

Union of Akashvani & Doordarshan (Prasar Bharati)  
Engineering Employees

Why UADEE opposes amendment to Section 11  
of Prasar Bharati Act, 1990

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has reintroduced the bill in Rajya Sabha during monsoon session of 2011 of Parliament for amendment of Section-11 of Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 with a new formulation that will take away the democratic rights of employees for exercising their option to switch over either to Prasar Bharati or to remain with the government. The amendment envisages that the existing employees of AIR & Doordarshan will remain in Prasar Bharati on "**deemed deputation**" till their retirement. While introducing the bill in Parliament, the I & B Minister euphemistically described it as a step based on the demand of the existing employees of AIR & Doordarshan ( NFADE ?) which was accepted by the Group of Minister (GoM), contrary to the fact that a large number of employees want to join Prasar Bharati if the *Recruitment Rules & Service Conditions* are pragmatically framed in true spirit as envisaged in Section-11 of the Act. But the GoM had deliberately ignored this primary requirement of Rules of Law and instead, arbitrarily recommended to delete the only safety clause of the existing employees i.e. Section-11 from Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 in isolation, contravening the DoP&T norms.

We are aware that, there are certain quarters, with commercial interests in electronic media, who are afraid of the tremendous potential of Prasar Bharati. The bureaucracy too, was never comfortable with the idea of the autonomy. Unfortunately, a section of employees are being used in this game by the bureaucrats and technocrats who have raised the bogey of scarce funds to create panic among employees. Despite this psychological invasion, a large section of existing government employees working in Prasar Bharati on deemed deputation since 2000, would like to exercise their democratic right to choose. Moreover, if the proposed amendment to Section-11 of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 is operationalised, the employees will be denied their right to join the Corporation but still be compelled to work under its control with no right or stake in Prasar Bharati, which is also a violation of Article 309 of the constitution and may invite further litigation and unrest among the employees.

The proposed amendment also provides for absorption of employees appointed by the Prasar Bharati before 05.10.2007, *albeit*, without seeking their consent. This will close all doors for promotions and better career prospects of deemed deputationists and those forcibly taken over by the Government. Everything is topsy-turvy now. Even the Government is also yet to come out with any alternate policy to safeguard the interest of those employees.

Under these prevailing circumstances, it is resolved by the members of UADEE to oppose the proposed amendment to Section-11 of the Act tooth and nail.

Ram Shanker  
General Secretary