

# *Prasar Bharati refers Agrawal report to CAG for special audit*

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**NEW DELHI:** The Prasar Bharati board is to refer the Arun Kumar Agrawal report on the controversial Sports Consortium for special audit to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. The board has also decided not to have any more dealings with the Consortium. In a meeting held on Saturday, the board also decided to apply to the government for a license, that will enable Doordarshan operate a Direct-To-Home (DTH) platform for five years.

At the meeting, the board decided that DD would market its own sports programmes and deal with sports bodies without going through agencies. The report was prepared by Mr Agrawal. It said that DD had lost money on sports programmes it telecast in 1998, due to questionable actions by some DD officials. At that time, Mr K. S. Sarma was heading the organisation. Mr Agrawal had been appointed for a period of one month by Mr Sarma's successor in Mandi House — Dr O. P. Kejriwal — to examine the dealings between DD and the consortium. The consortium, which formally came into being in March 1998 had four members: Stracon, Nimbus Communications, Creative Eye, and United Television. The idea of the consortium was mooted by DD officials in December 1997 and its formation had been announced by the then chief executive officer S. S. Gill early in 1998. The Agrawal report, which runs into about 125 pages, has said that DD did not gain any money from all major sports events telecast in the last eighteen months, and had, in fact, lost a lot of money.