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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS
(1998-99)**

TWELFTH LOK SABHA

**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
AND BROADCASTING**

WORKING OF ALL INDIA RADIO NETWORK

SEVENTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December, 1998/Agrahayana, 1920 (Saka)

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MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
AND BROADCASTING

WORKING OF ALL INDIA RADIO
NETWORK

Presented to Lok Sabha on 18.12.98

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 18.12.1998



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NEW DELHI

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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS (1998-99)

Shri Somnath Chatterjee — *Chairman*

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Lok Sabha

2. Shri Jay Krishna Mandal
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20. Shri T. Govindan
- *21. Shri Rizwan Zaheer Khan
22. Shri P. Rajarethinam

*Nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 25 June, 1998 in place of Shri Beni Prasad Verma who has been nominated as Member of Standing Committee of Finance vide Bulletin Part-II, No. 338 dated 25 June, 1998.

23. Shri Surendra Prasad Yadav (Jhanjharpur)
24. Shri Mahendra Baitha
25. Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy
26. Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil
27. Shri M. Durai
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44. Shri Mrinal Sen
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SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Dr. A.K. Pandey | — | <i>Additional Secretary</i> |
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| 3. Shri S.K. Sharma | — | <i>Deputy Secretary</i> |
| 4. Shri A.S. Chera | — | <i>Under Secretary</i> |

**Nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 17 July, 1998 in place of Sh. Moolchand Meena who ceased to be a Member of the Committee consequent on his retirement from Rajya Sabha w.e.f. 4 July, 1998.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Standing Committee on Communications (1998-99) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on its behalf, present this Seventh Report on "Working of All India Radio Network" relating to Ministry of Information and Broadcasting/Prasar Bharati (AIR).

2. The Committee took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Prasar Bharati (AIR) at its sitting held on 13.8.1998.

3. The Committee wishes to express its thanks to the representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Prasar Bharati (AIR) for appearing before the Committee and placing before it the detailed information that the Committee desired in connection with the examination of the subject.

4. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at its sitting held on 17.12.1998.

5. For facility of reference and convenience, the observations and recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the body of the Report.

NEW DELHI;
17 December, 1998
26 Agrahayana, 1920 (Saka)

SOMNATH CHATTERJEE,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Communications.

CHAPTER I

EXPANSION OF ALL INDIA RADIO NETWORK

A. Introductory

All India Radio is among the largest broadcasting networks in the world transmitting programmes for over 2300 hours everyday in its home and external services. The Home service provides public service broadcasting to 97.3% of the country's population through 195 stations on a three tier system comprising the National, regional/sub-regional and local channels. The programmes are in 24 languages and 146 dialects for every segment of the audiences ranging from the tiny tots to the senior citizens. AIR originates News bulletins at the national and regional levels in 64 languages and dialects. Vividh Bharati is a light entertainment service of AIR broadcast from 32 stations. FM Service as a separate channel is available at AIR Stations at Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai and Panaji. All India Radio is charged with the responsibility to inform and educate the people of the country about the works, policies, programmes and achievements of the Government through the medium of sound broadcasting. It plays an inestimable role in promoting vital socio-economic goal encouraging national integration and promoting modern, scientific and progressive ideas.

2. The Prasar Bharati Corporation has now been established with an independent Board of Governors. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is the head of the corporation and the corporation functions under his guidance. Prasar Bharati is now looking after the work of All India Radio Network but financial support from the Government still comes through the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and it is the cadre controlling authority of the Information Service Officers. Any interaction at the officers level with the Ministry of Finance, Planning Commission wherever required are handled by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

3. The Committee has been informed that the personnel and service matter are dealt by both the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Prasar Bharati. As far as operations are concerned, there is no direct role of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in the functioning of Prasar Bharati in respect of AIR Network.

B. Physical Performance:

4. The Committee has been informed that during the 8th Plan, against the revised target of setting up of 93 Broadcasting Centres, the achievement was 73. Similarly, against the revised target of 204 transmitter projects, 167 such projects could be completed.

5. When asked about the reasons for shortfall, these were stated to be due to uncertainty about plan allocation in the first two years of the Plan, delay in approval of various major projects by the competent authorities; non-availability of staff for some projects; delay in handing over of the sites by some of the State Governments; lack of infrastructural facilities; difficult hilly terrain and remoteness of the area; local law and order problems and addition of new schemes during the last 3 years of the Plan.

6. The Committee desired to know the target fixed for 1997-98, its achievement/shortfall and if shortfall, then reasons for the same. In reply, it has been stated that the target during 1997-98 was fixed for setting up of 7 Broadcasting Centres (B.C.), 5 Community Radio Stations (CRS); 12 Transmitters and 1 Studio Projects, out of which the achievement was 4 B.Cs., 2 CRS; 6 transmitters and 1 studio project.

7. The reasons for the shortfall are stated to be delay in civil works due to floods and law and order problems; delay in handing over of site free of cost by the State Governments; land disputes and court cases; contractual problems; delay in tower erection due to hilly terrain and flooding of the area; delay in erection of TV tower shared by AIR and Doordarshan; Non-availability of Standing Advisory Committee for Frequency Assignment's (SACFA) clearance for the requisite tower height for Studio-Transmitter link etc.

8. The Committee asked as to how the Prasar Bharati would improve the functioning of AIR Network. In reply, it has been stated that improvement is possible in the following areas:—

- (1) Plan approvals should be processed in advance.
- (2) Training facilities should be increased.
- (3) Due to large expansion of AIR Network, centralised supervision at Zonal level is not sufficient. It is desirable to set up circle offices at State level for looking after the

projects and maintenance. A proposal in this regard has already been sent to the Ministry for consideration.

- (4) Purchase procedures should be simplified. A proposal in this regard has already been submitted to the Ministry.
- (5) Staff should be sanctioned in advance keeping in view the training reserve.

C. Financial Performance

9. As regards financial targets during the 8th Plan, the Committee has been informed that out of the allocation of Rs. 835.32 crores, Rs. 657.11 crores were utilised. Also during 1997-98, only 62% of the allocated funds could be spent. The reasons for the shortfall were stated to be delay in approval of 9th Plan; delay in identification and handing over of sites by State Governments; contractual problems in building works; delay in supply of equipments by PSUs; delay in placing order of major capital equipments because of legal problems in respect of 5 nos. of 250 KW Short Wave Transmitters and non-sanctioning/inadequate sanction for staff resulting in non-commissioning to the stations.

10. Asked about the steps taken to ensure that delay that occurred during the 8th Plan period was not repeated in the 9th Plan, it has been replied that the problems like uncertainty about plan allocation, non-sanctioning/inadequate sanction of staff, local law and order and insurgency etc. which were there in the 8th Plan were beyond their control. However, efforts were being made to get the staff sanctions in order to commission the Stations and to avoid delay on their part. Monitoring had been strengthened at HQs and at Zonal Offices. Also, regular review meetings were being held to sort out the problems.

11. The Committee is concerned to note that during the 8th Plan, 20 out of 93 Broadcasting Centres and 37 out of 204 transmitter projects taken up for execution could not be completed. Also, during first year of the 9th Plan i.e. 1997-98, 3 out of 7 Broadcasting Centres, 3 out of 5 Community Radio Stations, 6 out of 12 Transmitter projects taken up for execution could not be completed. The Committee observes that the reasons behind the shortfall in achieving the target during 1997-98 like delay in handing over of sites by some of the State Governments, difficult hilly terrain and remoteness of the area, local law and order problem, non-availability of staff sanction etc.

area the same reasons that resulted in shortfall during 8th Five Year Plan.

12. The Committee finds that no lesson was learnt from the failure to achieve targets during the past. The Committee deprecates such an approach in implementation of the projects as these problems could be overcome with foresight and coordinated efforts. The pace of progress could have also been accelerated with better planning as these problems are not new to the AIR Network. The Committee would like to be assured that Prasar Bharati would not allow such problems to recur in future as projects spilling over for longer periods of time leads to frustration among the masses.

13. The Committee observes that out of allocation of Rs. 835.32 crores during the 8th Plan for All India Radio, only Rs. 657.11 crore were utilised. It further notes with dismay that only 62% of the allocated funds could be utilised during 1997-98. The reasons for shortfall in financial target like delay in approval of 9th Plan, identification and handing over of sites by State Govts., contractual problems, delay in supply of equipments by PSUs, non-sanctioning/inadequate staff sanction in commissioning of the Stations are hardly convincing. The Committee is not at all impressed by the statement made by Prasar Bharati that the problems like uncertainty about Plan allocation, non-sanctioning/inadequate sanction of staff, local law and order problem etc. were beyond their control. The Committee fails to understand that when same problems are being faced every year, why some concrete action is not taken to resolve the same. The Committee, therefore, urges the Prasar Bharati to give a serious thought to resolve these problems.

14. The Committee further apprehends cost over-run in these projects due to delayed completion. It is evident from the information furnished to the Committee about efforts being made to get the staff sanctioned in order to commission the Stations, monitoring being strengthened at Headquarters and Zonal offices and regular review meetings being held to sort out the problems that there were lapse on their part also which resulted in shortfall in achievement of the targets. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends Prasar Bharati to streamline its monitoring machinery and take every possible measure to expedite the completion as well as commissioning of the undergoing projects.

15. The Committee notes with some satisfaction that for effective functioning of All India Radio, Prasar Bharati has identified the areas where improvement is possible like Plan approval should be processed in advance; training facilities should be increased; staff should be sanctioned in advance keeping in view the persons required as substitutes to those deputed for training. Besides, proposals for setting up of circle offices at State level for looking after the projects and their maintenance instead of centralised supervision at zonal level and simplification of purchase procedure are under consideration of the Ministry. The Committee feels that such factors could have been taken into account at the planning stage.

16. The Committee hopes that since the problems leading to delayed commissioning of projects have been identified, procedures would be streamlined and guidelines framed to give concrete shape to proposals. The Committee would also like the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to expeditiously consider the proposals for setting up of circle offices at State level for better running and maintenance of projects and for simplification of purchase procedures.

D. Expansion of Studio/Transmitter Projects

17. During evidence, the Committee has been informed that Prasar Bharati proposed to open 25 new radio stations during the 9th Plan which include local radio stations and relay stations. (Annexure-III)

18. While discussing the extent of coverage, it has been submitted that around 98% of the population was covered by radio signals except very very remote, hilly and thinly populated areas.

19. As regards problems faced and steps taken/proposed to encounter the broadcast of the neighbouring countries whose signals are very strong and sometimes over shadow Indian transmissions, the witness clarified that the transmitters of the neighbouring countries were so strong that their signals couldn't be stopped from coming to India. Elaborating the point further, the witness submitted that our transmitters should have to be strengthened in such a way that it not only reaches the border areas but also some friendly countries as Indian signals being exceedingly weak do not reach most parts of the world. The witness further added that nothing was done in this regard due to constraint of fund.

20. State Government of Himachal Pradesh, in a written note submitted to the Committee, had stated that the topography of the state was such that there were so many fringe zones in the pockets between mountain terrains and therefore desired that to counter the offensive transmission of the neighbouring countries more HPTs should be installed in the State. Asked about it, the Ministry, in reply, has stated that the schemes proposed for Himachal Pradesh, had to be dropped due to constraints of funds in the revised IXth Plan.

21. To a suggestion of the Committee to have more HPTs so that entire country can be covered by them, the witness submitted that Delhi and Calcutta's transmitters were covering the entire country. On being asked why these transmitters do not cover the North-east, the witness admitted that though these transmitters cover North-east, the signals might not be very strong there.

22. The CEO Prasar Bharati further submitted that there was a central station in Shillong which covered the entire North-East. To this, the Committee pointed out that the Shillong Station did not cover the entire North-East. It covered only Assam and Meghalaya and didn't cover North-Eastern States like Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh.

23. The Committee enquired whether apart from the local radio stations, some powerful stations could be set up which can be heard all over the country and desired to know if any exercise has been done about the funds needed for setting up of High Power Transmitters (SPTS) during IXth Plan. In a written note furnished to the Committee, it has been stated that originally 9th Plan proposals for AIR was for Rs. 2014 crore. Later on, this proposal was pruned to Rs. 1477 crore and finally the AIR Plan size has been reduced to Rs. 844.34 crore because of the constraints of funds. The projections made and actual allocation for various schemes is stated to be as under:—

	Projections Rs. 2019 crores.	Allocations Rs. 848.34 crores.
	1	2
A. Financial Abstract		
(i) Continuing Schemes	438	365
(ii) Modernisation and Replacement Scheme	426	200

	1	2
(iii) New Schemes	1021	194.34
(iv) Machinery and Equipment Installation Scheme	112	77
(v) Software Scheme	22	12
B. Physical Abstract		
(a) Broadcasting Centres	46	25
(b) Relay Centres	5	3
(c) Community Radio Station	38	10
(d) MW	38	28
(e) SM	18	9
(f) FM	30	24

24. The Committee pointed out that Bhubaneswar was the only State capital in the country without a radio station and wanted to know the planning of Prasar Bharati in this regard. The witness clarified that a centre at Bhubaneswar could not be opened because it was not approved in the 9th Plan but they would definitely try to get it included in the next plan.

E. Replacement/Renewal of Equipment and Upgradation of Technology

25. The Committee pointed out that during its study tour to All India Radio Stations in various States, it was repeatedly brought to its notice that various equipments used in studios had outlived their life and had become obsolete and therefore require immediate replacement with latest models for effective results. In reply, it has been stated that requirement of renewal/replacement of various studio equipments were assessed before formulating 9th Plan. Out of the proposed allocation of Rs. 2019 crores formulated by AIR, provision of Rs. 73.60 crores was kept for this activity. But under the sanctioned funds of Rs. 848.34 crores the amount for renewal/replacement has been reduced to Rs. 53.50 crore which has been kept for replacement of Announcer Consoles, Console tape recorders, microphones, switching consoles etc.

26. As regards upgradation of technology, the witness submitted that over the years transmitter technology has changed. Earlier AIR was using some other technology. Now, with the change in technology performance has become excellent. With the replacement of obsolete transmitters by the new ones, their power would increase and efficiency would also go up.

27. The Committee was further informed that the replacement of the transmitters under the modernisation and replacement schemes was decided by the inter-ministerial group which met before the plan was formulated and had recommended for replacement of 37 transmitter but because of the financial constraints, only 28 transmitters are proposed to be replaced during the 9th Plan.

28. When asked on what basis the 28 transmitters for replacement were chosen, it was replied that the basis for replacement was the performance of the equipment. There were three factors which decided the replacement like the number of years the equipment had worked, its actual performance and non-availability of the spare parts of the equipment.

29. The Committee notes that AIR transmitters in border areas are not adequately powered and immediate attention is required for their upgradation. The transmitters of the neighbouring countries are found to be emitting very strong signals and overshadowing the Indian transmission.

30. The Committee is distressed to note that nothing has so far been done to upgrade the transmitters due to constraints of funds. The Committee is of the opinion that the matter has not been given the attention it deserves. Considering the anti-India propaganda done over electronic media of some neighbouring countries, the Committee recommends that immediate steps be taken to strengthen the transmitters in border areas which seems to be the only way to counter such propaganda. The Planning Commission should be prevailed upon for higher allocation by taking up matter at the highest level keeping in view the urgency of upgrading the transmitters in border area.

31. The Committee is of the view that some more High Power Transmitters (HPTs) should be set up which can be heard all over the country. Although Prasar Bharati has claimed that programmes

transmitted from Delhi and Calcutta stations are heard all over the country yet fact remains that due to hilly terrains they are not heard in some areas of North-East and Himachal Pradesh because the signals are not very strong there. The Committee further observes that transmitter of Shillong Radio Station which Prasar Bharati claims to be covering the entire North-East does not cover all the States in the North-East. It covers only Assam and Meghalaya and doesn't cover Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh since the signals are very weak because of hilly terrains there. It is a sad commentary on the functioning of the AIR transmitters. The Committee, therefore, recommends the Prasar Bharati to ensure that power of these transmitters be increased by ascertaining the needs of the listeners covered by these Stations.

32. The Committee regrets to note that Ministry/Prasar Bharati/AIR Directorate has not done any exercise in regard to funds needed to set up some more powerful stations during the IXth Plan so that they can be heard clearly all over the country. The Committee considers it to be a serious lapse. The Committee recommends that Prasar Bharati should undertake an early study on the cost component for upgrading the power of the transmitters.

33. The Committee notes that 9th Plan proposal of Rs. 2014 crores has been pruned to Rs. 1477 crores and simultaneously the physical targets have also been reduced drastically. For Broadcasting Centres, it has been reduced from 46 to 25, for Relay Centres from 5 to 3, for Community Radio Stations (CRS) from 38 to 10, for Medium Wave (MW) from 38 to 28; for Short Wave (SW) from 18 to 9 and for FM from 30 to 24. The Committee would like to mention here that in the previous five year Plans also the financial allocations were curtailed with simultaneous reduction in the physical targets. To worsen the things further, even the reduced financial and physical targets were not fully achieved. The Committee desires the Prasar Bharati to ensure that during the 9th Five Year Plan, financial as well physical targets are fully achieved.

34. The Committee is concerned to note that the proposal for setting up of the AIR station at Bhubaneswar which is the only State capital without a radio station has not been included in the 9th Plan. The Committee would like the proposal to be again pursued at the time of mid-term appraisal of the Plan.

35. The Committee notes that the replacement of the equipment/transmitter is done depending on its performance *i.e.* the number of years the equipment has worked, its actual performance and the spares being not available in the market. The Committee is, of the view that even though the life span of certain equipments/transmitters may not have expired, yet due to technological obsolescence they have to be replaced. The Committee, therefore desires that some guidelines should be framed so that various equipments/transmitters can be replaced on the basis of their technology standard.

F. Staff Constraints

36. The Committee was informed that 12 FM projects and 6 other projects which were though technically ready could not be commissioned for non-availability/inadequate staff sanction. These projects are as follows:

FM Projects

1. Delhi — 2nd FM Channel—5 KW FM Tr.
2. Aligarh — (Relay) 2 × 3 KW FM Tr.
3. Jammu (CBS) J&K — 2 × 5 KW FM Tr.
4. Ranchi (Bihar) VB — 2 × 3 KW FM Tr.
5. Calcutta (WB) (2nd FM Channel) 5 KW FM Tr.
6. Guwahati (Assam) — CBS—2 × 5 KW FM Tr.
7. Mumbai (Mah.) (2nd Stereo) 5 KW FM Tr.
8. Jabalpur (MP) — CBS—2 × 5 KW FM Tr.
9. Bangalore (Kar.) Stereo — 2 × 3 KW FM Tr.
10. Trivandrum (Ker.) VB — 2 × 5 KW FM Tr.
11. Chennai (TN) (2nd FM Channel) 5 KW FM Tr.
12. Visakhapatnam — 2 × 5 KW FM Tr. (CBS)

Other Projects

1. Allahabad — 2 × 10 KW MW Tr.
2. Tawang — 10 KW MW Tr.
3. Kurseong — 50 KW SW Tr. (upgd.)
4. Ranchi — 50 KW SW Tr. (upgd.)
5. Karseong — 1 KW MW Tr. (Reg. Service)
6. Williamnagar — Community Radio Station

37. The Committee desired to know whether all the projects that had been commissioned were functioning properly and to the desired extent, it was replied that most of the radio stations were taking three transmissions except 74 local radio stations, which were carrying only one transmission.

38. The Committee asked when the required staff is expected to join so that projects technically ready awaiting commissioning could be commissioned and radio stations could be adequately staffed. To this, the then CEO, Prasar Bharati stated that with the advancement in technology of AIR, the staffing norms could be brought down drastically in several areas and therefore, they were reworking the norms, skimming off the surplus and posting them in areas which were under-staffed. It was further informed that Administrative Staff College, Hyderabad was commissioned to conduct a comprehensive study of organisation and only upon obtaining their Report, a final decision would be taken. The Committee was assured that within six months, the manning problem would not be there and they would be able to manage well with the existing staff strength.

39. The Committee learnt that at AIR Calcutta, only one Superintending Engineer was posted to supervise the studios and the High Power Transmitters (HPTs) which were 30 Kms. apart. When asked about the views of Prasar Bharati about the need of a separate Superintending Engineer for HPT Centre in AIR, Calcutta as had been provided in other metro centres, it was replied that in the case of AIR, Calcutta earlier only one 50 KW MW transmitter and one 10 KW SW transmitter were available. Later due to increased broadcasting service requirement and to combat the problem of technical interference with the transmitters of neighbouring countries, power had to be upgraded

and the network expanded. Since the entire project was not envisaged at one time, it became necessary to locate transmitters at different places. At the studios additional facilities had been provided from time to time. However, efforts were stated to have been made to ensure better coordination and supervision with the available broadcasting engineers. The Committee has been assured that the need for separate Superintending Engineers would also be looked into.

40. The another query, it was replied that there were 10 other such stations where only one Superintending Engineer was supervising more than one transmitting centres. These stations were stated to be at Hyderabad, Srinagar, Patna, Ranchi, Panaji, Ahmedabad, Nagpur, Jalandhar, Pune and Indore.

41. The Committee pointed out that for recruitment of personnel at regional level, advertisements should be inserted in local newspapers of all North-Eastern States so that local people are recruited to work in those States where people from other States are not willing to be posted and this way problem of understaffing could be solved to certain extent. In reply, the witness reacted in affirmative and submitted that the recruitment in non-specialised categories should be done from local areas and outside recruitment must be resorted to only if properly qualified people are not available in the respective States since it has got many benefits like the person would be knowing the place, the culture, the language and moreover, the housing problem also would not be there. He further assured the Committee to examine the matter and get the vacancies advertised in the local Newspapers or broadcast in the radio.

42. As regards incentives to the employees under specialised categories for posting in the North-Eastern States, the Committee was informed that Prasar Bharati had proposed a package of incentives for the people who gets posted in North-East region like they should be given 50% of their pay as an incentive and LTC and Govt. accommodation etc. The proposal was stated to have been submitted to the Ministry and their approval is awaited.

43. The Committee takes a serious note of the fact that 12 FM Projects at Delhi, Aligarh, Jammu, Ranchi, Calcutta, Guwahati, Mumbai, Jabalpur, Bangalore, Trivandrum, Chennai and Vishakhapatnam are ready but have not been commissioned for non-availability/inadequacy of staff. Similarly, 6 other transmitter projects

at Allahabad, Tawang (Arunachal), Kurseong(upgd.), Ranchi, Kurseong (regional service), Williamnagar have not been commissioned for the very same reason of shortage of staff. Besides, 74 local radio stations were carrying only one transmission. It is a matter of grave concern. The CEO, Prasar Bharati's submission is that with the advancement in transmission technology, the staffing norms can be brought down drastically in several areas. With this end in view, Prasar Bharati was reworking the norms, skimming off the surplus and posting them in area which are under-staffed. The Committee appreciates this approach. However, it finds that until now the reason for non-commissioning of the AIR Projects was stated to be delay in sanctioning of staff by the Ministry of Finance. The Committee is perturbed to see this casual attitude of the Ministry/ Prasar Bharati (AIR) in dealing with staffing norms knowing well that it is the major constraint in the effective working of the AIR Network. Had these steps of reworking of staffing norms been taken earlier, the valuable assets would not have remained idle denying the benefits to the society.

44. The Committee notes that Administrative Staff College, Hyderabad has been engaged to conduct a comprehensive study of the organisation, staffing norms etc. of the AIR network. The Committee desires that the study in regard to staffing norms should be expedited so that shortage of staff does not remain for long and manning problem is solved expeditiously.

45. The Committee is constrained to observe that in case of AIR, Calcutta, one Superintending Engineer had been posted to supervise the Studios and High Power Transmitters which are located 30 KMs apart. The reasons advanced for not envisaging this problem at planning stage are that only two transmitters viz. 50 KW and 10 KWSW transmitters were available for AIR Calcutta earlier and later on with increased broadcast service requirement, power of transmitters was enhanced and network was expanded and the entire project was not envisaged at one time. Because of these reasons it became necessary to locate transmitters at different places. The Committee is not at all convinced by this reasoning. The fact that upgradation/advancement of technology has now become a continuous process can not be denied. These factors should have been envisaged at the planning stage. The Committee considers it to be negation of planning. The Committee trusts that in future every effort would be made to see that the sites of Studios and Transmitters are selected keeping in view operational problems.

46. The Committee is perturbed to note that there are 10 other Stations besides Calcutta *viz.* Hyderabad, Srinagar, Patna, Ranchi, Panaji, Ahmedabad, Nagpur, Jalandhar, Pune and Indore where one Superintending Engineer is supervising more than one transmitting centres. The Committee feels that single staff for more than one transmitters would not be able to do justice to any of the transmitting centres under his supervision. Although efforts are stated to be made to ensure better coordination and supervision with the available broadcasting engineers, the Committee strongly urges Ministry of Information and Broadcasting/Prasar Bharati to review the operational arrangements as early as possible for efficient functioning of transmitting centres at these Stations and if need be separate Superintending Engineer for each transmitting centres be posted.

47. The Committee is of the view that recruitment to non-specialised categories in the North-Eastern States should not be confined to Guwahati area alone, but should be decentralised and vacancies should be advertised in the newspapers of respective States also. The outside recruitment should be resorted to only if qualified people are not available locally, as it has got many benefits like the person would be knowing the place, its culture, its language. Moreover, the housing problem would not be there. The Committee hopes that the matter would be examined in detail as assured by the CEO, Prasar Bharati during evidence. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress made in this regard.

48. The Committee is happy to note that Prasar Bharati has submitted a proposal to the Ministry in regard to providing incentives to employees under specialised categories in North-Eastern States like giving 50% of the pay to them as an incentive, LTC and Government accommodation etc. The Committee would like to be apprised of the decision taken by the Government in this regard.

G. Programme Advisory Committees

49. When asked about the Composition of Programme Advisory Committees (PACs) at different AIR stations, the Committee was informed that while there was variation in the number of members of the Committee at different stations, Prasar Bharati (AIR) had revised the guidelines in the matter of Composition of PACs which were uniform for all the stations eligible to have a PAC.

50. As regards the representation of non-officials in the Programme Advisory Committees, it is stated in the guidelines that the PAC shall have a maximum of 20 non-official members out of which 50% shall be women and there will be at least one member representing the various discipline/interest groups like music, drama, folklore, art & culture, women and child welfare, youth welfare, medical service, environment, social welfare, tribal welfare, science, sports, literature, linguistic minorities, Humour, agriculture and allied sector etc. Programme Advisory Committees, as per the guidelines are required to meet once in two months.

51. The Committee desired to have the list of non-official members of the Programme Advisory Committees in respect of AIR, Delhi & Kohima, which are annexed. (Annexure-V)

52. The Committee was further informed that no meeting of the Programme Advisory Committee of AIR, Kohima took place since its inception in September, 1996 due to insurgency and current political situation.

53. As regards eligibility for having Programme Advisory Committee it was stated that as provided in the guidelines only those radio stations which originated programmes for 5 and a half hours were eligible to have a Programme Advisory Committee.

54. The Committee desired to know that out of the 109 regional radio stations all over the country how many regional stations were having the Programme Advisory Committees. It was replied that out of 80 stations as per the guidelines eligible for having a programme Advisory Committee, 75 stations were having PACs. Programme Advisory Committees at Almora, Bhadrawati, Obra, Gangtok and Madurai are being set up.

55. **The Committee appreciates that according to the revised guidelines the prescribed number of members of Programme Advisory Committee is uniform for all the All India Radio Stations. The Committee further note that according to the guidelines, Programme Advisory Committees shall have a maximum of 20 non-official members out of which 50% shall be women and there would be at least one member representing each of the various disciplines/ interest groups viz. Music, Drama, Folklore, Art & Culture, Women & Child Welfare, Medical service, Youth & Welfare, Tribal Welfare,**

Environment, Social Welfare, Science, Sports, Literature, Linguistic Minorities, Humour and Agriculture & Allied sectors.

56. The Committee is constrained to note that Programme Advisory Committee, Delhi has 10 non-official members representing above disciplines, 3 State Government Nominees whose field to which they represent has not been specified and 4 members representing Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Similarly, PAC of AIR, Kohima has 11 non-official members representing the above disciplines, 3 State Government nominees whose field to which they represent is also not given and none is there to represent Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The Committee urges Prasar Bharati to see that the guidelines for constitution of Programme Advisory Committee is strictly adhered to in order to meet the interests of the listeners of all the disciplines.

57. The Committee is unhappy to note that the representation of women in Programme Advisory Committees of Delhi as well as Kohima is negligible. In spite of the fact that guidelines provide 50 percent of the members should be women, there are only 3 women members out of 17 at the Programme Advisory Committee of Delhi and only 4 out of 14 at the Programme Advisory Committee of Kohima. The Committee believes that it would be the same story in the case of other centres. It is highly disturbing. The Committee desires Prasar Bharati to ensure that women are adequately represented in Programme Advisory Committees of all the AIR Stations.

58. The Committee is anguished to note that no meeting of the Programme Advisory Committee of AIR, Kohima was held since its constitution in September 1996, though the guidelines provide for its meeting once in two months. The reason advanced for not holding its meetings, i.e. insurgency and current political situation are not plausible. The Committee would like Prasar Bharati (AIR) to ensure that Programme Advisory Committees do meet regularly so that the very purpose of the constitution of these Committees is not defeated.

59. The Committee notes that the regional stations beamed programmes for about 13 hours. Some of them were simply relayed and some originated from these stations. The Committee further notes that out of 109 regional stations all over the country, only 80 stations

are eligible for having PACs. However, 5 radio stations viz. Almora, Bhadravati, Obra, Gangtok and Mumbai though eligible have not been provided with Programme Advisory Committees. Taking into consideration the importance of Programme Advisory Committees in the improvement of programmes, the Committee recommends Prasar Bharati to expedite the constitution of Programme Advisory Committee at the remaining 5 regional Stations.

H. North-Eastern Service

60. The Committee has been informed in reply to its query that Government had taken a decision in 1994 to set up a full fledged Chief Engineer's office to execute and maintain AIR and Doordarshan projects in North-Eastern Zone at Guwahati. On being enquired about the progress made in this regard, the witness submitted that though the Chief Engineer's office was set up yet the posts of 3 Chief Engineer's were required to be sanctioned.

61. In a written note later on furnished to the Committee, it has been stated that the total staff envisaged for functioning of North-East zone at par with other zones required sanction of 124 posts in various cadres. The Ministry had sanctioned only 26 posts in different cadres and with this meagre complement of staff it might not be possible to do justice to any of the functions of zonal office envisaged especially in the far flung difficult terrain and other problems of North-East. The Ministry therefore, proposed to post temporarily a Chief Engineer alongwith some other staff from the East Zone, Calcutta to North-East Zone till all the 3 posts of Chief Engineers and other staff for the North-Eastern zonal office were sanctioned by the Ministry of Finance.

62. When asked as to how far the target for setting up 23 radio stations in North-East was achieved during the 8th Plan, it was stated that out of the 23 radio stations proposed to be set up in the North-east during 8th Plan, the radio station proposed at Longtherai (Tripura) and 6 other community radio stations had to be dropped/deferred because of constraints of funds. Out of the remaining 16 stations, 5 projects namely Ziro (Arunachal Pradesh), Kokrajhar (Assam), Tezpur (Assam), Williamnagar (Meghalaya) and Mon (Nagaland) were completed. Community Radio Station project at Dhubri (Assam) was stated to be nearing completion and the remaining 10 projects which relates to setting up to Community Radio Stations at Chuerachandpur

(Manipur), Darmanagar (Tripura), Changlang (Arunachal Pradesh), Khonsa (Arunachal Pradesh), Nongstoin (Meghalaya), Champhai (Mizoram), Saiha (Mizoram), Phek (Nagaland), Tuensang (Nagaland) and Nutan Bazar (Tripura) have been delayed. The Committee was informed that the work at Community Radio Stations (CRS) was delayed due to time in handing-over of sites free of cost by the State Governments.

63. It was further stated that all the 5 projects that were completed could not be commissioned. Kokrajhar (Assam) could not be commissioned for law and order problems and other four due to delay in staff sanction.

64. As regards steps taken to improve the transmission quality of AIR stations in North-East, the Committee was informed that the studio equipments such as CTR, Announcer consoles and Switching consoles were being replaced by latest state of the art equipment. CD players were being inducted in the network and hard disc based system was also being provided at major stations.

65. The Committee was further informed that the following existing transmitters were also being replaced by modern transmitters:

1. Guwahati—50 KW MW transmitter being upgraded to 100 KW.
2. Imphal—50 KW MW transmitter being upgraded to 300 KW.
3. Silchar—10 KW MW to 20 KW MW.
4. Tura—20 KW MW by new 20 KW MW.

66. On the point of increasing the power of the transmitters, the witness during the course of evidence stated that International Telecommunication Union (ITU) had given them certain powers and frequency for a particular place with upper limit fixed say 100 KW or 200 KW. But they had not been able to achieve that over the years because of financial constraints. It was submitted that in the 9th Plan, they would try to achieve the power targets assigned by ITU *e.g.* in Kohima 100 KW was power assigned by ITU. Therefore, its existing 50 KW transmitter will be upgraded to 100 KW.

67. The Committee has further been informed that unlinking facilities were operating at Itanagar, Guwahati and Shillong and were being provided at Kohima, Agartala, Imphal and Aizwal.

68. To another query as to when the 100 KW Transmitter in Kohima would start functioning the witness submitted that the scheme had been approved and the work on new transmission was to be taken up and might take three years to complete.

69. The Committee is distressed to note that though the Chief Engineer's Office for AIR and Doordarshan of North-Eastern zone was approved as early as in 1994 and the office has been set up at Guwahati, the posts of 3 Chief Engineers have not been sanctioned as yet. Besides against 124 posts required for the functioning of North-Eastern Zone at par with other zones, only 26 posts in different cadres were sanctioned by the Ministry of Finance. It is an extremely unhappy situation. The Committee strongly desires that the matter may be taken up with the Ministry of Finance at the highest level to sort out the matter expeditiously.

70. The Committee further notes that a proposal to temporarily post a Chief Engineer alongwith some other staff from East Zone, Calcutta to North-East zone is under consideration. The Committee is of the opinion that the newly commissioned projects can not be optimally utilised by deployment of skeleton staff from other stations. The Committee is of the view that the very purpose of setting up the Chief Engineer's Office *viz.* better handling of matters pertaining to execution of AIR Projects and proper operation/maintenance of AIR Stations would be defeated if the posts of Chief Engineers and other staff are not sanctioned. The Committee strongly recommends the Prasar Bharati to provide adequate staff for Chief Engineer's Office at Guwahati without further loss of time.

71. The Committee finds that staff shortage is one of the major constraints in the effective functioning of All India Radio Network. The Committee is of the view that no serious efforts were made to bring the North-Eastern States at par with other regions. Since topographical problem of these areas are well known, the Committee recommends that the problems like inadequate staff and

unwillingness of the AIR employees to be posted in North-Eastern States being faced by Prasar Bharati should be dealt with better planning and effective cooperation of the respective States so that overall AIR Network in North-Eastern region comes upto the mark.

72. The Committee is unhappy to note that out of 23 radio stations taken up for execution in North-Eastern States during 8th Plan, 7 radio stations had to be dropped/deferred due to financial constraints. Out of the remaining 16 radio stations, only 5 projects could be completed and the remaining 11 projects could not be completed and are at various stages of implementation for reasons of delay in handing over of sites by the State Governments law and order problem etc. The Committee desires that these problems be sorted out with the State Governments effective cooperation. The matter may be taken up with them at the highest level. The Committee also desires that implementation machinery should be geared up for early completion of these projects.

73. The Committee regrets that out of 23 station targeted to be set up during the 8th Plan, 5 projects that were completed could not be commissioned one due to law and order problem and other 4 due to delay in staff sanction. This speaks poorly about the commissioning of the projects in North-Eastern States during the 8th Five Year Plan. The Committee recommends that Prasar Bharati should devote more attention to these States so that the feeling among the people of North-East that they are being neglected is no longer allowed to prevail. The Committee desires that the question of allocation of funds and staff should be taken up with the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance at the highest level. Aspirations of the people of North-East should be fulfilled at an early date.

74. The Committee notes with some satisfaction that in order to improve transmission quality of AIR stations in the North East, the existing transmitters at Guwahati, Imphal, Silchar, Tura and Kohima are being upgraded/replaced. It is a matter of concern that the Kohima Station which is being upgraded would take another 3 years for completion.

75. The Committee is constrained to note that though International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has allotted certain powers and frequencies for a particular place and upper limit has been fixed like 100 KW or 200 KW for that place. However, the maximum level of power and frequency could not be attained for years for want of funds. The fact that these transmitters should have been upgraded many years back and that upgradation has been deferred to the year 2002 is a matter of grave concern. The Committee recommends that considering the importance of electronic media in hilly and remote areas and illiteracy that exists in these areas, Prasar Bharati (AIR) should make every effort and not allow any constraint to retard the expeditious completion of the above projects.

CHAPTER II

QUALITY OF AIR PROGRAMMES

A. Production of Programmes

76. As regards production of programmes, the Committee was informed that 95% of AIR Programme were produced in-house though with the involvement of experts. The Committee was further informed that during 8th Five Year Plan though some money was kept for commissioned programmes under the plan budget that could not be spent and was thus surrendered. During the 9th Five Year Plan, the Station Directors have been asked to put up their proposals. It was elaborated that an in-house costing Committee which also locked into the budget gave its recommendations on the basis of which the programmes were decided but such programmes were very few and most of the programmes were in-house production.

77. On being asked whether any evaluation was done of the working of All India Radio programmes besides audience research, the Committee was informed that Indian Institute of Mass Communication was once engaged and had done an overall study. IIMC has recently given a Report which was reportedly being studied.

78. To a specific query regarding the fee structure for the AIR artistes, the Committee has been informed that the fee structure of AIR was meant for the casual artists/talkers who were booked by the stations as and when required but not on a regular basis. The fee structure of different categories of staff artists was proposed to be revised as the last revision was made in February 1993.

79. The Committee enquired whether Prasar Bharati had any interaction with the information departments of different State Governments and if so, how many programmes conceived by departments of various State Governments were broadcast on AIR in the last 6 months, it has been stated that in the Inter-Media Publicity Coordination Committee (IMPCC) meetings, the suggestions of various State Government departments were considered by AIR Stations concerned for implementation in the various formats of programmes.

As regards number of such programmes conceived and broadcast on AIR during last 6 months, no information has been furnished to the Committee.

80. The Committee has been informed that for the first time in the country AIR, Delhi took a lead in putting up live "phone-in-programme" from 10th January, 1993. The programme has been broadcast regularly from various AIR Stations and it specially caters to the Youth and Women. In this programme topics like Health, Property Rights, Human Resources, Human Rights, Consumer Protection and Preventive Health and Management etc. have been welcomed by the listeners.

81. Another activity worth mentioning is stated to be introduction of the Voice Mail service in which on two telephone numbers, listeners can get the highlights of their choice programmes and also record their views about the programmes.

82. The Committee was informed that News, Music and Spoken Words constitute the three major components of the AIR's programme composition. For balanced socio-economic growth, AIR has varied programmes catering to various target groups as mentioned below:

- (i) NEWS — National, Regional and External News bulletins.
- (ii) MUSIC — Classical, folk, tribal, light, devotional, film and western.
- (iii) TALKS — discussion and interviews
- (iv) DRAMA — Features and documentaries
- (v) Rural programmes
- (vi) Special programmes for women & Children — health and Welfare
- (vii) Sports programme — programmes for youth and senior citizen .
- (viii) Programmes for industrial workers
- (ix) Programme for armed forces.

83. As regards measures to counter invasion of AIR by television the Committee was informed that emphasis was laid on the quality of production and programmes of utility to specific audiences like farmers, workers, women, students, children and senior citizens.

84. When asked whether any survey was conducted to gauge the rural requirements of the programmes, it was informed that a survey was conducted in 1997 at 23 places with a sample of 200 Radio households at each place. 20 villages (10 per village) were covered in the all-India survey of Farm and Home Programmes. Average actual listening to this programme was estimated as 32 per cent. Important suggestions of the audience to improve the programme are as under:

- (1) More detailed programme on welfare/loan schemes, commercial crops, importance of fertilizer should be broadcast.
- (2) Information on employment opportunities for rural people, better wages/standard of living for farmers may be given during Farm and Home programmes.
- (3) Market rates of local mandis should be aired in order to facilitate the selling of farmers produce at better rate.
- (4) Some scientific techniques and their economic implications should also be explained so as to benefit the poor or small farmers and their needs should be dealt separately.
- (5) The farmers should be given opportunity to participate in agricultural programmes arranged to encourage use of bio-fertilizers instead of chemical fertilisers and tell them about the benefit of crop rotation.

85. The break-up of the programmes broadcast by AIR specially for farmers, children, students, women and senior citizens etc. are given as under:

Programmes for Farmers

86. All India Radio serving large percent of the rural population of the country broadcast programmes on agriculture in the local dialects. The average duration of these programmes is 60-100 minutes daily in different transmissions. These programmes are broadcast in

two or three chunks *i.e.* morning, mid-day and evening service. Morning service programmes are known as farmer's bulletin on Agriculture Fints which is based on particular day's agricultural operations. Evening and mid-day programmes cater to all the agricultural and rural developments aspects which include farming, dairy, back and rural industries as well as followed by weather report and market rates.

Programme for Children

87. All India Radio with its vast network broadcast programmes in large number of languages and dialects on regular basis for children of three categories *viz.* Programme for children between the age of 5 to 7 years and 8 to 14 years of age, special programmes are also broadcast for rural children.

88. The programmes are broadcast on weekly basis and are of relatively short duration. Plays, features, choral songs, interviews, stories are the principal ingredients of these programmes. These programmes are largely participatory in nature interviews with children about their hobbies, their dreams and their plans for future and on various subjects relevant to their interest are included. Information regarding the country and interesting happenings in other countries are also included.

89. Programmes are planned keeping in mind the following points:

Protection of rights of children, care and support of disabled children, equal status of girls and equal right, basic education to children and more attention on girls education, safe and supportive environment to children and encouragement of culture life, improvement in the economic condition and self reliant society.

Programme for Women

90. AIR Stations broadcast programmes for rural women as well as urban women at the timings convenient for listening by the respective targets groups in their zone.

91. The Programme directed at women listerners cover subjects related to socio-economic development of women, health and family welfare, food and nutrition, scientific home management, women entrepreneurship, education, including adult education, gender issues

etc. These programmes also aim at creating wise social awareness about right and privileges of women through the propagation of legal aspects and literacy.

92. Also programmes for senior citizens/the aged are broadcast from 65 AIR stations keeping in view their requirements.

93. The Committee notes that 95% of the AIR programmes are in-house production. The Committee further notes that during the Eighth Plan, the funds kept for commissioned programme were not utilised and had to be surrendered. The Committee hopes that during the Ninth Plan due importance would be given to the commissioned programmes and funds allocated for the same would be fully utilised.

94. The Committee notes that Indian Institute of Mass Communication was engaged to evaluate the working of All India Radio programmes which has given a Report which is being studied. The Committee would like to be apprised of the main findings and action taken thereon by Prasar Bharati/AIR Directorate.

95. The Committee further observes that the fee structure of different categories of staff artists is not revised since February, 1993 and existing fee structure is proposed to be revised. The Committee desires to be apprised of the progress made in this regard.

96. The Committee notes with some satisfaction that AIR programmes are covering various disciplines such as science, sports, health and family welfare and also emphasis is given on the programmes on specific audiences like farmers, children, youth, women and senior citizens etc. The Committee is happy to note that AIR, Delhi has started a live 'phone-in-programme' and the programmes are broadcast regularly from various AIR stations and these programmes catered to various topics relating to youth and women. Besides, another activity introduced is the voice mail service in which listeners can get the highlights of their choice programmes and also record their views about the programmes. The Committee hopes that AIR would continue to strive to further improve and introduce innovative programmes in all the above mentioned disciplines.

97. The Committee notes with some satisfaction that a survey was conducted in 1997 to know about the requirements of the rural listeners. The survey covered 20 villages in All-India Survey of Farm

and Home programmes. Important suggestions were also received for improvement of the programmes. The Committee hopes that suggestions of the rural listeners would be suitably included in the AIR programmes. It trusts that such surveys would be conducted at regular intervals in future also.

98. The Committee understands that though in the Inter Media Publicity Coordination Committee (IMPCC), the suggestions are considered by the concerned All India Radio Station for implementation in the various formats of programmes, no information in respect of number of such programmes conceived has been furnished to the Committee. The Committee is unhappy to note this collous approach in supplying information to it. The Committee desires Prasar Bharati to ensure supply of full information to the Committee in future . The Committee would like to be apprised of the information as desired by the Committee.

B. FM Services and Monitoring Mechanism

99. The Committee has been informed that so far 103 FM Stations have been set up. When asked as to how many among them catered to the rural areas, it was stated in a written reply that all the 103 FM stations were installed in the District level towns. FM transmitters had the primary coverage of 40 to 50 kms. radius and the rural and urban areas falling within this coverage were benefited by the signals.

100. When asked whether FM station were being given to the private sector, the witness replied that in 1993, a scheme was approved and FM stations were allotted to the private broadcasters for music, talk shows and entertainment programmes and that scheme was still practised. It was further supplemented that the FM channels operated by the private broadcaster primarily broadcast pop and western music. It was stated that in the four metros, a second FM channel would be opened soon and that would be operated by AIR. In these stations there would be greater emphasis on classical music folk music and Indian form of music and less emphasis on pop music.

101. As regards steps taken by Prasar Bharati (AIR) to regain listenership of radio, the witness submitted that a large section of audiences had been won over by Doordarshan. Radio's basic strength is music and news and they were strengthening the music and current affairs components of radio. Also FM channel had helped to win back

a large segment of the audience especially the urban audience and the upper class audience because of the better quality of reception and programme broadcast were basically music and some talk shows. Through FM and by making radio programmes more lively, interactive and diversified AIR was trying to regain listenership.

102. In a Post Evidence Reply, it was stated that according to the General Listening Surveys conducted during 1997-98 at different places of the country there were only 5 percent of listeners of western music as compared to Indian music in urban areas.

103. On being asked whether there were any broadcast guidelines or some check in regard to programmes broadcast by private broadcasters, the witness submitted that there was a check in the sense that they were not allowed to broadcast News but there was no monitoring in the sense of applying corrective in the broadcast of pop music, western music etc.

C. Internal Generation of Resources

104. During evidence the Committee has been informed that advertisements were being carried out on All India Radio and AIR's revenue was Rs. 100 crores per year. In respect of FM Channels also, the revenue was expected to register a significant rise. Elaborating the point further it was stated that private FM broadcasters were giving a fee of Rs. 3000 per hour which remained same for more than 4 years and it was only after the Prasar Bharati came into existence that the practice was discontinued. Now, All India Radio was operating FM Channels in the four metros which were operated by the private broadcasters. It was supplemented that in 1996 tenders were floated and quotations were received for Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 35,000 per hour. But due to one reason or the other, AIR could not finalise the bids and old broadcasters were able to somehow manoeuvre to continue with the old rate.

105. The Committee desired to know as to how this additional revenue was utilised. The witness submitted that revenue earned by AIR goes to the Consolidated Fund of India which becomes a part of their Budget in its entirety. It was further submitted that with additional revenue they would set up 17 more radio stations and that would cover the smaller town also.

106. The Committee further pointed out that when Prasar Bharati (AIR) can run FM channels more profitably than why private broadcasters were being considered, the witness stated that they have done it for the sake of competition though to begin with, revenue was the main consideration.

107. In another similar context, the Committee have been informed that in order to raise the internal resources, a proposal to levy a licence fee on stereo radio was under consideration of the Government.

108. The Committee notes that since 1993, FM stations were allotted to Private Broadcasters in respect of four metros and Panaji, which were broadcasting primarily pop and western music. It further notes that Second FM channel is going to be commissioned soon and that would be operated by AIR and greater emphasis would be on classical, folk music and other Indian forms of music and less emphasis would be given to pop music. The Committee fails to understand as to how Private Broadcasters were allowed to propagate pop and western music that has nothing to do with Indian ethos/culture when as per the general survey conducted by Prasar Bharati the percentage of listeners of western music to Indian music even in urban areas was only 5. The Committee hopes that in all the four metros where second FM channel is expected to be commissioned soon, more emphasis would be placed on Indian forms of music.

109. The Committee notes that FM transmitters have a primary coverage of 40 to 50 kms radius and rural and urban areas falling within this range are benefited by them. No exact figure of rural area coverage is available with Prasar Bharati. The Committee recommends that immediate survey should be conducted to get the exact coverage of rural areas by FM stations. It further desires that progressively some FM Stations should be installed in the rural areas so that these people can also be benefited by better quality and reception of FM channels.

110. The Committee is concerned to note that there are no guidelines for Private Broadcasters in respect of broadcast of various programmes on FM Channels. It recommends that guidelines should be framed so that corrective measures may be applied to the programmes broadcast by Private Broadcasters.

111. The Committee is unhappy to note that the Private Broadcasters were giving revenue far below the market level *i.e.*

Rs. 3000/- per hour since the introduction of FM channels though it can give revenue upto Rs, 30,000 to Rs. 35,000 as is evident from the tender enquiries floated in 1996 by Prasar Bharati. The Committee trusts that Prasar Bharati would be earning substantial revenue from FM stations as these are getting more and more popular. The Committee therefore desires that commissioning of other FM stations be expedited.

112. The Committee notes that the revenue earned by AIR goes to the Consolidated Fund of India which becomes part of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Budget in its entirety. With additional revenue earned through FM Channels, the Ministry has proposed to set up 17 more radio stations that would cover the smaller towns also. In this context, the Committee further notes that a proposal to levy licence fee on stereo radio is under consideration of the Government. The Committee welcomes this step as an alternative source of income generation in view of the need to step up revenue. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the progress made in this regard.

D. News Broadcast

113. The Committee pointed out that it is generally alleged that AIR News were often late and unreliable and that News on private channels were brought faster to the listeners. In reply, in a written note furnished to the Committee it has been stated that every effort was made to broadcast all important news as soon as the reports were received. Occasions when private channels brought the news faster to the listeners might be an exception rather than the rule.

114. It was stated that there was ample scope for improvement in the news-gathering and news-broadcasting network of AIR. There was a need for more modern equipments and facilities of international standards. However, all this depends to a great extent on the availability of additional staff and funds. Even for its News coverage at important News generating centres in the worlds such as UN Headquarters at New York, the European Community, Russia, China and the Central Asian Republics, AIR had to depend on the News agencies like AFP, AP, Reuter etc. For this, AIR needed adequate funds so that it could carefully computerise its operations and provide its staff with modern facilities at international standards.

115. During evidence, the Committee was informed that Indian Institute of Mass Communication had given a Report on the News set up of All India Radio and the report was being studied.

116. The Committee is gravely concerned to note that though there is ample scope for improvement in the News-gathering and News-broadcasting network of All India Radio, modern equipments and facilities of international standards required for the same could not be provided for want of adequate funds and staff. Considering the urgency and credibility of News which is a very vital and high priority area besides the fact that it is the basic strength of AIR, the Committee recommends that sufficient funds and adequate physical resources should be provided for News-gathering without further loss of time. In this context, the Committee feels that Doordarshan and All India Radio—two wings of Prasar Bharati can join together and share the information.

117. The Committee further notes that Indian Institute of Mass Communication has given a report on the News set up of All India Radio and the report is being studied. The Committee would like to be apprised of the decisions taken by Prasar Bharati in regard to News set up of AIR.

E. Encouragement to Fresh Talents

118. The Committee enquired about the procedure followed by Prasar Bharati to give opportunities to the new talents to perform at AIR, the CEO, Prasar Bharati submitted that an entire channel *i.e.* Yuva Channel was there to encourage new talents. Besides, it had started a new programme "Sabke liye" recently for persons who were hesitant to come to radio station, fill up the forms and go through certain procedures. Through "Sabke Liye" anybody who felt that he has a good can come and get himself recorded. Elaborating the point further, the witness stated that though most of the people who come for voice test were of sub-standard quality yet even if they could get 2-3% of the talent, it is worthwhile.

119. The Committee has further been informed that the programme "Sabke Liye" was started on an experimental basis from AIR, Delhi.

120. The Committee notes with some satisfaction that Prasar Bharati (AIR) with a view to encourage new talents has started a

programme 'Sabke Liye' where anybody who has a good voice can get himself recorded. The Committee observes that this programme has been started on an experimental basis for AIR, Delhi. The programme has proved to be success as is evident from the submission of Prasar Bharati that it is worthwhile if they are able to trace even 2-3% of the talent through this programme. The Committee recommends that such programmes should be started in other important AIR stations also particularly in other metros so that people of those areas are also benefited. The Committee desires that this programme should be given wide publicity through various media so that those interested may avail of the opportunity through this programme.

121. The Committee further observes that the programme 'Sabke Liye' is basically for the singers. The Committee desires that such programme should be started on experimental basis for instrumentalists and other artists associated with music also. The Committee would like to know the steps taken by Prasar Bharati in this direction.

F. Community Broadcasting

122. During evidence when the Committee asked the views of Prasar Bharati on the recommendations of the Nitish Sengupta Committee for broadcasting by private groups, the witness submitted that Prasar Bharati was totally in favour of community broadcasting and it has given two stations *i.e.* one at Mumbai and other at Bangalore to two local community centres. It was elaborated that they were the voluntary organisations working in the field of primary education and public health and if a particular community was in a position to generate two hours of relevant programme then there was a provision of making available AIR transmitters to them free of cost.

123. The Committee desired to know the timings allotted for Community Broadcasting on AIR. In reply, it was stated that they would be given time on idle hours. When the Committee pointed out that Community Broadcasting could not be done in the midnight and therefore they should be allotted some prime time, the witness stated that that would be a little difficult.

124. To a suggestion of the Committee to categorise the programmes broadcast by local community centres into 'A' service and 'B' service

etc., the witness replied in the affirmative and submitted that it was a priority for them.

125. The Committee was further informed that Universities and other educational institutions, non-governmental organisations, voluntary agencies, social action groups and all such bodies were welcomed for community broadcasting.

126. The Committee appreciates that Prasar Bharati has provided two stations *viz.* Mumbai and Bangalore for community broadcasting to two local community centres and also welcomes Universities, educational institutions, voluntary agencies, social action groups and other such bodies for the same. The Committee desires that these groups should be given some prime time instead of idle hours, at least till they gain popularity so that their message does not go waste.

127. The Committee hopes that the programmes under community broadcasting would be categorised as 'A' service and 'B' service etc. as assured by witness from Prasar Bharati during the evidence.

G. Training of Staff

128. The Committee was informed that there were six regional Staff Training Institutes (Programme) at Hyderabad, Shillong, Lucknow, Cuttack, Ahmedabad and Tiruvananthapuram where the training was being imparted to programme personnel and administrative staff. Induction courses for the newly recruited staff and short duration refresher courses were also being arranged. The number of personnel who had been imparted training during the last 3 years in each of the above mentioned institutes are as under:—

Name of Institute	Programme	Administration
RTI, Hyderabad	175	337
RTI, Shillong	117	234
RTI, Lucknow	226	043
STI (P), Cuttack	101	102
RTI, Ahmedabad	309	226
RTI, Tiruvananthapuram	260	—
	1188	942

129. To a query as to how it was assessed whether the purpose of imparting training was achieved, it was stated that there was no system to assess the utility of training. However, AIR was thinking of introducing a system to periodically assess the value of its training programmes. In addition, the Centre of media Studies had been commissioned to conduct a survey in this regard.

130. On being asked whether training programme were adequate, the CEO, Prasar Bharati submitted that many more people should be covered under the training programme. He further submitted that Prasar Bharati has increased training facilities. Director of the Thomson Foundation of UK, who has specialised in training through its non-profit making organisations was in India and a plan for 8 months training programme was chalked out. Training courses were already in progress for the last 4 months. Various categories of programme as well as technical staff were being trained by them. Prasar Bharati (AIR) had also asked to train their trainers so that it could be a continuous process.

131. During evidence when asked about its plan to open more training centres during the 9th Plan, the witness submitted that their existing training centres at Lucknow and Bhubaneswar were large centres but the training courses had not been started there and steps were being taken to man the training centres properly and utilise the facilities created there.

132. As regards steps contemplated during the 9th Plan to upgrade training facilities, the Committee was informed in a written reply furnished to the Committee that Staff Training Institute (Programme) (STI (P)) was sharing its space with STI (T) which was very much inadequate which had only 2 classrooms and that too not even properly equipped, without any studio, shortage of faculty members, absence of hostel and technical equipments. The position of STI (P) at Cuttack and 5 RTIs at Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Hyderabad, Shillong and Thiruvananthapuram were stated to be precarious without their own building and necessary staff.

133. It has been further elaborated that in case the facilities and necessary infrastructure were made available, then STI (P) could take modern trainings in a more vigorous manner. So far the direct recruitment in Indian Broadcasting Programme Service (IBPS) had not

started for which one year extensive course had been planned just after their entry. Apart from that, the training institutes would arrange workshops, seminars, symposia and training courses for each group of staff with updated production technologies. Similarly, administrative staff of different level could also be trained in modern office techniques. It was further stated that conduct of examination for administrative staff of Radio and Doordarshan would be given a definite shape. Examinations for programme staff could also be planned after each longer courses. Expert help could be taken from advance institutes of mass media.

134. The Committee regrets to note that the Training Institutes at Lucknow and Bhubaneshwar which are stated to be large training centres are not functioning for want of adequate teaching and other staff. Steps are stated to have been taken by Ministry/Prasar Bharati to man the training centres. The Committee hopes that Prasar Bharati would come out with some immediate solution so that costly assets are not allowed to rust and AIR staff gets the maximum benefit out of it.

135. The Committee notes that 1188 programme personnel and 942 Administrative staff were imparted training at Staff Training Institute (Programme) STI (P), Cuttack and 5 Regional Training Institutes (RTIs) at Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Hyderabad, Shillong and Thiruvananthapuram. The Committee is constrained to note that STI (P) is sharing its insufficient space with STI(T) which has only 2 classrooms without studio, technical equipments and shortage of faculty members etc. It notes that there is an urgent need of facilities and necessary infrastructure so that STI (P) can take modern training in a more vigorous manner. It is of the view that to keep the staff abreast of the updated production technologies and modern office techniques, requisite training is being imparted to them regularly. The Committee, therefore, recommends that provision for facilities and necessary infrastructure for training institutes should be accorded top priority.

136. The Committee is unhappy to note that no system has been adopted by Prasar Bharati (AIR) to assess the utility of training imparted to its staff. The Committee recommends that Prasar Bharati should immediately evaluate its training programmes to the staff and its relevance and adequacy to their requirements.

H. Foreign Broadcasting Service

137. During evidence, the Committee desired to know the number of foreign languages in which the programmes were broadcast and their duration. The CEO, Prasar Bharati submitted that everyday the programmes were broadcast in 16 foreign languages for 70 hours. Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) were stated to be the biggest omission not only in India but by the entire world.

138. To a specific query it was replied that there was no systematic feedback from the countries in whose languages the programmes were broadcast. However, Prasar Bharati did receive listeners letters from the target areas from time to time. In a note later on submitted to the Committee, it has been supplemented that compilation of feedback was used to be done by the Audience Research Unit External Services Division, when it was in existence.

139. The Committee had recommended in its earlier Report to set up a relay centres in friendly countries to make effective the functioning of external services. The Ministry had stated in its Action Taken note that the matter was being taken up with the Ministry of External Affairs for formulation of a suitable plan. When asked about the latest position in this regard the Committee has been informed that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had taken up the matter of financing the establishment of Relay Centres in friendly countries especially North West Africa and Mauritius with the Ministry of External Affairs and they had expressed their severe budgetary constraints to finance those relay centres.

140. The Committee appreciates that AIR broadcast everyday programmes in 16 foreign languages for 70 hours. However, the Committee takes serious note of the fact that there is no systematic feedback from the countries in whose languages the programmes are broadcast though listeners letters are received. Again, the Committee finds that Ministry of External Affairs have expressed its inability to finance establishment of relay centres to help broadcast of programmes to friendly countries because of their budgetary constraints. Taking into account the number of listeners abroad and their demand for Indian programmes the Committee recommends that Prasar Bharati should again take up the matter with the Ministry of External Affairs and until then, some alternate procedure should be devised to get the systematic feedback in this regard.

I. Perspective Plan

141. Emphasising the virtues of a Prespective Plan, Committee enquired whether Prasar Bharati has prepared perspective plan with a view to indentify the priorities for effective functioning of All India Radio and how those priorities are to be achieved, resources required and likely to be generated apart from the budgetary resources the CEO, Prasar Bharati admitting the importance of perspective Plan stated that a Committee has been constituted by the Prasar Bharati to prepare future vision but more attention is required to be devoted on this aspect. He further assured the Committee that it would be taken up as it is an important item.

J. National Broadcasting Policy

142. The Committee desired to know whether National broadcasting Policy has been formulated. In reply, the witness submitted that the Prasar Bharati Act itself contained a mandate where 16 items were given as their guidelines which were very comprehensive and pertained to the socially relevant role of the electronic media. But any specific policy as such had not been formulated in the Ministry also. The witness further assured that they would formulate the policy and the matter had already been discussed in the meeting of the Prasar Bharati.

143. The Committee notes with concern that All India Radio has not prepared any Perspective Plan in respect of their priorities in future. The Committee desires the Prasar Bharati to initiate action immediately to prepare a Perspective Plan as assured during evidence and also direct its other divisions to initiate necessary process in this regard.

144. The Committee understands that though Prasar Bharati Act contains a mandate where guidelines are there pertaining to socially relevant role of electronic media, no specific Broadcasting Policy has been formulated as yet. The Committee, therefore, urges upon the Prasar Bharati to take immediate steps necessary to formulate the draft of the National Broadcasting Policy without further loss of time.

NEW DELHI;

17 December, 1998

26 Agrahayana, 1920 (S)

SOMNATH CHATTERJEE

Chairman,

Standing Committee on Communications.

DRAFT 9TH PLAN (RS. 848.34 CRORES)

Schemes Under Border Coverage

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Target	Remarks
1	2	3	4
A. Continuing Schemes			
1.	Kokrajhar (Assam)-20 KW MW Tr.	Complete	Law & Order problem.
2.	Tezpur (Assam)-20 KW MW Tr.	Complete	Staff sanction awaited
3.	Shantiniketan (WB)-3 KW FM Tr.	1999-00	Bldg. work in progress.
4.	Dharmanagar (Tripura) 1 KW MW Tr.	2001-02	Site under acquisition.
5.	Churachandpur (Manipur) 2 x 3 KW FM Trs.	1998-99	Law & Order problem.
6.	Williamnagar (Meghalaya) 1 KW MW Tr.	Complete	Staff sanction awaited.
7.	Nongstoin (Meghalaya) -do-	1998-99	Installation in progress.
8.	Saiha (Mizoram)-1 KW MW Tr.	1998-99	-do-
9.	Mon (Nagaland)-1 KW MW Tr.	Complete	Staff sanction awaited.
10.	Tuensang (Nagaland)-1 KW MW Tr.	1998-99	Installation in progress.
11.	Calcutta-200 KW MW Tr.(existing 100 KW)	-	Installation complete.
12.	Aligarh (UP)-2 x 250 KW SW Trs.	2000-01	Civil work in progress.
13.	Khampur (Delhi)-2 x 250 KW SW Trs.	1998-99	Testing in progress.
14.	Khampur (Delhi)-3 x 250 KW SW Trs.	1999-2000	Civil work in progress.
15.	Siliguri- 2 x 5 KW FM Trs.	1998-99	Tower erection delayed.
16.	Shillong-2 x 5 KW FM Trs.	1999-2000	To be located at TV site.
17.	Aizwal-2 x 3 KW FM Trs.	2000-01	Civil work to be awarded.

1	2	3	4
B. MR Schemes			
1.	Rajkot-1000 KW MW Tr.	2001-02	SFC approval awaited.
2.	Imphal-300 KW MW Tr.	-do-	-do-
3.	Jodhpur-300 KW MW Tr.	-do-	-do-
4.	Kohima-100 KW MW Tr.	2000-01	LOP finalised.
5.	Silchar-20 KW MW Tr.	1999-2000	-do-
6.	Tura-20 KW MW Tr.	-do-	-do-
7.	Aizwal-20 KW MW Tr.	-do-	-do-
8.	Gangtok-20 KW MW Tr.	-do-	-do-
9.	Leh-20 KW MW Tr.	2000-01	-do-
10.	Jammu-50 KW SW Tr.	-do-	SFC approval awaited.
11.	Rajkot 'B'-10 KW FM Tr.	1999-2000	Set up at AIR site finalised
12.	Srinagar 'C'-10 KW FM Tr.	1999-2000	Drawings finalised.
13.	Imphal-10 KW FM Tr.	1999-2000	Civil work commenced.
14.	Agartala-10 KW FM Tr.	-do-	Civil work awarded.
C. New Schemes			
1.	Karimganj (Assam)-20 KW MW Tr.	2001-02	Site to be identified.
2.	Darjeeling (WB)-10 KW FM Tr.	-do-	Site acquisition in progress.
3.	Khonsa-1 KW FM Tr.	1999-2000	Site identified
4.	Changlang (Arunachal)- KW FM Tr.	-do-	-do-
5.	Champhai (Mizoram)-1 KW FM Tr.	-do-	-do-
6.	Phek (Nagaland)-1 KW FM Tr.	-do-	Site taken over.
7.	Nutan Bazar (Tripura)-1 KW FM Tr.	-do-	Site identified.

SCHEMES UNDER TRIBAL AREAS

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Target	Remarks
1	2	3	4
Continuing Schemes			
1.	Kokrajhar (Assam)-20 KW MW Tr.	Completed	Law & Order problem.
2.	Tezpur (Assam)-20 KW MW Tr.	Completed	Staff sanction awaited
3.	Shantiniketan (WB)-3 KW FM Tr.	1998-99	Bldg. work in progress.
4.	Manjeri (Kerala)-3 KW FM Tr.	2000-01	PE under sanction.
5.	Saraipalli (MP)-1 KW FM Tr.	1999-00	Civil work in progress.
6.	Mandla (MP)-1 KW FM Tr.	1998-99	Civil work in progress.
7.	Himmatnagar (Gujarat)-1 KW MW Tr.	2000-01	civil work to be awarded.
8.	Soro (Orissa)-1 KW MW Tr.	1999-2000	Civil work in progress.
9.	Rairangpur (Orissa)-1 KW MW Tr.	2001-02	Site to be acquired.
10.	Dharmanagar (Tripura)-1 KW MW Tr.	-do-	Site under acquisition.
11.	Churachandpur (Manipur)-6 KW FM Tr.	1992-2000	Law & Order problem.
12.	Dhubri (Assam)-6 KW FM Tr.	1998-99	Delay in erection of FM Tower
13.	Williamnagar (Meghalaya)-1 KW MW Tr.	Complete	Staff sanction awaited.
14.	Nongstoin (Meghalaya)-1 KW MW Tr.	1999-2000	Installation in progress.
15.	Saiha (Mizoram)-1 KW MW Tr.	1998-99	-do-
16.	Mon (Nagaland)-1 KW MW Tr.	Complete	Staff sanction awaited
17.	Tuensang (Nagaland)-1 KW MW Tr.	1998-99	Installation in progress.
18.	Jeypore (Orissa)-50 KW SW Tr.	—	Commissioned on 15.8.98
19.	Jamshedpur-CBS	Completed	
20.	Siliguri-2 x 5 KW FM Tr.	1998-99	Tower erection delayed.
21.	Shillong-2 x 5 KW FM Tr.	1999-2000	To be located at TV site.
22.	Aizwal -2 x 3 KW FM Tr.	2000-01	Civil work to be awaited.

1	2	3	4
MR Schemes			
1.	Imphal-300 KW MW Tr.	2001-02	SFC approval awaited.
2.	Kohima-100 KW MW Tr.	2000-01	LOP finalised.
3.	Ambikapur-20 KW MW Tr.	1999-2000	SFC approval received.
4.	Silchar-20 KW MW Tr.	-do-	LOP finalised.
5.	Tura-20 KW MW Tr.	-do-	-do-
6.	Aizwal-20 KW MW Tr.	-do-	-do-
7.	Gangtok-20 KW MW Tr.	2000-01	-do-
8.	Trivandrum-20 KW FM Tr.	1999-2000	SFC approved. Bldg. plans
New Schemes			
1.	Kakinda (AP)-10 KW FM Tr.	2001-02	Site identified
2.	Amravati (Mah.)-10 KW FM Tr.	-do-	-do-
3.	Dharmapuri (TN)-10 KW FM Tr.	2000-01	Site acquired.
4.	Purulia (WB)-10 KW FM Tr.	2001-02	Site to be identified.
5.	Baeladila (MP)-1 KW MW Tr.	-do-	Site identified.
6.	Darjeeling-10 KW FM Tr.	-do-	Site acquisition in progress
7.	Khonsa (Arunachal)-1 KW FM Tr.	-do-	Site identified.
8.	Changlang (Arunchal)-1 KW FM Tr.	-do-	-do-
9.	Champhai (Mizoram)-1 KW FM Tr.	-do-	-do-
10.	Phek (Nagaland)-1 KW FM Tr.	-do-	Site taken over.
11.	Nutan Bazar (Tripura)-1 KW FM Tr.	-do-	Site identified.
12.	Imphal-10 KW FM Tr.	-do-	Civil work to be awarded.
13.	Agartala-10 KW FM Tr.	-do-	Civil work awarded.

SCHEMES UNDER HILLY AREAS

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Target	Remarks
1	2	3	4

A. Continuing Schemes

1.	Bhadarwah (J&K)-6 KW FM Tr.	-	Premises occupied by Secy. force
2.	Manjeri (Kerala)-3 KW FM Tr.	2000-01	PE under sanction.
3.	Chamoli (UP)-1 KW MW Tr.	Complete.	Staff sanction awaited.
4.	Dharmanagar (Tripura)-1 KW MW Tr.	2001-02	Site under acquisition.
5.	Churachandpur (Meghalaya)-6 KW FM Tr.	1998-99	Law and order problem.
6.	Williamnagar (Meghalaya)- KW FM Tr.	-	Staff sanction awaited.
7.	Nongstoin (Meghalaya)-1 KW MW Tr.	1998-99	Installation in progress.
8.	Saiha (Mizoram)-1 KW MW Tr.	-do-	-do-
9.	Mon (Nagaland)-1 KW MW Tr.	Complete	Staff sanction awaited.
10.	Tuensang (Nagaland)-1 KW MW Tr.	1998-99	Installation in progress.
11.	Siliguri-2 x 5 KW FM Tr.	1998-99	Tower erection delayed.
12.	Coimbatore-CBS	-do-	-do-
13.	Shillong-2 x 5 KW FM Tr.	1999-2000	To be located at TV site.
14.	Aizwal-2 x 5 KW FM Tr.	2000-01	Civil works to be awarded.

B. MR Schemes

1.	Imphal-300 KW MW Tr.	2001-02	SFC approval awaited
2.	Kohima-100 KW MW Tr.	2000-01	LOP finalised.
3.	Ratnagiri-20 KW MW Tr.	1999-2000	SFC approved. LOP finalised.
4.	Tura-20 KW MW Tr.	-do-	-do-
5.	Aizwal-20 KW MW Tr.	-do-	-do-
6.	Gangtok-20 KW MW Tr.	-do-	-do-

1	2	3	4
7.	Leh-20 KW MW Tr.	2000-01	Approved by SFC.
8.	Trivendrum-20 KW MW Tr.	1999-2000	SFC approved. Bldg. plans to be finalised.
9.	Tirunelveli-20 KW MW Tr.	-do-	SFC approved. LOP finalised.
10.	Jammu-50 KW SW Tr.	2000-01	SFC approval awaited.
11.	Srinagar 'C'-10 KW FM Tr.	1999-2000	Drawings finalised.
12.	Dharwad 'B'-10 KW FM Tr.	2000-01	To be located at TV site.
13.	Mangalore-10 KW FM Tr.	-do-	SACFA clearance awaited.
14.	Calicut 'B' 10 KW FM Tr.	-do-	-do-
C. New Schemes			
1.	Darjeeling (WB)-10 KW FM Tr.	2001-02	Site acquisition in progress.
2.	Khonsa (Arunachal)-1 KW FM Tr.	1999-2000	Site identified. To be handed over by state Govt.
3.	Changlong (Arunachal)-1 KW FM Tr.	-do-	-do-
4.	Nutan Bazar (Tripura)-1 KW FM Tr.	-do-	-do-
5.	Imphal-10 KW FM Tr.	-do-	Civil work started.
6.	Agartala-10 KW FM Tr.	-do-	Civil work awarded.

PRASAR BHARATI
(BROADCASTING CORPORATION OF INDIA)
DIRECTORATE GENERAL ALL INDIA RADIO

RULES RELATING TO CONSTITUTION OF
PROGRAMME ADVISORY COMMITTEES ATTACHED
TO ALL INDIA RADIO

There shall be one programme Advisory Committee attached to each All India Radio Station which originates at-least 5-1/2 hours programme per day.

I. Composition:

The Committee shall have the following composition:—

- (a) Chairman : Station Director of AIR Station.
- (b) Non-Official : The Committee shall have a maximum of 20 (Twenty) non-official members out of which 50% shall be women. There will be atleast one member, representing the following discipline/interest groups.
 - (i) Music;
 - (ii) Drama;
 - (iii) Folklore;
 - (iv) Art & Culture;
 - (v) Women & Children Welfare;
 - (vi) Youth Welfare;
 - (vii) Medical Science;
 - (viii) Environment;
 - (ix) Social Welfare including welfare of Scheduled Caste & other weaker Sections;

- (x) Tribal Welfare;
- (xi) Science;
- (xii) Sports;
- (xiii) Literature;
- (xiv) Linguistic Minorities (This is applicable where a Station produces programmes in languages other than the main language of the area);
- (xv) Humour; and
- (xvi) Agriculture & Allied Sectors. (Preferably from Krishi Vigyan Kendra/Extension Centre).

II. Ex-Officio Members:

1. Engineering Head of the Station where Director of the Station is from Programme Service and *vice-versa*.
2. The Director of Information/Publicity of the State/Union Territory or his nominee.
3. The News Editor/Asstt. News Editor of the AIR Station to which the Committee is attached.
4. Senior-most ASD/PEX of the Station will be Secretary to the Programme Advisory Committee.

Note : DG or his nominee may attend any of the meeting.

III. Procedure for Nomination of Non-Official Members:

- (i) The Station Director will prepare a panel of non-official members consisting of at least 3 (three) names for each of the discipline/interest groups as mentioned in Para II (b) above. In preparing the panel he will keep in view the eminence of the persons in the field so claimed vis-a-vis the composition of the Committee. Only names of such persons will be included who reside within the coverage zone of AIR.

NB: Two names associated with Consumer Movement are also to include under discipline/interest at Sl. No. ix above in addition to three names,

- (ii) The State Governments/UTs concerned will also be consulted through its Information & Publicity Wing to give a list of non-official members. In case no list is received within one month, it will be presumed that State Government/UT have no views on the subject.
- (iii) The recommendations of the Station Director will be further scrutinised by the Directorate General, AIR.
- (iv) Order for constitution of the Committee will be issued by the Director of the concerned AIR station after receiving the necessary approval from DG : AIR.

IV. Tenure:

- (i) The Committee will be constituted for a term of 2 (two) years from the date of its initial constitution.
- (ii) The tenure of the members will be co-terminus with the tenure of the Committee irrespective of the fact whether any member has completed two years or not.
- (iii) The Prasar Bharati Board may dissolve the Committee at any time in public interest and reconstitute the same.
- (iv) The existing Committee will continue to function till the constitution of the new Committee is notified.

V. Dis-qualification:

If any non-official member fails to attend two consecutive meetings he/she shall be liable for removal from the Committee.

VI. Meetings:

- (i) The meeting of the Committee will be held ordinarily once in 3 (three) months. However, the Chairman may call a meeting at any time, if considered necessary, in addition to this.
- (ii) The meeting of the Committee will be presided over by the Chairman and in his absence by a nominee of the DG : AIR.

- (iii) One-third of the effective strength of the non-official members of the Committee will form the quorum. If there is no quorum at the time, it will be treated as an informal meeting and such items of agenda may be considered necessary will be informally discussed by the members present.

VII. Agenda for the Committee :

- (i) The agenda for each item will be prepared by the Secretary of the Committee. Secretary will also invite suggestions from members before preparing the agenda. Any member wishing to raise a point should intimate to the Secretary 3 weeks in advance of meeting. The agenda will be approved by the Chairman and will be circulated at least 15 days in advance.
- (ii) Service matters of any staff/staff artist or other matters concerning personnel or purely administrative matters shall not form part of the agenda.

VIII. Functions of the Committee :

The Committee will review the programme broadcast since the last meeting and discuss the programme plans for the ensuing period. The Committee will also make suggestions for the improvement of programmes and advise on such matters concerning the planning and presentation of the programme of the Station to which it is attached.

IX. Travelling Allowance/Sitting Fee :

- (i) Non-official members will be entitled to Travelling Allowance. It shall be restricted to I Class/II AC (subject to availability of the class in the train) or rail-fare actually paid whichever is less. Where the place is not connected by rail, bus fare actually paid will be reimbursed.
- (ii) In addition to the TA, the non-official member shall be entitled to a sitting fee @ Rs. 150/- per day for attending the meeting

**LIST OF NON-OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF
PROGRAMME ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Sl. No.	Names	Field to which represent
1	2	3
AIR, Delhi.	1. Dr. (Smt.) N.C. Indira Devi.	Art & Culture
	2. Prof. Mushil-ul-Hasan.	Education
	3. Shri Harish Naval.	Humour Writing
	4. Shri Sayeed Naqvi.	Minorities.
	5. Shri Hari Singh Tanwar.	Tribal and SC/ST
	6. Smt. Sharan Rani.	Music
	7. Shri M.G.K. Menon.	Science
	8. Mrs. Nirmala Deshpande.	Social Work
	9. Dr. M.A. Owaisy.	Women & Family Welfare
	10. Shri K.G. Kakkar.	Sports
	11. Shri Sailesh Kumar Bandopadhyay.	State Govt. nominee
	12. Shri Abid Hussain.	State Govt. nominee
	13. Shri H.D. Shourie.	State Govt. nominee
	14. Shri Heera Lal Sharma.	Ministry of I&B's nominee
	15. Dr. V.K. Khaira.	Ministry of I&B's nominee
	16. Shri Naresh Kumar.	Ministry of I&B's nominee
	17. Shri Ashok Kumar Singh.	Ministry of I&B's nominee

	1	2	3
AIR, Kohima.	1. Mrs. Lhousi Haralu.		Art & Culture
	2. Shri Y.Y. Soma.		Agriculture
	3. Smt. Geeno Mao.		Education
	4. Rev. S. Litsase.		Literature
	5. Shri Thsanse Yimchunger.		Tribal and SC/ST
	6. Shri Temjen Teter.		Music
	7. Shri Thungbern.		Social Work
	8. Smt. Atula Toshi.		Women & Family Welfare
	9. Shri Zakru Tsukru.		Sports
	10. Shri Thanglong Yanlem.		Humour Writing
	11. Dr. (Mrs.) Sentila Jamir.		Science
	12. Shri M. Alemchiba Ao.		State Govt. nominee
	13. Shri Imkong Tensu Ao.		State Govt. nominee
	14. Shri Kiremnnati Ao.		State Govt. nominee

APPENDIX I

MINUTES OF THE TWELFTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS (1998-99)

The Committee met on Thursday, the 13th August, 1998 from 10.30 hrs. to 13.30 hrs. in Committee Room 'C', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Somnath Chatterjee — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Jay Krishna Mandal
3. Shri K.L. Sharma
4. Shri Nakli Singh
5. Shri Rajveer Singh
6. Shri Bajjnath Rawat
7. Shri Harpal Singh Sathi
8. Smt. Sheela Gautam
9. Shri K. Asungba Sangtam
10. Shri Santilal Purushottamdas Patel
11. Shri Mahendra Baitha
12. Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil
13. Shri Dowarka Prashad Bairwa
14. Shri Somjibhai Punjabhai Damor
15. Shri Giridhar Gamang
16. Shri A. Ganeshamurthi
17. Shri T. Govindan
18. Shri Rizwan Zaheer Khan
19. Shri P. Rajarethinam
20. Shri Chandrashekhar Sahu
21. Shri Chhatrapal Singh
22. Shri P.C. Thomas
23. Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy

Rajya Sabha

24. Smt. Veena Verma
25. Shri Kartar Singh Duggal
26. Shri K. Rahman Khan
27. Shri Dawa Lama
28. Smt. Chandresh Kumari
29. Shri Narendra Mohan
30. Shri Kuldip Nayyar

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri P.D.T. Achary — *Joint Secretary*
2. Shri S.K. Sharma — *Deputy Secretary*

Representatives of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

1. Shri P.G. Mankad — *Secretary*
2. Shri S.K. Nail — *AS & FA*

Prasar Bharati

1. Shri S.S. Gill — *Executive Member, Prasar Bharati*
2. Shri O.P. Kejariwal — *Director General, DG : AIR*
3. Shri H.M. Joshi — *Engg.-in-Chief, DG : AIR*
4. Shri M.D. Gaikwad — *Dy. Dir. Gen., GD : AIR*

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and officers of the Ministry and Prasar Bharati accompanying him.

3. The Committee sought certain clarifications on the issues relating to subject of 'Working of AIR Network' as well as other related points.

4. A verbatim record of the sitting has been kept.

5. The Chairman thanked the officials 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.

APPENDIX II

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-THIRD SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS (1998-99)

The Committee met on Thursday, the 17th December, 1998 from 15.00 hrs. to 16.00 hrs. in Room No. '140', Parliament House, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri K.L. Sharma — *in the Chair*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Mahendra Baitha
3. Shri M. Durai
4. Smt. Sheela Gautam
5. Shri T. Govindan
6. Shri Rizwan Zaheer Khan
7. Shri Shantilal Purshottamdas Patel
8. Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil
9. Shri Chandrashekhar Sahu
10. Shri K. Asungba Sangtam
11. Shri Harpal Singh Sathi
12. Dr. Chhatrapal Singh
13. Shri Nakli Singh
14. Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy
15. Shri Surendra Prasad Yadav (Jhunjharpur)

Rajya Sabha

16. Shri R.N. Arya
17. Shri Kartar Singh Duggal

18. Shri Kanak Mal Katara
19. Shri Narendra Mohan
20. Shri Kuldip Nayyar
21. Shri K. Kalavenkata Rao
22. Shri Shatrughan Sinha
23. Smt. Veena Verma

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri S.K. Sharma — *Deputy Secretary*
2. Shri A.S. Chera — *Under Secretary*

2. The Committee took up for consideration Draft Report on 'Working of All India Radio Network' relating to Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and adopted the same without any modifications/amendments.

** ** ** ** **

4. Thereafter, the Committee authorised the Chairman to finalise and present the Report to both the Houses of Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.