to lack of funds in stations to pay the TA/DA. Such an organization presenting a glory picture to GoM that they can earn revenue at an extent of 50% of the annual expenditure! It is a reality that the expenditure will increase regularly due to increase in maintenance cost of the huge assets in accordance with the inflation in the market and other monthly expenditures like DA and other facilities to the employees.

On one hand, most of the revenue under IEBR (advertisement and other revenues) come through various Govt departments and on the other hand, the percentage share of AIR & DD in the Advertising market is coming down due to the increase in number of Private (Commercial) Broadcasters in India. The same CEO & Prasar Bharati who were exploring the possibilities of mortgaging the immovable assets with banks, like HDFC, are now convincing the Hon'ble GoM & the Government to transfer the huge assets worth more Rs.100000.00 (One lakh) crore, at a book value of a meager amount of Rs.4258 Crores only ! (for a total of 1464 Doordarshan stations & 336 AIR installations).

It is the high time for us to expose the reality in front of the political leadership and intellectuals and masses, of the country, for whom we are functioning as National & Public Service Broadcaster. Take it as a challenge to approach influential people of the country to save the organization from further turmoil.

Be united to protect our service. Be ready for any call from the Federation

With warm regards,

Yours

Kulbhushan Bhatia
Secretary General

Anilkumar S
Chairman