

3

**STANDING COMMITTEE
ON COMMUNICATIONS
(1996-97)**

ELEVENTH LOK SABHA

**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
AND BROADCASTING**

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(1996-97)**

THIRD REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

September, 1996/Bhadra, 1918 (Saka)

THIRD REPORT

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS

(1996-97)

ELEVENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (1996-97)

Presented to Lok Sabha on 2.9.96

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 2.9.96



सत्यमेव जयते

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

September, 1996/Bhadra, 1918 (Saka)

C.O.C. No. 03

Price : Rs.16.00

PARLIAMENTARY PUBLICATIONS
INDIA GOVT. PRINTING PRESS
AND. No. 11. 95042 (2)
Date 4/9/96

328.3657R
N6.3;1

© 1996 By LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

Published under Rule 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Eighth Edition) and printed by Jainco Art India, 13/10, W.E.A., Saraswati Marg, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005.

CONTENTS

	PAGE	
COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE (1996-97)	(iii)	
INTRODUCTION	(v)	
REPORT		
(a) Introductory	1	
(b) Overall Performance : Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	1	
(c) Demand No. 55 : Information and Publicity Sector	7	
(d) Demand No. 56 : Broadcasting Services	14	
APPENDICES		
Appendix I & II	Minutes of the Sittings of the Standing Committee on Communication (96-97) held on 13.8.96 and 14.8.96	24
Appendix III & IV	Minutes of the sitting of the Sub-Committee 'C' held on 21.8.96 and 23.8.96	28
Appendix V	Minutes of the Sittings of the Committee on Communication (96-97) held on 26.8.96	30

COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING
COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS
(1996-97)

Shri Somnath Chatterjee — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri K.L. Sharma
3. Shri Hariq Pathak
4. Dr. S.N. Jatiya
5. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat
6. Smt. Sheela Gautam
7. Smt. Bhavna Chikhalia
8. Shri Mahesh Kanodia
9. Shri Pankaj Chaudhary
10. Shri Harpal Singh Sathi
11. Shri Sukh Ram
12. Shri Th. Choaba Singh
13. Shri Girdhar Gomango
14. Smt. Sukhbuns Kaur
15. Shri Somjibhai Damor
16. Shri Mrutyunjaya Nayak
17. Shri Mohanbhai Delkar
18. Shri Thomas Hansda
19. Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar
20. Shri Dinesh Chandra Yadav
21. Shri T. Veera Bhadram
22. Shri R. Devadas
23. Dr. Shafiqur Rehman Bariq
24. Shri V.P. Shanmuga Sundram

25. Shri Kothapalli Subbarayudu
26. Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee
27. Shri Budh Sen Patel
28. Shri Keshab Mahanta
29. Shri Joachin Baxla
30. Shri Churchill Alemao

Rajya Sabha

31. Shrimati Veena Verma
32. Shri Iqbal Singh
33. Shri S.S. Ahluwalia
34. Shri Ahmed Patel
35. Shrimati Jayanthi Natarajan
36. Shri Govindram Miri
37. Shri O. Rajagopal
38. Shri Shatrughan Prasad Sinha
39. Shri Narendra Pradhan
40. Dr. Ramendra Kumar Yadav Ravi
41. Shri Md. Salim
42. Shri S. Austin
43. Shri Ish Dutt Yadav
44. Shri Satish Pradhan
45. Shri R.K. Karanjia

SECRETARIAT

Dr. A.K. Pandey	-	<i>Additional Secretary</i>
Shri J.P. Ratnesh	-	<i>Joint Secretary</i>
Shri Ram Autar Ram	-	<i>Deputy Secretary</i>
Shri S.K. Sharma	-	<i>Under Secretary</i>

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Standing Committee on Communications (1996-97) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on its behalf, present this third Report, on the Demands for Grants 1996-97 relating to Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

2. The Standing Committee on Communications was constituted on August, 1996. One of the functions of the Standing Committee as laid down in Rule 331E of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, is to consider the Demands for Grants of the concerned Ministry/Department and make a Report on the same to the Houses.

3. The Committee considered the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting for the current year *i.e.* 1996-97 which were laid on the Table of the House on 1.8.1996. Thereafter, the Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting on 13.8.1996 & 14.8.1996.

4. The Committee wishes to express its thanks to the Officers of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting for placing before it the detailed written notes on the subject and for furnishing the information, the Committee desired in connection with the examination of the subject.

5. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 26.8.1996.

NEW DELHI;
August 27, 1996
Bhadra 5, 1918 (Saka)

SOMNATH CHATTERJEE,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Communications.

REPORT

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (1996-97) OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

(a) Introductory

1. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have presented to the Parliament two Demands for the year 1996-97. They are Demand No. 55 which covers expenditure on the Secretariat of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and of the media units in the information and publicity Sector including provision for assistance to Grants-in-aid bodies and to NFDC and BECIL, the two Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry. Demand No. 56 pertains to Broadcasting Services covers expenditure of AIR and Doordarshan.

(b) Over all Performance : Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Budgetary Grants

2. The Budgetary provisions for 1995-96 and the current year are as under :—

(Rs. in crores)

	1995-96			1996-97					
	Budget Estimate			Revised Estimate			Budget Estimate		
	Plan	Non-Plan	Total	Plan	Non-Plan	Total	Plan	Non-Plan	Total
Demand No. 55	46.72*	110.11	156.83	49.23*	119.81	169.04	52.62*	114.10	166.72
Demand No. 56	448.78	1147.00	1595.78	447.38	1159.98	1607.36	480.38	1290.15	1770.53
Total	495.50	1257.11	1752.61	496.61	1279.79	1776.40	533.00	1404.25	1937.25

* Including IEBR generated by NFDC.

3. The Planning Commission has approved an outlay of Rs. 3634 crores for Eighth Five Year Plan (1992—97) for Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

4. An outlay of Rs. 38.42 crores were approved subsequently for the new schemes. It has been stated that the Eighth Plan Target of the Ministry

has been fixed in relation to an outlay of Rs. 3672.42 crores (Original outlay of Rs. 3634 crores + outlay of Rs. 38.42 crores approved subsequently for new schemes).

5. In a note furnished at the instance of the Committee, the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting furnished media-wise details of the 8th Plan outlay and aggregate expenditure incurred during the first four years of the plan which are as under :—

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. NO.	Name of Media Units etc.	8th Plan outlay 1992-97	Aggregate outlay 1992-97	Aggregate expenditure upto 31.3.1996
1	2	3	4	5
A. Broadcasting Sector				
1.	All India Radio	113495.00	83442.00	51486.77
2.	Doordarshan	230000.00	134532.00	90937.00
	Total	343495.00	217974.00	142423.77
B. Information Media				
1.	PIB	1400.00	1729.00	355.80
2.	Publication Divn.	250.00	191.42	52.41
3.	DAVP	500.00	254.30	222.66
4.	S&DD	1000.00	640.00	481.66
5.	DFP	1100.00	667.00	501.87
6.	Photo Divn.	400.00	390.00	173.33
7.	IIMC	700.00	817.00	607.87
8.	RNI	50.00	50.00	47.95
9.	Soochna Bhavan	1120.00	725.00	105.25
10.	Main Sectt.	2248.50	1244.00	943.48
	Total	8768.50	6173.72	3492.28

1	2	3	4	5
C. Films Media				
1.	Films Divn.	3400.00	2326.00	1224.60
2.	NFAI	600.00	564.00	346.92
3.	FTII, Pune	2013.91	2005.75	1803.39
4.	SRFTI, Calcutta	2950.00	4062.00	725.95
5.	NCFCYP	1000.00	710.00	593.64
6.	NFDC	3400.00	3890.00	2469.21
7.	DFF	1500.00	1418.00	1374.38
8.	Film Societies	15.00	15.00	12.00
9.	CBFC	100.00	100.58	62.73
Total		14978.91	15265.83	8612.82

6. It would be seen from above that 8th Pan outlay of All India Radio (AIR) and Doordarshan is Rs. 1134.95 crores and Rs. 2300 crores and the outlay during the Plan 1992-97 has been 834.42 crores and Rs. 1345.32 crores respectively. Against these allocations, the aggregate expenditure of Rs. 514.87 crores and Rs. 909.37 crores on AIR and Doordarshan, show substantial shortfall in the utilisation of allotted funds. Similarly the 8th Plan outlay for various visions of Information Media was Rs. 87.685 crores aggregate outlay Rs. 61.737 crores and aggregate expenditure Rs. 34.92 crore. On Film Media it was Rs. 149.79 crores, Rs. 152.66 crores and Rs. 86.13 crores. In these cases also there was substantial shortfall in utilisation of funds.

7. The Committee enquired whether it will be possible to achieve the physical targets laid down in the 8th Plan. In reply, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting stated that the 8th Plan outlay of Rs. 3672.42 crores is based on the premise that the plan schemes would be funded to the extent of Rs. 3217.00 crores through internal generation of resources (IEBR) by AIR, Doordarshan and National Film Development Corporation and only Rs. 455.42 crores would be provided from budgetary sources. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had pointed out to the Planning Commission as far back as May, 1992 that the target of Rs. 3217 crores for internal generation of resources was unattainable as in the year preceding the 8th Plan the total revenue raised by two electronic media

i.e. AIR and Doordarshan was only Rs. 347 crores. In the circumstances, the Planning Commission was requested to enhance the Budget Support so that the plan outlay at the approved level could be maintained. As the Budget Support component for the 8th Plan outlay was not enhanced, the plan outlay approved for this Ministry remained unrealistic. As the physical targets for the 8th Plan have been envisaged vis-a-vis the unrealistic outlay of Rs. 3672.42 crores, these targets are not likely to be achieved in several areas.

8. The Committee has also been informed that the expected Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR) support for the Plan is likely to be only Rs. 1803.32 crores leaving a resource gap of Rs. 1413.68 crores.

9. Clarifying the position further the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has stated that in the case of Doordarshan, as against the 8th Plan outlay of Rs. 2300.00 crores, the aggregate of the outlays given during the first four years was only Rs. 1004.94 crores. In the case of AIR, as against the 8th Plan outlay of Rs. 1134.95 crores, the aggregate of Annual Plan outlays for the first four years was only Rs. 694.42 crores. The Ministry, it is stated, has no control over the outlays allocated/approved by the Planning Commission for the Annual Plans.

10. The projects which have suffered the most because of resource gap are stated to be High Power Transmitters (HPTs), studios, news automation, augmentation of Electronic News Gathering, augmentation of Programme Exchange Units, Satellite Services, Staff quarters and Special Software Schemes in the case of Doordarshan; training for which technical/programme training institutes were envisaged at various places, external services, computerisation, upgradation of technology and facilities, modernisation and replacement, sanction of staff in the case of All India Radio (AIR).

11. The reasons for the shortfalls have been stated to be on account of the delays in acquisition of land sites, slow progress of civil works (which may be due to various reasons such as remoteness of area, disturbed law and order situation etc.), delay in supply of equipments by suppliers, delay in sanctioning of projects and further delay in sanctioning of the creation of posts by the competent authority. The remedial steps taken include incorporation of a standard clause relating to liquidate damages in supply order and recovery of the same in many cases from the supplier and also streamlining procedure for land acquisition.

12. The Committee note that the 8th Plan outlay of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting approved by Planning Commission is Rs. 3672.42 crores sectoral allocations being Rs. 1134.95 crores for All India Radio (AIR), Rs. 2300 crores for Doordarshan, Rs. 149.79 crores for Films and Rs. 87.69 crores for Information Media. However, the Committee find that aggregate outlay of annual plans (1992-97) has been Rs. 2394.14 crores (Rs. 834.42 crores on AIR, Rs. 1345.32 crores on Doordarshan, Rs. 152.66 crores on items and Rs. 61.74 crores on Information Media). The Committee has been informed that Plan outlays of Rs. 3672.42 crores is based on the premise that plan schemes would be funded to the extent of Rs. 3217 crores through internal generation of resources (IEBR) by AIR, Doordarshan and National Film Development Corporation, budgetary resources provided are merely Rs. 455.42 crores. The Ministry had informed Planning Commission in May, 1992 itself that target of Rs. 3217 crores was unattainable. The resource generation of that time by electronic media i.e. AIR and Doordarshan was only Rs. 347 crores. As the Budget support component was not enhanced, the approved plan outlay remained unrealistic. In fact the internal generation of resources is likely to be Rs. 1803 crores against the target of Rs. 3217 crores. As the physical targets of the Plan were related to the imaginary outlay of Rs. 3672.42 crores the targets are not attainable. It speaks poorly of the Planning process. In fact it is negation of Planning as the targets laid down are unrealistic.

13. The Committee find that aggregate outlay allocated during the period 1992-97 comes to Rs. 2394.14 crores against the 8th plan outlay of Rs. 3672.42 crores which constitute only 66 percent of the approved outlay. The aggregate expenditure upto 31.3.96 has been Rs. 1545.29 crores. Obviously the shortfall of Rs. 1278.28 crores vis-a-vis the plan outlay has been due to lesser mobilisation of internal resources. It is a matter of grave concern. In the light of these facts, the Committee apprehend that Budget outlay of Rs. 1937.25 crores for the year 1996-97 (both Plan and Non-Plan) will remain unattainable. It will, in turn, adversely affect achievement of physical targets also that have been set in. The project that are likely to suffer are in the critical areas like High Power Transmitters (HPTs), studios, News Automation, Augmentation of Electronic News Gathering, Satellite service, special software schemes and staff quarters in the case of Doordarshan & Training, External services, Computerisation, upgradation of technology etc. in the case of AIR to mention a few. The Committee trust that in future realistic estimates of resource generation will be made in consonance with the prevailing realities.

14. The Plan outlay and the expenditure for 1995-96 and Plan outlay for 1996-97 are as follows :—

(Rs. in crores)				
Sector	Outlay 1995-96	Revised Estimates 1995-96	Expenditure 1995-96 (Provisional)	Outlay 1996-97
Doordarshan	313.78	315.38	310.49	340.38
Sound Broadcasting	135.00	132.00	128.80	140.00
(AIR) Films Media	28.93	37.54	37.77	41.26
Information Media	17.79	11.69	10.01	11.36
Total	495.50	496.61	487.07	533.00

15. The excess expenditure under Film Media is stated to be mainly due to release of grant to Assam Government for the Development of Jyoti Chitraban Film Studio and purchase of equipment by the Film Media. The shortfall in the information sector is stated to be mainly due to non-finalisation of Plan Schemes which are mostly staff-oriented and equipment-based.

16. The Committee note that proposed Plan outlay for 1996-97 (BE) is Rs. 533 crores against Rs. 496.61 crores in 1995-96 (RE) and the provisional expenditure of Rs. 482.85 crores. The outlay has been raised from Rs. 315.38 crores to Rs. 340.38 crores in the case of Doordarshan; Rs. 132 crores to Rs. 140 crores for Sound Broadcasting; 37.54 crores to 41.26 crores for Film Media, while in the case of Information Media it has decreased from Rs. 11.69 crores to Rs. 11.36 crores. Evidently, provisions made are more or less at the same level as in the previous year *i.e.* 1995-96 (RE) barring Doordarshan in which case there is an impressive increase of about 8 percent. If escalation in price level that has taken place during the past year is taken into consideration this year the increased outlay looks imaginary. In real terms it may be less than what was provided in the previous year. On the other hand, important projects are being neglected due to inadequate resources.

(C) Demand No. 55 : Information and Publicity Sector Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP)

17. The DAVP is the central agency of the Government of India for undertaking mass Advertising and Visual Publicity campaigns on behalf of the Central Government Ministries and Departments, Autonomous Bodies and Public Sector Undertakings who wish to avail of its facilities. The Directorate endeavours to reach the people through press advertisements; printed publicity material like posters, folders and booklets; outdoor publicity items like hoardings, wall paintings, cinema slides banners, bus panels etc. Audio visual publicity through radio spots and TV commercials is also used for wider coverage and mass contact. Policies and programmes of the Government are also publicised through exhibitions. The Directorate can also reach about 15 lakh addresses all over the country through its direct mail service.

18. The Actual expenditure during 1994-95, the target and achievement during 1995-96, the target 1996-97 are as follows :—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Actual Expdr. 1994-95		Budget Estimate 1995-96		Revised Estimate 1995-96		Actual Expdr. 1996-97	
Plan	Non Plan	Plan	Non Plan	Plan	Non Plan	Plan	Non Plan
118.99	3111.33	30.00	3322.00	25.00	3584.26	30.00	2811.65

19. During the course of evidence it has been stated that for display and classified advertising, DAVP had spent Rs. 24.58 crores during 1995-96, out of which 80% of total outlay were spent on classified advertisement which covers recruitments, vacancies, tender notices of the Government published in various newspapers and about 20% were on other information areas which tells about schemes and activities of the Government.

20. In the context of financial constraints in reaching out to people, it has further been submitted that there are Ministries in the social sector, rural development, health and welfare and they have substantial budget for education and publicity etc. and if these Ministries could provide some fund out of that for publicity, it will help in the programmes of DAVP to reach people. It has further been informed that Ministry of I & B has got approximately Rs. 6 crores from other Ministries during 1995-96 for the services rendered.

21. It would be seen that a Budget Estimate of Rs. 17.09 crores has been provided in BE for 1996-97 for, display and classified advertising under non-plan outlay. When asked to give justification for reduced BE against 2453.01 lakh provided in 1995-96 (RE) when it is considered to be one of the most important part of activities of the Ministry and that there has been escalation of advertisement rates of almost all the newspapers, the Secretary, Information and Broadcasting submitted :—

“In the total quantum of advertisements, there will be a reduction unfortunately, since majority of funds of DAVP are coming under non-plan Heads, there is always a constraint of funds. We are trying to get some funds. Because of this, DAVP could not get whatever they wanted.”

22. In a subsequent note it has been stated that the display and classified advertisements requirements of DAVP under Non-Plan for the year 1996-97 are expected to be of the order of Rs. 23.78 crores. The budget allocation for this purpose is Rs. 17.09 crores.

23. The Budgetary provision for Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity *inter-alia* includes expenditure on publicity activities such as exhibitions, display/classified advertisements, advertising on Radio/TV, printed publicity and outdoor publicity. The Committee observe that proposed Budgetary allocation for display/classified advertisement has been reduced to Rs. 17.09 crores in 1996-97 against Rs. 24.53 crores in 1995-95. The representative of the Ministry candidly admitted that there will be reduction in total quantum of advertisements. The Committee are of the view that reduced allocations would drastically curtail activities of DAVP and the desired objective will not be fulfilled. In this context, the Committee note that other Government agencies engaged in social sector, rural development, agriculture, health and welfare etc. have sufficient funds. The Committee, therefore, desire that these agencies may be approached upon to have a coordinated action in regard to giving publicity in such important spheres.

Film Division

Professional Services

24. The Committee has observed that out of Budget allocation of Rs. 8.90 lakhs for professional services during 1995-96, a sum of Rs. 3 lakhs was provided in RE 1995-96 spent. The Budget Estimate for 1996-97 is Rs. 8.50 lakhs.

Asked about reasons for under-utilisations of funds during 1995-96, it has been stated that since during 1995-96 the Ministry has to mobilise additional resources to release grant to Assam Government for the Development of Jyoti Chitraban Film Studio as part of implementation of Clause 6 of Assam Accord, therefore the allocation for various sectors had to be reduced.

25. The Committee enquired why no provision was made in the Annual Budget for Jyoti Chitraban Film Studio, the witness submitted that :—

“A provision of Rs. 4.9 crore was made. The total amount given to the Assam Government was Rs. 6 crore. The balance Rs. 1.15 crore was found from such areas where money was not going to be spent.”

26. The Committee take a serious note of the fact that budgetary allocations have been reduced on some of the sanctioned schemes with a view to divert resources to release grant to Assam Government under Assam Accord for development of Jyoti Chitraban Film Studio. Whatsoever may be the merits of the diversion of funds, the Committee do not approve this course of action. The correct course in this regard in Committee's view is to get adequate budgetary allocations made by mobilisation of resources instead of diverting funds allocated for other schemes. As the allocations made for Jyoti Chitraban Film Studio in Budget was Rs. 4.9 crores and the grants released were of the order of Rs. 6.00 crores, the Committee will like to be apprised of the details of diversion of funds from other schemes also.

Production of special feature films in 16mm specially meant for rural audience and development of 16mm technology

27. Plan	(Rs. in lakhs)		
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
BE	80.00	110.00	200.00
RE	73.75	97.35	—
Actual Expdr.	67.24	90.34	—

28. The reasons for variation in the Budget estimates and actual expenditure has been stated to be due to non-completion of certain feature films which were expected from independent producers and in-house Directors.

29. It was further explained that though the independent producers and in-house directors are expected to complete the films within the time schedule, yet Films Division could not exert pressure on these professionals, keeping in view the quality aspect of films. Further, as production of feature films, documentaries, etc. is a creative activity, an element of flexibility in regard to time schedule for completion is unavoidable. Physical achievements during the last 2 years in this sector are as under :—

Year	Target	Achievements
1994-95	12 films	6 completed & 12 under production
1995-96	12 films	6 completed & 18 under production
1996-97	12 films	

The Physical Target for the 8th Plan is to produce 60 such feature films.

30. On the question of attaining the 8th Plan target, it has been submitted that even if all these 18 films which are under production and the targeted 12 films for 1996-97 are completed, Films Division will be able to achieve only 90% of the 8th Five Year Plan targets.

31. The Committee are concerned to note that the target of the film Division to produce 60 feature films in 10 mm specially meant for rural audience and development of 16mm technology would suffer a serious shortfall. The Committee observe that the shortfall was due to non-completion of assignments given to independent producers and in-house Directors. The reasons given for delays that the production of feature films documentaries being a creative activity, an element of flexibility in regard to time schedule for completion, is unavoidable and therefore it could not exert pressure on these professionals, is hardly convincing. The Committee have been informed that even if all the 18 films which are under production and the target of 12 films for 1996-97 are accomplished, the achievements would be 90 percent. However, the Committee feel that in the light of past performance during the last 2 years where only 6 films have been completed each year, it is a tall claim which is not likely to be achieved. The Committee fail to understand as to why these factors were not kept in mind while fixing the targets. Had that been done earlier, production shortfall would

not have been so high. The Committee will like the Film Division to analyse the reasons in depth which are causing delay in completion of feature films.

32. The Committee also note that a Committee has been set up to look into various aspects of working of Films Division including the time aspect of completion of a film. The Committee desire that the aforesaid Committee should undertake thorough review of the working of Film Division so as to identify the causes for shortcomings. They further recommend that the cumbersome production procedures being currently followed be done away with. The coordination between Films Division, outside producers and the Department/Ministry also need to be made more effective.

Professional Training and Orientation Courses

33. On being asked about the reasons for spending only Rs. 0.08 lakhs as against Budget Estimates of Rs. 1 lakh during 1994-95 and Rs. 0.034 lakhs as against BE of Rs. 1 lakhs during 1995-96 on professional training and orientation courses which envisages imparting training to technical and non-technical officers and staff of Film Division, it has been stated that it is because more staff could not be sent for the training due to non-availability of suitable training programme and further the number of staff to be deputed for training courses depends upon the availability of courses and slots available for trainees at the training institutions.

34. The Committee observe that as against the Budget Estimate of Rs. 1 lakh during the last two years, Rs. 0.08 lakh during 1994-95 and 0.034 lakh during 1995-96 could be spent on professional training and orientation courses for important training to technical and non-technical officers and staff of Film Division. The reasons for the shortfall in expenditure is stated to be less number of staff deputed for training due to non-availability of suitable training programmes. The Committee find the reasoning quite unconvincing. They are of the view that some tie-up should be made well in advance with the training institutions for conducting the training and orientation courses as per the specific requirements of Film Division.

Press Information Bureau (PIB)

35. For setting up of Mini Media Centres (MMCs) at Rural branch offices of the Bureau a sum of Rs. 100 lakhs was provided in the Budget Estimates for 1995-96. However, only Rs. 0.50 lakh were actually utilised.

The reasons for the shortfall in expenditure is stated to be non-approval by the Government of the scheme for MMCs at Calcutta and Bhubaneswar.

36. Asked if it was not considered necessary to get the approval of the Government for the scheme before the amount got sanctioned, it has been submitted that Plan Schemes are framed keeping in view the broad objectives of the Ministry and funds are provided on the basis of Plan outlay approved by the Planning Commission. However, implementation of the scheme depends upon approval by Standing Finance Committee(SFC)/Expenditure Finance Committee(EFC). The scheme for setting up mini-media centres in Branch offices of PIB has not so far received the approval of the SFC as the scope of the scheme as formulated had undergone a considerable change from what was envisaged in the 8th Five Year Plan and this could have resulted in spending the entire approved outlay on only a few Branch offices.

37. During the course of evidence when the Committee desired to know whether the Ministry have an integrated approach for their different units/departments like DAVP, Film Publicity and the Indian Institute of Mass Communication which may help in avoiding duplication of efforts and would maximise utilization of capacity, a representative of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting replied as follows :

“...The DAVP, Film Publicity and to some extent Press Information Bureau do convey messages to the people and they also collect some feed back. Some integration is possible in multi media campaigns.”

38. The Committee find that as against the outlay of Rs. 100 lakhs provided in the Budget Estimates of 1995-96 for setting up of Mini-Media Centres (MMCs) at Rural Branch offices of the Press Information Bureau, a meagre amount of Rs. 0.50 lakhs has been spent. The reason for the shortfall in expenditure is stated to be non-approval of the scheme by Standing Finance Committee as scope of the scheme as formulated had undergone a considerable change from what was envisaged in the 8th Five Year Plan. It is disturbing to net that schemes which were not duly approved were allocated as high as Rs. 1 crore in Budget for 1995-96 knowing fully well that the scheme did not have the necessary approval and that the proposed amount was not likely to be expended. The Committee find this situation highly deplorable. The Committee hope that in future utmost care will be taken by the Ministry to see and ensure that the outlay provided for a scheme is fully utilised.

39. As many of the Divisions of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting are performing the similar functions in publicity sector,

an integrated approach can help avoid duplication of efforts and would maximise utilisation of capabilities built at enormous costs.

Publication Division

40. The objectives of the Publication Division are to disseminate information about the country in its various spheres of national activity and promote national integration through greater awareness and understanding of the different regions and of the people inhabiting them.

41. Targets and performance of Publication Division during 1995-96 and 1996-97 are as under :

(Rs. in lakh)

Budget Estimates 1995-96		Revised Estimates 1995-96		Expenditure 1995-96 (Provisional)		Budget Estimates 1996-97	
Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan
30.00	636.63	25.00	655.15	20.73	647.99	20.00	664.35

42. As regards perspective planning of the publication division it has been informed that to catch up with the new trends the Division embarked on an idea of modernisation since 1993-94 and has now equipped its Headquarter office and Sales emporia with computers, fax machines, electronic type-writers and other modern facilities. It has further been stated that to enter into the threshold of ultra-modernisation, the Division has conceptualised new ideas to be introduced in the Ninth Five Year Plan. These include introduction and adoption of the BAR Code system alongwith ISB Number, ISS Number for its magazines, connecting its computer network with internet and introducing the Web Publishing system. The details have been worked out and furnished to the Ministry for approval.

43. The Committee note that the total outlay provided for publication division for 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 remained almost static. Keeping in view the escalation in input costs, they find such allocations to be quite unsatisfactory. The Committee apprehend that with these allocations publication division will not be able to achieve its objectives effectively.

(d) Demand No. 56—Broadcasting Services**Doordarshan****Transmitters**

44. According to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the major objectives of Doordarshan for 8th five year plan (1992-97) include completion of various ongoing projects, expansion of coverage, providing regional services for all the States, replacement/augmentation/modernisation to ensure improvement of quality of coverage and transmission, human resource development etc. About 85.8% population of the country is presently estimated to be covered by TV service. Area-wise coverage is about 68.8%.

45. For the 8th Five Year Plan there is a target to make ready 57 High Power Transmitters, 273 Low Power Transmitters and 106 Very Low Transmitters. As against these achievements during the period 1.4.1992 and 31.3.1996 are stated to be 25 HPTs, 256 LPTs, and 83 VLPTs.

46. So far as shortfall in targets is concerned it has been stated that the achievement in regard to LPTs/VLPTs would be higher than the 8th Plan Targets, whereas in regard to HPTs as against the target of 57, the achievement is expected to be 31 which would involve a shortfall of 26. The Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting stated in evidence that if they were provided the required resources, more high powered transmitters would have come up. He further informed the Committee that the Ministry wrote to Planning Commission that target of high powered transmitters may be reduced from 57 to 25 and the target of Low Powered Transmitters may be increased from 273 to 350 and that of Very Low Powered Transmitters from 106 to 150. The Ministry's views are that to satisfy the pressure of various uncovered areas, as it is easy and can be done quickly, it was considered advantageous, to put up LPTs.

47. Asked if this proposal has been approved by the Planning Commission, the Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting stated that they did not get any reply from the Planning Commission. However, the emphasis has changed.

48. It would be seen that as on 1.4.1995, 33 LPTs and 13 VLPTs were technically ready. Further during 1995-96 installation of 80 LPTs and 43 VLPTs were completed out of which 66 LPTs and 25 VLPTs were commissioned. Thus as on 31.3.1996, 47 LPTs and 31 VLPTs which are

technically ready were awaiting commissioning. The shortage of staff has been stated to be the only reason for delay in commissioning of these transmitters. The Secretary, Information and Broadcasting in evidence stated that so far as staff clearance is concerned, after the project has been sanctioned, a proposal has to go to the Ministry of Finance separately.

49. Asked if any study has been undertaken to gauge the extent of utilisation of the transmitters, it has been informed that although no such study has been undertaken, the record of hours of transmission and break-down are maintained separately for each individual transmitter. In case of transmitters which have been sanctioned the requisite complement of staff, the coverage was 18-19 hrs per day. In case, where transmitters have been operation-alised with skeletal staff on tours, the transmission has been only 7-8 hours per day. There are, at present, 9 HPTs and 138 LPTs being operated without the requisite staff sanction.

50. In regard to the staff constraint it is submitted that when the project is cleared a staff component was not simultaneously approved. There were a number of HPTs which are being partially made operational by transferring staff or sending staff from some other LPT and temporarily putting into operation.

51. As regards the question of border area coverage by HPTs it has been submitted in evidence that one 10 KW power HPT was coming up at Bhuj, another at Jaisalmer and third one at Barmer, which will encounter propaganda from Pakistan media who have more powerful transmitters than ours. The witness further admitted that on the Eastern side much emphasis have not been given to set up transmitters.

52. The reasons for the delay in commissioning of HPTs at Fazilka are stated to be as under :—

- (a) Delay in completion of technical areas of the Transmitter building,
- (b) Delay in availability of power supply, and
- (c) Delay in availability of antenna for interim set up.

The Committee is informed that interim set up is likely to be completed/commissioned during 1996-97.

53. As far as transmitters at Bhuj is concerned the work on construction of 300 mtr. tower was stopped in September, 1995 by the construction agency contracted for the purpose, after the construction reached a height of 127 mtr. Due to this problem with the contractor, the work has not progressed further.

54. At the instance of the Committee, the Ministry of I&B furnished the following details of the two projects costing more than Rs. 20 crores each and having been delayed abnormally.

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Project (Distt.)	Date of approval Original	Date of Commissioning Original (Revised)	Anti-cipated	Time over Run (Months) Total (on original)	Cost		Cumulative Expdr. till 6/96
						Approved-Original	Revised	
1.	DD Bhavan Delhi 1/CCB & EEP VAN (Delhi)	(87/04 (94/11)	90/03 (99/03)	99/03	108	34.15	81.60	32.46
2.	TV Expansion (Bombay)	89/03 (95/11)	94/03 (96/03)	98/03	48	20.19	39.26	18.59

55. Asked about the reasons for this abnormal delay in completion of these projects, the Secretary of Ministry of I&B stated that the project was revised. With the change in the television scenario it was felt that Doordarshan Bhavan must be completely self-contained. The entire project was revised and the revised project was cleared only in 1995. In a subsequent note the Ministry stated that escalation of cost under works is Rs. 3303 lakhs and under equipment Rs. 1442.29 lakhs.

56. As regards expansion of TV Centre, Mumbai, the reasons for delay are stated to be slow progress by the agency necessitating rescinding of first contact; non-availability of construction materiel and necessity to go in far revision of cost estimate of project. The cost escalation in this case is Rs. 660.14 lakhs under works and Rs. 1257.75 lakhs under equipment.

57. The Committee pointed out that in the course of Study Tour of the Committee during September 1995, it was brought to its notice that in many of the studios particularly at Bombay, Trivandrum, Madras, Bangalore and Calcutta, the Cameras and some other equipments provided to them had become obsolete and the picture clarity was not upto the mark. The Committee desired to know whether the Ministry has made any projections to replace those cameras and other equipments and provide studios with the latest equipment for in-house production of programmes. In reply, it has been stated that the studio equipments at Bombay, Trivandrum, Calcutta and Madras which had become obsolete

had been replaced during the VIIth plan. The existing studio equipment including cameras provided at studio centres, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Trivandrum and Bangalore had not become due for replacement as yet. Scheme for replacement of equipment due for replacement during IX Plan period are envisaged to be included in IX Plan proposals.

58. In reply to another query, the witness stated as follows :—

“Every Director is permitted to utilised certain facilities so that the programme production is of good quality. Maintenance has suffered. As has been mentioned, most of the cameras have outlived their utility. We have replaced them with the latest models. Therefore, sometimes were are required to go outside to produce the programmes. Also, we do not have certain equipment. Also, certain equipment are not in operation on a particular day. For that reason also, we have to go outside and hire people to produce these programmes.”

59. The Committee is concerned to note that Doordarshan would not be able to achieve the 8th plan target of 57 transmitters and the shortfall is expected to be as high as 26 transmitters. The achievement in regard to Low Power Transmitters/Very Low Power Transmitters (LPTs/VLPTs) is however, expected to be higher than the fixed target. It is also distressing to note that of late there has been a policy shift from HPTs to LPTs as the gestation period in the former case is very high. However, the Committee do not approve *ad-hoc* approach of the Ministry in such important matter. The reasons for lower achievements *vis-a-vis* the targets laid down in the 8th Plan are stated to be resource gap. The Committee feel that shortfall of 26 HPTs is high and it is necessary that steps should be taken to rectify the situation.

60. The Committee further note that as on 31.3.1996, 37 LPTs and 31 VLPTs which are technically ready are waiting commissioning. Moreover at present 9 HPTs and 138 LPTs that have been commissioned are not functioning to the desired level as only skeleton staff transferred from other stations has been deployed. Consequently there has been under-utilisation and the people in those areas are denied the intended services. The reason for non-commissioning of these transmitters is stated to be shortage of staff which has not been sanctioned by the

Ministry of Finance even after the technical completion of project. It is unfortunate that the intended benefits to the society for the project completed at enormous costs have been denied. The Committee regret this state of affair. The Committee desire that the procedure in this regard should be streamlined to ensure that staff posting is synchronised with the Commissioning of projects that have been built at high cost to the nation. The valuable assets should not be allowed to remain idle denying the returns to the society.

61. It is surprising to note that no study has been undertaken by Doordarshan to gauge the extent of utilisation of the transmitters. The Committee desire that an exercise should be done to evaluate the extent of utilisation of the commissioned transmitters which the Committee trust will go a long way to improve effective functioning of the transmitters.

62. The Committee are distressed to note that adequate attention has not been given to North Eastern states of the country by Doordarshan. This position require immediate rectification. The Committee further note that there has been unusual delay in commissioning of HPT at Fazilka due to various reasons like delay in availability of power supply and antenna for interim set up and also delaying completion of technical areas of the Transmitter building. Besides, work relating to setting up of HPT at Bhuj has also not completed. The Committee took serious note of this delay and resultant cost escalation, and urge expeditious completion and commissioning of these two projects. This matter assume added urgency as both the projects are located in border areas.

63. The Committee regret to note that two major projects of Doordarshan costing more than Rs. 20 crores namely Doordarshan Bhavan at Delhi and TV expansion at Bombay have been delayed abnormally resulting in heavy cost-run. The project of Doordarshan Bhavan was originally approved in April 1987 with commissioning target being March 1990 at the estimated cost of Rs. 3415 crores. Time over-run in this case is 108 months and the cost has escalated to Rs. 81.60 crores. It is said that scope of the project was revised in November, 1994 and it would now be commissioned in March 1999. In

the case of the other project of TV Expansion Bombay, original approval was in March, 1989 at the cost of Rs. 20.19 crores and completion date being March, 1994. It has also been revised in November, 1995 and anticipated commission date is March, 1996. The time over-run in this case is 48 months and the cost over-run Rs. 19 crores. The reasons for delay are stated to be revision in the scope of the Doordarshan Bhawan and slow progress in the case of Bombay project. The abnormal delay is highly deplorable. The Committee will like the Ministry to investigate the reasons for delay with a view to fix responsibility and report back to the Committee about the remedial measures taken/to be taken to rectify the situation. They will also like the construction work to be speeded up without further loss of time.

64. The Committee note that certain equipments and TV cameras provided in some Doordarshan Kendras particularly at Bombay, Trivandrum, Calcutta and Madras have outlived their utility and have become obsolete. However, the Ministry have contended that studio equipments and cameras installed at all these places mentioned above have not become due for replacement. In this context the Committee will like to add that even though the life span of these equipments and cameras may not have expired, yet due to the technological advancement, cameras and other equipment of improved versions, which can give much better results have arrived. Therefore, technological obsolescence has set in the case of older generation equipment. These equipment and cameras therefore, need replacement. The Committee desire that these equipments might be examined technically and replaced as may be found necessary after such examination.

All India Radio

Studio Projects

65. The Committee has been informed that out of the 15 Studio Projects which were to be commissioned during 1995-96 10 studios have been commissioned and 5 at Pauri (U.P.), Mount Abu (MP), Panaji Type III, Parbhani - Type I and Bangalore (Stereo) are awaiting commissioning. The reason for the non-commissioning of these five projects is stated to be non-availability of requisite staff.

66. The reasons for non-completion of ten projects out of the target of 15 studio projects for 1995-96 are stated to be non-availability of power supply, slow progress of civil work, local disturbances, shortage of labour and material etc.

Transmitter Project

67. As regards reasons for non-commissioning of 17 projects awaiting commissioning out of 30 transmitters projects targeted 1995-96 it has been stated that 11 projects at Allahabad MW, Pauri MW, Kinnaur MW, Allahabad FM, Mount Abu FM, Kullu FM, Kurseong MW, Panaji S.W., Bangalore Stereo, Nagrcoil FM and Uttarkashi MW could not be commissioned due to non-availability of requisite staff sanction; 5 projects had since been commissioned and at Chandigarh FM the transmitter was made technically ready and subsequently during testing the PA and exciter units have failed and are being repaired.

68. As far as the functioning of the 13 commissioned projects is concerned it has been stated that no staff was sanctioned for Diphu and CBS Cochin. The stations are working by staff being sent on tour from nearby stations. In the case of other 5 projects, the operational staff sanctioned by the Competent authority is considered by AIR to be inadequate.

69. The Committee has been informed that the schemes which suffered during the 8th Plan period due to resource gap relate to HPTs studios news automation, augmentation of Program Exchange Unit, Satellite Services, Staff quarters and special software scheme in Doordashan and trainings, external services, computerisation of AIR stations, upgradation of transmission technology and facilities, modernisation replacement of studios etc. and in-adequate staff provisions in All India Radio Section (AIR).

70. In a note furnished to the Committee the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting submitted the following details in respect of major projects costing over Rs. 20 crores which have been delayed abnormally resulting in cost escalation.

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Project (Distt)	Date of Govt. approval	Date of Commissioning		Time over Run (Months) On Original	Cost App.	Expdr. till 3/36
			Original	Revised			
1.	Khampur (Delhi) replacement of 2 NOs of 58 KW SW Trs. by 2 Nos. 258 KW SW Trs.	30.10.1992	1995-96	1997-98	24	34.13	8.3889
2.	Replacement/modernisation of speech input and tape recording equipment at studio centres.	11.03.1993	March'93	March'97	48	32.59	17.4147

71. The reasons for time and cost over run in respect of Khampur project is stated to be slow progress of civil work which was due to delay in shafting of HT Line by DESU and the delay in sanctioning second transmitter. As regards the other project of modernisation of speech equipment and tape recording equipment at studio centres the reasons are stated to be frequent revision of technical specification.

72. As in the case of Doordarshan, the Committee find that out of 15 studio projects of All India Radio which were to be commissioned in 1995-96, five studio projects at Pauri (UP), Mount Abu. (MP), Panaji, Parbhain and Bangalore were not commissioned as the requisite staff to man them was not sanctioned. Similarly, 11 transmitter projects at Allahabad MW, Pauri MW, Kinnaur MW, Allahabad FM, Mount Abu FM, Kulhu FM, Kurseong MW, Panaji SW, Bangalore stereo, Nagarcoil FM and Uttarkashi MW could not be commissioned due to non-availability of staff. Of the 13 transmitter projects that were commissioned during 1995-96, no staff has been sanctioned for Dephu and CBs Cochin. These stations are made operational by deployment of staff on tour from nearby stations. In the case of other five projects, the sanctioned operational staff is considered inadequate by AIR. It is a sad commentary on the commissioning of projects that have been completed at enormous cost. Obviously, the benefits of heavy investments in the field of information have been denied to the people on account of red tapism and procedural wranglings. The Committee

feel that to obviate such recurrences in future, power to sanction staff should be decentralised and synchronised with the completion of a project.

73. The Committee is concerned to note that out of the 15 studio projects that were to be commissioned in 1995-96 as many as 10 studio projects could not be completed for reasons such as non-availability of power supply, slow progress of Civil works, shortage of labour and material etc. The Committee feel that with the timely steps taken at higher level and coordination with the other agencies completion work could have been expedited. The Committee trust that procedure in this regard will be streamlined and bottlenecks identified with a view to take prompt corrective action.

74. The Committee take a serious note of the time and cost over run of replacement of two 58 KW SW transmitters at Khanpur (Delhi) and modernisation of speech input and tape recording equipment at studio centres. These two projects have suffered time over-run of 24 month and 48 months. Obviously, there will be cost over-run also over the originally approved cost of Rs. 34.13 crores and 32.59 crores as the estimates were approved in 1992 and 1993 respectively. The reasons advanced for delays are hardly convincing. The Committee urge expeditious completion of these projects.

Perspective Planning

75. The Committee enquired whether the Ministry have done any exercise for the perspective planning and if so which specific areas of importance in Doordarshan and Aakashwani have been identified, the Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting stated :—

“Sir, I may mention that we want to do it”.

76. In a subsequent note furnished to the Committee it has been stated that the Ministry has advised both AIR and Doordarshan to prepare perspective plans in regard to expansion of their transmitter and studio networks. Further, both the organisations have been advised to have an integrated approach in respect of their projects so that optimum use can be obtained from the investments made on common facilities such as transmission towers etc. The perspective planning and the integrated approach are envisaged as part of the exercise now underway to formulate the 9th Five Year Plan proposals of this Ministry.

77. The Committee is of the view that the need to have a Perspective Plan for a vast Department like Information & Broadcasting can hardly be emphasised. The Committee note that, of late, Ministry has realised the need of perspective planning and have initiated some steps in this direction. Doordarshan and All India Radio—both have been advised to have an integrated approach in respect of their projects with a view to optimise benefits from the investments made. The Committee will like Ministry of Information & Broadcasting to direct their other divisions also to initiate steps in this regard. They will also like to be apprised of the further progress made to formulate Perspective Plan.

NEW DELHI;
August 27, 1996
Bhadra 5, 1918 (Saka)

SOMNATH CHATTERJEE,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Communications.

MINUTES OF THE SIXTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE
ON COMMUNICATIONS (1996-97)

The Committee met on Tuesday, the 13th August, 1996 from 1500 to 1700 hrs. in Committee Room No. 53, Parliament House, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Somnath Chatterjee — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri K.L. Sharma
3. Shri Harin Pathak
4. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat
5. Smt. Sheela Gautam
6. Shri Girdhar Gamango
7. Shri Somjibhai Damor
8. Shri Mrutyunjaya Nayak
9. Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar
10. Shri R. Devadas
11. Dr. Shafiqur Rehman Barq
12. Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee
13. Shri Keshab Mahanta
14. Shri Churchill Alemao

Rajya Sabha

15. Shrimati Veena Verma
16. Shri Iqbal Singh
17. Shri Ahmed Patel
18. Shri Govindram Miri
19. Shri O. Rajagopal
20. Shri Md. Salim

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|----------------------|---|------------------------|
| 1. Shri J.P. Ratnesh | — | <i>Joint Secretary</i> |
| 2. Shri S.K. Sharma | — | <i>Under Secretary</i> |

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
AND BROADCASTING

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. | Shri N.P. Nawani | <i>Secretary</i> |
| 2. | Shri V.K. Majotra, | <i>Addl. Secretary</i> |
| 3. | Shri K.S. Sarma | <i>Joint Secretary</i> |
| 4. | Shri Raghu Menon | <i>Joint Secretary</i> |
| 5. | Shri N.S. Madhavan | <i>Joint Secretary</i> |
| 6. | Shri S.K. Kapoor | <i>D.G. AIR</i> |
| 7. | Smt. N.J. Krishna | <i>D.G. DAVP</i> |
| 8. | Shri Shakti Samanta | <i>Chairman, CBFC</i> |

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Secretary and other officials of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

3. The Committee sought certain clarifications on the issues relating to the Demands for Grants for 1996-97 as well as other related points.

4. A verbatim record of sitting has been kept.

5. The Committee was adjourned to meet again on 14th August, 1996.

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE
ON COMMUNICATIONS (1996-97)

The Committee met on Wednesday, the 14th August, 1996 from 11.00 to 12.40 hrs. in Committee Room No. 53, Parliament House, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Somnath Chatterjee — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Harin Pathak
3. Dr. S.N. Jatiya
4. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat
5. Smt. Sheela Gautam
6. Shri Girdhar Gamango
7. Smt. Sukhbuns Kaur
8. Shri Somjibhai Damor
9. Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar
10. Shri Churchill Alemao

Rajya Sabha

11. Shrimati Veena Verma
12. Shri S.S. Ahluwalia
13. Shri Govindram Miri
14. Shri O. Rajagopal
15. Shri Md. Salim
16. Shri Ish Dutt Yadav
17. Shri Satish Pradhan

SECRETARIAT

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Shri J.P. Ratnesh | — <i>Joint Secretary</i> |
| 2. Shri S.K. Sharma | — <i>Under Secretary</i> |

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
AND BROADCASTING

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. | Shri N.P. Nawani | <i>Secretary</i> |
| 2. | Shri V.K. Majotra | <i>Addl. Secretary</i> |
| 3. | Shri K.S. Sharma | <i>Joint Secretary</i> |
| 4. | Shri Raghu Menon | <i>Joint Secretary</i> |
| 5. | Shri S.K. Kapoor | <i>D.G. AIR</i> |
| 6. | Shri H.M. Joshi | <i>Engineer-in-Chief, AIR</i> |
| 7. | Shri S. Narendra | <i>PIO, PIB</i> |
| 8. | Smt. N.J. Krishna | <i>D.G., DAVP</i> |
| 9. | Shri Ravi Gupta | <i>MD (NFDC)</i> |
| 10. | Shri D. Gautaman | <i>Chief Producer, Films Division</i> |
| 11. | Shri K.C.C. Raja | <i>Engineer-in-Chief, Doordarshan</i> |

2. The Committee sought clarifications from the officials of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on the issues relating to the Demands for Grants 1996-97 and other points which could not be taken up the previous day.

3. A verbatim record of sitting has been kept.

4. The Committee thanked the officials of the Ministry for furnishing valuable information to the Committee and for expressing free and frank views on various points raised by the Members.

The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES OF THE FIRST SITTING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE 'C'
OF COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS (1996-97)

The Committee sat on Wednesday, the 21st August, 1996 from 1030 to 1115 hrs. in Committee Room 'C', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

1. Smt. Geeta Mukherjee — *Convener*
2. Smt. Veena Verma
3. Dr. S.N. Jatiya
4. Shri Girdhar Gamango
5. Dr. Shafiqur Rehman Barq
6. Shri Joachin Baxla
7. Shri S.S. Ahluwalia
8. Shri S. Austin

SECRETARIAT

Shri S.K. Sharma — *Under Secretary*

Some of the Members raised the issue that since the Draft Report had been received by them only on 21.8.1996 (morning) they have not been able to go through it and therefore, desired that meeting may be adjourned. The Convener, therefore, adjourned the sitting and decided to meet again on 23rd August, 1996 at 11.00 hrs. The Convener gave her suggestions for modification of the Report and circulation to the modified Report to the members.

The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES OF THE SECOND SITTING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE 'C'
OF COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS (1996-97)

The Sub-Committee sat on Friday, the 23rd August, 1996 from 11.00 to 12.00 hrs. in Room No. 140, Parliament House, New Delhi.

PRESENT

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

1. Dr. S.N. Jatiya

Rajya Sabha

2. Shri S.S. Ahluwalia

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Ram Autar Ram — *Deputy Secretary*
2. Shri S.K. Sharma — *Under Secretary*

The Committee was to consider Draft Report on Demands for Grants (1996-97) relating to Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. However, the sitting was adjourned due to lack of quorum.

MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE
ON COMMUNICATIONS (1996-97)

The Committee met on Monday, the 26th August, 1996 from 16.15 to 17.00 hrs. in Committee Room No. 53, Parliament House, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Somnath Chatterjee — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri K.L. Sharma
3. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat
4. Smt. Sheela Gautam
5. Smt. Bhavna Chikhalia
6. Shri Th. Choaba Singh
7. Shri R. Devadas
8. Shri V.P. Shanmuga Sundram
9. Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee
10. Shri Keshab Mahanta

Rajya Sabha

11. Shrimati Veena Verma
12. Shri S.S. Ahluwalia
13. Shri Ahmed Patel
14. Dr. Ramendra Kumar Yadav Ravi
15. Shri Ish Dutt Yadav
16. Shri Satish Pradhan

SECRETARIAT

Shri J.P. Ratnesh	—	<i>Joint Secretary</i>
Shri Ram Autar Ram	—	<i>Deputy Secretary</i>
Shri S.K. Sharma	—	<i>Under Secretary</i>

2. The Committee took up for consideration Draft Reports on Demands for Grants (1996-97) relating to the Ministry of Communications—Department of Post & Department of Telecommunications and Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and adopted the same without any modifications/amendments.

3. Thereafter the Committee authorised the Chairman to finalise and present/lay the Report in both the Houses of Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.