

An Appeal to oppose strongly against official amendments to the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Amendment Bill, 2010

The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on 2nd Nov, 2011 for pursuing the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Amendment Bill, 2010 pending in Rajya Sabha in Parliament for its enactment and also to move the official amendments in the Rajya Sabha. Cabinet also approved the action taken on the recommendations made in the Eighteenth Report on “**Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Amendment Bill, 2010**” of the Standing Committee on Information Technology.

The Cabinet further approved the amendment to **section 11(2)** of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Amendment Bill, 2010 pending in the Rajya Sabha by the addition of the words “**and until their retirement**” at the end of the section. This will make the status of the employees recruited between 23.11.1997 and 05.10.2007, i.e., they are on deemed deputation to Prasar Bharati till their retirement absolutely clear and unambiguous.

The Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Amendment Bill 2010 has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha in August, 2010. The Bill is for making amendments to the existing section 11 of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990, regarding “**Transfer of service of existing employees to the Corporation**”, which deals with the transfer of services of employees to Prasar Bharati upon its creation as a Corporation in the year 1997.

Regrettably, the recommendations of GoM (Group of Ministers) which were placed before the Standing Committee on Information Technology presents one-sided picture of the issue of “**deemed deputation**” contravening DOPT norms as demanded by a section of employees under the influence of NFADE leadership. But significantly, it is to be noted that a sizable chunk of existing government employees are still willing to join Prasar Bharati if the “Recruitment rules & Service Conditions” are framed in its’ true spirit as per “**MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) signed between the Prasar Bharati and the employees representatives**” in the year 2003. Because, DOPT has already clarified that “**deemed deputation**” or “**deputation**” cannot be a permanent measure. Such measures can be valuable only in transit period. Not only that, deputation can be an individual case, government can not send all employees collectively on permanent “**deemed deputation**” by violating DOPT norms, which is a contradiction in terms.

UADEE do not find any logic in such type of amendment to the Principal Act which will snatch away the legitimate rights of the existing government employees’ and deprive them to exercise their “**option in accordance with DOPT norms**” under Section 11 of Prasar Bharati Act, 1990.

It is therefore, sincerely appeal upon all the employees’ of Akashvani & Doordarshan to oppose amendment to Section 11 of Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 tooth & nail and insist the government for implementation of section 11 in toto without any tampering or diluting its’ contents. Because, joining Prasar Bharati or remaining with government is a conscious decision to be taken by each employee individually. Please remember that “**deemed deputationist**” will have neither any stake nor representation in Prasar Bharati Board and on the contrary the employees recruited after October, 2007 and to be recruited in future by the corporation, will be the stake holders and can also represent in Prasar Bharati Board if the said amendment takes place in its’ present form.