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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(2022-23)**

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

**[Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the
Committee contained in their Thirty-fourth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on
'Demands for Grants (2022-23)']**

FORTY-FIRST REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

February, 2023/Magha, 1944(Saka)

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Committee contained in their Thirty-fourth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on
'Demands for Grants (2022-23)']**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 09.02.2023

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 09.02.2023



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

February, 2023/Magha, 1944(Saka)

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* Matter not appended with the cyclostyled copy

**Composition of the Standing Committee on Communications and
Information Technology (2022-23)**

**Shri Prataprao Jadhav - Chairperson
Lok Sabha**

2. Smt. Sumalatha Ambareesh
3. Shri Karti P. Chidambaram
4. Dr. Nishikant Dubey
5. Smt. Sunita Duggal
6. Shri Jayadev Galla
7. Smt. Raksha Nikhil Khadse
8. Dr. Sukanta Majumdar
9. Smt. Mahua Moitra
10. Shri P. R. Natarajan
11. Shri Santosh Pandey
12. Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore
13. Dr. Gaddam Ranjith Reddy
14. Shri Sanjay Seth
15. Shri Ganesh Singh
16. Shri Parvesh Sahib Singh
17. Shri Shatrughan Prasad Sinha
18. Shri L.S. Tejasvi Surya
19. Dr. T. Sumathy (A) Thamizhachi Thangapandian
20. Dr. M. K. Vishnu Prasad[@]
21. Shri S. Jagathrakshakan^{\$}

Rajya Sabha

22. Dr. Anil Agrawal
23. Dr. Laxmikant Bajpayee
24. Dr. John Brittas
25. Shri Syed Nasir Hussain
26. Shri Ilaiyaraaja
27. Shri Jaggesh
28. Shri Praful Patel
29. Shri Kartikeya Sharma
30. Shri Jawhar Sircar
31. Shri Lahar Singh Siroya

Secretariat

- | | | |
|------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1. Shri Satpal Gulati | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. Smt. A. Jyothirmayi | - | Director |
| 3. Smt. Rinky Singh | - | Executive Officer |

Committee constituted w.e.f. 13th September, 2022 *vide* Para No.5288 of Bulletin Part-II dated 4th October, 2022.

@ Dr. M. K. Vishnu Prasad has been nominated *vice* Dr. Shashi Tharoor *vide* Para No. 5311 of Bulletin Part-II dated 12th October, 2022.

\$ Shri S. Jagathrakshakan has been nominated *vide* Para No. 5580 of Bulletin Part –II dated 8th December, 2022.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology (2022-23), having been authorised by the Committee, present this Forty-first Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Thirty-fourth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2022-23)' of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

2. The Thirty-fourth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and also laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 21st March, 2022. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting furnished their Action Taken Notes on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Thirty-fourth Report on 26th July, 2022.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 7th February, 2023.

4. For facility of reference and convenience, Observations/Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold in Chapter-I of the Report.

5. An analysis of Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Thirty-fourth Report of the Committee is given at Annexure-II.

New Delhi;

8 February, 2023

19 Magha, 1944 (Saka)

PRATAPRAO JADHAV,

Chairperson,

**Standing Committee on
Communications and Information Technology.**

CHAPTER I REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Thirty-fourth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2022-23)' relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

2. The Thirty-fourth Report was presented to Lok Sabha/laid in Rajya Sabha on 21 March, 2022. It contained 19 Observations/Recommendations. Replies of the Government in respect of all the Observations/Recommendations have been received from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and are categorized as under:-

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| (i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government Rec. Sl. Nos.:- 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 | Total -15 Chapter-II |
| (ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government | Total - NIL Chapter-III |
| (iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and require reiteration Rec. Sl. Nos.:- 3 | Total - 0 Chapter-IV |
| (iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are of interim in nature Rec. Sl. No.:- 9, 13, and 14 | Total – 03 Chapter-V |

3. The Committee trust that utmost importance would be given to implementation of the Observations/Recommendations accepted by the Government. The Committee further desire that Action Taken Statement on the Observations/Recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final action taken replies to the Observations/Recommendations contained in Chapter-V of this Report should be furnished to them at an early date.

4. The Committee will now deal with action taken by the Government on some of their recommendations.

INFORMATION SECTOR

Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI)

(Recommendation Sl. No. 3)

5. The Committee, in their 34th Report on the subject 'Demands For Grants (2022-23)', had made the following observation/recommendation:

“The Committee note that the Office of the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) was set up in 1956, on the recommendation of the First Press Commission (1953) and by amending the Press and Registration of Books Act (PRB), 1867. As an attached office with the Ministry of I&B, RNI executes statutory and non-statutory functions. RNI maintains a Register of Newspapers and Publications published across the country, issuing Certificate of Registration to newspapers and publications, informing District Magistrate (DM) concerned about approval of titles of fresh newspapers, and scrutinizing and analyzing the annual statements submitted by the publishers of newspapers and publications. Under its non-statutory functions, RNI authenticates self-declaration certificates for import of newsprint to actual user publications registered with RNI. During the year 2017-20, RNI was allocated funds for implementation of scheme ‘Strengthening of RNI HQs’ under the Ministry of I&B’s umbrella scheme ‘Media Infrastructure Development Programme’. From 2020-21 onwards, the entire scheme has been merged into an automation project, expenditure of which shall be met out from Establishment Expenditure. As of now, there is no scheme of RNI. Currently, application for titles can be filled online, computerized processing of title verification and registration can be done and all the verified titles are being put on RNI website and can be downloaded. In the second phase of digitalization, various procedures of the Office, including application for title and registration will be made completely online.

The Committee are, however, surprised to learn that till 31st March, 2021, 35% of this project has been completed and today the entire process is manual wherein one has to apply to the Collector, the newspaper owner has to give an oath before the Collector, then it goes to the RNI where papers are examined

physically to see how many papers has been published, etc. and then it has to be registered. It is also surprising to note in these digital times where almost all aspects of life have come under digital mode, newspapers around 70,000 to 80,000 in number have to file their annual returns, make fee payment, show all their publication in circulation, statistics and other activities manually. The Committee wonder as to why such an important exercise of automation has been delayed. This simply reflects that we are way behind the times. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to fast track automation process in RNI and link it to the payment system also so as to reduce the time and have continuous record about newspapers at one place. Besides, the Ministry may also streamline the entire process of registration so as to facilitate ease of business in publishing industry.

Even with respect to the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, the Ministry have been informed that they have worked out an amendment to that Act, however, it is yet to be circulated and sent to the Cabinet. The Bill had been referred to this Committee and the Committee had given their Report in 2011. Considering the fact that the Act is almost 160 years old, the Committee recommend the Ministry not to delay the amendment of the Act and also apprise them about the proposed amendments. Further, in light of the new mandate given to the Ministry relating to Digital/Online Media, the Committee also recommend the Ministry to come out clearly on application of this Act to online newspapers. Regarding the budget allocation to RNI, the Ministry may apprise why Rs. 7.95 crore has been allocated for RNI during 2022-23 at BE stage when there is no Scheme of RNI per se and automation project expenditure of RNI shall be met out from Establishment Expenditure. The Committee recommend the Ministry to have full utilisation of the fund during 2022-23 unlike 2021-22 wherein the actual expenditure under RNI was 68.19% and 70.68% of Budget Estimate (BE) and Revised Estimate (RE) allocations respectively".

6. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, in their Action Taken Reply, have stated as under:

"BE allocation for RNI is Rs. 8.52 crore. In RE, it was restricted to Rs. 8.21 crore out of which, the actual expenditure was Rs. 7.75crore for FY 2021-22 which is 94.38% of the RE. The BE of RNI for FY 2022-23 is Rs. 7.95 crore. Out of this allocation, the key components include Rs. 5.40 crore for Salary, Rs. 1.11 crore for 'Office Expenses' and Rs. 0.87 crore for 'Professional services".

7. **The Committee, in their Original Report, had made four recommendations which are summed up as under:**

- (i) To streamline the entire process of registration and fast track the automation process in RNI;**
- (ii) To apprise about the proposed amendments in the 'Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867' and not to delay the amendment of the Act which is almost 160 years old;**
- (iii) To come out clearly about application of 'Press and Registration of**

- Books Act, 1867' to online newspapers; and**
- (iv) To apprise about the reasons for allocating Rs. 7.95 crore for RNI during the year 2022-23 at BE stage when automation project expenditure of RNI was to be met out from Establishment Expenditure. Utilize the fund fully during the year 2022-23.**

The Committee note that the Ministry have responded only to point no. (iv) mentioned above and it is found that the expenditure during the year 2021-22 is satisfactory. However, the Committee express displeasure over the fact that the reply of the Ministry is silent on all other recommendations contained in this Para. The Committee call upon the Ministry to avoid such evasive action taken reply in future and provide details of the action taken on all the issues highlighted by the Committee.

DD-KISAN

(Recommendation Sl. No. 12)

8. The Committee, in their Original Report, had made following observation/recommendation:

“The Committee note that ‘DD Kisan’, a 24X7 satellite TV channel, was exclusively dedicated to the farmers and the agriculture sector on 26th May 2015. Prasar Bharati is also having a dedicated “YouTube” channel of DD Kisan where the viewers may access this channel and also its various programmes digitally across the globe. It is a matter of concern that the physical and financial targets fixed for DD Kisan during 2021-22 have not been achieved. Out of allocated amount of Rs 32.70 core only Rs. 9.43 crore has been utilized and out of targeted production of 1979 hrs of programme only 1567hrs programmes could be produced till December, 2021. Considering the noble objective of this channel is to serve the farming and rural community in India and to reach the remotest parts of the country, the Committee take strong objection to non-achievement of targets set under this channel and recommend the Ministry not to repeat the same during 2022-23. The Committee also recommend the Ministry to advertise properly about the programmes shown on this channel and about the dedicated “YouTube” channel of DD-Kisan where the viewers can access this channel for maximizing the reach of the programmes of DD-Kisan Channel. The Committee desire to be informed about the number and type of programmes made for this Channels, budget allocation and utilization since the inception, the reach of channel or viewership data, etc. They also desire that an impact study of the programmes under ‘DD Kisan’ be done periodically”.

9. In their Action Taken Reply, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have submitted as under:

“The physical and financial targets have been fully achieved by “DD Kisan” by the end of Q4 of the financial year 2021-22. An amount of Rs. 38.24 crore has been utilised in the financial year 2021-2022 against the budgetary allocation of Rs. 38.48 crore in RE 2021-22. More than 2100 hours of programmes have been telecast and physical target of 1979 hours was achieved by 31.03.2022.

The programmes are also being uploaded on DD Kisan YouTube channel, which has a subscriber base of around 0.8 million at present. The QR code is also being broadcast in the programme for redirecting viewers to watch programmes on YouTube channel, if wishes so. If the viewer scans the code, it redirects to the playlist of the programme on DD Kisan YouTube channel.

Currently, 18 programmes are telecast on DD Kisan related to Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Agricultural Innovations, Weather Forecast, Commodity Market and allied sectors. As per BARC data, it is emerged that there were 160 Million unique viewers of “DD Kisan” channel in the year 2021.

Budget allocation of DD Kisan and its utilization in past years are as under:

DD Kisan Allocation and Expenditure since Inception
(Capital & Content)

(Figures in Rs. crore)

| Year | Budget Allocated | Budget Utilized |
|-------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 2014-15 | 26.00 | 23.11 |
| 2015-16 | 26.25 | 26.25 |
| 2016-17 | 70.00 | 66.31 |
| 2017-18 | 59.96 | 38.95 |
| 2018-19 | 48.85 | 31.56 |
| 2019-20 | 17.55 | 16.43 |
| 2020-21 | 19.50 | 18.73 |
| 2021-22 | 38.48 | 38.24 |

10. In their Thirty-fourth Report, the Committee had expressed concern over non-achievement of physical and financial targets fixed for DD Kisan during the year 2021-22 and had asked the Ministry not to repeat the same during the year 2022-23. The Committee note with satisfaction that during the year 2021-22, out of Rs. 38.48 crore allocated at RE stage, Rs. 38.24 crore has been utilized and against the physical target of producing 1979 hours programmes, more than 2100 hours of programmes have been telecast by 31.03.2022. The Committee also appreciate that the programmes are also being uploaded on DD Kisan YouTube channel, which has a subscriber base of around 0.8 million. Besides, as per data

of Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC), there were 160 Million unique viewers of 'DD Kisan' channel in the year 2021. While appreciating all the efforts of the Ministry to achieve targets set for DD Kisan Channel, the Committee urge the Ministry to continue their endeavour to increase the reach of the Channel and do periodic impact study of the programmes made under 'DD Kisan' Channel so that the content of its programme are improved accordingly.

PM e-Vidya

(Recommendation Sl. No. 13)

11. The Committee, in their 34th Report, had made the following observation/recommendation:

"The Committee note that 'One Class-one TV Channel' programme under PM e-Vidya is one of the focus areas of the Ministry in accordance with the announcement made in Budget Speech (2022-23). The Ministry have informed that at present there are twelve channels, under PM e-Vidya and these 12 TV channels will be expanded to 200 TV channels for supplementary education in regional languages for Class 1 to 12. The Committee note that the Ministry intends to provide support to Doordarshan and free dish platforms for this purpose and they will be working with the Ministry of Education on this. Bhaskaracharya Institute of Space Applications (BISAG) are entrusted with the task. They are operating a teleport where they are uplinking about 40 educational channels, 12 for school education and the rest for higher education. So, the 12 channels for school education is going to be increased to 200 channels so as to cover every language pan India. It is different from EDUSAT which was interactive and based on VSAC terminals. The Committee, while expressing happiness over the move to increase channels for school education from 12 to 200, recommend the Ministry to increase it even more if need be to cover all the languages pan India. The Committee desire that they may be informed about further details under PM e-Vidya including the budget allocated for the scheme per-se and budget earmarked by M/o I&B for implementing it, the timeline by which all the 200 channels will be functional, languages to be covered, details of channels to be relayed in each language and States, etc. The Committee may be kept apprised about the progress made under PM e-Vidya along with an impact study of this project. The Committee also recommend that the Ministry may think in terms of constituting a task force drawing persons from Ministry of Education, academia and other stakeholders related to the field to assess the impact as well as to suggest future course of action for improvements".

12. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, in their Action Taken Reply, have submitted as under:

"As per the information provided by Ministry of Education [Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET), a constituent unit of National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)]:

- The work on expansion of TV channels from 12 to 200 + has begun in the right earnest. A thorough review after the launch of all 200 channels will help in taking appropriate decision in this regard.
- The PM e-Vidya budget detail for extension of 12 channels to 200 channels is yet to be finalized. However, for different components of PM eVidya a sum of Rs.1,509,151,000/- has been allocated for the year 2022-23 as per following details:

| Programme code | Title if the Programmes approved under PMeVIDYA for 2022-2023 | Sum Allocated |
|----------------|---|--------------------|
| 20.17 | DIKSHA/ICT Excellence Award for School Teachers, Teacher Educators and States/UTs (ongoing) | Rs.90,75,000/- |
| 20.18 | Organization of Festival, ICT Mela, contests of digital contents and coordination with States/ UTs. | Rs.54,40,000/- |
| 20.19 | Management of PM e-VIDYA (One Class, One Channel, Radio, Broadcast, Podcasts) | Rs.24,75,00,000/- |
| 20.20 | DIKSHA - One Nation One Digital Platform | Rs.82,97,86,000/- |
| 20.21 | Development of National Curriculum Frameworks – Tech Platform | Rs.7,97,00,000/- |
| 20.22 | NISHTHA Integrated Teacher Training | Rs.2,36,50,000/- |
| 20.23 | Development of Skill E-Learning Lab | Rs.5,00,00,000/- |
| 20.24 | Development of Virtual Lab | Rs.26,40,00,000/- |
| | Total Amount | Rs.1,509,151,000/- |

- The process to implement the scheme has already started with orientation programmes and consultations with States/UTs, which were held on 22-23 March, 2022 at Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Informatics (BISAG-N), Gandhinagar. About 17 states/UTs/Organizations participated in it. The Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for creation, curation and dissemination of e-Content has already been shared with a wide range of stakeholders. BISAG-N has informed that their preparations in terms of creating civil/electrical and electronic infrastructure are also in full swing. The transponders will be hired and Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is on-board for it. Number of channel allocation to States/UTs is being discussed. States /UTs have been informed to be ready with the video content. Second orientation programme of two days was held for state functionaries from 30-31 May 2022 at BISAG-N, Gandhi Nagar for the remaining states/UTs.

- Under this initiative, all major languages of the country are to be covered with the cooperation of respective states/UTs including Indian Sign Language (ISL).
- As of now, all 12 channels are running in Hindi and English medium across the country. Once, more number of channels as part of 200 channels are functional, the details of the channels relayed in each language and states will be available.
- CIET, NCERT has already planned and proposed a research program to study the impact of the said project.
- CIET, NCERT has planned and is proposing to constitute an Academic Advisory Committee (AAC) comprising people from academia, and EdTech sector and other stakeholders in the field to advise and assist in assessing the impact as well as to suggest future course of action for improvements".

13. The Committee, in their Original Report, had expressed happiness over the move to increase TV channels for school education from 12 to 200 under PM-eVidya Scheme and while seeking details of the Scheme they had recommended the Ministry to think in terms of constituting a task force to assess the impact as well as to suggest future course of action for improvements. The Ministry have informed that the work on expansion of TV channels from 12 to 200 plus channels has begun in the right earnest and budget detail for the extension of channels is yet to be finalized. However, for different components of PM-eVidya a sum of nearly 1.51 crore of Rupees has been allocated for the year 2022-23. The process to implement the scheme has already started with orientation programmes and consultations with States/UTs, which were held on 22-23 March, 2022 at Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Informatics (BISAG-N), Gandhinagar and about 17 states/UTs/Organizations participated in it. The Number of channel allocation to States/UTs is being discussed. The Committee are also informed that all major languages of the country are to be covered with the cooperation of respective states/UTs including Indian Sign Language (ISL). Besides, Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET) under NCERT has already planned and proposed a research program to study the impact of the said project and CIET is proposing to constitute an Academic Advisory Committee (AAC) comprising people from academia, and EdTech sector and other stakeholders in the field to advise and assist in

assessing the impact as well as to suggest future course of action for improvements. While appreciating the importance of 'One Class-one TV Channel' programme under PM-eVidya, the Committee express satisfaction over the plan and progress under the Scheme. Nonetheless, the Committee recommend the Ministry to fix specific timelines for all stages of implementing the Scheme so that they do not lose sight of the target set under the Scheme. The Committee desire to be informed about the utilisation status of funds allocated for different components of PM-eVidya for the year 2022-23. The Ministry may apprise the Committee about overall budgetary allocations made for the Scheme, timeline for making all the 200 plus TV channels functional, languages to be covered, number channels to be relayed in each language and States, over all progress made under PM-eVidya, etc.

CHAPTER II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

(Recommendation Sl. No. 1)

Demands for Grants (2022-23) and overall Budgetary analysis

Demand No. 61 covers the expenditure of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and its attached/sub-ordinate offices and autonomous/grantee bodies, including Prasar Bharati. For the year 2022-23, as against the proposed sum of Rs. 4379.83 crore, an amount of Rs. 3980.77 crore has been fixed for M/o I&B at the BE stage. Out of this, Rs. 630 crore has been fixed for the 'Central Sector Schemes' against the proposed Rs. 942.15 crore; Rs. 582.87 crore for the 'Establishment Expenditure of the Centre' against the proposed Rs. 652.87 crore and Rs. 2767.90 crore for 'other Central Expenditure [including those on Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and Autonomous Bodies] against the proposed Rs. 2784.81 crore. During the year 2021-22 the BE was Rs. 4071.23 crore which was reduced to Rs. 3764.69 crore as RE stage and actual utilisation till 14th February, 2022 has been Rs. 3198.40 crore which is 84.96 % w.r.t RE and 78.56 % w.r.t. BE allocation. The utilisation percentage (w.r.t RE) for three categories i.e. Central Sector Schemes, Establishment Expenditure of the Centre and 'other Central Expenditure' during 2021-22 were 60.14%, 81.24% and 89.68% respectively. On the reasons for under-utilisation of funds during 2021-22, the Ministry have stated that they will be able to achieve targets both in physical and financial terms. Even during 2020-21 they had assured the Committee to achieve full utilization yet they could achieve utilisation of 77.26% only. The Committee note with extreme concern that despite repetitive assurance, there has been under-utilisation of funds over the years. The Committee are also distressed to note that even the physical performances under some Schemes/attached offices/autonomous bodies have been badly hit due to the lockdown and other restrictions relating to COVID-pandemic. Now that the restrictions imposed due to pandemic are being relaxed and the situation is improving, the Committee recommend the Ministry to review their implementation strategies and take effective steps so as to achieve full utilization of funds during 2022-23. The Committee also recommend the Ministry to streamline the planning and approval of schemes, undertake periodic evaluation by heads of the Project/Scheme/Organization etc. The Committee may be apprised of the initiatives taken by the Ministry for optimum utilization of funds allocated to them during 2022-23 alongwith the outcome thereof.

Reply of the Government

Period wise targets for expenditure by the respective Wings for the FY 2022-23 are fixed to achieve full utilization of fund and better phasing of expenditure. Respective Joint Secretaries will monitor and review the expenditure vis-à-vis the targets set by them in order to ensure full utilization of the allocation.

In respect of Prasar Bharati, it is the constant endeavour of Prasar Bharati to complete the projects within the specified time frame. Procurement procedures have

been streamlined. Project review meetings are held regularly at Zonal level, Project Monitoring & Budget Monitoring Units' level and various activities involved in procurement of capital equipment and execution of works are critically assessed & targets are fixed. Use of e-Office, e-Mail, audio/ video conferencing etc. is being made regularly to fast track the process of implementation of projects. Monitoring mechanism has been strengthened considerably and monitoring is being done at the highest level in the Ministry.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/18/2022-PC Cell dated
26.07.2022

Rationalization of Central Sector Schemes (CSS)

(Recommendation Sl. No. 2)

The Committee note that a comprehensive rationalization and restructuring of the Plan Schemes was carried out by the Ministry in the year 2019-20, which was implemented in 2020-21. As a result, 14 Schemes and 13 sub-schemes were reduced to 5 Schemes viz. Development Communication & Information Dissemination (DCID), Development Communication & Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC), Champion Service Sector Scheme (CSSS), Broadcasting Infrastructure Development (Prasar Bharati) and Supporting Community Radio. The Committee were given to understand that the above exercise was carried out for effective and better utilisation of resources. In spite of this, there has been shortfall in respect of four Central Sector Schemes such as DCID, DCDFC, BIND (Prasar Bharati) and SCR as actual utilisation under the above schemes have been 50.88%, 61.31%, 69.75% and 30.80% of RE allocation respectively. Under the Champion Services Sector Scheme, the expenditure during 2021-22 has been 'Nil'. During 2020-21 also there had been 'Nil' expenditure despite the fact that Ministry had made an allocation of Rs. 1.59 crore as against the proposed Rs. 50 crore. When asked for reasons, the Committee are surprised to learn that the Ministry have proposed to merge two of the CSS viz. Champion Service Sector Scheme with DCDFC Scheme, since their objectives are closely related. Approval of the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) proposal for continuation of the DCDFC scheme beyond 31st March, 2021, including the components of the Champion Service Sector Scheme, is expected from the Ministry of Finance soon. The Committee fail to understand why the Ministry are resorting to the practice of seeking approvals after the demands have been passed by Parliament. In the opinion of the Committee, such a delayed evaluation of objectives after two years of comprehensive rationalization and restructuring of the Plan Schemes is not only a poor reflection on the Ministry's planning, but also has serious repercussions on the execution of schemes/projects which is a matter of grave concern. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to make their planning more realistic and pragmatic at the detailed discussion stage itself so that schemes take off on time. Now that the Ministry have rationalized their Schemes to Four Central Sector Schemes, the Committee hope that as planned the consolidation of resources will provide flexibility in use and will result in better utilization of funds leading to optimal outputs and outcomes. The Committee recommend the Ministry to achieve the deliverables and targets as per defined timelines and objectives set under the Schemes and keep them apprised about the same.

Reply of the Government

As on 31.03.2022, 94.74% of RE allocation has been utilized under the DCDFC Scheme during 2021-22.

Audio Visual Services is one of the 12 identified Champion Service Sectors, which has been approved by the Union Cabinet for giving focused attention. The sector is projected to grow at a CAGR of 11.5%. The scheme will enhance revenue generation, job creation and induced benefits like film tourism and development of downstream allied industries through increased filming/ shootings in the country by encouraging shooting of foreign film in India. It will also boost Hotels/Restaurant/ Catering, Transport, Airlines, Marketing. It is expected that the scheme will encourage growth in the AR/VR/VFX sector and the production & post production activities like Cameras, Lights, Equipment, etc. These activities also generate raw material for several ancillary sectors such as television, music, radio, books, magazines, merchandized products, amusement parks, gaming, etc.

As the objectives of the Champion Services Sector Scheme (CSSS) for Audio Visual Services are closely related with the Development Communication and Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC) scheme of the Ministry, CSSS has been merged with DCDFC scheme as the consolidation of resources will provide flexibility in use, leading to better utilization of funds. An outlay of Rs 451 crore for CSSS component in the merged DCDFC scheme has been approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) and the Ministry of Finance for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26, as follows:

| S. No. | COMPONENT | OUTLAY (in crore) |
|---------------|---|--------------------------|
| i | Incentive for audio visual co-production with foreign countries | 166.00 |
| ii | Promotion of shooting of foreign films in India | 165.00 |
| iii | Organizing of Global Media & Entertainment Summit | 120 |
| | Total | 451.00 |

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is committed to stimulate the Audio-Visual service sector of the economy by promotion of creative and technical services in the sector and to make India a hub for world film production. It will be ensured that the deliverables and targets are met as per defined timelines and objectives of the CSSS.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/18/2022-PC Cell dated
26.07.2022

(Recommendation Sl. No. 4)

Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) and Upgradation of IIMC to International Standards

The Committee in their Second Report on DFG (2019-20) had observed that the scheme for the upgradation of the IIMC to International Standards had not taken off. The Committee are concerned to note that there is status-quo in the project and till date construction activities at New Delhi campus has not started. When asked for reasons for slow progress under IIMC, the Ministry have informed that construction of Guest House, Hostel Building and Academic Block at New Delhi campus could not be started for want of approval from Ridge Management Board and other Civic authorities of Delhi Government despite regular follow up and efforts. It was presumed that the approval could be received during the financial year 2018-19. Accordingly, a provision of Rs. 3 crore had been made at BE stage, which was further reduced to Rs. 20 lakh at RE stage and at Final Grant stage, all the funds were surrendered. It is very disheartening that such an important project has been languishing for such a long period and the Ministry are unable to settle the impediments as of yet. The Ministry have further informed that construction work in the Regional Campus Jammu, as well as the Aizawl campus which were affected due to shortage of labour has now gained momentum. Considering the significance of IIMC's role in conducting a number of specialized courses to meet the diverse requirements of the ever expanding and changing media industry and in training and research, timely meeting of the targets under IIMC is very much desirable. The Committee, while disapproving such inordinate delay in execution of projects under IIMC recommend the Ministry to take necessary steps for the expeditious completion of the project so as to avoid cost and time overrun. The Committee may be apprised new timeline fixed for completion of new building at IIMC Delhi and take up the issue regarding clearances at the highest level. The Ministry may also apprise about the progress made w.r.t construction work of new Regional centres of IIMC.

Reply of the Government

Up-gradation of IIMC to International Standards

On recommendation of the Ridge Management Board, Central Empowered Committee (CEC) inspected the site on 15th October 2019 and submitted its report to the Registrar Supreme Court (PIL Section) for placing before the Hon'ble Court. The case was pending in the court of Justice Arun Mishra. The case was finally heard on 13th January 2021, when the Hon'ble Supreme Court allowed IIMC to construct new additional Institutional Buildings at IIMC New Delhi subject to the conditions imposed by the CEC. CEC has approved two buildings (Academic Block and Hostel Block) for construction.

Since on advice of CEC the building plans submitted earlier have been revised, IIMC is now required to submit the case afresh to obtain approvals of the Civic authorities like; Delhi Development Authority, Airport Authority of India, Delhi Urban Art Commission, Delhi Pollution Control Board and Delhi Fire Service etc. Since CPWD has been assigned the construction work, they are taking action for obtaining the approval of the concerned authorities.

Continuous efforts have been made for completion of the project at the earliest. In this regard, a MoU has been signed between IIMC and CPWD and meetings have taken place between IIMC and CPWD regarding the commencement of the project, latest being on 16.06.2022.

The tentative timeline for completion of the project is 3 years from the date of starting the project.

Progress made w.r.t construction work of new Regional centres of IIMC

IIMC, Aizawl: The administrative cum academic block including hostel and staff quarters has already been taken over by IIMC from CPWD on 7th April 2022. The remaining work and other development work on the site are in progress and are likely to be completed in September 2022.

The new academic session will start in August/September 2022 from the new permanent campus of IIMC.

IIMC, Jammu: The construction work of administrative-cum-academic block including hostel has been completed and its possession has been taken over by IIMC from C.C.W on 22nd June, 2022. Type II, IV and V quarters are likely to be taken over by 31st July 2022. The remaining work and other development work on the site are in progress and shall be completed before the commencement of the new academic session.

The new academic session will start in August/September 2022 from the new permanent campus of IIMC.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/18/2022-PC Cell dated
26.07.2022

Press Information Bureau (PIB) **(Recommendation Sl. No. 5)**

Press Information Bureau (PIB) is the nodal agency of the Government of India that disseminates information to the print, electronic and social media on Government policies, programmes, initiatives and achievements. It functions as an interface between the Government and the media. The Committee note that for the year 2021-22, the budgetary allocations at BE and RE stage are Rs. 102.99 crore and Rs. 103.41 crore respectively and till 10.01.2022 the actual expenditure has been Rs. 79.51 crore which is 77.20% and 76.88% w.r.t BE and RE respectively. The Committee are given to understand that some important activities such as purchase of new desktops, payments of salary bills for Media Executives and payment to BECIL, etc. could not be completed during 2021-22 due to reduced allocation and insufficient funds. The Committee find the reason of 'reduced allocations' as cited by the Ministry to be inconsistent as the amount at RE stage was infact more than the amount allocated at BE stage. The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to inform them of the actual reasons for the aforesaid problems as well as address the issues in PIB at the earliest.

Reply of the Government

PIB was allocated Rs. 15.30 Cr. under object head "Office Expenses" in RE 2021-22 as against Rs. 20.62 Cr. under this head in BE 2021-22. Due to reduced allocation of Rs. 5.32 Cr. (Rs. 20.62 Cr - Rs. 15.30 Cr) in R.E. 2021-22 under the object-head 'Office Expenses', PIB was facing difficulty to:-

- (i) purchase new desktops to replace the very old and outdated version of Window 7 desktops in PIB HQrs.,
- (ii) clear the pending salary bills for Social Media Executives and other HR Supports hired through BECIL and
- (iii) make payment of pending bill of BECIL amounting to Rs. 1.64 Cr. for replacement of Video wall in NMC, as expenditure towards these activities had to be met from the object head "Office Expenses" only.

However, PIB was later allocated Rs. 18.22 Cr under this head in Final Grant 2021-22. Pending salary bills for Social Media Executives & other HR Supports hired through BECIL and pending bill for replacement of Video wall in NMC for payment to BECIL (amounting to Rs. 1.64 Cr.) was cleared before the end of the financial year 2021-22.

As regards purchase of new Desktops, these are being procured during current financial year i.e. 2022-23.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/18/2022-PC Cell dated
26.07.2022

(Recommendation Sl. No. 6)

The Committee note that the Union Cabinet had given its approval on 23.12.2020 to merger of four Film Media Units i.e. Children Film Society of India (CFSI), Films Division (FD), National Films Archives of India (NFAI) and the Directorate of Films Festival (DFF) with National Films Development Corporation (NFDC) by expanding the Memorandum of Articles of Association (MoAA) of NFDC and this merger activity was to be completed within time period of 2 years i.e. December, 2022. The Committee are given to understand that this merger will ensure synergy and efficiency in fulfilling mandate of promotion, production and preservation of films content. Regarding measures being taken to address the interests of the employees of all the concerned Media Units, the Ministry have informed that it will be dealt in accordance to the DoPT rules. The Committee are satisfied to learn that no Film Units will be closed except for Children's Film Society of India and the production of children films will now be done by NFDC. The Committee hope that with placement of Film Media Units under one management, the promotion, production & preservation of filmic content will be swift and trouble free thereby bringing synergy amongst various activities leading to better utilization of existing infrastructure and human resource. Keeping in view that merging Government employees into PSUs has always been an issue, the Committee recommend the Ministry to address all the issues in divergent services, cadres, scales, etc. in the organisation meticulously before the merger takes place. The Committee also desire that they may be informed about the activities that NFDC will be doing after the merger, the kind of films that will get support and finance, change in policy and criteria for film selection, etc. The Committee also recommend the Ministry to keep in sight the

recommendations of the Expert Committee headed by Shri Bima Julka, on the matter of 'Rationalization/closure/merger of Film Media Units (NFDC, CFSI, Films Division, NFAI and DFF) and review of autonomous bodies (FTTI, SRFTI and CFSI)' while undertaking the merger exercise.

Reply of the Government

The Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 23.12.2020 has given its approval to the merger of four Film Media Units, namely Films Division, Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF), National Film Archive of India (NFAI) and Children's Film Society, India (CFSI) with the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) Ltd. by expanding the Memorandum of Articles of Association (MoAA) of NFDC, which will then carry out all the activities hitherto performed by them and to all consequential action/actions required to be taken, including closure of DFF, Films Division, NFAI and CFSI. The extant provisions under various Rules, Regulations and Guidelines of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) for Redeployment of Staff shall be followed in the Human Resource Management exercise. The employees of the four film media units to be merged with NFDC shall be adjusted as per the guidelines and Rules & Regulations of DoPT for Central Government employees. The various schemes of the Government for Production, Promotion and Preservation of Filmic Content shall continue to work towards encouraging good cinema in the country. The mandate of all the four film media units shall be carried out by NFDC after this merger. The recommendation of the Committee to keep in sight the recommendations of the Expert Committee headed by Shri Bimal Julka, on the matter of 'Rationalization/closure/merger of Film Media Units (NFDC, CFSI, Films Division, NFAI and DFF) and review of autonomous bodies (FTTI, SRFTI and CFSI) while undertaking the merger exercise is duly noted.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/18/2022-PC Cell dated
26.07.2022

(Recommendation Sl. No. 7)

The Committee note that National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM), was approved by the Ministry of I&B in 2014 with Rs. 597.41 crore, for restoring and preserving the film heritage of India. From 2020-21 due to rationalization, NFHM Scheme has been merged with Development Communication & Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC) Scheme. The new plan Scheme takes care of the digitization/restoration of films available with NFAI as well as other media units under Films Wing of the Ministry. The plan scheme is being implemented by NFAI, Pune. Regarding storage of films and their preservation, the Ministry have informed that in the recent EFC, the entire scheme was pending but digitisation of films has been going on and about 1000 films have been digitised. In this EFC, Rs. 500 crores have been sanctioned on digitisation and restoration and creation of vaults is going on. The Ministry have also informed that there is a pipeline of about 4000 or 5000 films and some of them will be selectively restored because the quality of those films on reel has deteriorated over a period of time. So, they will be restored and then will be kept in digital mode as well as again converted to films and those films will be stored because digital formats keep changing every three or four years. The Committee are given to understand that if a film is kept and stored properly, it lasts almost 300 to 400 years. Since budget has already been

sanctioned and contracts are to be placed shortly, the Committee recommend the Ministry to increase the pace of digitization and restoration of the rich film heritage. The Committee desire the Ministry to inform them the actual utilisation under the Scheme, number of films restored and hurdles/challenges being witnessed in restoration and preservation. The Committee also recommend the Ministry to restore the ten films of ShriSatyajit Ray as assured by them and also widely publicize the same.

Reply of the Government

An amount of Rs.120.09 crore (approx.) has been spent under the National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM) since its commencement, out of which Rs.26.61 crore (approx.) was spent in FY 2020-21 and Rs.44.47 crore (approx.) was spent in F.Y. 2021-22. Further, the Expenditure Finance Committee / Public Investment Board, in its meeting held on 16.02.2022, has recommended for continuation of NFHM with an estimated outlay of Rs.544.82 crore (including the unspent balance of Rs. 500 crore approximately) for the period FY 2021-22 to FY 2024-25, subject to restructuring of NFHM in Project Mode.

In the meantime, consequent to the decision for merger of four Film Media Units, namely Films Division, Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF), National Film Archive of India (NFAI) and Children's Film Society, India (CFSI) with the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) Ltd, the entire mandate of NFAI has been transferred to NFDC under the Preservation Vertical w.e.f. 1st April, 2022. The Umbrella Organization, NFDC, consequent upon the merger of Film Media Units will be uniquely placed with regard to Promotion, Production & Preservation of Filmic content - all under one management. NFDC will continue and complete all the activities envisaged under the NFHM project.

Status of digitization, restoration and preservation activities under the NFHM project is given below:

- a) Mobilization and deployment of necessary infrastructure and resources, including 4 Picture Scanners and 2 Sound Scanners, has been done in-house at NFAI campus for the work of scanning and digitization of films. Under the Digitization tender, a total of 5113 films (2345 feature films and 2768 short films) will go through the processes of film cleaning and scanning/ digitization. As on date, approx. 1431 film titles have been digitized/scanned (676 feature films and 755 short films). In the digitization project, there are two major components i.e., scanning & quality check (QC). As part of project monitoring governance, weekly review meetings are conducted to assess the progress of the project and to understand the issues and challenges. These review meetings help in swift decision making and expedite the progress of the project. Based on the constant review of the project, the output of the quality check has increased in last 3 months with respect to number of minutes scanned which has directly helped in the increased production of the final delivery. The vendor has also been instructed to increase the speed of daily scanning keeping number of rescan at minimum. The supporting infrastructure such as Audio QC lab required for expediting the QC process of the project is up and ready and is being used by the team for the QC process. To achieve the timeline of project, it is also being

planned to increase the number of resources in QC team and in post QC process. These steps taken will ensure increase in the pace of digitization project.

- b) The implementing agency for 'Preventive Conservation of Film Content at NFAI' work has been engaged recently in March 2021. Around 60,557 film reels will undergo the process of Preventive Conservation which involves assessment of film reels, arresting of decays, repair of damages, etc. The Project area where the work shall commence is undergoing required civil and electrical revamping which shall be complete within four months.
- c) Approval for engaging the successful bidders for 'Restoration of Film Content at NFAI' was accorded by the Ministry recently in May 2021. Under the Restoration tender, 2253 films (1145 feature films and 1108 short films) will go through the processes of Picture & Sound Restoration. A time period of three months has been accorded to the bidders for setting up a dedicated facility, post which, the work shall commence for restoration of films.

NFDC-NFAI is currently undertaking the prestigious restoration activity of ten Satyajit Ray films. As part of wider publicity, the restored version of one of Satyajit Ray classics, '*Pratidwandi*' was screened under Cannes Classics section at the Cannes Film Festival 2022, where India was chosen as the first ever official country of honour at Marche Du Film. Apart from this, 'Sonar Kella' and 'HirakrajarDeshe' were screened at Kolkata International Film Festival. Further, a few films of ShriSatyajit Ray were showcased in the Mumbai International Film Festival. As part of celebrating Satyajit Ray's birth centenary, Media units under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting conducted two film festivals dedicated to showcasing Satyajit Ray restored film spread from May 2-4, 2022 and May 16-18, 2022 across Mumbai, Delhi and Pune. These film festivals were organized by Films Division and NFDC-NFAI. Owing to the recent achievement at Cannes, British Film Institute has also approached NFAI for sharing restored copies of Satyajit Ray Classics for screening.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/18/2022-PC Cell dated
26.07.2022

(Recommendation Sl. No. 8)

The Committee note that another thrust area under Film Sector of the Ministry for 2022-23 is the augmentation of e-cinepramaan software, cloud management system, integration of mobile app and revamping of CBFC Website. The Committee note that from a manual operation prior to 2009, CBFC has progressively moved towards automation. The Online Certification System of CBFC 'e-cinepramaan' came into force on 1st April, 2017 and aims at transparency and ease of doing business. Revamping of the website and e-cinepramaan process has already been completed. The Committee further note that some space has been given to CBFC and after the merger of media units, the Films Division's space and other space within the campus will be available for CBFC. However, on the Budget front, the Committee note that actual expenditure during 2021-22 has been Rs. 8.44 crore which is 72.45% of RE allocation of Rs. 11.65 crore. The Committee while expressing their unhappiness over the underutilization of funds under CBFC, recommend the Ministry to make efforts for full utilization during

2022-23. In addition, the Committee also desire to be apprised about the cases/appeals received after abolition of Film Certificate Appellate Tribunal (FCAT), as well as number of Films certification challenged in last 3 years including those received after abolition of FCAT. The Committee would also be interested to know as to how the abolition of FCAT has impacted the functioning of CBFC.

Reply of the Government

The actual expenditure incurred by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) up to 31.03.2022 during 2021-22 has been Rs.10.21 Crore, which is 89% of the final Grant allocation of Rs.11.47 Crore. Ministry will ensure optimal utilization of the allocated funds during 2022-23.

From the records available for the last 3 years, applicants in respect of 11 theatrical long films [2019 – 09 films; 2020 – 02 films; 2021 (till abolition of FCAT) - NIL] have approached FCAT against the decisions of CBFC. No cases/appeals have been received after abolition of FCAT.

Under the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 1983, CBFC has a robust and efficient mechanism to deal with the concerns of the film fraternity. CBFC has a well placed internal mechanism in the form of representation and appeals in the form of revising committees, which have eminent persons from different fields outside government as their members. Examining and Revising committees of CBFC after patient hearing and through a collaborative effort address the grievances of the film makers. Therefore, the abolition of the FCAT has had no significant impact on the functioning of CBFC and any displeasure or grievances from the applicants regarding certification are being dealt with adequately by referring the films to Revising Committees. In case an applicant is aggrieved by the decision of a Revising Committee, the film is further recommended to a 2nd Revising Committee for an amicable resolution. Since the abolition of FCAT in April, 2021, no applicant has approached the High Court against CBFC's decision. The processes have further been streamlined and the applicants have generally conveyed their satisfaction with the Revising Committees which deal with their films in a time bound and objective manner.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/18/2022-PC Cell dated
26.07.2022

(Recommendation Sl. No. 10)

The Committee note that from the financial Year 2019-20, three of the PrasarBharati's Schemes have been merged and a single line budget entry namely 'Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND)' has been made. The Committee note with concern that during the year 2021-22 as against the budgetary allocations for BIND of Rs. 316 crore (BE) and Rs. 175 crore (RE) the actual expenditure till 14.02.2022 have been Rs. 122.41 crore which is 38.74% w.r.t BE and 69.95% w.r.t. RE allocations. Consequently, there have been shortfall under various projects/schemes/sub-schemes/programmes of PrasarBharati such as the AIR project at Dahod (Gujrat), 5kW Mobile FM Transmitters, 100W FM Projects for 100 locations, Procurement of 1.2 lakhs Direct to Home (DTH) Receive Sets, Upgradation of

compression chain, Upgradation of 7 Doordarshan Earth Station Parabolic Dish Antenna (PDA) & 11 Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) system, Tower Strengthening work at Gangtok. The Committee are given to understand that the above projects were impacted due to Covid-19 pandemic situation, leading to less expenditure in the financial year 2021-22. Other factors cited are shortage of labour, disruption in international and domestic supply chain, delay in receiving feedback on draft specifications, delay in getting WPC Licenses/Clearance for 100 Watt FM Projects at 100 locations, Non-availability of site for AIR project at Dahod in Gujarat, insufficient participation of tender for procurement of 5 kW Mobile FM Transmitters etc. While shortfall in targets due to COVID pandemic is well taken, the Committee feel the Ministry should have addressed some of the other reasons. The core objective of BIND scheme, being digitalization of Broadcasting Infrastructure Network of PrasarBharati, the Committee feel that these projects should be implemented effectively during 2022-23 which will only help PrasarBharati in their operation. The Committee, therefore, recommend that suitable corrective measures are taken so that these projects do not suffer and funds optimally utilized. The Committee may be kept apprised of the progress of the projects under the various components under the BIND scheme.

Reply of the Government

Under Central Sector Scheme BIND the budget allocation in BE 2021-22 and RE 2021-22 was Rs.316 crore and Rs.178.15 crore (including unspent amount of Rs.3.15 crore for the year 2020-21) respectively against which an expenditure of Rs.161.60 crore (provisional) has been incurred which is 51.14% of BE 2021-22 and 90.71% of RE 2021-22.

An amount of Rs. 315 crore has been allocated in BE 2022-23 under BIND for implementation of approved projects.

All possible steps to implement the projects timely and optimal utilization of allocated funds under BIND are being taken by PrasarBharati. The updated progress of AIR & DD projects is as under:

1. **Project for setting up of 10kW FM transmitter at Dahod:** The project was approved in the 3rd Meeting of Empowered Committee constituted for BIND Scheme. The site could not be acquired so far due to very high cost as raised by State Government and which is beyond the SFC fund provision. CEO, PrasarBharati had also written a letter to Addl. Secretary (Gujarat State Government) for the site at token rate. The matter is being pursued with State Govt. of Gujarat by O/o ADG(WZ). The 10 kW FM project at Dahod has been delayed due to non-availability of site.

2. **Provision of 5 kW FM mobile Transmitters along LOC:** The project was approved in the 4th Meeting of Empowered Committee constituted for BIND Scheme. There was insufficient participation of tender for procurement of 5 kW Mobile FM Transmitter. To resolve the issue, a virtual meeting by FM Design Section was held with all the prospective bidders of FM transmitters to obtain the feedback and input on technical specifications before issuing NIT. The feedback/ Input of prospective bidders are being incorporated in technical specifications. Now, the prospective bidders have understood the AIR requirement and more bidders are likely to participate in the forthcoming tender. The tender shall be re-invited shortly.

3. **Setting up of 100 W FM Transmitter at 100 locations:** There was delay in procurement of 100W FM transmitters due to arbitration which was resolved in Apex Court. After that, there was further delay in supply of transmitter due to delay in WPC licenses. The first lot of 50 nos. of 100W FM transmitters has been received and installation process is being taken up. 100W FM transmitters have been set up at 4 locations by diversions and commissioned. At 96 locations, 100W FM transmitters are targeted to be installed in financial year 2022-23.
4. **Tower Strengthening at Gangtok for DTT:** The work is under progress.
5. **Modernization of Earth station at 11 locations:** All equipments except Audio video monitors, and OFC have been procured last year. Audio Video Monitor system and OFC link have been supplied. Earth Station Thiruvananthapuram, Chennai, Bhopal, Ahmedabad, Shimla and Jammu upgraded and all the services of existing earth station migrated to the upgraded earth station.
6. **SITC of Uplink Antenna System at 6 locations& UPS System:** Installation of PDA in progress. All UPS System have reached to the locations. Installation work of UPS under progress.
7. **Replacement of Uplink PDA at Chandigarh:** Installation of PDA is under progress.
8. **Procurement of 2 M/E Digital Production Switchers (4 set), Analog& Digital Peripherals (9 set) and HD Graphics & CG System (18 set):** Purchase order has been issued for 2M/E Digital Production switcher. Analog& Digital Peripherals and HD Graphics &CG System has been supplied to respective Kendras.
9. **Procurement of 1,20,000 DTH receive sets for remote, tribal & LWE areas of the country.** Tender again cancelled. Technical specification for FTA STB is finalized and indent submitted to Purchase cell. Fresh tendering process initiated.
10. **SITC of upgradation of compression system, monitoring system and power supply system of Earth Station Pitampura:** Technical bids have been opened and Technical Evaluation is under progress.
11. **SITC of Automated News Production System at News HQ, Delhi:** Part Inspection of equipment has been completed.
12. **HD up gradation of Studios at DD News & CPC:** All equipments except high quality Digital Intercom system procured in previous year. All four Studios at DD News HQ and CPC migrated to HD Studios. High quality Digital Intercom System has been supplied to respective Kendras.
13. **Augmentation of DD-India Channel:** The project is clubbed with additional News Room Client License & Work Station. Purchase order has been issued.
14. **Procurement of LTO based Archiving System for Raipur, Ranchi & Dehradun:** Technical evaluation is under progress.
15. **Setting up 2 nos. of 5 kW HPTs at Rajouri:** Transmitter & associated equipment

received at site. Installation work is under progress.

16. Upgradation of Compression chains and Misc equipment at DTH Todapur:
Preparation of technical specifications is under progress.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/18/2022-PC Cell dated
26.07.2022

(Recommendation Sl. No. 11)

The Committee note with concern that during the year 2021-22 as against budgetary allocation of Rs. 175.95 crore (BE) and Rs. 124.10 crore (RE) respectively, the actual expenditure up to December, 2021 has been Rs. 47.97 crore (i.e. 27.26% of BE & 38.65% of RE). The Ministry have informed that the progress and implementation of various projects were impacted due to Covid-19 pandemic situation, leading to less expenditure in the financial year 2021-22. In addition, there were various factors that slowed the pace of expenditure during the pandemic such as shortage of labour, disruption in international and domestic supply chain, delay in receiving feedbacks on draft specifications from the prospective bidders for finalization of specifications of projects, etc. Further, the Committee also note with concern that out of approved continuing projects of Doordarshan planned for the year 2021-22 there are only four projects for which the target has been completed. For the rest the status are either as orders placed/in progress/ tender invited, etc. For one scheme the Committee note with concern that the tenders issued have been cancelled and fresh tendering action has been initiated for Procurement & Distribution of DTH receive set – 1,20,000 in remote, tribal & LWE areas, including Border areas. The Ministry have informed that most of the broadcast equipment & services are not available in the country and are therefore imported and the procurement has been delayed. Considering the fact that import of broadcast equipment is leading to inevitable delay in implementation of projects, the Committee feel that the Ministry need to explore the feasibility of indigenous equipment or alternate equipment/solution for being used so as to avoid the delay. Effort to be made to avoid/curtail import to the extent possible.

The Committee note with satisfaction that Four DD channels have been launched as 24 hour satellite channels, namely, DD Retro, DD Jharkhand, DD Uttarakhand and DD Chhattisgarh. In fact, eight DD Kendras have started 24-hour satellite transmissions from wherever they are, out of which five are in the North East, namely, Agartala, Aizawl, Imphal, Shillong and Kohima. The other three are at Panaji, Shimla and Hisar. However, out of the 28 DD regional channels which are functional, not all the North-Eastern States have been covered. Despite the Committee's recommendation to have separate Doordarshan Channel for each State in the North-Eastern region of the country the Committee find that two States viz. Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim are yet to have any proposal for opening of separate Channel for their States. The Committee urge the Ministry to take the recommendation of Committee seriously and moot proposals for opening of separate channels for Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim so as to meet/fulfill the aspirations of people in these regions.

Reply of the Government

It is the constant endeavour of PrasarBharati to complete the projects within the specified time frame. Majority of broadcasting equipment are not locally manufactured. However, Consumer Premises Equipment (CPE) in case of television and radio industry, such as Radio & Television set, DTH Set top boxes and installation material are easily available in domestic market. All-out efforts are also being undertaken to have locally manufactured quality products as far as possible.

Prasar Bharati has introduced 24x7 “DD Arunprabha” channel from Doordarshan Kendra, Itanagar dedicated to the people of the state of Arunachal Pradesh on 09.02.2019. In addition, another channel, DD Tripura has also been made operational on 24X7 basis from Doordarshan Kendra, Agartala with effect from 21.01.2021.

Doordarshan Kendra, Gangtok in the State of Sikkim was also strengthened by providing necessary Electronic news-gathering(ENG) based field coverage equipment, mobile news gathering equipment (backup) etc. so that the Kendra may contribute content to DD Arunprabha and other DD channels in North Eastern region to meet the aspiration of the target audience.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/18/2022-PC Cell dated
26.07.2022

‘DD Kisan’

(Recommendation Sl. No. 12)

The Committee note that ‘DD Kisan’, a 24X7 satellite TV channel, was exclusively dedicated to the farmers and the agriculture sector on 26th May 2015. PrasarBharati is also having a dedicated “YouTube” channel of DD Kisan where the viewers may access this channel and also its various programmes digitally across the globe. It is a matter of concern that the physical and financial targets fixed for DD Kisan during 2021-22 have not been achieved. Out of allocated amount of Rs 32.70 core only Rs. 9.43 crore has been utilized and out of targeted production of 1979 hrs of programme only 1567hrs programmes could be produced till December, 2021. Considering the noble objective of this channel is to serve the farming and rural community in India and to reach the remotest parts of the country, the Committee take strong objection to non-achievement of targets set under this channel and recommend the Ministry not to repeat the same during 2022-23. The Committee also recommend the Ministry to advertise properly about the programmes shown on this channel and about the dedicated “YouTube” channel of DD-Kisan where the viewers can access this channel for maximizing the reach of the programmes of DD-Kisan Channel. The Committee desire to be informed about the number and type of programmes made for this Channels, budget allocation and utilization since the inception, the reach of channel or viewership data, etc. They also desire that an impact study of the programmes under ‘DD Kisan’ be done periodically.

Reply of the Government

The physical and financial targets have been fully achieved by “DD Kisan” by the end of Q4 of the financial year 2021-22. An amount of Rs. 38.24 crore has been utilised in the financial year 2021-2022 against the budgetary allocation of Rs. 38.48 crore in RE 2021-22. More than 2100 hours of programmes have been telecast and physical target of 1979 hours was achieved by 31.03.2022.

The programmes are also being uploaded on DD Kisan YouTube channel, which has a subscriber base of around 0.8 million at present. The QR code is also being broadcast in the programme for redirecting viewers to watch programmes on YouTube channel, if wishes so. If the viewer scans the code, it redirects to the playlist of the programme on DD Kisan YouTube channel.

Currently, 18 programmes are telecast on DD Kisan related to Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Agricultural Innovations, Weather Forecast, Commodity Market and allied sectors. As per BARC data, it is emerged that there were 160 Million unique viewers of “DD Kisan” channel in the year 2021.

Budget allocation of DD Kisan and its utilization in past years are as under:

DD Kisan Allocation and Expenditure since Inception **(Capital&Content)**

(Figures in Rs. crore)

| Year | Budget Allocated | Budget Utilized |
|-------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 2014-15 | 26.00 | 23.11 |
| 2015-16 | 26.25 | 26.25 |
| 2016-17 | 70.00 | 66.31 |
| 2017-18 | 59.96 | 38.95 |
| 2018-19 | 48.85 | 31.56 |
| 2019-20 | 17.55 | 16.43 |
| 2020-21 | 19.50 | 18.73 |
| 2021-22 | 38.48 | 38.24 |

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/18/2022-PC Cell dated
26.07.2022

Comments of the Committee **(Please see Para No. 10 of Chapter I)**

(Recommendation Sl. No. 15)

The Committee note with concern that under AIR and FM as against budgetary allocations of Rs.140.05 crore (BE) and Rs. 54.05 crore (RE) the actual expenditure upto December, 2021 has been Rs. 35.45 crore which is 25.31% of BE and 65.58% of RE respectively. The Committee are also disturbed to note that several projects of AIR targeted to be completed during 2022-23 are infact carry over projects that could not be completed during 2021-22. Some of these include 100 W FM Transmitter at 100 locations, 10 kW FM Transmitter, erection of 100 M SS tower at 19 places, refurbishing

of Studio at Kokrajhar and reconstruction of building at Rohtak, etc. In view of the very poor achievement of targets under AIR, the Committee recommend the Ministry to look into the factors causing delays in supply and installation of Transmitters/Towers and construction of Studios etc. for timely intervention and early completion of these projects. The Committee also recommend that suitable time-plan for digitization of all AIR stations may be chalked out and strictly adhered to.

Further, on a problem related to FM, the Committee are assured to learn that none of the FM stations have been shut down, infact stations had one or more FM services Like, Delhi and Bengaluru has three FM frequencies, Hyderabad has two FM frequencies of All India Radio. In addition to FM, they were also generating one or more medium wave services as well and for DTH radio, they were generating a separate service. Thus, several stations were originating five to six radio streams and were incurring expenditure that many times with similar content duplicated across each. The Ministry, therefore, started to streamline so that one station should have differentiated content and the same content does not get aired on multiple streams. The Ministry also informed that in Thiruvananthapuram there was only a single FM frequency and that is where the problem happened and tampering with the schedule happened. However, the Ministry have assured that the matter will be looked into. The Committee, therefore, expect that the issue related to Thiruvananthapuram FM station will be sorted out. The Committee hope the Ministry will keep in mind the sentiments of the region/local community where such major changes in Broadcasting are planned. Besides, in view of the grievances received from certain groups, the Ministry may look into the complaints of converting popular local FM stations into relay stations and their merger into centralized broadcasting platforms and apprise the Committee about the same. The Committee also recommend the Ministry to improve the content of the AIR/FM to keep the audience hooked and generate revenue. The action taken in the above direction alongwith the outcome may be conveyed to the Committee.

Reply of the Government

Against budgetary allocation of Rs.140.00 crore (BE) and Rs.60.63 Crore (RE) the actual expenditure upto 31 March, 2022 has been Rs.60.21 Crore (RE) which is 43% of BE and 99.31% of RE respectively. AIR is taking all possible steps to implement the approved projects to be completed in 2022-23 as these projects have not been completed in 2021-22 due to lockdown and various other issues.

The present status of such projects is furnished below:-

| Sl. No. | Projects | Present Status |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. | Digitisation of studio at 29 places | The Digital consoles are being integrated with Studio automation system. Likely to be completed by June- 2022. |
| 2. | 100W FM Transmitter at 100 locations | First lot of 50 nos of 100W FM Transmitters out of 100 locations have been received. The remaining 50 nos of 100 W FM are likely to be received by end of May, 2022. Out of 100 locations, transmitters at 4 locations have been commissioned. |
| 3. | 10kW FM Transmitters | Order placed |

| | | |
|----|---|--|
| 4. | Erection of 100 MSS tower at 19 places | Erection work under progress. |
| 5. | Refurbishing of Studio at Kokrajhar | Work under progress. |
| 6. | Reconstruction of building at Rohtak | Office, studios and Captive Earth Station (CES) at AIR Rohtak shifted in temporary porta-cabins. |
| 7. | Building under evacuation for dismantling | Reconstruction work shall be taken after dismantling of existing building. |

PrasarBharati is constantly reviewing the Fixed Point Chart (FPC) of the different channels of All India Radio to avoid duplicating the programming and to optimally utilize its resources to cater the need of target Audience. The channel programming is altered, as and when required.

Services at various AIR transmitters are chosen so that there should not be any duplication the services to the listeners in the coverage area. Further, PrasarBharati is expanding FM-isation of its AIR network. It is a constant endeavor of PrasarBharati to put out content on other new media platforms as well.

The Primary Channels of AIR carrying Public Service Broadcasting are available mainly through Medium Wave covering ~91% area of the country. There are FM support at various locations to these Medium Wave Services for better listening experiences. In addition, PrasarBharati is having vast network of AIR FM transmitters across the country; and is also in the process of expanding further to cover the uncovered and border areas.

AIR channels are categorised in various segments, each having a distinct content and flavour and having programming based on separate Fixed Point Charts (FPCs) to suit the target audience. These are broadly (i) Primary Channels (mainly on MW) – focused on Public Service broadcasting content (ii) Local Radio Stations (in FM) – have a mix of public service broadcasting and commercial entertainment with a special emphasis on local culture, languages/dialects and local talent. (iii) VividhBharati Service (VBS) (in FM) - catering to commercial entertainment based on film music and related sub-genres of content (iv) FM Rainbow channels have a mix of public service broadcasting and infotainment with a city specific focus. In addition to above in cities where AIR operates multiple FM frequencies or is operating Digital Radio DRM services the third FM frequency/Digital-service has been dedicated to specialized content such as News and Current Affairs, Live Sports, Classical Music etc.

It is further to mention that no Radio Station is converted to merely into a relay centre; rather the services are being rationalised to avoid duplicity of content and for optimal utilisation of available resources.

AIR FM channel in Thiruvananthapuram has been renamed as “AkashvaniAnanthapuriVividhBharati Malayalam” retaining the word “Ananthapuri” in line with sentiment of the people. Secondly, the newly introduced relay of VividhBharati National Service having hindi entertainment content on this channel in the prime time slot 0900 Hrs to 1000 Hrs has also replaced with the Malaylam content originating from AIR Thiruvananthapuram.

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(Recommendation Sl. No. 16)

The Committee note that Community Radio is an important third tier in Radio Broadcasting, distinct from Public Service Radio broadcasting and Commercial Radio. Community Radio Stations (CRSs) are low power Radio Stations, which are meant to be set-up and operated by local communities. The policy guidelines for Community Radio were last amended in 2018. It has been observed that the BE, RE and utilisation for the year 2021-22 have been Rs. 3.84 crore, Rs. 2.50 crore and Rs. 0.77 crore respectively. The percent of actual expenditure is 20.50% and 30.80% w.r.t BE and RE allocations respectively. The Committee are highly disappointed with non-achievement of financial targets under this scheme particularly because Community Radio is a powerful medium of the marginalized sections of society to voice their concerns and it provides a platform to air local voices among the local community on issues concerning health, nutrition, education, agriculture etc. The Committee recommends the Ministry to ensure achievement of both physical and financial targets during 2022-23. Further, when asked the reasons for discrepancies in expenditure during 2021-22 (which was Rs. 0.77 crore) and demand of Rs. 10 crore for 2022-23, the Ministry have informed that the number of community radio stations during this year has gone up. Earlier the average used to be 10 per year whereas this year 37 has been approved. The Committee would like to know exact number of Community Radio Stations in the country, and the applications due. The Committee would also like to have an update on the action taken by the Ministry and response of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), on the key recommendations of M/s. KPMG on Supporting Community Radio wherein they have stated to (i) Re-look at the policy itself, (ii) Revisit the conditions of eligibility for establishment and operations of a community radio station, (iii) Need to have Integrated workflow based single window clearance system and (iv) Grants in aid – resolution of the North East Region issue. The Committee also desire that the question of upper limit on advertisement rates should also be looked into so as to enhance the viability of Community Radio Stations. The Committee have been expressing concern that States and UTs such as Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Uttarakhand, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Ladakh and Lakshadweep do not have any Community Radio Stations. Besides, numerous popular languages and dialects of the country are yet to be covered by Community Radio Stations including some of the scheduled languages of the Constitution like Kashmiri, Bodo, Maithili, Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi and Urdu. The Committee reiterate that the Ministry to look into above concerns of the Committee.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry observed 5 action points pertaining to Community Radio Stations (Supporting Community Radio Movement in India). Action taken on each action point is listed below:

1. Annual Action Plan to monitor physical and financial targets during 2022-23 has been prepared. In addition, the process for giving clearance/approval for Community Radio applications has been streamlined.
2. As of 20th April, 2022, there are 352 operational Community Radio Stations (CRS) in the country. In addition, there are 124 applications for setting up CRS, which are at various stages of the process for obtaining Letter of Intent (LOI) from the Ministry.

3. The Ministry has made a reference to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), seeking its recommendations on various issues concerning the Policy Guidelines for setting up Community Radio Stations in India, including the eligibility conditions. The response from TRAI in the matter is still awaited. In addition, it is informed that the Ministry has re-launched revised online platform BroadcastSeva Portal, wherein an applicant can register himself and peruse various broadcast services offered by the Ministry. As far as Supporting Community Radio Movement in India is concerned, the Ministry is coordinating efforts to integrate the portal with online portals of D/o Telecommunications (SARALSANCHARPortal), M/o Home Affairs (e-Sahaj) and M/o Defense. Furthermore, the Ministry has made two-pronged effort to increase Grant-in-Aid to North-Eastern Regions (NER)
 - i. Community Radio license holders in NER shall be given a one-time financial assistance for Rs. 12.00 lakhs after operationalizing the CRS for three months; and
 - ii. the operational Community Radio Stations in NER can apply for grants for renewal/ replacement of CRS equipment, as per the listed equipment, which would be 90 % per cent of the purchase of equipment, upto a ceiling of Rs. 7.50 lakhs.
4. To enhance the viability of Community Radio Stations, the Ministry, in consultation with Bureau of Outreach and Communication (BOC), has decided to revise the advertisement rates from Rs. 4 per second to Rs. 5.2 per second. In addition, the Ministry, in its reference to TRAI, has sought recommendations to increase the advertisement time from existing 7 minutes per hour of broadcast to 12 minutes per hour of broadcast.
5. The Ministry has planned more awareness workshops to be conducted in FY2022-23 in Community Radio Dark States and North-East States. This would create awareness about Community Radio policy among the potential applicants, which when converted into operational CRS would help covering more of the scheduled languages/dialects.

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26.07.2022

(Recommendation Sl. No. 17)

The Committee note that the revenue generated by Prasar Bharati during 2021-22 (upto December 2021) is Rs. 1000.42 crore whereas operational expenses have been Rs. 848.83 crore. The Committee appreciate the level of self sufficiency achieved by Prasar Bharati with respect to GBS allocation and IEER raised during the year 2021-22 and express satisfaction over the fact that Prasar Bharati is meeting its operational expenses from its IEER and has some surplus too. These surplus IEER has been invested in term deposits in accordance with investment of money rules of Prasar Bharati for discharge of liabilities. The Committee, while applauding the efforts of Prasar Bharati to generate revenue under IEER during 2021-22, recommend the Ministry not be complacent and implement their specific action plans for generating IEER during the year 2022-23 meticulously. The Committee also recommend the Ministry to explore innovative ways to generate revenue like to implement Slot sale/hire policy, placing more and more content over OTT, YouTube channels, 'NewsonAir' App, reframing

policies for revenue generation from exclusive live coverages, training the marketing representatives, etc. In this regard, the Committee, endorse recommendation made by M/S KPMG that there is a need for tie-up with existing OTT platforms/ channels to webcast the content available with respective Media Units. Since content is the key in digital world, the Committee are in agreement with recommendation of Sam Pitroda Committee that at least 50 per cent of Prasar Bharati's funds should be spent on content. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should focus on improving the quality of the content of the programmes, both in respect of DD and AIR. The Committee may be apprised of the innovative steps taken in this direction.

Reply of the Government

Prasar Bharati has been working on improving quality of content on its various AIR and DD channels. Accordingly, multiple new policies have been approved by Prasar Bharati Board (PBB) to streamline content procurement as mentioned below:

- Policy Guidelines for Commissioning of Programmes under DAP (Direct Assignment Process) and an Online Portal has been launched for the same.
- Policy Guidelines for acquisition of Licensed Ready-Made Audio-Visual Content and an Online Portal has been launched for the same
- Policy for Procurement of Feature Films for PrasarBharati Platforms on Fixed License Fee – 2021

Further, to commemorate 75 years of India's Independence, PrasarBharati has planned for production of two special projects of 75 episodes for one-hour slot. The details are as under:

- "UnsungHeros" has been awarded and episodes are under production.
- "Post India's Independence achievements" is in progress.

In addition, various other programmes are being aired on AIR & DD to celebrate 75 years of Independence – AzadiKaAmritMahotsav. A Unique Youth Programme named "#AIRnxt" to celebrate AzaadiKaAmritMahotsav across the country on All India Radio has been planned and commenced from 28.11.2021 to connect with the youth and enhance their participation.

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26.07.2022

(Recommendation Sl. No. 18)

The Committee note that the current vacancies in Prasar Bharati is 25,188, wherein under Doordarshan it is 9,869 and in All India Radio it is 15,319. During the examining of DFG (2021-22) the Ministry had informed that the vacancies in Doordarshan and Akashvani as 10,247 and 12,086 respectively. The Committee take serious note of the fact that in spite of repeated recommendation of the Committee to fill up these vacancies expeditiously, the vacancies instead of reducing have further increased by 2,855. Asked about the reasons, the Ministry have informed the Prasar Bharati Recruitment Board constituted on 01.07.2020 for filling up the vacancies in Akashvani (AIR) and Doordarshan has become functional and has initiated the process of recruitment to fill up the backlog vacancies for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). Filling up of vacancies by direct recruitment to other posts will be taken up after decision on recommendations of Manpower Audit and on the status of Manpower Audit Report,

the Ministry have informed that there are a total of 115 actionable recommendations in the Report of which 83 have been accepted and acted upon within the purview of Prasar Bharati, 05 have been identified within the purview of the Government due to their statutory implications and on the remaining recommendations, no action is contemplated. The Ministry's statement that filling up of vacancies by direct recruitment to other posts will be taken up after implementation of the recommendations of Manpower Audit, indicates that the vacancies are not likely to be filled in near future since there is no timeline given for implementation of the recommendations of the Manpower Audit Report. Since recruitment has been linked to outcome of Manpower Audit Report, the Ministry need to analyse the recommendations of the decisions on their Report particularly those relating to recruitment and decide a timeline by which these are going to be implemented. In view of the routine explanation of the Ministry on filling up the vacancies, the Committee strongly impress upon the Ministry not to delay it anymore and take concrete measures to fill up the vacancies in PrasarBharati so that the organization and its efficiency do not suffer due to shortage of adequate human resource. The Ministry may also provide latest details of the action taken by the Ministry on Report of M/s Ernst and Young LLP as well as Sam Pitroda Committee.

Reply of the Government

In pursuance of the PrasarBharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Establishment of Recruitment Board Rules, 2020 notified by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in the Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 12.02.2020, 'PrasarBharati Recruitment Board (PBRB) has been constituted on 01.07.2020 for recruitments in Akashvani (All India Radio) and Doordarshan for the posts carrying scale of pay less than that of a Joint Secretary to the Government of India by Direct Recruitment/Departmental Competitive Examination/Deputation. The Recruitment Board (PBRB) has become functional and as of now has initiated the process of recruitment to fill up the backlog vacancies for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

In addition, to review the manpower requirement across AIR and DD in PrasarBharati based on modernized broadcast technologies, latest production techniques and global industry best practices a comprehensive Manpower Audit has been undertaken by PrasarBharati through M/s Ernst and Young LLP.

There are a total of 115 actionable recommendations as per the Manpower Audit report, out of which 83 have been accepted and actioned upon within the purview of PrasarBharati. 5 have been identified within the purview of the Government due to their statutory implications, on the remaining recommendations, no action is contemplated at this time owing to complexity of implementation.

Manpower Audit Recommendations envisages revised strength considering obsolete technologies, automation, IT Enablement, and outsourcing of non-core Activities. The revised manpower model recommended by Manpower Audit has increased focus on:

- a. Outsourcing of non-core Engineering activities to 3rd Party by having FTE driven contracts.
- b. Outsourcing of key non-core administration activities like drivers, security, assistants, by bringing in automation platforms like e-office.
- c. Hiring of specialists on contract for new roles required by PrasarBharati in line with the proposed structural change.

d. Building an effective mix of full time and contractual manpower.

Due to emergence of new broadcast technologies and modernisation several extant roles have become redundant. The revised staffing requirements for all stations are determined based on the same as recommended by the Manpower Audit. Addressing vacancy position is an ongoing process.

As per the Manpower Audit recommendations, all the roles requiring special broadcasting skills, where rate of skill obsolescence is high and where skills are market driven should be primarily contractual. Roles where the responsibilities/duties performed are strictly governed by the rules of Government of India such as General Financial Rules, CCS/CCA conduct rules etc. should primarily be in sourced.

Further, PrasarBharati Board has revised its Contractual Engagement Policy to infuse fresh talent for smooth broadcasting of various programs from across stations in line with the recommendations of the Manpower Audit to meet out contractual requirements.

In addition, continued efforts have been made by the MIB and PrasarBharati in accordance with the extant instructions of DoPT to fill up vacancies by promotion.

Further, Action taken on Sam Pitroda Committee Report in respect of Human Resource in Prasar Bharati is as follows:-

| Sl. No. | Reco mmen dation No. | Recommendations of the Committee | Action Taken (whether or not) | Action Taken by Ministry/PrasarBharati |
|---------|----------------------|---|--|---|
| 1. | 3.1 | Enable PrasarBharati with the power to frame rules and regulations for its employees without seeking prior approval of the Government. | Recommendation No. 3.1 is not accepted. | NIL as recommendation not accepted by the Government. |
| 2. | 3.2 | Undertake a comprehensive manpower audit and HR planning exercise to map workforce requirements for the future in line with PrasarBharati's mandate | Recommendation No. 3.2 is accepted in the Ministry. PrasarBharati has awarded contract to M/s Ernst & Young LLP for carrying out manpower audit of Prasar Bharati on 21.11.2018. | The contract for Manpower Audit of PrasarBharati was awarded to M/s Ernst & Young LLP. The final report on Man Power Audit dated 29.09.2020 has been accepted by CEO, PrasarBharati. There are a total of 115 actionable recommendations as below:- (i) 83 have been accepted and actioned upon within the purview of |

| | | | | |
|----|-----|---|--|--|
| | | | | <p>PrasarBharati.</p> <p>(ii) 05 have been identified within the purview of the Government due to their statutory implications.</p> <p>(iii) On the remaining recommendations, no action is contemplated at this time owing to the complexity of implementation.</p> <p>Implementation of Manpower Audit report is under process.</p> |
| 3. | 3.3 | Supplement manpower audit with a re-deployment plan that addresses training, re-skilling and promotion of existing manpower through an institutional modern appraisal system. | Recommendation No. 3.3 is accepted in the Ministry. | The implementation of various recommendations of Manpower Audit report is under process. |
| 4. | 3.4 | Create an effective recruitment system to attract the best talent and allow the hiring of skilled professionals. | Recommendation No. 3.4 is accepted but the details will be devised as per provisions of the PrasarBharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990. Ministry is working on providing an effective recruitment system through provisions of the Act. | <p>In pursuance of provisions of Section 9 and 10 of the PrasarBharati Act, the Ministry of I&B has notified PrasarBharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Establishment of Recruitment Board Rules, 2020 in the Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 12.02.2020.</p> <p>Subsequently, Recruitment Board by the name of 'PrasarBharati Recruitment Board' (PBRB) has been established by PrasarBharati on 01.07.2020 for appointment of persons to the posts carrying scale of pay less than that of a Joint Secretary to the Government of India and appointment of its</p> |

| | | | | Chairperson and Members. |
|----|-----|---|--|---|
| 5. | 3.5 | Encourage and initiate steps for absorption of Government employees as full time employees of PrasarBharati, after an appropriate screening process. The ones who remain in Government may be considered for absorption in other departments within the government as is done in other cases. | Recommendation No. 3.5 cannot be accepted in view of the PrasarBharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Amendment Act, 2011 enforced w.e.f. 08.03.2012. | NIL as recommendation not accepted by the Government. |

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(Recommendation Sl. No. 19)

The Committee note that during the year 2021-22 the budgetary allocations for North Eastern Region at BE and RE stage have been Rs. 63.24 crore and Rs. 45 crore respectively whereas the actual expenditure (till 31.12.2021) have been Rs. 7.86 crore. Regarding financial performance in NER during 2021-22, the Committee have sufficient reasons/grounds for worry since the utilisation percentage have been very low which is 12.43% and 17.47% w.r.t BE and RE respectively. The Committee note that the Ministry's plan for North-East Region for the year 2022-23 include permanent campus of FTI, Arunachal, to produce documentaries/films based on NE stories through NFDC, support Film Festivals in NER, provide increased financial assistance for NE station in Community Radio Sector, various activities under Bureau of Outreach and Communication (BOC), and several projects of PrasarBharati like installation of 1 kW FM Transmitter at Namsai (Arunachal Pradesh), Installation of 100 W FM Transmitters at 5 places: Mon (Nagaland), Tuensang (Nagaland), Nongstoin (Meghalaya), Williamnagar (Meghalaya) & Diphu (Assam), Refurbishing of AIR Studio at Kokrajhar (Assam), Installation of 10 kW FM Transmitter at Kokrajhar (Assam), Distribution of DTH STBs, Strengthening of Tower at DDK Gangtok, etc. The Committee desire that the Ministry of I & B/PrasarBharati should take effective and urgent measures to overcome the difficulties/deficiencies being faced and ensure that the budgetary allocation of Rs. 63.00 crore at BE stage during the year 2022-23 are optimally utilized for implementation of the Schemes/Projects in NER during 2022-23. The Committee may be kept apprised of the physical and financial targets met by the Ministry in NER.

Reply of the Government

During the Financial Year 2021-22, for North Eastern Region, the allocation under BE & RE were Rs. 63.24 crore and 45.00 crore respectively under Central Sector Schemes. The utilization of funds against BE & RE were 38.92% and 54.69%

respectively. The pace of expenditure in NER was slow during FY 2021-22 because of the following reasons:

- i) Under DCID scheme, due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, dissemination of information through press releases only has been done by PIB under Media Outreach Programme and Publicity component of the Scheme. The pandemic restrictions also hampered the door to door outreach activities. Further, it was not feasible to organize exhibitions at large scale due to COVID-19 related restrictions at local level in various states. However, this hurdle was overcome by BOC/ROBs by ensuring effective outreach through digital media by formation of virtual communities, organizing webinars and by disseminating the important decisions and announcements and information related to government schemes and policies in New India Samachar in physical and digital format.
- ii) Under DCDFC scheme, the reasons for low expenditure were as below:
 - a) No Film Festivals could be organised in North East States due to COVID-19. However, Manipur Film Festival, Hornbill Film Festival, Nagaland and Manipur Film Festival were supported by the Ministry.
 - b) International Children's Film Festival and Mini Mumbai International Film Festival could not be held during FY 2021-22 due to COVID-19.
 - c) Less number of proposals were received from North East States for production of regional/children's films.
 - d) Due to COVID-19, CFSI could not execute any planned activities.
- iii) In respect of CRS, no expenditure could be made as no application was received from North-Eastern Region for release of grant. Also, due to COVID-19, workshops and regional Sammelans could not be held.
- iv) With regard to BIND scheme following were the reasons for low expenditure in NER:
 - a) Delivery of DTH Set Top Boxes (STBs) and release of payment could not be made because of cancellation of tender due to administrative reasons.
 - b) Tower strengthening work at Gangtok was delayed due to unavailability of specialized agency in Sikkim.
 - c) Due to non-availability of site from encroachment, building & tower works could not be taken up for 1 KW FM Transmitter at Namsai.
 - d) Departmental works for digitalization of studio at 7 places and refurbishing of studio works at Kokrajhar could not be completed due to restriction of COVID-19.

For BE 2022-23, an amount of Rs.63.00crore has been allocated for NER under Central Sector Schemes for which action is being taken to fully utilize the fund.

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CHAPTER- III

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO
PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT

---NIL---

CHAPTER IV

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE AND REQUIRE REITERATION

(Recommendation SI. No. 3)

Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI)

The Committee note that the Office of the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) was set up in 1956, on the recommendation of the First Press Commission (1953) and by amending the Press and Registration of Books Act (PRB), 1867. As an attached office with the Ministry of I&B, RNI executes statutory and non-statutory functions. RNI maintains a Register of Newspapers and Publications published across the country, issuing Certificate of Registration to newspapers and publications, informing District Magistrate (DM) concerned about approval of titles of fresh newspapers, and scrutinizing and analyzing the annual statements submitted by the publishers of newspapers and publications. Under its non-statutory functions, RNI authenticates self-declaration certificates for import of newsprint to actual user publications registered with RNI. During the year 2017-20, RNI was allocated funds for implementation of scheme 'Strengthening of RNI HQs' under the Ministry of I&B's umbrella scheme 'Media Infrastructure Development Programme'. From 2020-21 onwards, the entire scheme has been merged into an automation project, expenditure of which shall be met out from Establishment Expenditure. As of now, there is no scheme of RNI. Currently, application for titles can be filled online, computerized processing of title verification and registration can be done and all the verified titles are being put on RNI website and can be downloaded. In the second phase of digitalization, various procedures of the Office, including application for title and registration will be made completely online.

The Committee are, however, surprised to learn that till 31st March, 2021, 35% of this project has been completed and today the entire process is manual wherein one has to apply to the Collector, the newspaper owner has to give an oath before the Collector, then it goes to the RNI where papers are examined physically to see how many papers has been published, etc. and then it has to be registered. It is also surprising to note in these digital times where almost all aspects of life have come under digital mode, newspapers around 70,000 to 80,000 in number have to file their annual returns, make fee payment, show all their publication in circulation, statistics and other activities manually. The Committee wonder as to why such an important exercise of automation has been delayed. This simply reflects that we are way behind the times. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to fast track automation process in RNI and link it to the payment system also so as to reduce the time and have continuous record about newspapers at one place. Besides, the Ministry may also streamline the entire process of registration so as to facilitate ease of business in publishing industry.

Even with respect to the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, the Ministry have been informed that they have worked out an amendment to that Act, however, it is yet to be circulated and sent to the Cabinet. The Bill had been referred to this

Committee and the Committee had given their Report in 2011. Considering the fact that the Act is almost 160 years old, the Committee recommend the Ministry not to delay the amendment of the Act and also apprise them about the proposed amendments. Further, in light of the new mandate given to the Ministry relating to Digital/Online Media, the Committee also recommend the Ministry to come out clearly on application of this Act to online newspapers. Regarding the budget allocation to RNI, the Ministry may apprise why Rs. 7.95 crore has been allocated for RNI during 2022-23 at BE stage when there is no Scheme of RNI per se and automation project expenditure of RNI shall be met out from Establishment Expenditure. The Committee recommend the Ministry to have full utilisation of the fund during 2022-23 unlike 2021-22 wherein the actual expenditure under RNI was 68.19% and 70.68% of BE and RE allocations respectively.

Reply of the Government

BE allocation for RNI is Rs. 8.52 crore. In RE, it was restricted to Rs. 8.21 crore out of which, the actual expenditure was Rs. 7.75 crore for FY 2021-22 which is 94.38% of the RE. The BE of RNI for FY 2022-23 is Rs. 7.95 crore. Out of this allocation, the key components include Rs. 5.40 crore for Salary, Rs. 1.11 crore for 'Office Expenses' and Rs. 0.87 crore for 'Professional services'.

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26.07.2022

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 7 of Chapter I)

CHAPTER V

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE INTERIM IN NATURE

National Centre for Excellence for Animation, Visual effects, Gaming and Comics(NCOE-AVGC)

(Recommendation Sl. No. 9)

The Committee note that during 2022-23, two of the thrust areas under Film Sector include: (i) Setting up of a National Centre of Excellence for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (NCoE-AVGC) at Mumbai. (ii) Setting up of an AVGC promotion task force with all stakeholders to recommend ways to realize AVGC potential and build domestic capacity for serving our markets and the global demand. The Committee note that the project for setting up a NCoE-AVGC was actually a part of Budget Announcement made during the 2014-15 with the administrative approval of Rs. 167.70 crore and was to be implemented in a four year period from 2016-17 to 2019-20. The Committee are concerned to note that even after almost 8 years the NCoE-AVGC Centre has not seen the light of day. Keeping in view that AVGC (Animation, Visual effects, Gaming and Comics) sector is very prominent sector and is growing very fast particularly during COVID period because of lockdown, people have really got into the gaming industry and it is growing at 20 per cent per annum, the Ministry need to encourage this sector. The Committee note that for supporting this sector and to boost employment in this sector, the Government proposed to form an AVGC promotion task force and the Ministry of I&B are working on it in association with the industry. The Inter-Ministerial task force will include the Ministry of Education, Minister of Skill Development, Department of Commerce and DPIIT etc. and this task force will be an interface between the industry as well as the educational institutions and the skill institutions. The Committee, while noting the Ministry's plan for setting up of Inter-Ministerial task force, feel that the setting up of National Centre for Excellence is long overdue and this step should have been taken at the inception itself when the plan for setting up of NCoE- AVGC had been conceived way back in 2016-17. Now that the Ministry are working towards incentivizing the sector, the Committee recommend the Ministry to firm up the plan of action and timelines for setting up of the task force and inform the Committee of the outcome.

Reply of the Government

The setting up of NCoE has been engaging the attention of this Ministry for the past several years. A series of discussions were held with IIT Bombay for setting up of NCoE at Film City, Goregaon, Mumbai. However, since consensus could not be arrived at on various issues such as corporate structure, financing, revenue and operating

model and fast technological changes in the sector, the government has not been able to set up the NCoE.

Ministry has initiated the task of development of Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) structure for NCoE-AVGC in consultation with industry.

NCoE, as envisioned by the Ministry would be an independent, industry-led institution which not only provides employment to the youth, but also responds to the skilling requirements of the industry, so that both the youth and the industry can benefit from it. In this regard, discussions are being held with stakeholders of the industry such as FICCI and CII.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/18/2022-PC Cell dated
26.07.2022

PM e-Vidya

(Recommendation Sl. No. 13)

The Committee note that 'One Class-one TV Channel' programme under PM e-Vidya is one of the focus areas of the Ministry in accordance with the announcement made in Budget Speech (2022-23). The Ministry have informed that at present there are twelve channels, under PM e-Vidya and these 12 TV channels will be expanded to 200 TV channels for supplementary education in regional languages for Class 1 to 12. The Committee note that the Ministry intends to provide support to Doordarshan and free dish platforms for this purpose and they will be working with the Ministry of Education on this. Bhaskaracharya Institute of Space Applications (BISAG) are entrusted with the task. They are operating a teleport where they are uplinking about 40 educational channels, 12 for school education and the rest for higher education. So, the 12 channels for school education is going to be increased to 200 channels so as to cover every language pan India. It is different from EDUSAT which was interactive and based on VSAC terminals. The Committee, while expressing happiness over the move to increase channels for school education from 12 to 200, recommend the Ministry to increase it even more if need be to cover all the languages pan India. The Committee desire that they may be informed about further details under PM e-Vidya including the budget allocated for the scheme per-se and budget earmarked by M/o I&B for implementing it, the timeline by which all the 200 channels will be functional, languages to be covered, details of channels to be relayed in each language and States, etc. The Committee may be kept apprised about the progress made under PM e-Vidya along with an impact study of this project. The Committee also recommend that the Ministry may think in terms of constituting a task force drawing persons from Ministry of Education, academia and other stakeholders related to the field to assess the impact as well as to suggest future course of action for improvements.

Reply of the Government

As per the information provided by Ministry of Education [Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET), a constituent unit of National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)]:

- The work on expansion of TV channels from 12 to 200 + has begun in the right earnest. A thorough review after the launch of all 200 channels will help in taking appropriate decision in this regard.
- The PM e-Vidya budget detail for extension of 12 channels to 200 channels is yet to be finalized. However, for different components of PM eVidya a sum of Rs.1,509,151,000/- has been allocated for the year 2022-23 as per following details:

| Programme code | Title if the Programmes approved under PMeVIDYA for 2022-2023 | Sum Allocated |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------------|
| 20.17 | DIKSHA/ICT Excellence Award for School Teachers, Teacher Educators and States/UTs (ongoing) | Rs.90,75,000/- |
| 20.18 | Organization of Festival, ICT Mela, contests of digital contents and coordination with States/ UTs. | Rs.54,40,000/- |
| 20.19 | Management of PM e-VIDYA (One Class, One Channel, Radio, Broadcast, Podcasts) | Rs.24,75,00,000/- |
| 20.20 | DIKSHA - One Nation One Digital Platform | Rs.82,97,86,000/- |
| 20.21 | Development of National Curriculum Frameworks – Tech Platform | Rs.7,97,00,000/- |
| 20.22 | NISHTHA Integrated Teacher Training | Rs.2,36,50,000/- |
| 20.23 | Development of Skill E-Learning Lab | Rs.5,00,00,000/- |
| 20.24 | Development of Virtual Lab | Rs.26,40,00,000/- |
| | Total Amount | Rs.1,509,151,000/- |

- The process to implement the scheme has already started with orientation programmes and consultations with States/UTs, which were held on 22-23 March, 2022 at Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Informatics (BISAG-N), Gandhinagar. About 17 states/UTs/Organizations participated in it. The Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for creation, curation and dissemination of e-Content has already been shared with a wide range of stakeholders. BISAG-N has informed that their preparations in terms of creating civil/electrical and electronic infrastructure are also in full swing. The transponders will be hired and Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is on-board for it. Number of channel allocation to States/UTs is being discussed. States /UTs have been informed to be ready with the video

content. Second orientation programme of two days was held for state functionaries from 30-31 May 2022 at BISAG-N, Gandhi Nagar for the remaining states/UTs.

- Under this initiative, all major languages of the country are to be covered with the cooperation of respective states/UTs including Indian Sign Language (ISL).
- As of now, all 12 channels are running in Hindi and English medium across the country. Once, more number of channels as part of 200 channels are functional, the details of the channels relayed in each language and states will be available.
- CIET, NCERT has already planned and proposed a research program to study the impact of the said project.
- CIET, NCERT has planned and is proposing to constitute an Academic Advisory Committee (AAC) comprising people from academia, and EdTech sector and other stakeholders in the field to advise and assist in assessing the impact as well as to suggest future course of action for improvements.

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26.07.2022

**Comments of the Committee
(Please see Para No. 13 of Chapter I)**

Digital Terrestrial Transmission (DTT)

(Recommendation Sl. No. 14)

The Committee note that according to the roadmap furnished by TRAI in 2017 DTT is being implemented in the country in three phases with complete migration and analog switch off by December 2023. The timelines of the 3 phases include (i) Phase I (Metro cities) by 31st December, 2019, (ii) Phase II (cities having more than 10 lakh population as per Census 2011) by 31st December, 2021 and (iii) Phase-III (Rest of India) by 31st December, 2023. The Committee note that M/s. KPMG in their Report made one recommendation relating to DTT which states that with no decision seeming to be given on the business model for DTT, investing into this component may be infructuous. In response to the recommendation of M/s. KPMG on DTT, the M/o I&B have stated that their future roadmap for DTT, would depend upon the outcome of the study being conducted by IIT Kanpur, commissioned by PrasarBharati. The Committee would like to be apprised about the said study and action taken thereon. Further, in view of Analogue Transmission rationalization, responding to the concern of the Committee with respect to the fate of those closed establishments, the CEO, PrasarBharati informed that many of the establishments are having FM Radio and with 113 new FM projects coming up the staff would be utilized there. The Committee are happy to note that many of them are getting redeployed in the FM sites and the Ministry are going to reskill the rest and retrain them. The Committee, while appreciating all the efforts recommend the Ministry to adhere to the target for implementation of DTT throughout

the country which is December, 2023 and apprise them about the phase-wise targets achieved for implementation of DTT. Keeping in view that DTT technologies enable efficient use of the TV spectrum, provide better quality of service, multiple broadcasting services within the same channel bandwidth, the Committee recommend that feedback may be taken from time to time from places where DTT has been implemented so as to measure the impact of DTT transmission.

Reply of the Government

As far as PrasarBharati is concerned, it has switched off its analog terrestrial TV Transmission on 31.03.2022 throughout the country barring few transmitters at strategic locations. Further, it has also commissioned 23 DD Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) Transmitters in 19 cities as per the schemes sanctioned by Government under 11th & 12th plan.

Any further expansion of Digital Terrestrial Transmission by Doordarshan will be undertaken only after finalization of a viable policy on Digital Terrestrial TV, identification of areas where such transmission will be continued and choice of appropriate technology.

Further, PrasarBharati has entered into an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IIT Kanpur to develop Next Generation Broadcast solution/ roadmap for Digital Terrestrial Broadcasting consistent with emerging standards such as 5G Broadcast. Sanction for the Proof of Concept (PoC) of Next Gen Broadcasting has also been conveyed to IIT Kanpur. The PoC of Next Generation Broadcasting model is under process. Evaluation of this PoC will pave the way for selection of appropriate Next Generation Broadcast Technology and roadmap for digital broadcasting.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/18/2022-PC Cell dated
26.07.2022

New Delhi;

8 February, 2023

19 Magha, 1944 (Saka)

PRATAPRAO JADHAV,

Chairperson,

**Standing Committee on
Communications and Information Technology.**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(2022-23)
MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 07th February, 2023 from 1500 hours to 1520 hours in Main Committee Room, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Prataprao Jadhav- Chairperson

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Smt. Sumalatha Ambareesh
3. Shri Karti P. Chidambaram
4. Smt. Sunita Duggal
5. Smt. Raksha Nikhil Khadse
6. Shri P. R. Natarajan
7. Shri Santosh Pandey
8. Shri Sanjay Seth
9. Shri Ganesh Singh
10. Dr. T. Sumathy (A) Thamizhachi Thangapandian
11. Dr. M.K. Vishnu Prasad

Rajya Sabha

12. Dr. Anil Aggarwal
13. Shri Kartikeya Sharma

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Satpal Gulati - Joint Secretary
2. Smt. Jyothirmayi - Director
3. Shri Nishant Mehra - Deputy Secretary

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee convened to consider and adopt five Action Taken Reports which included four Draft Action Taken Reports on Demands for Grants (2022-23) relating to the Ministries/Departments under their jurisdiction and one Draft Action Taken Report on Twenty Seventh Report on the subject 'Ethical Standards in Media Coverage' of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

3. The Committee, then, took up the following draft Reports for consideration and adoption.

(i) xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx*

(ii) xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx

(iii) xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx

(iv) Draft Action Taken Report on Thirty Fourth Report on 'Demands for Grants (2022-23)' relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

(v) xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx

4. After due deliberations, the Committee adopted the Reports without any modifications.

5. The Committee authorized the Chairperson to finalize the draft Action Taken Reports and present the same to the House during the current Session of Parliament.

The Committee, then, adjourned.

* Matters not related to the Report

**ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE OBSERVATIONS/
RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THEIR TWENTY-FIFTH REPORT**

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

[Vide Paragraph No. 5 of Introduction]

| | | |
|--|---------------------|-------------|
| (i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government Rec. Sl. Nos.: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 | Total Percentage | 15 78.95 |
| (ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government | Total Percentage | NIL 0.00 |
| (iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and require reiteration Rec. Sl. Nos.: 3 | Total Percentage | 01 5.26 |
| (iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which the replies of the Government are of interim in nature Rec. Sl. Nos.: 9, 13, and 14 | Total Percentage | 03 15.79 |