

A report on the meeting by CEO Prasar Bharati with Recognised Associations

Dear Comrades,

The Presidents & General Secretaries of the 10 Recognised Associations had a meeting with the CEO, Prasar Bharati in the conference Hall of the Prasar Bharati Secretariat at 13.30 Hrs on 06.06.2013. While welcoming the Associations, Shri. Jawhar Sircar, CEO Prasar Bharati stated that the biggest stumbling block is the fraud autonomy of PB where PB is not getting proper support from Ministry. He informed that PB succeeded in getting the approval of Home Ministry for the use of National Emblem for it. He informed *that necessary instructions will be issued to include the National Emblem in the Identity cards of the employees.*

He informed about recent initiatives taken by Prasar Bharati and was pleased to tell that DD has improved its ratings as per recently released comparison by various marketing survey agencies. A paper containing such information also distributed to all Associations. He also informed that PB won the case against ESPN for getting feed of Cricket matches without any advertisements and accordingly now the Cricket matches without any break for advertisements will be played in National Channel of Doordarshan.

He pointed that the immediate need for welfare of the employees in Prasar Bharati is Recruitments of employees, promotion for existing employees & financial consolidation. He assured to call Consultative meetings under his chairmanship in every six months with Presidents/ General Secretaries.

The four hour long meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere in which the following issues were discussed:

Sam Pitroda Committee:

We demanded that there should be representation from employee side in Sam Pitroda Committee. CEO informed that Sam Pitroda Committee is looking for better functioning of Prasar Bharati and the details of the 11 subcommittees will be provided to the Associations. When the CEO commented that some of the officers within from AIR & Doordarshan were of the view point for the non viability of the services through terrestrial transmission, *we stressed that we cannot accept any move to abolish the Terrestrial transmission which is the identity of the National Broadcaster. We demanded for the narrowcasting (Transmission of local programmes) if PB or DD is looking for the betterment of the organization. We categorically stated that the employees are sentimentally attached with the terrestrial transmitters and thereby we will strongly oppose any movement to wind up the terrestrial transmitters.*

Security of Employees & Installations:

We have pointed out the security threat to the employees of AIR & DD especially at disturbed areas in the light of Jagdalpur incident. It was informed that M(P), PB has already written detailed letter to the Secretary, Home Affairs to take care of the protection of our installations & employees. *We further demanded all facilities, as per the directives of the Ministry of Home Affairs, including risk allowances and the assured posting back to their choice place for the employees posted at the Naxalite affected areas. CEO agreed to explore this possibility.*

Meetings at various levels as per JCM Scheme: we have pointed that a number of points mentioned in the letter dated 28 May 2013 issued by the PB Secretariat to both DGs were gross violation of the JCM Scheme of DOP&T and CEO assured to modify it with corrigendum at the earliest.

Shortage of Funds in Salary Head: It was pointed out that the payments such as medical bills, OTA for the last 2-3 years, DA arrears are not been settled to the employees at very good number of stations across the country. CEO informed that PB is getting less amount of fund from Government and in last year also they adjusted money from IEBR to ensure the salary be paid in time. He along with Member (F) assured to provide funds to the stations wherever additional funds are required in salary head, electricity & security. The badly effected stations like LPTs falling under DMC Burdwan, DMC Bhagalpur, DMC Motihari and DMC Jamshedpur where even allowances like MACP Arrears, OTA Allowances etc are pending specially mentioned as an examples of problems in Fund Distribution.

Cadre Review : We have demanded immediate implementation of Cadre Review for all the employees of AIR & DD since the report of the three committees of Engineering, Programme & Administration with some fine tuning due to the delay of the last two years will solve a good number of staff related issues. We pointed that M(P) in his welcome meeting also agreed to this point. CEO directed officials to immediately work on this report. It is also pointed out that the issues attained finality by Apex Courts are being delayed for implementation.

Annual Subscriptions: Associations pointed that inspite of the assurance in the meeting with M(P) necessary instruction are still to be issued the DDOs for sending the details of the subscription to the Associations concerned. It is demanded to make annual subscriptions of members of every Association in place of monthly subscription to ease the workload on Associations as well as on office. We have demanded PB to issue strict instructions to all DDOs to send the details of the membership to the Associations concerned. CEO directed the official to issue the order in this regard.

Facilities to Associations: It is pointed that rooms are not allotted to the Recognised Associations despite the assurance in the meeting with M(P). It was demanded that Association be provided room for it's office for smooth functioning.

Regularization of TSW employees, In situ promotion to Programme cadres, creation of Presentation Wing of AIR&DD to take care of Announcers, comparers etc, reviving of the cadres like Lighting Assistants, Cenic designer which were declared dying cadres some time ago, etc also raised in the meeting.

It was demanded by all Associations that the schemes like in situ promotion should be applicable to all cadres.

Brig (Retd) Shri. VAM Hussain, Member (P), Shri. B.B.Pandit, Member (Finance), Shri. L.D. Mondloi, DG:AIR, Shri. Tripurari Sharan, DG:DD, Shri. R.K.Sinha, E-in-C (DD), Shri. Yuvraj Bajaj, E-in-C (AIR) and almost all senior officers of PB, AIR &DD were present in the meeting.

Shri. Umesh Chandra, President & Shri. Anilkumar S, General Secretary represented ARTEE.

Minutes of the meeting are awaited.
