

**TWELFTH REPORT
STANDING COMMITTEE
ON COMMUNICATIONS
(1994-95)**

TENTH LOK SABHA

**ALL INDIA RADIO—
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING**

**(Action taken by Government on the Recommendations
contained in the Fifth Report of Standing Committee on
Communications on All India Radio—Ministry of Information
and Broadcasting)**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 21 MAR 1995
Laid in Rajya Sabha on.....



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

March, 1995/Phalguna, 1916 (Saka)

CC No. 012

Price: Rs. 12.00

PARLIAMENT LIBRARY
(Central Publications)
Acc. No. 91591 (2)
Date 22/3/15

u
328.3657R
N4.1231

© 1995 BY LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

Published under Rule 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Seventh Edition) and Printed by the Manager, P.L. Unit, Govt. of India Press, Minto Road, New Delhi-110002.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE	(iii)
INTRODUCTION	(v)
CHAPTER I Report	1
CHAPTER II Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by Government.....	5
CHAPTER III Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government replies	16
CHAPTER IV Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee	18
CHAPTER V Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of Government are awaited...	20
APPENDICES	
I Minutes of the sitting of the Standing Commit- tee on Communications (1994-95)	
8.11.94	21
20.12.94	23
II Analysis of Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in second Report of Standing Committee on Com- munications (Tenth Lok Sabha)	25

**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS (1994-95)**

Kumari Vimla Verma — Chairperson

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri R. Jeevarathinam
3. Shri Shravan Kumar Patel
4. Shri Laeta Umbrey
5. Shri Surajbhanu Solanki
6. Shri N. Dennis
7. Shri Jagmeet Singh Brar
8. Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal
9. Shri Kodikkunil Suresh
10. Shri B. Devarajan
11. Shri R. Anbarasu
12. Dr. B.G. Jawali
13. Shri Somjibhai Damor
14. Shri Mohan Lal Jhikram
15. Shri Mahesh Kumar Kanodia
16. Shrimati Dipika H. Topiwala
17. Dr. Sakshiji Maharaj Swami
18. Shri Lalit Oraon
19. Shri Lal Krishna Advani
20. Shri Sharad Yadav
21. Shri Ram Pujan Patel
22. Shri Shivsharan Verma
23. Shri Rupchand Pal
24. Shri Satyagopal Misra
25. Shri A. Asokaraj
26. Shri G.M.C. Balayogi
27. Shri Raj Kishore Mahto
28. Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal
29. Shri Sultan Salahuddin Owaisi
30. Shri Chandrajeet Yadav

Rajya Sabha

31. Shri Prakash Yashwant Ambedkar
32. Shri Jalaludin Ansari
33. Shri M.A. Baby
34. Shri Virendra Kataria
35. Shri Aas Mohamad
36. Shrimati Malti Devi
37. Shri Mohammed Afzal *alias* Meem Afzal
38. Shrimati Jayanthi Natarajan
39. Shrimati Anandiben Jethabhai Patel
40. Shri G. Prathapa Reddy

41. Shrimati Sushma Swaraj
42. Shri Vizol
43. Shri Kishore Chandra Deo Vyricheria
44. Shri Janeshwar Mishra
45. Shrimati Veena Verma

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri G.C. Malhotra — *Joint Secretary*
2. Shri O.P. Ghais — *Deputy Secretary*
3. Shri S.K. Sharma — *Under Secretary*

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Communications (1994-95) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Twelfth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Fifth Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on All India Radio—Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

2. The Fifth Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 9th March, 1994 and was also laid in Rajya Sabha the same day. The Government furnished their replies indicating Action Taken on the Recommendations contained in the Report on 3rd October, 1994. Draft Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Communications (1994-95) at their sitting held on 2 December, 1994.

3. An Analysis of Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations contained in the Fifth Report of Standing Committee on Communications (Tenth Lok Sabha) is given in Appendix-II.

NEW DELHI;
20 December, 1994

29 Agrahayana,, 1916 (Saka)

KUMARI VIMLA VERMA,
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Communications.

CHAPTER I

REPORT

1.1 This Report of the Standing Committee on Communications deals with the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Fifth Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) on All India Radio relating to Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

1.2 The Fifth Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 9 March, 1994 and was also laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha the same day. It contained 24 observations/recommendations.

1.3 Action Taken Notes in respect of all the 24 observations/recommendations contained in the Report have been received and have been categorised as follows:—

- (i) Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government.

Sl. Nos. 2(2.7 & 2.8), 3(3.18), 4(3.19), 5(3.20), 6(3.21), 7(4.14), 8(4.15), 9(4.16), 12(4.55 & 4.56), 14(4.59), 15(4.64), 16(5.11), 18(6.3), 19(6.4), 20(7.8), 21(7.9), 23(8.11) and 24(8.15)

Total 18
Chapter II

- (ii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply.

Sl. Nos. 11(4.54), 17(5.12) and 22(8.9 & 8.10)

Total 3
Chapter III

- (iii) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which the Government replies have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration.

Sl. Nos. 1(2.6) and 10(4.17)

Total 2
Chapter IV

- (iv) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which Government have been furnished interim replies.

Sl. No. 13(4.58)

Total 1
Chapter V

1.4 The Committee trust that utmost importance would be given to the implementation of recommendations accepted by the Government. In case where it is not possible for the Government to implement the

recommendations in their letter and spirit for any reason, the matter should be reported to the Committee in time with reasons for non-implementations.

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

Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India)

Act, 1990

Recommendation Sl. No. 1 (Para No. 2.6)

1.6 The Committee had recommended in the earlier Report that immediate steps should be taken to enforce the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990.

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in their reply have stated that a comprehensive review of the provisions of Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 has brought into focus the essentiality of carrying out certain amendments in respect of some sections of the Act. These amendments are stated to be aimed at obviating certain operational difficulties that are likely to arise due to the existing provisions of these sections. This matter is reported to be under active consideration of the Government.

1.7 The Committee note that the Bill was passed in 1990 and even after four years, it has not been put into operation. The action taken reply only confirms the inaction in the matter as the Government have merely restated the position explained to the Committee earlier and have not spelt out the amendments to the Prasar Bharati Act which are considered essential to obviate operational difficulties. The Committee would like to be informed of all the operational difficulties, and the proposed amendments considered necessary to overcome them. In view of the invasion of our space by a multitude of other electronic media, both indigenous and foreign, the need to confer autonomy to the official set up has become even more urgent and imperative. The Committee, reiterate that immediate steps should be taken, including amendments if any, to the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 and to set up the Prasar Bharati Corporation urgently as recommended by them.

National Media Policy

Recommendation Sl. No. 2 (Para Nos. 2.7 & 2.8)

1.8 Lamenting over the delay in finalisation of National Media Policy in their earlier Report, the Committee had urged the Government to take immediate necessary steps to finalise the draft National Media Policy and bring the same before the Parliament.

1.9 The Ministry in their action taken Note have stated that an eight member Sub-committee of the members of the Consultative Committee attached to this Ministry under the Chairmanship of Shri P. Chidambaram, M.P. (Lok Sabha) has already been constituted for preparing a positional paper/working paper on media policy. The sub-committee is expected to prepare the positional/working paper shortly.

1.10 The Committee hope that the Sub-Committee would complete its work soon and thereafter expeditious steps would be taken to finalise the draft national media policy and to bring it before the Parliament.

Evaluation of working of All India Radio

Recommendation Sl. No. 10 (Para No. 4.17)

1.11 In view of the rapid changes in technology and invasion of the sky by the various foreign agencies, the Committee had recommended evaluation of the present system of working of All India Radio by an independent outside agency. In their action taken note the Ministry have stated that the Committee's suggestion regarding evaluation of the present system of working of *News Services Division of All India Radio* has been noted. All India Radio have, accordingly, been instructed to initiate suitable action in the matter.

1.12 The Committee are not satisfied with the reply furnished by the Ministry. They will like to emphasise that their observations were in respect of the working of All India Radio as a whole and not merely the working of News Services Division of AIR. The Committee therefore, reiterate that immediate action should be taken for an evaluation of the present system of working of AIR by an independent outside agency.

Relay Centre in friendly country

Recommendation Sl. No. 16 (Para No. 5.11)

1.13 With a view to make functioning of External Services more effective and purposeful the Committee had recommended in their earlier Report that All India Radio, in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs, put up a relay centre in a friendly country at the earliest.

1.14 In their action taken note, the Ministry have stated that the External Services programmes of All India Radio are presently available in Western Europe including U.K., to a limited extent. Presently, All India Radio have 12 High Power SW transmitters. Installation of more such transmitters is being considered in a phased manner, to achieve a fully reliable service in Europe. As such, setting up of relay bases will not be necessary to cover Western Europe including U.K. The Ministry have further stated that for coverage in USA and Canada, however, it would be essential to establish relay bases at suitable locations. Suggestion of the Committee in this regard has been noted. It is stated that the proposed infrastructure would involve several processes, such as, feasibility study, evaluation of technical requirements, clearance from the concerned countries etc. The matter is being taken up with the Ministry of External Affairs, for formulation of a suitable plan.

1.15 The Committee would like to emphasise that steps should be taken to process the matter expeditiously so that External Services of All India Radio become more effective and purposeful. The Committee will like to be apprised of the outcome in this regard within six months.

Promotional avenues to Supervisors/Translators-cum-Announcers, in ESD of AIR

Recommendation Sl. No. 17 (Para No. 5.12)

1.16 In their earlier Report, the Committee had observed that Translators-cum-Announcers of External Services Division of AIR were being deprived of various promotional avenues existing in the mainstream of AIR in the absence of cadre review. The Committee had, therefore, recommended that the services of Translators-cum-Announcers in ESD should be integrated into the mainstream cadre to provide equal promotional avenues to them.

1.17 The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in their reply have stated that the Government is seized of the position regarding promotional avenues in the isolated cadres of Translators-cum-Announcers (Foreign Language) and the Supervisor (Foreign Language) working in the External Services Division of All India Radio, New Delhi. In an effort to create promotional avenues in these cadres, the possibility of clubbing these cadres and creating another post of Director in the pay scale of Rs. 4500—5700 is being explored. Induction of this particular category into IB(P)s has not been considered desirable in view of the different job requirements.

1.18 The Committee note with some satisfaction the fact that Government is seized of the position regarding promotional avenues in the isolated cadres of Translators-cum-Announcers (Foreign Language) and Supervisor (Foreign Language) working in the External Services Division of All India Radio and that possibility of clubbing those cadres and creating another post of Director in the scale of Rs. 4100—5700 is being explored. The Committee will like to be apprised of the final outcome of this exercise.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT

Recommendations Sl. No. 2 (Para Nos. 2.7 & 2.8)

The Committee note that despite all high claims made by the AIR, the Government has not yet come out with a comprehensive National Media Policy.

The Committee understand that the National Media Policy has been under consideration of the Government since mid-eighties and a paper on the Policy was discussed in the Consultative Committee where it was decided to constitute a sub-committee to finalise the draft Policy. The Committee are sorry to find that such a sub-committee is yet to be constituted. The Committee, therefore, urge upon the Government to take immediate necessary steps to finalise the draft National Media Policy and bring the same before the Parliament.

Reply of Government

An eight member sub-committee of the members of the Consultative Committee attached to this Ministry under the Chairmanship of Shri P. Chidambaram, M.P. (Lok Sabha) has already been constituted for preparing a positional paper/working paper on media policy. The sub-committee is expected to prepare the positional/working paper shortly.

[Ministry of I&B O.M. No. 3/3/94-B(P) dated 3.10.1994]

Recommendation Sl. No. 3 (Para No. 3.18)

The Committee are glad to learn that the perspective plan for AIR for the growth of radio services with the ultimate objective of improving the quality of broadcast by introducing improved technology in various fields has been drawn up. The Committee are of the opinion that to achieve the desired results of the planning, it is necessary to identify the problems faced or likely to be faced; the future needs and the requisite monetary resources. The Committee, therefore, desire the Government to strengthen the planning, implementation and monitoring the progress so that the planned schemes are executed within the target dates.

Reply of Government

An elaborate plan formulation policy is followed by All India Radio in which each project is scrutinised for its benefits, necessity, cost, coverage and time frame. Regular monitoring is done on fortnightly and monthly basis in respect of the project under implementation. The monitoring is

done at zonal level and also at Directorate level with the help of status report of projects, special reports for slippages etc. In spite of utmost vigil, the delay on certain project become unavoidable for reasons beyond control of All India Radio, such as insurgency, flood, landslide etc. A stricter control, is however being applied to minimise such cases.

[Ministry of I&B O.M. No.3/3/94-B (P) dated 3.10.1994]

Recommendation Sl. No. 4 (Para No. 3.19)

The Committee note with satisfaction the present pace of progress made in the broadcasting network with the radio coverage of 86.1% by area and 96.2% by population which was expected to reach 91.1% by area and 97.7% by population with the completion of 58 more broadcast centres under the Seventh Plan schemes. However the Committee are sorry to note the slow progress made so far in achieving the plan targets due to various factors such as delay in acquiring of sites, sanctions, procurement of equipments, Civil Construction Wing (CCW) in awarding the civil works and disturbed political conditions in some places. The Committee feel that such factors could have been taken into account at the time of planning. The Committee, therefore, recommend and in future more realistic planning should be done, so as to fully utilise the allocated funds within the prescribed period.

Reply of Government

Various considerations suggested by the Committee have already been including in Planning process. Civil Construction Wing is being geared up to complete the works on time. Secretary level meeting at regular intervals are being held to review progress of acquisition of sites, buildings etc. through PERT charts.

[Ministry of I&B O.M. No. 3/3/94-B(P) dated 3.10.1994]

Recommendation Sl. No. 5 (Para No. 3.20)

The Committee note that Local Radio Stations at district level would cater to the information and developmental needs of the specific areas. This concept was first planned as "pilot projects" during the Sixth Plan. During the Seventh Plan 73 more Stations were planned. Out of these 49 were commissioned 18 are technically ready and the rest are at various stages of completion. This pace of progress is rather tardy and the Committee feel that all the stations as planned should be commissioned at the earliest. The Committee would also like the Government to consider the proposal to allow the State Government, Zilla Parishad and other agencies to set up and run radio stations at local levels.

Reply of Government

Out of 73 Local Radio Stations planned during seventh five year plan 67 stations have already been commissioned or completed and on the verge of commissioning. Other six stations are at advanced stage and will be completed in 1994-95.

The Government have noted and will give due consideration to the views of the Standing Committee relating to the running of local radio stations by State Government, Zilla Parishads and other agencies.

[Ministry of I&B O.M. No. 3/3/94-B(P) dated 3.10.1994]

Recommendation Sl. No. 6 (Para No. 3.21)

The Committee find that a number of schemes for improving the broadcast coverage of AIR in the border areas were included in the 6th & 7th five year plans. Out of the 40 schemes for setting up of new stations or upgradation of the existing ones, only 16 have been completed and the remaining are under implementation. The Committee feel that in view of the hostile propaganda being made by some neighbouring countries there is a cause for immediate commissioning of the remaining 24 proposed projects. The Committee would like that concrete action should be taken to complete these schemes without any further loss of time.

Reply of Government

Top priority has been given to the projects in border areas. Some of the schemes envisaged in this regard are as under:

- Upgradation of 50 KW MW Transmitter to 300 KW MW Transmitter alongwith auxiliary equipments and also staff quarters at AIR, Jalandhar.
- Provision of 50 KW SW Transmitter alongwith auxiliary equipments and staff—quarters at AIR, Srinagar.
- Upgradation of 20 KW MW Transmitter to 300 KW MW Transmitter alongwith auxiliary equipment and staff quarters at Suratgarh.
- Upgradation of 50 KW MW Transmitter to 300 KW MW Transmitter alongwith auxiliary equipments and staff quarters at AIR, Jammu.
- Installation of 50 KW SW Transmitter alongwith auxiliary equipment at Gorakhpur.
- (a) Studio to Transmitter Link (STL), for receipt of programmes at Transmitters, originated at Studio Centres at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Srinagar.
- (b) Provision of Outside Broadcast (OB) Vans at Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Suratgarh, Srinagar, Siliguri, Jammu, Barmer/Jaisalmer and Jabalpur.

- (c) Captive Power Supply at Jodhpur, Jalandhar, Gorakhpur, Ajmer, Siliguri and Patna.
- (d) Captive Power Supply for 2×100 KW MW Transmitter at Srinagar.

The physical achievement of these schemes are as under:—

1. *Jalandhar—300 KW MW Transmitter*

The transmitter upgraded and was commissioned into service on 24.8.1990.

2. *Srinagar—50 KW SW Transmitter*

The 7.5 KW SW Transmitter was upgraded to 50 KW SW and was commissioned into service in November, 1989.

3. *Suratgarh—300 KW MW Transmitter*

The transmitter was upgraded and was commissioned into service on 14.3.1990.

4. *Jammu—300 KW MW Transmitter*

The transmitter was upgraded and was commissioned into service on 14.3.1990.

5. *Gorakhpur—50 KW SW Transmitter*

The transmitter was installed for external service to Nepal and was commissioned into service on 4.11.1990

6. *General*

a. *Studio Transmitter Link*

- | | |
|--|--|
| (i) Bombay—(Worli)
Microwave link. | Completed and
Commissioned. |
| (ii) Delhi—(Nangli)
Broadcasting House
and Mall Road,

BH and Kingsway Transmitter
BH and Khampur | —do—
—do—

—do—
under process. |
| (iii) 5 Channel Microwave Link
between madras studio and
Avadi Tr. | Completed and
Commissioned. |
| (iv) Microwave Link
between Srinagar
Studio and Narbal Tr. | —do— |
| (v) Microwave Link between
Calcutta studio and
transmitter at Chandi | As microwave link is not
feasible, multichannel FM
links in view of microwave
links are being provided. |

b. Provision of OB Vans

OB vans at all the nine centres have been supplied in 1989. These centres are, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Suratgarh, Srinagar, Siliguri, Jammu, Barmer/Jaisalmer (later diverted to Varanasi) and Jalandhar.

**C. & Captive power
D. supply**

The Diesel Generator sets has been supplied at 7 centres viz. Jodhpur, Jalandhar, Gorakhpur, Ajmer, Siliguri, Patna and Srinagar.

Out of 40 schemes for new Radio stations or upgradation of the existing ones, almost all schemes will be completed in 1994-95.

[Ministry of I&B O.M. No. 3/3/94-B(P) Dated 3.10.1994]

Recommendation Sl. No. 7 (Para No. 4.14)

The Committee feel that in a world of competition in disseminating information, AIR should not only be correct but also be prompt in reporting. The Committee was also informed that BBC and CNN had portable satellite transmission apparatus through which messages could be flashed from the spot. This facility is not in possession of All India Radio. However, during evidence, the Committee have been informed that 4 satellites transmission apparatus were being procured and would be utilised as soon as these were received. Further the Committee emphasized that AIR should equip themselves with the latest technologies to be able to compete with other foreign agencies.

Reply of Government

All India Radio is having a vast satellite network with uplinking facilities from four metros and 12 other state capitals. There are three mobile satellite uplinking vans. In addition to these, four satellite news gathering networks are being purchased very shortly. All these will create technical infrastructure comparable with other foreign agencies.

[Ministry of I&B O.M. No. 3/3/94-B(P) Dated 3.10.1994]

Recommendation Sl. No. 8 (Para No. 4.15)

The Committee find that while the proceedings of Question Hour and a review of the proceedings of both the Houses of Parliament are broadcast daily when the Parliament is in Session, due coverage is not being given to the Reports of the departmentally related Standing Parliamentary committees. Given the fact that the reports are presented after a thorough examination of the concerned subject, the Committee strongly feel that extensive coverage of such reports may be given in AIR programmes for

the information and knowledge of the people all over the country. The Committee recommend that the AIR should take necessary steps in this direction.

Reply of Government

The observations made by the Committee have been noted. However, it may be mentioned that the various reports of departmentally related Standing Parliamentary Committees presented to the Parliament from time to time are extensively covered in national news bulletins of AIR in English, Hindi and regional languages. The major recommendations and the salient features of these reports are also suitably headlined and highlighted in the news bulletins besides being discussed in news-based programmes produced and presented by the News Services Division of All India Radio.

[Ministry of I&B O.M. No. 3/3/94-B(P) dated 3.10.1994]

Recommendation Sl. No. 9 (Para No. 4.16)

The Committee note that the News Services Division with a system of close supervision ensures that the guidelines issue for the guidance of editors, correspondents and other editorial staff of the Division are being complied with by the units, correspondents etc. The Committee however feel that the STD facility should have been sanctioned much earlier for prompt collecting and reporting of news. The Committee further recommend that a review of the facilities provided to all the correspondents should be done periodically keeping in view the rapid changes in technology.

Reply of Government

A periodic review of the facilities provided to the News Correspondents is undertaken for ensuring better reporting of news by them.

[Ministry of I&B O.M. No. 3/3/94-B(P) dated 3.10.1994]

Recommendations Sl. No. 12 (Para Nos. 4.55 & 4.56)

The survey by the Audience Research Unit of AIR conducted to assess the efficacy and utility of the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) Broadcasts found the programmes at Hyderabad to be satisfactory. There was a high degree of awareness about the broadcasts both among the registered students of IGNOU and others with overall listening of about 62%. The students of Hyderabad have also suggested change of the time of broadcast, greater publicity of the programmes and the careful selection and comprehensive coverage of the topics. But the situation at Bombay was far from satisfactory, because of the "poor awareness and listening" even among the registered IGNOU students.

The Committee feel that before starting new programmes adequate publicity should be given through the concerned institution as well as on

AIR. However, the Committee recommend that concrete immediate steps should be taken to popularise these programmes at least among the registered students of IGNOU where such programmes are broadcast.

Reply of Government

IGNOU programmes are being broadcast in English from All India Radio, Hyderabad and in Hindi from All India Radio, Bombay on an experimental basis, which will continue up to December, 1994. Press and radio publicity of these programmes is being stepped up by the All India Radio stations.

[Ministry of I&B O.M. No. 3/3/94-B(P) dated 3.10.1994]

Recommendation Sl. No. 18 (Para No. 6.3)

The Committee are further informed that the development work on "Computerised Satellite Networking System for Vividh Bharti Programmes" has been completed. A pilot system has been established at All India Radio, Delhi and is undergoing trial with programme uplinking from All India Radio, Bombay. The technical know-how of the system is being transferred to the manufacturing industry for the production of 40 such units to be incorporated in all the 40 (30 stations against 7th Plan & 10 stations against 8th Plan) stations of A.I.R. commercial broadcasting services. The Committee recommend that the process of transferring such technical know-how of the system to the manufacturing industry, may be expedited, so that targets could be met within prescribed period.

Reply of Government

The Pilot scheme commissioned at All India Radio Delhi for uplink of programmes from other stations is functioning satisfactorily. The technical know how of the system has already been transferred to the manufacturing industry for production of 40 such units of the system to be commissioned at various AIR Commercial Broadcasting Services Station. All India Radio has also placed orders with the manufacturing industry for the supply of the system.

[Ministry of I & B O.M. No. 3/3/94-B(P) dated 3.10.94]

Recommendation Sl. No. 16 (Para No. 5.11)

The Committee note that over the years, AIR examined the possibilities of acquiring a relay base or buying air time or sending news and current affairs capsules on daily basis to ethnic stations in U.K., USA, Canada etc. but these could not be pursued owing to financial constraints. The Committee strongly feel that financial constraints should not come in the way of its implementation. The Committee learn that with the commissioning of the Bangalore transmitter AIR would be able to reach a level of 2000 to 3000 kms and it is now possible to set up a relay centre somewhere 3000 kms. and thereafter it could be taken to London. The

Committee, therefore, recommend that AIR, in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs, put up a relay centre in friendly country at the earliest so that the External Services function more effectively and purposefully.

Reply of Government

The External Services programmes of All India Radio are presently available in Western Europe including U.K., to a limited extent. Presently, All India Radio have 12 High Power SW transmitters. Installation of more such transmitters is being considered in a phased manner, to achieve a fully reliable service in Europe. As such, setting up of relay bases will not be necessary to cover Western Europe including U.K.

For coverage in USA and Canada, however, it would be essential to establish relay bases at suitable locations. Suggestion of the committee in this regard has been noted. The proposed infrastructure would involve several processes, such as, feasibility study, evaluation of technical requirements, clearance from the concerned countries etc. The matter is being taken up with the Ministry of External Affairs, for formulation of a suitable plan.

[Ministry of I&B O.M. No.3/3/94-B(P) dated 3.10.1994]

Recommendation Sl. No.15 (Para No. 4.64)

The Committee while appreciating the release of a set of cassettes on AIR Vadya Vrinda, would like AIR to make further efforts to release more cassettes containing the rare variety of compositions in the Hindustani and Karanatak style.

Reply of Government

The observations and recommendations of the Committee have been noted.

[Ministry of I&B O.M. No.3/3/94-B(P) dated 3.10.1994]

Recommendation Sl. No.14 (Para No. 4.59)

The Committee understand that the Advisory/Consultative Committee constituted to advise the local AIR Stations, having production centres, have been meeting almost thrice a year. The Committee feel that these bodies should meet more frequently.

Reply of Government

The programme Advisory Committees attached to All India Radio Stations are required to meet six times a year, In addition, additional meetings can also be convened by the chairman, if required.

[Ministry of I&B O.M. No.3/3/94-B(P) dated 3.10.1994]

Recommendation Sl. No.19 (Para No. 6.4)

The Committee find that to augment the field of commercial services 10 Centres have been proposed during Eighth Plan out of which one Centre at Varanasi has become operational and the proposal for remaining is at various stages. The Committee desire that these proposals should be implemented expeditiously.

Reply of Government

Out of the 10 Commercial Services Centres proposed during 8th Plan, the centre at Varanasi has been commissioned. The other schemes are being implemented expeditiously.

[Ministry of I & B O.M. No.3/3/94-B(P) dated 3.10.1994]

Recommendation Sl. No. 20 (Para No. 7.8)

The Committee are glad to note that the equipments like dynamic carrier control, radio data systems, telemetry and other systems/techniques developed or being developed by the Centre for Digital Techniques in Broadcastings are at par with those available abroad. The Committee further note that the technical knowhow in respect of some of these equipments have already been transferred to manufacturers in India and for the remaining it is being transferred. The Committee recommend that the technical know-how, as soon as available, should be transferred for commercialisation/export.

Reply of Government

Various technologies developed by R&D of All India Radio and Doordarshan are always transferred to manufacturers in India for commercialisation. This transfer of technical know-how to manufacturers will continue in future.

[Ministry of I & B O.M. No. 3/3/94-B(P) dated 3.10.94]

Recommendation Sl. No. 21 (Para No. 7.9)

As regards complete automation in booking, billing and accounting operations the Committee are informed that a Super Mini Computer is under installation at C.S.U. Bombay. The site is under preparation and software is being developed. The Committee hope that a Super Mini Computer at Central Sales Unit, Bombay for complete automation in booking, billing and accounting operation would be commissioned by the target date.

Reply of Government

Complete automation in booking, billing and accounting operation at Central Sales Units, Bombay, alongwith the scheme of networking of Commercial Broadcasting Service Centres with Central Sales Unit, Bombay will be completed within the target date, subject to the approval of the competent authority and availability of funds.

[Ministry of I & B O.M. No. 3/3/94-B(P) dated 3.10.94]

Recommendation Sl. No. 23 (Para No, 8.11)

The Committee find that under the special Recruitment Drive for SCs & STs launched since 1990, 105 SCs and 64 STs have been appointed and the process for filling up 110 posts for SCs and 192 posts for STs is going on. The proposals for filling up 73 (13+60) SC and 78 (9+69) ST vacancies are pending with UPSC and SSC. The reasons for delay in filling up the vacancies are stated to be nonavailability of physically suitable candidates. Unwillingness of the Scheduled Tribe candidate to join the State Government due to availability of tribal area allowance delay in getting the police verification and medical reports etc. The Committee recommend that UPSC and SSC may be asked to expedite recruitment process and take time bound measure to fill up Group 'A', 'B' and 'C' posts. As regards Group 'D' posts, local recruitment could be expedited by taking suitable timely measure. The Committee strongly recommend the Government to take up such measures to fill up existing vacancies at the earliest. In service training may be arranged for available candidates after recruitment is done. Further the committee are of the opinion that actions for police verification and medical reports may be initiated as soon as the panel of selected candidates are made available, so that delay in appointment could be avoided to a large extent. It is reiterated that the explanation provided by the Ministry regarding non-fulfillment of the posts of SCs/STs is totally unacceptable. Serious efforts should be made to fill up these vacancies at the earliest.

Reply of Government.

Necessary instructions regarding filling up of Group 'B', 'C', and 'D' posts have been issued to all Divisional Heads/Branch Officers and staff sections in the Directorate. Similar instructions have been issued to all Heads of AIR Stations and Zonal Station Directors/Chief Engineers for follow up action.

2. As regards Group 'A' posts, efforts are being made on a continuous basis. DPCs for the junior Time Scale grade (2 streams) and Senior Administrative Grade have already been held. Efforts are on to fill up other vacancies.

A group is being constituted in the Directorate to prepare a prospective plan for man power development to fill up the vacancies.

[Ministry of I&B O.M. No. 3/3/94-B(P) dated 3.10.1994]

Recommendation Sl. No. 24 (Para No. 8.15)

The Committee note that out of six Regional Institutes only three institutes at Hyderabad, Thiruvananthapuram and Shillong are functioning and the other 3 Regional Training Institutes are not functioning as the posts of Dy. Director are lying vacant. The Committee strongly recom-

mend that the vacant posts be filled up immediately, so that these three Institutes also start functioning without any further delay.

Reply of Government

The vacancies in the faculty positions have been circulated and applications from the eligible officers have been invited. The selections will be made in due course.

[Ministry of I & B O.M. No. 3/3/94-B(P) dated 3.10.94]

CHAPTER III

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

Recommendation Sl. No. 11 (Para No. 4.54)

The Committee, while appreciating the studies/surveys conducted by the Audience Research Unit to provide useful information to Policy Makers and programmers of AIR, are of the view that there is much scope for improvement in the audience research. The Committee desire that the Audience Research Unit should also take into consideration the opinion/study conducted by outside agencies in respect of the performance of the AIR programmes.

Reply of Government

The suggestion of the Committee has been noted. It need, however, be pointed out that the current trend amongst outside agencies concerns only television with no meaningful study on radio programmes having been conducted during the last three years.

[Ministry of I&B O.M. No. 3/3/94-B(P) dated 3.10.1994]

Recommendation Sl. No. 22 (Para Nos. 8.9 & 8.10)

There are 27,747 sanctioned posts in various categories and groups and out of which 5,550 posts, i.e. 20% of the sanctioned posts, are lying vacant. The Committee are not all convinced with the explanations/reasons/factors stated for such a huge number of vacancies. Such huge vacancies affect the efficient functioning of any organisation. The Committee therefore, recommend that an expert Committee be immediately constituted to go into the staffing pattern in AIR.

The Committee were informed that in the absence of a perspective plan for man-power, in particular, timely action to fill up the vacancies could not be initiated. The Committee therefore, recommend that AIR must come out with a perspective plan for man-power development to fill up vacancies at the earliest.

Reply of Government

As regards the large number of vacant posts as mentioned in para 8.9 of the report, it may be stated that during the last few years there has been fast expansion of new AIR Stations. This has resulted in creation of large number of new posts.

2. Since the filling-up of newly created posts involve involvement of outside agencies like Union Public Service Commission, Staff Selection Commission, Employment Exchange, it takes considerable time to fill these vacancies from the date the posts are created. After selection of candidates, time is also taken in fulfilling other pre-appointment formalities like verification of character and antecedents, medical test, etc. Due to these reasons a large number of posts were reported vacant for which recruitment is yet to be completed. As a result of regular efforts to fill-up the vacancies in the past, a large number of vacant posts have been filled so far. Very few vacancies in Group 'B' category of Programme Staff are left.

3. With the formation of IB(P)S cadre, a large number of new posts were created on the Programme side in Group 'A' category. However, in Group 'A' category, a number of posts remain vacant due to various factors such as non-availability of eligible persons in the feeder grade despite seeking relaxation of eligibility conditions in the Recruitment Rules. DPCs in the grade of Junior Time Scale (2 out of 4 streams), Senior Time Scale, Junior Administrative Grade and Senior Administrative Grade have been held and promotion orders issued. Timely action has already been taken to fill-up vacant posts in the Engineering cadre and there is sizeable reduction in vacant posts in this cadre.

4. As regards Group 'C' Programme posts, out of 481 vacancies of Transmission Executives for the recruitment year 1992, nominations from SSC in respect of 365 selected candidates have already been received and for remaining vacancies, the nominations are expected to be received early. For vacancies arising in 1994, SSC has already been approached and the SSC have already held the examination in May, 1994.

5. Action to fill-up vacancies in remaining categories is pending at various stages. However, it is envisaged to fill-up and the vacancies are likely to be filled very shortly. All the AIR Stations/Offices have already been advised to fill up posts to be filled by promotion at an early date and to take up matter with the UPSC/SSC in respect of posts to be filled by direct recruitment and keep the Headquarters posted through fortnightly reports.

6. Besides, a scheme for the regularisation of General/Production Assistants belonging to the erstwhile Staff Artists category of AIR on the lines of the Scheme implemented by DG: Doordarshan, is also being formulated. On its implementation sizeable number of vacant posts in Group 'C' will be filled.

[Ministry of I&B O.M. No. 3/3/94-B(P) dated 3.10.1994]

CHAPTER IV

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

Recommendation Sl. No. 1 (Para No. 2.6)

The Committee note that the setting up of the Prasar Bharati Corporation is most urgent. The Committee, therefore, recommend that immediate steps should be taken to enforce the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990.

Reply of Government

A comprehensive review of the provisions of Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 has brought into focus the essentiality of carrying out certain amendments in respect of some sections of the Act. These amendments are aimed at obviating certain operational difficulties that are likely to arise due to the existing provisions of these sections. This matter is under the active consideration of the Government.

[Ministry of I & B O.M.No. 3/3/94-B(P) dated 3.10.1994]

Recommendation Sl. No. 10 (Para No. 4.17)

The Committee find that no evaluation of the present system of working of AIR has been done by an outside body simply because of long tenure of its News Services Division and detailed codification of the objective. In view of the rapid changes in technology and invasion of the sky by various foreign agencies, the Committee feel that an evaluation of the present system of working of AIR by an independent outside agency is essential. Therefore, the Committee recommend the Government to take immediate action in the matter.

Reply of Government

The Committee's suggestion regarding evaluation of the present system of working of News Services Division of All India Radio has been noted. All India Radio have, accordingly been instructed to initiate suitable action in the matter.

[Ministry of I&B O.M. No. 3/3/94-B(P) dated 3.10.1994]

Recommendation Sl. No. 17 (Para No. 5.12)

As regards the Services of the Translators-cum-announcers of the External Services Division of AIR the Committee noted that they are being deprived of various promotional avenues existing in the mainstream

of AIR in absence of cadre review. Therefore, the Committee recommend that the Services of the Translators-cum-announcers in ESD should be integrated into the mainstream cadre at the earliest, to provide equal promotional avenues to them.

Reply of Government

1. In the External Service Division of All India Radio, there are 16 sanctioned posts of Translator-cum-Announcers (Indian Language) Grade-II in the Pay scale of Rs. 2000-3500. Programme bulletins in Hindi, Sindhi, Punjabi and Tamil are broadcast. There is only one post of Translator-cum-Announcer Grade-I in the scale of Rs. 3000-4500 which is a promotional post. There are seven posts of Translator-cum-Announcers (Foreign Language) Grade-I in External Services Division in the pay scale of Rs. 3000-4500 and 75 posts of Translator-cum-Announcers (Foreign Language) in the pay scale of Rs. 2200-4000.

2. The Foreign Language units in External Services Division have 15 sanctioned posts of Supervisor (Foreign Language) in the pay scale of Rs. 3000-4500. In order to create further promotional avenues to this cadre and also in compliance of Hon'ble CAT, Principal Bench's directives, we have already created 3 posts of Supervisor (Selection Grade) in the pay scale of Rs. 3700-5000.

3. The Government is seized of the position regarding promotional avenues in the isolated cadres of Translator-cum-Announcers (Foreign Language) and the Supervisor (Foreign Language) working in the External Services Division of All India Radio, New Delhi. In an effort to create promotional avenues in these cadres, the possibility of clubbing those cadres and creating another post of Director in the pay scale of Rs. 4500-5700 is being explored. Induction of this particular category into IB(P)S has not been considered desirable in view of the different job requirements.

[Ministry of I & B O.M. No. 3394-B(P) dated 3.10.1994]

CHAPTER V

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES OF GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED

Recommendation Sl. No. 13 (Para No. 4.58)

The Committee are happy to note that AIR has launched the Children's Enrichment, Experiment through Radio (CHEER) programme aimed at pre-school children of the socially deprived classes. This programme has received an encouraging response from the young listeners of the certain districts of Andhra Pradesh and Haryana. The Committee hope that the CHEER in the other States of Orissa and Uttar Pradesh, which have been selected for the first phase, would be launched at the earliest. The Committee recommend that the State Governments of Orissa and Uttar Pradesh be persuaded to provide the desired adequate infrastructural facilities at the field level. The Committee further recommend that the AIR should take necessary steps with the other State Governments where it proposes to extend CHEER in the next phase. This programme should be extended to all the States.

Reply of Government

All India Radio is ready to extend the project to all states, provided infrastructural facilities are made available by the respective state Governments. The project however, could not so far be extended to the remaining states due to non-availability of infrastructural facilities at the field level. Ministry of Human Resource Development is pursuing the matter, to expedite the desired adequate infrastructural facilities at the field level in these states. For this, All India Radio representatives at its regional stations are in constant touch with the nodal officers, wherever identified by the state Government.

[Ministry of I&B O.M. No. 3/3/94-B(P), dated, 3.10.1994]

NEW DELHI;

20 December, 1994

29 Agraphayana, 1916 (Saka)

KUMARI VIMLA VERMA,

Chairperson,

Standing Committee on Communications.

APPENDIX I

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTEENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS (1994-95)

The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 8th November, 1994 from 15.00 hours to 16.00 hours in Committee Room 'C', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Kumari Vimla Verma — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri R. Jeevarathinam
3. Shri N. Dennis
4. Shri Jagmeet Singh Brar
5. Shri B. Devarajan
6. Shri Somjibhai Damor
7. Shri Lal Krishna Advani
8. Shri Ram Pujan Patel
9. Shri Rupchand Pal
10. Shri Satyagopal Misra
11. Shri G.M.C. Balayogi

Rajya Sabha

12. Shri Prakash Yashwant Ambedkar
13. Shri Jalaludin Ansari
14. Shri Virendra Kataria
15. Shrimati Malti Devi
16. Shri Mohammed Afzal *alias* Meem Afzal
17. Shrimati Anandiben Jethabhai Patel
18. Shri Kishore Chandra Suryanarayana Deo Vyricheria

SECRETARIAT

Shri S.C. Gupta — *Joint Secretary*

Shri Ashok Sarin — *Under Secretary*

At the outset the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee. The Committee then took up for consideration the Draft Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their 5th Report on All India Radio. After some discussion, the Committee approved the draft report with certain modifications as shown in Annexure.

2. The Committee, however, deferred the adoption of the Draft Report till the receipt and consideration of further information on Para 5.12 of the 5th Report as the Committee was not satisfied with the reply furnished by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on this paragraph. In their reply the Ministry had stated that in order to create further promotional avenues to the Translators-cum-Announcers in External Services Division and also in compliance of Hon'ble CAT, Principal Bench's directives they had already created 3 posts of Supervisor (Selection Grade) in the pay scale of Rs. 3700-5000. According to the Ministry the induction of this particular category into IB(P)S was not considered desirable in view of the different job requirements. As had been recommended by the Committee in their original Report. The Committee decided to call for the directive of Hon'ble CAT in this regard with a view to taking the decision regarding the reiteration or otherwise of recommendation made by them in this regard.

The Committee then adjourned.

**AMENDMENTS/MODIFICATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE IN
THE DRAFT FIFTH REPORT ON ALL INDIA RADIO**

Page	Para	Amendments/Modifications
3.	1.7	<p><i>For the existing paragraph substitute the following:</i></p> <p>"The Committee note that the Bill was passed in 1990 and even after four years, it has not been put into operation. The action taken reply only confirms the inaction in the matter as the Government have merely restated the position explained to the Committee earlier and have not spelt out the amendments to the Prasar Bharati Act which are considered essential to obviate operational difficulties. The Committee would like to be informed of all the operational difficulties, and the proposed amendments considered necessary to overcome them. In view of the invasion of our space by a multitude of other electronic media, both indigenous and foreign, the need to confer autonomy to the official set up has become even more urgent and imperative. The Committee, reiterate that immediate steps should be taken, including amendments if any, to the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 and to set up the Prasar Bharati Corporation urgently as recommended by them."</p>

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-FIRST SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS (1994-95)

The Committee met on Tuesday, 20 December, 1994 from 09.30 hours to 10.15 hours in Committee Room "D", Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Kumari Vimla Verma

— *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri R. Jeevarathinam
3. Shri Shravan Kumar Patel
4. Shri Laeta Umbrey
5. Shri Surajbhanu Solanki
6. Shri N. Dennis
7. Shri Jagmeet Singh Brar
8. Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal
9. Shri B. Devarajan
10. Shri R. Anbarasu
11. Dr. B.G. Jawali
12. Shri Mohan Lal Jhikram
13. Shri Ram Pujan Patel
14. Shri Shivsharan Verma
15. Shri Chandrajeet Yadav

Rajya Sabha

16. Shrimati Veena Verma

SECRETARIAT

Shri G.C. Malhotra

— *Joint Secretary*

Shri O.P. Ghai

— *Deputy Secretary*

2. At the outset the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee. The Committee then took up consideration of draft Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Para 5.12 of the Fifth Report of the Committee on All India Radio relating to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

3. The Committee considered the note received from the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and were of the view that the Government might expedite action on the creation of the post of Director in the pay scale of Rs. 4500—5700 in addition to promotional avenues already

provided to the Supervisors/Translators-cum-Announcers (Foreign Language) in the External Services Division and adopted the Report.

4. Thereafter, the Committee authorised the Chairperson to finalise and present the Report to Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX II*(Vide Introduction of Report)****Analysis of Action Taken by Government on the Fifth Report of Standing Committee on Communications (10th Lok Sabha)***

I. Total Number of Recommendations	24
II. Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government: (Sl. Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23 & 24)	
Total	18
Percentage	75%
III. Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies: (Sl. Nos. 11, 17 & 22)	
Total	3
Percentage	12.5%
IV. Recommendations/Observations in respect of which Government's replies have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration: (Sl. Nos. 1, 10)	
Total	2
Percentage	8.3%
V. Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies are still awaited: (Sl. No. 13(4.58))	
Total	1
Percentage	4.2%