

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1842  
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.03.2023)**

**PRASAR BHARATI AND NEWS AGENCIES**

**1842. SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR:**

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for Prasar Bharati selecting Hindusthan Samachar as the supplier of news feeds;
- (b) whether Government is aware that Hindusthan Samachar is biased because of its close links with the RSS, BJP and VHP which is not ideal for a public broadcaster supported by public funds;
- (c) the details of funds Prasar Bharati and Doordarshan have been paying to ANI, year-wise, under different agreements, schemes and projects during the last five years and the current year; and
- (d) the reasons for terminating its earlier contract with PTI?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)**

(a) & (b): Prasar Bharati has informed that they get news feeds from multiple sources. Hindusthan Samachar was providing services to All India Radio and Doordarshan in 1970s, even before formation of Prasar Bharati. Based on requirement of All India Radio and Doordarshan, Prasar Bharati engaged the services of Hindusthan Samachar.

(c): Prasar Bharati has informed that the initial contract with M/s. ANI Media Private Limited (ANI) for providing ANI Live feeds to DD News was for a period of three years effective from 01.08.2019 as per agreement signed on 27.07.2019, which was extended for a further period of two years.

(d): Prasar Bharati has informed that they subscribed to Press Trust of India (PTI) services on the basis of an ad-hoc pro-rata arrangement from the year 2006 onwards. Prasar Bharti had informed PTI on 15.10.2020 that Prasar Bharati Board had decided to end the ad-hoc arrangement.

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