

**FIFTH REPORT**  
**STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS**  
**(1993-94)**

**(TENTH LOK SABHA)**

**ALL INDIA RADIO**  
**(MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING)**

**ANNUAL REPORT (1992-93)**

*Presented to Lok Sabha on 9 March, 1994*  
*Laid in Rajya Sabha on 9 March, 1994*



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
**NEW DELHI**

*March, 1994/Phalguna, 1915 (Saka)*

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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
COMMUNICATIONS  
(1993-94)

Kumari Vimla Verma—*Chairperson*

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35. Shri Virendra Kataria
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37. Shrimati Jayanthi Natarajan
38. Shri G. Prathapa Reddy
39. Shrimati Sushma Swaraj
40. Shri Vizol
41. Shri Brahmadeo Anand Paswan

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri G. L. Batra —*Additional Secretary*
2. Shri R. V. Warjri —*Director*
3. Shri K. K. Dhawan—*Under Secretary*

## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Communications (1993-94) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf present this Fifth Report on Ministry of Information & Broadcasting—All India Radio.

2. The Committee took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting at their sitting held on 30 September, 1993.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on December 21, 1993.

NEW DELHI;  
December 21, 1993

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*Agrahayana 30, 1915 (Saka)*

KUMARI VIMLA VERMA,  
Chairperson,  
*Standing Committee on Communications.*

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTORY

#### A. Broadcasting in India

1.1 Broadcasting is the most powerful medium of mass communication in India. Its importance as a medium of information and education is particularly great in a vast and developing country like that of ours where 75% of its population live in villages.

1.2 The radio has been deeply involved not only in informing the people of the realities and complexities of the situation but also in providing the means of expression for their aspirations, trials and tribulations. The radio reflects contemporary life and help in accelerating social and economic developments and cultural transformation. It plays an inestimable role in promoting vital socio-economic goals, encouraging national integration and promoting modern, scientific and progressive ideas.

1.3 Broadcasting in India is a national service developed and operated by the Union Government. Entry 31 of List—I—i.e. Union List given in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India and the Indian Telegraph Act, as amended from time to time, give the Central Government the exclusive privilege of establishing, maintaining and working the broadcasting and television services.

1.4 All India Radio, an attached office of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, is a media unit charged with the responsibility to inform and educate the people of the country about the works, policies, programmes and achievements through the medium of sound broadcasting.

1.5 All India Radio has, a large network of radio stations and other offices throughout India. Director-General is the Head of this organisation and is responsible for overall administration and supervision of AIR network. Under him are the officers belonging to the programmes cadre, who have distinct functions and responsibilities to discharge, for the smooth working of the organisation.

1.6 AIR has the following three major services:

- I — Home Service
- II — External Service
- III — Commercial Service

1.7 The broadcast of a station is done in the principal language of that area. Wherever there is communication imperative, programmes in

minority languages and dialects are arranged. Programmes in Hindi and English are also broadcast from several stations.

### **B. Aims and Objectives of All India Radio**

1.8 The objectives of the AIR, as have been laid down by the Government, are to inform and educate, the people about the problems of the nation and the plans and programmes of the Government for economic development and social change, apart from providing healthy entertainment. The AIR is stated to strive:—

- (a) to act as a catalyst for social change;
- (b) to promote national integration;
- (c) to stimulate scientific temper in the minds of the people;
- (d) to disseminate the message of small family norms as means of population control and family welfare;
- (e) to provide essential information and knowledge in order to stimulate greater agricultural production;
- (f) to promote and preserve environmental and ecological balance;
- (g) to highlight the need for social welfare measure, including welfare of women, children and the less privileged;
- (h) to provide adequate publicity to developmental programmes initiated by Central and State Governments;
- (i) to promote interest in sports and games;
- (j) to create values of appraisal of artistic and cultural heritage.

1.9 In July, 1980, the Government issued the following policy guidelines to the official media units:—

- (i) to give effective coverage to Government programmes, policies and achievements, particularly information relating to developmental activities in all the facets including extension work in Agriculture, Education, Health, and Family Welfare and Science and Technology.
- (ii) to devise and present suitable programmes relating to youth including information regarding opportunities for and the generation of employment in various fields.
- (iii) to take steps to serve the rural population, minority communities; women, children, illiterate as well as other weaker and vulnerable sections of the society.

- (iv) to encourage both individual as well as collective effort by the handicapped, such as, blind, deaf, dumb and other disabled persons, as well as institutions doing service to this section of society; and to propagate the good work being done to eradicate diseases like leprosy and to remove inhibitions about them.
- (v) to devise suitable programmes to eradicate social evils such as untouchability, narrow parochial attitudes and loyalties, inequalities and exploitation. Steps taken by the Government in this regard should be highlighted.
- (vi) to disseminate information, news and comments in Akashvani and Doordarshan and Films Division in a fair, objective and balanced manner including contrasting points of view with emphasis on events and developments.
- (vii) to adopt a professional approach in the activities and to strive for creating audience interest to meet their needs and expectations by talking about what is on the ground; having stories of local interest in a realistic manner by adopting actual field-based coverage, to be covered from the public point of view without any hesitation in bringing out healthy criticism.
- (viii) Akashvani and Doordarshan should endeavour to put out news and features which are investigative and in-depth. There should be a greater attempt in diversification of coverage in terms of personalities being brought in for participation, places of origination of news and source being relied upon.
- (ix) Media Units should have a constant dialogue among themselves and establish effective horizontal linkages to support and supplement one another's programmes and resources.
- (x) Each Media Unit should have adequate systems for continuous evaluation and re-assessment of its performance in the context of its specific objectives, resources and schedules.



## CHAPTER II

### PRASAR BHARATI CORPORATION AND COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL MEDIA POLICY

#### A. Prasar Bharati Corporation

2.1 The Ministry stated that any policy pertaining to the electronic media, viz., Radio and Television, must take into account and, if necessary, be tampered with and circumscribed by, the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990. The Prasar Bharati Act which is yet to come into force envisages the setting up of an autonomous Corporation, with an independent Board of Governors, initially appointed by Government, but largely left to control the media under their charge without let or hindrance. Both Radio and Television would have the present Directors General in the form of Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) being members of the Board of Governors, and also function under its guidance. Staff and assets of the two Organisations would be transferred after the modalities have been worked out by Government, which task is being presently addressed to.

2.2 This is not to say that Government will have no say whatsoever in the proposed Prasar Bharati Corporation. Government policies will, however, be implemented through the medium of the Board of Governors, and Government will have supervening powers to dispense with the Board or Members thereon.

2.3 No policy pursued by the Prasar Bharati Corporation can ignore the vast and far-reaching technological developments that have occurred, and will obviously continue to take place in the future. The electronic media and communications are the present field of excellence and experimentation particularly when the world is rapidly progressing towards the concept of a "Global Village". Protectionism has to be discounted in favour of positive dissemination of India's point of view abroad, concentrating on the building up of a favourable opinion on sensitive issues, and countering disinformation being spread by hostile interests. Education programmes will also get a fillip with this spread of, and access to, communication and the Corporation can turn technology to its advantage for the eradication of illiteracy and social education.

2.4 In a note regarding the establishment of Prasar Bharati Corporation, it is mentioned that an Action Plan was formulated for the completion of the various activities necessary for establishment of Corporation by the end of March, 1991. However, before most of these activities could be completed, the political executive underwent a change in November, 1990. The view that emerged then was that it was imperative to consult, in the

first instance, all shades of public opinion to ensure that the establishment of the Corporation was in conformity with national interests. It was felt that in view of the misused potential of the video and audio cassettes in circulation at that time, the Government needed to have at its disposal a powerful medium to communicate the positive aspects of communal harmony as also to counter the propaganda aimed at promoting religious and cultural divides. In the circumstances, the setting up of the Corporation did not make any headway.

2.5 The matter was reviewed in detail after the present political executive assumed office at the Centre. The comprehensive review of the provisions of the Act also brought into focus the essentiality of carrying out certain amendments in respect of some sections to obviate operational difficulties that were likely to arise due to the existing provisions of these sections.

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.

#### **B. Comprehensive National Media Policy**

2.7 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.

2.8 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.

## CHAPTER III

### EXPANSION OF AIR NETWORKS

3.1 Broadcasting began in India in the year 1924. The development of broadcasting on a planned basis was however taken up only after the establishment of "All India Radio" in 1936. By the year 1939, India had organised a broadcasting service with six stations besides one in the princely State of Mysore, catering over a lakh of radio licence-holders in the country.

3.2 The real breakthrough for broadcasting in India came with World War II. The war also made it necessary for the Government to expand the broadcasting organisation so as to meet the requirements of its war efforts. Most of the News Services and the External Services originated during the war years. When India became free, the AIR Networks had only six stations: Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Lucknow and Tiruchirapalli, with a total complement of 18 transmitters, six of them, on medium wave and the others on short wave. Listening on medium wave was confined to the urban areas in these cities. With the integration of princely States, AIR took over the five broadcasting centres functioning in these areas.

3.3 With the attainment of Independence in 1947, broadcasting got a fillip. By the time the First Five Year Plan began in 1951, the number of stations which were 11 at the time of Independence had risen to 25. The AIR Network was in a position to serve listeners in all regional languages and the medium wave service was available to about 21% of the population.

3.4 AIR today serves 96 percent of the population in different parts of the country including distant and far-flung places like Leh, Tawang, Andaman-Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands.

3.5 The Secretary, I & B, informed the Committee that out of 156 broadcasting centres of AIR, there were 148 full-fledged stations, 3 relay centres, 2 auxiliary centres and 3 exclusive Vividh Bharti centres. There were 141 medium wave, 43 short-wave and 69 F.M. transmitters. The coverage on medium wave and FM was 86.1% by area and 96.2% by population as per international broadcasting standards. He further informed that AIR proposed to cover the entire country by short-wave in the near future.

3.6 The Ministry informed the Committee that with the completion of 58 more broadcast centres, which are the continuing schemes of the Seventh Plan, the coverage would reach 91.1% by area and 97.7% by population. Statewise coverage under the above conditions would be

almost 100% in nearly 50% of the total States including Union territories with the rest of the States reaching a coverage of 95% to 99%, which would be achieved by the end of 8th Plan period.

3.7 The progress of the proposed 58 broadcast centres, as furnished to the Committee indicate that only 9 Centres at Bareilly, Faizabad, Jhansi, Behrampur, Guna, Sagar, Hamirpur, Jaisalmer and Obra have been commissioned or technically ready and the remaining 49 are at various stages.

3.8 Further, the Ministry informed that adequate infrastructural facilities have been given to all the existing broadcast stations/centres for the smooth functioning.

3.9 As regards AIR broadcast particularly in the border, farflung hilly and sensitive areas, the Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting informed that among all the border States of India, the north eastern States had been comparably at a disadvantage so far as coverage of All India Radio Stations was concerned. It was partly due to hilly terrain and partly due to inadequate power of the broadcast transmitters. From 6th Plan onwards, comprehensive steps have been taken to augment the broadcast services in these areas. Under the 6th Five Year Plan, (1980-85), the powers of 100 KW MW transmitter at Dibrugarh and 20 KW MW transmitter at Rajkot has been upgraded to 300 KW each. Similarly the power of the 20 KW MW transmitter at Siliguri has been upgraded to 200 KW. The 1 KW MW transmitter at Shillong has been upgraded to 100 KW power. A new 10 KW SW transmitter has also been installed at Aizawal to provide short-wave support service. The power of 10 KW SW transmitter at Guwahati has been increased to 50 KW. The approved 7th Five Year Plan (1985-90) for AIR included a number of schemes for improving the broadcast coverage of AIR in the border areas. These schemes included establishing of new Radio Stations and upgradation of transmitter power both medium-wave and short-wave, setting up of 50 KW SW transmitters in few States namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim (10 KW SW) Rajasthan, Manipur, Jammu and Kashmir. 16 schemes for new stations or upgradation of existing Stations at Kathua, Bhatinda, Barmar, Kailashahar, Belonia, Murshidabad, Guwahati, Ahmedabad, Srinagar, Jammu, Leh, Jalandhar, Suratgarh, Lucknow, Gorakhpur and Shillong have been completed and commissioned and 24 schemes for new stations or upgradation are under implementation.

3.10 The broad reasons for not adhering to the plan targets were stated to be as under:—

- (i) Delay in locating and acquiring sites as AIR has to acquire sites through local Governments.
- (ii) Delay to some extent in getting sanctions such as EFCs.

- (iii) Delay in supply of equipment by Public Sector Undertakings.
- (iv) Delay by Civil Construction Wing (CCW) in awarding the civil works and completing the technical area and building.
- (v) Delay in erection of F.M. Antenna towers by outside agencies (TSL).
- (vi) Delay due to disturbed political conditions as in North East Region, Jammu & Kashmir etc.
- (vii) Delay in implementation due to difficult terrain conditions.

3.11 Local Radio is a new concept of broadcasting in India. Each of the Stations serving a small area provides basically utility service. The Programmes are area specific. They are flexible and spontaneous to enable the station to function as the mouth-piece of the local community. At present there are 5 pilot stations planned under the 6th plan at Nagercoil, Kota, Sholapur, Adilabad and Keonjhar. 73 more Local Radio Stations are to come up under the VIIth Five Year Plan sanctioned schemes, out of which 43 have been commissioned and the rest are at various stages of completion.

3.12 Local Radio Stations are mainly comprised of  $2 \times 3$  KW FM Transmitters and  $2 \times 5$  KW FM Transmitters. The approximate range of coverage of these transmitters is 60 to 65 Kmts. and 65 to 70 Kmts. respectively. The Local Radio Station is area specific and caters the information and developmental needs of the area by co-ordinating with other extension agencies in the field, so that the peoples' problem at grass-root level are ameliorated. Formally, it covers the whole of District in which it is located. Since a district covers many Panchayats/Gram-Panchayats etc. the governance of the Local Radio Station cannot be executed in a single Panchayat.

3.13 The Secretary, Ministry of I & B informed that in advanced countries, FM Channel was basically the most important channel. 80% of the time was spent on local music, railway time-table, chat shows etc. Further in advanced countries, FM channel was also in private sector. He further informed the Committee that they were planning to seek permission of the Cabinet to allow Private radio stations on FM channel.

3.14 The Committee were informed that the All India Radio has established radio networking through INSAT-ID for many of its relay programmes. Uplinking facility for six channels is available from Delhi through DOT Earth Station at Sikandrabad. Besides, Bombay, Calcutta

and Madras have also been provided with one channel uplinking facility on time sharing basis with Delhi for distribution of regional programmes through INSAT-ID. All India Radio Stations are equipped with 6 channel receiving terminal for receiving centrally originated Delhi programmes.

3.15 In addition, 4 channel uplinking facility is also available at Broadcasting House, All India Radio, Delhi through INSAT-2A 17 AIR Stations (including Delhi) are at present equipped with receiving system of this service.

3.16 For a developing country with limited resources like ours, technical advancement necessitates modernisation and horizontal expansion to go in parallel. Introduction of modern technology has to be carried out keeping in view various aspects like cost effectiveness, improved utilisation, ease of operation and indigenisation. Perspective Plan has been drawn up for growth of radio services, with the ultimate objective of improving the quality of broadcasting.

3.17 The salient features of this perspective plan are:—

- (i) Increase in services on FM transmitters for High quality reception.
- (ii) Upgradation in power of MW transmitters for improving the night time coverage.
- (iii) Expansion of external services through establishment of additional Mediumwave and Shortwave transmitters.
- (iv) Introduction of direct broadcast service from satellite.
- (v) Computerisation of net working of V.B. service.
- (vi) Establishment of stereo recording and transmission facilities at Metropolitan cities.
- (vii) Multi track recording facilities at Metropolitan centres.
- (viii) Introduction of Digital Audio Techniques at AIR centres.
- (ix) Improvements in design of studios for reducing the sound noise level for making them suitable for Digital and Multi-track Recordings.
- (x) Introduction of Compact Disc Play-back in All India Radio.
- (xi) Latest technology Sound Effects Equipment in major studios.
- (xii) State-of-art system for refurbishing and storage of archival audio material.
- (xiii) Radio Data Services.
- (xiv) Establishment of maintenance centres for implementing improved maintenance standards.
- (xv) Extension of the Software Development Schemes to cover all stations for improvement of News, Spokenword, Music programmes.

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.

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 that in future more realistic planning should be done, so as to fully utilise the allocated funds within the prescribed period.

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.

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.

## CHAPTER IV

### HOME SERVICE

4.1 The programme output in the Home Service is over 1800 hours daily. The broad composition of programmes broadcast is—

A. News	23.32%
B. Spoken Word	37.39%
C. Music	38.79%

#### A. News

4.2 All India Radio broadcast daily in 19 languages consisting 81 national bulletins. Besides there are 124 bulletins, including three from Delhi and 42 from Regional News Units in about 62 languages and local dialects. The regional news serve a very useful purpose in fulfilling the information requirements of the local people in the area concerned. In External Services, AIR also broadcasts 67 bulletins in 23 languages, from Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. The broadcast of the Question Hour proceedings in Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha has been introduced from the last Monsoon Session of Parliament. A review of proceedings of both the Houses of Parliament is broadcast daily when the Parliament is in Session.

4.3 The Monitoring Units which monitors 144 transmissions beamed by various foreign radio stations daily, provide news material and information for broadcast.

4.4 It has been stated that two publications viz. "A Style Book" and "The Story of News Services Division" were prepared, published and issued for the guidance and use by editors, correspondents and other editorial staff working in the News Services Division.

4.5 The guidelines provide for covering of all types and categories of news, viz. news of international, national and regional importance. Covering the subjects political, social, economic, sports, science, music, etc. depending on the news value. Except for the specialised bulletins, news for other bulletins are prepared as a composite whole without any fixed time slots. Depending upon the news fall, a foreign news item may also be the lead in a particular bulletin instead of a domestic story. There have been cases where bulletins have leads with stories relating to weather and important sports items.

4.6 The News Services Division (NSD) of AIR has a system of close supervision of the news operations to ensure that the guidelines are complied with. NSD; AIR works in four shifts round the clock. Supervisory officer of the level of Joint Director of News or Addl. Director General of News are always present in the General News Room



from the morning to the evening shifts to ensure compliance of the guidelines. In the night shift, a Joint Director of News is available at his residence on telephone for any guidance needed by the editors manning the GNR. Apart from this, Director General (News) takes two meetings everyday with the concerned editors with the view to review/plan major news bulletins. DG(News) also takes a weekly meeting of all editors to discuss professional matters.

4.7 In the matter of news collection, AIR depends mostly on its own team of correspondents and the monitoring services. A team of correspondents in Reporting Unit at New Delhi cover the developments in various fields at the national level. AIR correspondents are based in all the State Capitals and in about 40 other stations. There are over 230 district level part-time correspondents spread all over the country. At the international level besides seven special correspondents based in Harare, Dubai, Colombo, Islamabad, Kathmandu, Singapore and Dhaka, there are three part-time correspondents abroad.

4.8 To a query, the Committee have been informed that regular and part-time correspondents of AIR have been provided with adequate facilities, which are as follows:—

(i) Regular Correspondents:

- (a) Press Bearing-cum-Fax Authority
- (b) Reverse-charge Trunk-Call Authority
- (c) Telephone in office and residence
- (d) Telex facility in AIR stations
- (e) ITU card for filing coverage on reverse charge, from abroad.

(ii) Part-Time Correspondents:

- (a) Press Bearing Authority
- (b) Reverse Charge Trunk Call Authority by AIR Stations
- (c) Use of personal/work place phone on reimbursement basis.

4.9 The financial support to the regular as well as part-time correspondents are provided as and when required by the AIR Stations to which they are administratively attached to.

4.10 It has been further stated that AIR correspondents do file important news items to the Regional News Units and to the General News Room, AIR, Delhi very promptly on telephone/telex/fax. However, the restriction placed on the STD facility in office and residential telephones of the correspondents affects prompt reportage of major events, from outside Delhi. Meanwhile it has been informed that STD facility is being sanctioned to the correspondents.

4.11 About selection of news items, objectivity and credibility, the Committee were informed that AIR have been trying to transmit the news as timely as possible. Though sometimes it was late. While explaining the reasons for the delay, the Committee were informed that radio stations largely depended on STD, telephone and telegram services etc. for transmission of news. At times there had been problems with these services and it affected the prompt reporting of major events from outside Delhi. AIR was also being fed by PTI, UNI and AIR correspondents located in various parts of the country who sometimes could not avoid parts of the country who sometimes could not avoid being late. There were times that AIR broadcast got delayed as the announcement of news was done only after verification to ensure objectively and credibility.

4.12 In reply to a question regarding evaluation of present system of working of AIR, the Secretary informed the Committee that no evaluation had been done by an outside body so far, to assess the working of AIR.

4.13 On a question about the reasons for the BBC and CNN informing the people of India and abroad about Ayodhya incident earlier than the AIR. The Ministry stated that AIR was however relatively the first national organisation all over to report as the lead news, at 1400 hrs. (English)/1410 hrs. (Hindi) in their news bulletins about the attack by a few hundred Karsewaks on the Babri Masjid at Ayodhya on 6 December, 1992.

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.

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.

4.16 The Committee note that the News Services Division with a system of close supervision ensures that the guidelines issued 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.

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.

### B. Spoken Word Programme

4.18 The spoken word programme comprise of talks, discussions, interviews, magazines, features, commentaries etc. covering various disciplines like education, science, sports, health and family welfare and the programmes meant for special audience like women, children, farmers, industrial workers, armed forces etc.

The break-up of the spoken word programmes is as under:—

Women	3.61%
Industrial Workers	2.08%
Farm and Home	14.28%
Tribal	3.21%
Education	8.66%
Youth	11.46%
Children	2.88%
Drama	7.12%
Armed Forces	2.55%
Talks, Discussions, Interviews etc.	44.15%
Coverages	100.00%

#### (a) Educational Broadcast

4.19 50% of the formal educational broadcasts is devoted to primary schools. To give variety and colour to these programmes, music, playlets, quiz, interviews, etc. are being used adopting the ideas and concept from the text books and curricular.

4.20 The programmes for secondary schools are being coordinated with the syllabus prescribed by the respective State Educational Departments and are put out gradewise. The aim is to consolidate and reinforce what has been learnt in the class-room by means of specialist help with updated new techniques of presentation and approaches. Besides, there are other programmes like broadcasts for teachers, non-formal adult education, University Correspondence Course. On an experimental basis, broadcast

support to the students of the Indira Gandhi National Open University are being broadcast from Bombay and Hyderabad stations.

*(b) Science Programme*

4.21 Science Cells established in thirteen regional stations serve as a clearing house for dissemination of scientific information to the listeners and to other stations in the region, thus creating an institutional mechanism with an appropriate design and framework. 8 more units are being sanctioned under 7th plan. Programmes on science and technology in different formats are broadcast. Reflecting its progress, for the benefit of general as well as special audiences in all Indian languages. Such programmes, taking into account local needs and problems, are being organised in the form of science sammelans etc. on different themes, in collaboration with universities, industrial units, science and technology centres. Problems of social relevance of science and interaction of science and society are dealt with through field reporting and in radio forums establishing a dialogue between and listeners and experts.

*(c) Programmes on Sports*

4.22 With the objective of sustaining and nurturing interest in sports among the youngsters, AIR arrange sports programmes on national, regional and local levels. At the national level the regular fixtures are: daily sports bulletin in Hindi and English for 5 mts; a weekly news reel sports (Monday) in English for 15 mts; a magazine programme in Hindi every month (3rd Thursday), and in English every month (1st Friday) for 30 mts. each.

4.23 Generally, the live coverage on national event is done on All India National hookup and State level events are covered on local or regional basis keeping in view the popularity of the game, listeners interest, technical feasibility and other programme commitment. Important national and international level sports events including Athletics, traditional games like kho-kho, kabaddi are also given wide coverage through commentaries. If however, due to certain reasons the live coverage of running commentary does not become feasible, then coverage through news bulletins, resume, radio reports is provided.

4.24 The Committee had desired to know the reasons for only 'five minutes' time slot for daily sports bulletin. It is stated that in view of the fact that all the news bulletins in English, Hindi or in other languages going on the air at different times of day and night carry news of sports events, the daily sports bulletins of five minutes duration are found to be sufficient. They had also asked the reasons for the daily sports bulletins, weekly sports newsreel and monthly sports magazine programme being broadcast only in Hindi and English and not in different languages. The Committee was informed that news of sports events was being carried in bulletins in other Indian languages. Moreover other news based programmes like newsreel, spotlight,

commentary and current affairs also covered sports events, depending upon their importance and topicality.

*(d) Programmes for Health and Family Welfare*

4.25 In order to carry the message of family welfare to every remote part of India, programmes are being broadcast through AIR network. These programmes deal with family planning, family health and sanitation for which different formats like sports, jingles, songs and dramas, interviews with doctors, opinion leaders, family elders and beneficiaries of family planning are used with special attention to motivate for birth control measures and adoption of family planning as a way of life.

4.26 The Committee have been informed to a query that all AIR stations have specific time slots in which programmes regarding health and family welfare are broadcast. These slots are decided by the stations keeping in view the needs of the region. 36 Family Welfare Units based at the stations are spread across the country. Besides producing health forum programmes for a duration of 30 minutes once a week, they also provide programmes for general as well as special audience on subjects such as rural, women, youth and industrial workers. The days for these broadcasts are fixed so that the listener is aware as to when any information on health and family welfare is available.

4.27 The field staffs attached to AIR Stations seeks cooperation from State Health Departments about the location of health/family planning centres and the facilities available therein.

4.28 The family Welfare Advisory Committees advise/guide the Family Welfare Units:

- (i) providing feed-back on programmes broadcast based on the listening;
- (ii) suggestions for improving the quality programme schedules which are placed before the members at the time of meetings;
- (iii) providing information on various developments in the various fields of family welfare for follow-up action by the stations.

4.29 On the suggestions offered by the Advisory Committee at various stations. The Station Director, Thiruvananthapuram introduced "Arogya Arangam" bulletin, which broadcast daily at 7.20 A.M. It provides information on camps and campaigns in various parts of the State, items on current health problems and hint for precautionary measures; information regarding progress on compulsory licencing of blood banks and the kits available for AIDS screening to all blood banks to prevent spread of AIDS.

4.30 On the suggestion for the broadcast of programmes on child care in order to educate the women regarding different aspects of child bearing and child rearing, AIR, Cuttack introduced a number of series on different

aspects of childhealth and care, consisting of 13 episodes. Likewise AIR, Ahmedabad introduced "Vasti Chitra, Gayi Kale, Aaje and Aavti Kale" — Quiz programme with a group of students in three parts in Yuv Vani programme and organised invited audience programme "Lok Samaeya ni Sansad" at Himmatnagar, Distt. Sabarkantha.

(e) *Special Audience Programmes*

4.31 The Special audience programmes like Farm and Home, Farm School and programmes for women, industrial workers, youths and children etc. are broadcast on the AIR.

(i) *Programme for farmers*

Farm and Home programmes which are stated to be one of the successful programmes are broadcast from 92 AIR Stations besides all local radio stations daily for a duration of 30 to 60 minutes to provide relevant and problem oriented farming information to the farmers. The main objectives for these programmes are:

- (a) to inform the farming community about the latest scientific techniques of increasing crops and animal production;
- (b) the non-agricultural rural population about the subsidy and agro-based enterprises for improving their earnings; and
- (c) to encourage the rural people including women on improved home making, to participate in agricultural and social programmes for betterment of rural life.

4.32 There is a programme called "Farm Schools on the Air". It gives a series of timely and intensive lessons on selected subjects. The programme has a built in feed-back mechanism and active involvement of the listeners.

4.33 All the Farm & Home Units at AIR stations are having rural programme Advisory Committees which comprises official and non-official members. Their analysis of programmes indicates the utility of these broadcasts.

(ii) *Programmes for women*

4.34 Programmes for women are broadcast daily for a duration of 30 to 60 minutes on topics like women education—formal or informal; legislation for improvement of the status of women; employment opportunities for women, health hygiene; child care; nutrition; and family welfare. There are talks, discussions and interviews on subjects like divorce-laws, widow remarriage, inheritance of property, adoption of children, tax, education etc. Crime against women are exposed. Besides specific programmes for working rural women from number of stations, radio series on "Mother and child-care" directed to organised women listening groups is broadcast from 18 stations.

*(iii) Programmes for Industrial workers*

Industrial Workers programmes are broadcast thrice a week for a duration of 20-25 minutes from 29 Stations to acquaint workers with various labour laws, safety laws, welfare schemes, and how workers participation in management and welfare schemes would help in building up the morale of the workers and increase productivity.

*(iv) Programmes for Youth*

4.35 The programmes for youth both urban and rural to provide a forum for self-expression and to introduce themselves to the history and culture of the country while opening a window on the world are daily broadcast for about 6 hours.

*(v) Programmes for Children*

4.36 The programmes are broadcast in the regional languages. The metropolitan stations put out additional weekly programme in English for a duration of 15-30 minutes Capital Stations broadcast 21 programmes every week for the age groups 3—6 and 6—14.

4.37 The Committee have been informed that the Children's Enrichment, Experiment (through) Radio (CHEER) launched on 2nd October, 1992 is primarily an enrichment programme aimed at pre-school children of the socially deprived classes, falling in the age group 3 to 6 years. Pre-school education is an area which needs to be strengthened considerably.

4.38 Reputed child psychologists belonging to the areas where the programmes are broadcast, were being involved in this programme from the very beginning. They have played an important role in identifying the needs of the children of this age group and social milieu, and giving a direction to the script writers and producers to develop programmes accordingly.

4.39 The NCERT which have acquired valuable experience in the area of pre-school education through various projects/experiments undertaken in its child media laboratories, have provided the content support for the radio programmes developed under this project. The programmes are designed to reach the target listeners through listening sets provided by the Department of Women and Child Development (Ministry of HRD).

4.40 In regard to the feed back/responses for the target listeners, the Committee have been informed that these programmes have had a very favourable impact, to the extent listening has been ascertaining through transistors/two-in-one sets. Encouraging response has been received from certain districts in Andhra Pradesh and Haryana where the State Departments have extended the desired support to this venture by ensuring availability of listening sets. The programmes format and presentation has been greatly appreciated by young listeners.

4.41 The major themes of the programmes are stated to revolve around the immediate environment of the child and relate to subjects

like the home, anganwadi, friends, colours, food, seasons, major festivals, clothes etc.

4.42 The States of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Orissa and U.P. were selected for the first phase of broadcast of this project as two-in-one sets were to be made available to these States under a World Bank scheme through the Department of Women and Child Development (Ministry of HRD). Depending on adequate infrastructural facilities at the field level, *i.e.*, supply of transistors and two-in-one sets, training of anganwadi workers etc., the programme may be extended to certain other States in the next phase.

4.43 The Committee are further informed that the Advisory Committees to advise AIR on its programming are as follows:

- (i) Programme Advisory Committees (at Stations which originate more than 5½ hours programme a day.)
- (ii) Rural Programme Advisory Committees at Centres and Advisory Committees for Family Welfare Programmes (where farm & Home Units have been set up).
- (iii) Consultative Committees for Educational Broadcast and Consultative Committees for University-Cum-Science and Technology Broadcast (at Capital Stations).
- (iv) Industrial Workers Programme Consultative Committee.
- (v) Sports Advisory Committee which is common for AIR and Doordarshan.

4.44 In reply to a question regarding utility of the Advisory Committee. The Secretary informed that these Committees were functioning where there was production and meet three times a year.

4.45 Further the Committee are informed that the Audience Research Unit of AIR has been conducting various kinds of research studies and making concrete recommendations from time to time. Studies like Feed Forward Studies, conducted prior to the setting up of a new AIR Station, have been found extremely useful by the Policy Makers and Programmers alike are used as a primary reference data in planning various kinds of programmes for the Station.

4.46 Commercial Service Surveys conducted for the Vividh Bharati programmes, provide useful data to the Policy Makers for preparing Rate Cards and to the advertisers for planning and deciding their strategies.

4.47 The General Listening Surveys conducted regularly provide listenership data about the various programmes of different stations all over the country and as such help in planning further development of the stations as well as programmes.



4.48 Pretest Studies conducted for specific programmes like Human Evolution Serial/Vigyan Vidhi Serial helped in the final production of the serial and corrective measures were taken from time to time for improving the production of the serial on the basis of the recommendations.

4.49 Studies conducted by the Audience Research Unit on News help the AIR News Unit to plan and redesign the structure of their bulletins.

4.50 The Surveys conducted on the National Channel and Women's Programmes have made useful recommendations to the Policy Makers as well as Programmers in introducing corrective measures for improving the service.

4.51 The recommendations made in the recent studies on the New Economic Policy were circulated to all the AIR Stations for introducing suitable programmes.

4.52 The data collected in the recent studies on the "Phone-in-Programme" as well as the F.M. Channel in Delhi has been found quite useful in planning and restructuring these programmes at other AIR Stations.

4.53 The Audience Research Surveys, both at the Headquarter as well as at the Stations are planned and devised at the instance of Policy Makers and Programme Planners and the data thus collected, normally answer the various queries raised in their proposals.

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.

4.55 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.

4.56 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.

4.57 The Committee note with satisfaction that the AIR programmes covering various disciplines such as science, sports, health and family welfare and special audience programmes meant for women, children, farmers, youth, industrial workers etc. are by and large successful. The Committee hope that AIR would continue to strive to further improve its performances in these areas.

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 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.

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.

### C. Music Programmes

4.60 Music broadcasts of each station include classical, light classical, light folk and tribal music of the area and film songs.

4.61 The percentage of time devoted to different formats of Music is indicated as under:—

Classical Music	32.98%
Light Music	31.47%
Folk & Tribal Music	10.81%
Western Music	3.85%
Film & Other Music	20.89%
	100.00%

4.62 AIR has 13 choral groups located at various stations which popularise mass singing of popular songs with emphasis on patriotic and national integration themes. AIR's musical output also include western music which is broadcast from 17 AIR Stations. Hindustani and Karnatak styles, are broadcast on the national hook-up. National Programme of

Regional and Light Music once every month presented by eminent artists brings to the listeners a variety of folk and light music.

4.63 With a view to collecting and preserving systematically the rich folk music heritage of India, AIR has set up 20 folk music collection and preservation centres throughout the country. These centres have been able to collect some rare varieties of folk music. AIR Vadya Viranda is broadcast periodically. Vadya Virnda units located at Delhi and Madras are concentrating on orchestral compositions in the Hindustani and Karnatak style respectively. A set of cassettes containing AIR Vadya Viranda has been released in collaboration with HMV recently.

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

## CHAPTER V

### EXTERNAL SERVICES

5.1 The External Services Division of All India Radio as major overseas broadcaster, broadcasts programmes for 71 hrs. each day in 24 languages viz. General Overseas Service in English and 15 other foreign languages i.e. Arabic, Chinese, Swahili, Sinhala, Pushtu, Nepali, Persian, Tibetan, Dari, Burmese, Russian, French, Thai, Baluchi and Indonesian, and 7 Indian languages i.e. Urdu, Tamil, Bengali, Hindi, Punjabi, Telugu, Sindhi and Gujarati for different listeners in different parts of the world.

5.2 Broadly speaking, the target areas/audiences could be classified into the following groups:

- I. Immediate neighbours;
- II. Countries where there is a large concentration of expatriate or ethnic Indian population like the Middle East, East Africa, South-East-Asia and United Kingdom;
- III. Broadcast for areas which are of geopolitical interest to India like China, Russia, Persia, West & North Africa;
- IV. Other areas where AIR could reach its signal satisfactorily through General Overseas Services.

5.3 A monthly journal 'India Calling' is being published by the External Services Division. 10 brochures in foreign languages are being published quarterly by ESD and the staff looking after 'India Calling' manages this work also.

5.4 When asked if the contexts of programmes for all the ESD broadcast are the same and are merely translated into different languages or specific programmes for different regions/countries are made as per their tastes and requirements. The ministry have stated that the broadcasts follow a composite pattern with a two pronged strategy—to project India's development tailored to the needs and tastes of the target audiences. The two major components of such broadcasts are:—

- (i) News Bulletions, commentaries on current events and press reviews. While the News bulletins are prepared by the NSD, commentaries and the Press Reviews are prepared by the Talks Unit of ESD. All-language Units carry the translated versions of News and Commentary on daily basis. However the frequency of Press Reviews depends on the requirements of the target areas.
- (ii) Developmental and cultural talks form another important input in the fare of the programmes put out by the language units. The

talks are originated by General Overseas Service which is the anchor service of ESD, as most of the services have a problem of lack of talent. As such language units carry translated versions of such scripts in English which suit the tastes and requirements of the target audience.

5.5 Language units take care of the taste and requirements of the target audience, as reflected in their letters, and broadcast suitable programmes whether in the form of Music, Talks, Interviews or their own contributions, etc. in respective languages.

5.6 Adequate attention is being given to attract the foreign Tourist and particularly NRIs for investment in Indian through various day to day Programmes. These aspects are generally taken care of in GOS Hindi and Urdu services to the extent it is relevant to the target area.

5.7 AIR is unable to reach countries located on the other side of the globe such as Canada, North America, the Latin American countries, the Carribean Islands, etc. A short wave transmitter, no matter how powerful cannot effectively serve an area which is more than three hop distances away (each hop is between 2000 Kms. and 3000 Kms). For reaching these distant targets, AIR has necessarily to acquire a relay base or buy air time on transmitting centres at suitable locales in the foreign countries. Over the years AIR has examined several such possibilities/offers. Owing to the resource crunch, AIR could not pursue these proposals. In some cases, the expenditure involved was not commensurate with the benefit that would accrue to AIR in terms of more effective reach to the ethnic Indians.

5.8 When asked whether it was ever contemplated to have AIR World Services like that of BBC or voice of America, the Ministry informed that AIR had explored the possibilities of introducing a World Service. However, owing to limited hardware capabilities and infrastructure it had not been possible for AIR to pursue it to its logical end. More importantly it was the perception of the Government that AIR should concentrate primarily on its neighbouring countries rather than try to address larger audiences over the entire Globe. In fact, AIR has proposed that some of these External Services such as Thai, Indonesian, Swahili and Gujarathi may be discontinued, so that other services which are more important on the basis of geopolitical factors, could be strengthened.

5.9 AIR also explored the possibility to send news and current affairs capsules, on a daily basis, to ethnic radio stations in UK, USA, Canada etc., but the scheme could not be pursued owing to financial constraints.

5.10 As regards having a relay station in other country, the Secretary, Ministry of I&B informed that it could not be considered earlier because their reach was only 500 Kms. Now they have reached a level of 2,000-3000 Kms and it was possible to set up a relay centre 3000 Kms. Somewhere and thereafter could take it to London. He further stated that Bangalore transmitter had been completed and they would be considering,

in consultation with Ministry of External Affairs, if a friendly country, would permit AIR to put up relay centre there.

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.

5.12 As regards the Services of the Translators-cum-announcers of the External Services Division of AIR the Committee note 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.

## CHAPTER VI

### COMMERCIAL SERVICE

6.1 AIR introduced commercial services on Vividh Bharati Channel in pursuance of the recommendations of Chandra Committee from Bombay, Pune and Nagpur in 1967. Now there are 29 commercial broadcasting stations all over the country. Commercials were also introduced on limited scale from 55 AIR Stations on the primary channel w.e.f. 26.1.1985. The advertisements are governed under the Commercial Code issued by AIR, which incorporate the Code of Ethics issued by the Advertising Council of India. At present, the time available for commercial advertising is restricted to 10% and 5% on Vividh Bharati and primary channel respectively. The commercial services of AIR recovers business either through agencies or direct from the advertisers. There are two kinds of advertising agencies dealing with the commercial services of AIR, (i) accredited agencies who get credit facility for period of 45 days to make the payments in addition to 15% commission; and (ii) registered agencies get only 15% commission without credit facilities.

6.2 To a question about the number of Vividh Bharati centres proposed to be set up during the Eighth Plan and the progress made, it has been stated that in all 10 commercial Broadcast centres (seven continuing schemes and three new schemes) have been proposed during the 8th Plan period. Out of the new schemes, one at Varanasi has become operational. Standing Finance Committee (SFC) has approved eight schemes and the equipment in respect of these eight schemes has been ordered. In respect of remaining one scheme at Rohtak, SFC approval is due.

6.3 The Committee are further informed that the development work on "Computerised Satellite Networking System for Vividh Bharati 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 knowhow 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 knowhow of the system to the manufacturing industry, may be expedited, so that targets could be met within prescribed period.

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.

## CHAPTER VII

### RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

7.1 The Research Department of All India Radio and Doordarshan undertakes studies in propagation of medium/high frequency (HF)/Very High Frequency (VHF)/Ultra High Frequency (UHF)/Microwave Frequency Bands for Scientific Planning of broadcasting services. It provides technical expertise to AIR and Doordarshan for bringing modernisation and qualitative improvement in the broadcasting and also in the indigenous development of the state of art equipment/systems.

7.2 To a query whether different bands, transmitters and other facilities provided by the AIR are at par with those existing in similar types abroad, it has been stated that the R&D developed equipment such as Dynamic Carrier Control (D.C.C.), Radio Data System (RDS) and Telemetry are at par with that available abroad.

7.3 The Committee have been informed that these D.C.C. and R.D.S. equipments are being manufactured by Messrs. WEBEL, BEL, GCEL and Keltron. Telemetry equipment was so far being supplied by R&D as the quantity of requirement at present is low. The technical know-how is being transferred to BEL for manufacturing.

7.4 Centre for Digital Techniques in Broadcasting (CDTB) was established during the VII Plan with UNDP assistance to the tune of \$56 million and has five specialised groups and 17 specialists trained in different fields of digital broadcasting to carry out developmental activities. The Centre has developed the following systems which are going to be introduced in broadcasting network:—

- (a) Encoder/decoder for Radio Text/SCA transmission.
- (b) The remote control and telemetry system for VLPT and FM transmitters.
- (c) PC based weather graphic system.
- (d) Denoising system for old gramophone records and tapes. Based on this, a National Audio Archival Centre with the UNDP aid has been established in Planning and Development Unit of All India Radio. These systems are already being used in the network. Based on the development of the field trials conducted by the Research Department, All India Radio has planned to introduce FM Radio text services at eight centres in India during the VIII Plan.



7.5 The centre during the current plan is engaged in developments of the following systems:—

- (i) Satellite based Telemetry system for VLPT transmitter — as a joint project with GCEL—

The development is almost complete and will be field tested shortly.

- (ii) Full filled Teletext system in Indian Languages for Doordarshan—

The software is under development and the system will be put on field trial in the network during August, 1993.

- (iii) FM RDS Paging—

The centre has developed the coder for paging services through FM transmitter and has carried out experiment in Delhi. Based on the experiments and field tests, the Department is conducting a pilot paging Transmission in Delhi and also has submitted proposal to the Government for implementing RDS paging services in India.

- (iv) Logo Generator for Doordarshan—

The centre has completed the development of Logo Generator which is being used by Doordarshan for the national channel programme. The centre is also engaged in the development of programmable Logo Generator which has commercial application both in India and other countries.

- (v) System integration of multiple video signal transmission through satellite transponder—

The centre has carried out relevant and extensive study on the various Algorithm for multiple video transmission through satellite transponder. The Centre is assisting DDK in implementing the system in India.

- (vi) Real Time Signal Refurbishing System—

The centre is developing software and hardware interfaces to achieve real time refurbishing of audio signals. The system will be useful for All India Radio as well as for other sectors.

- (vii) Centralised Monitoring System for SPT Bangalore—

The centre has already planned development and installation of centralised monitoring system for the Super Power Transmitter (SPT) Complex which houses six 500 KW short-wave transmitters.

- (viii) Data Broadcasting—

As an extension of Radio Test and Teletext project, networking of various terrestrial broadcast centres in the country through

satellite to facilitate data broadcasting is also being studied by the centre.

7.6 In regard to the systems developed by Centre for Digital Techniques in Broadcasting and commercialise/export, it has been stated that PC based weather graphic system is in use at DDK, New Delhi since 1990. The telemetry system for VLPT and FM transmitters have already been installed at VLPT Yanam, VLPT Karaikal, FM Pune, FM Jammu and FM Delhi. The system is being introduced at other centres also. The denoising system developed by the centre is being used for refurbishing old recordings of A.I.R. archives.

7.7 The technical know-how of all these systems have/are being transferred to manufacturers in India like WEBEL, GCEL, BEL, Keltron etc.

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.

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.

**CHAPTER VIII**  
**HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

**A. Staff Position**

8.1 The total number of sanctioned posts, actual persons posted and vacancies existing in various Groups, as on 31.3.93 are as under:—

Group	Sanctioned Posts	Actual persons posted	Vacancies
A	1954	1452	502
B	4060	3358	702
C	16113	12398	3715
D	5620	4989	631
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27747</b>	<b>22197</b>	<b>5550</b>

8.2 These vacancies range from 1 to 510 in various Cadres like Chief Engineer, Suptd. Eng/Dir. Eng/Res Eng, Station Dir.(DG)/Dy. Director, Station Eng/DD(E)/A.R.E. Newsreaders-Cum-Translators Gr.II, Executive Eng(C), ASE/AD(E), Sr. Engr. Asstt., Sr. Engineer(C), Clerk Gr.II etc.

8.3 The above vacancies are stated to exist from different dates some having fallen vacant recently due to various factors. Like formation of Indian Broadcasting (Programmes) Service and creation of a large number of posts thereof. The factors like retirement, resignation, transfer, death, court injunctions, non-availability of officers on issue of offers of appointment, non-availability of SCST candidates, non-availability of eligible officers in feeder grades, expansion of AIR network, delay in getting clearance from Surplus Cell of DOP&T, DG (Resettlement), Ex-Servicemen Cell of DG; E&T etc., time and discussions involved in holding DPCs, non-availability of candidates from specialized categories, want of revised Recruitment Rules to make them more flexible, ban on de-reservation of SCST on direct recruitment etc. The Ministry also stated that since the stations of All India Radio are situated all over the country, it is not possible to indicate the exact date of occurrence of vacancies at this stage.

8.4 According to the SIU (Staff Inspection Unit) norms, it is stated that there is some justification for augmentation of the staff, particularly on the administration side. As over the years the workload in some of the offices has increased manifold, but due to financial constraints the proposals for creation of additional staff under Non-Plan are generally not accepted. Nonetheless, with some adjustment it has been possible to run various stations/offices of AIR in a smooth manner. In any case, proposals for additional staff keep on coming from various stations/offices of AIR and these are examined by the International Work Study Unit on the basis of the norms fixed for this purpose, and posts recommended and sanctioned wherever necessary. So far no dislocation has been faced in the smooth functioning of the station/offices of AIR on account of inadequacy of staff.

8.5 The reservation in services is stated to be for SC 15% and for ST—7½%. The Government launched Special Recruitment drives for filling up vacant posts of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in various services since 1990 and under these drives 97 SCs and 56 STs posts have been filled so far. Group-wise details of posts filled up under Special Recruitment Drive, 1991 is as under:—

Group	SC	ST
A	1	—
B	29	9
C	58	45
D	17	10
Total	105	64

8.6 details of number of posts lying vacant is as follows:—

Group	Total (as on 31.3.93)	Under special Rectt. Drive (as on date) SC	ST
A	502	3	2
B	702	35	25
C	3715	70	149
D	631	2	16
Total	5550	110	192

8.7 Proposal for filling up Group A and Group B posts under special recruitment drive for SCs and STs are pending with UPSC. The post of Assistant Engineers (13 in SC and 9 in ST) are not likely to be filled up due to structural changes in CCW. (Civil Construction Wing).

8.8 Further the proposal for filling up 60 vacant posts in SC and 69 vacant posts in ST is pending with Staff Selection Commission.

Recruitment rules of Librarian has been revised recently due to which the post could not be filled in time. The post of Architectural Assistant will be filled up after reviewing of SIU norms. In some cases, physically suitable candidates are not available particularly in the case of Security Guard. In some cases, the recruitment process get delayed due to delay in getting Police Verification Report and Medical Report. Also State Government employees are well paid than the Central Government employees as State Government pays Tribal Area Allowance etc. So, candidates, prefer State Government than Central Government especially in the case of ST category. In all the cases, recruitment process are under various stages.

8.9 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 at 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.

8.10 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.

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 non-availability of physically suitable candidates. Unwillingness of the Scheduled Tribe candidates to join Central Government because of the attraction to join the State Government due to availability of tribal area allowances, 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 measures to fill up Group A, B and C Posts. As regards group D posts, local recruitment could be expedited by taking suitable timely measures. 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-fulfilment of the posts of SCs/STs is totally unacceptable. Serious efforts should be made to fill up these vacancies at the earliest.

### B. Staff Training

8.12 The Committee are informed that Staff Training Institute (Programme), All India Radio, located at Delhi has six regional institutes at Hyderabad, Shillong, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Cuttack and Thiruvananthapuram. The Institute is a premier agency imparting in-service training in programme planning, production, presentation, management and administration. At present out of six regional institutes only three institutes at Hyderabad, Thiruvananthapuram and Shillong are functioning. The posts of Dy. Directors are lying vacant at Cuttack, Lucknow and Ahmedabad due to acute shortage of staff. The position has improved recently and arrangements are being made for posting of staff at these centres so that they start functioning as early as possible.

8.13 The Ministry further apprised the Committee that the efforts are being made to provide training to the maximum number of staff and officer of programme and administrative cadres at Staff Training Institutes (Programmes). On an average, 35 training programmes are conducted every year, and can be considered generally satisfactory being in-service training programmes.

8.14 Asia Pacific Institute for Broadcast Development conducts courses for broadcast personnel and India is a member country. AIR sends its staff to participate in the training programmes of AIBD. AIR also avails itself of the training facility provided by the BBC, Germany and Asian Mass Communication Research and Information Centre, Singapore.

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

NEW DELHI;  
December 21, 1993

*Agrahayana 30, 1915 (Saka)*

KUMARI VIMLA VERMA,  
*Chairperson,*  
*Standing Committee on Communications.*

MINUTES OF THE NINETEENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE  
OF COMMUNICATIONS (1993-94)

The Committee sat on Thursday, the 30th September, 1993 from 1100 hrs. to 1300 hrs. and 1500 hrs. to 1635 hrs. in Committee Room C, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Kumari Vimla Verma—*Chairperson*

MEMBER

*Lok Sabha*

2. Shri R. Jeevarathinam
3. Shri Laeta Umbrey
4. Shri N. Dennis
5. Shri Jagmeet Singh Brar
6. Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal
7. Shri B. Devarajan
8. Shri R. Anbarasu
9. Dr. B.G. Jawali
10. Shri Somjibhai Damor
11. Shri Mohan Lal Jhikram
12. Shri Lalit Oraon
13. Shri Lal Krishna Advani
14. Shri Ram Pujan Patel
15. Shri Shivsharan Verma
16. Shri Rupchand Pal
17. Shri Satyagopal Misra
18. Shri G.M.C. Balayogi
19. Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal
20. Shri Chandrajeet Yadav

*Rajya Sabha*

21. Shri M.A. Baby
22. Shrimati Kailashpati
23. Shri Virendra Kataria
24. Shri Mohammed Afzal *alias* Meem Afzal
25. Shrimati Sushma Swaraj
26. Shri Brahmadeo Anand Paswan

## SECRETARIAT

Shri K.M. Mittal

— *Deputy Secretary**Witnesses*

- |                       |  |      |
|-----------------------|--|------|
| 1. Shri R.K. Bhargava | — <i>Secretary, Information &amp; Broadcasting</i> |      |
| 2. Shri Bhaskar Ghose | — <i>O.S.D.</i>                                    | -do- |
| 3. Shri R. Basu       | — <i>Additional Secretary,</i>                     | -do- |
| 4. Shri S.C. Mahalik  | — <i>Add. Secy &amp; F.A.</i>                      | -do- |
| 5. Shri N. Chawla     | — <i>Jt. Secretary.</i>                            | -do- |

2. The Chairperson welcomed the representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Secretary introduced his colleagues to the Committee.

3. Members sought certain clarifications on the working of AIR from the representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

A verbatim record of the evidence was kept.

4. The Chairperson thanked the officers of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

5. The Committee decided to meet on 28th and 29th October, 1993 to take official evidence on Films.

*The Committee then adjourned.*

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**MINUTES OF THE TWENTY THIRD SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE  
ON COMMUNICATIONS (1993-94)**

The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 21st December, 1993, from 0930 hrs. to 10.55 hrs. and in continuation from 1700 hrs. to 1845 hrs. in Committee Room 'C', 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 Jagmeet Singh Brar
6. Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal
7. Dr. B.G. Jawali
8. Shri Mohan Lal Jhikram
9. Shri Lalit Oraon
10. Shri Ram Pujan Patel
11. Shri Rupchand Pal
12. Shri G.M.C. Balayogi
13. Shri Raj Kishore Mahto

*Rajya Sabha*

14. Shrimati Kailashpati
15. Shri Virendra Kataria
16. Shri Vizol
17. Shri Brahmadeo Anand Paswan

**SECRETARIAT**

Shri R.V. Warzari —*Director*

Shri K.K. Dhawan —*Under Secretary*

The Committee took up for consideration, the draft Fifth report on Annual Report 1992-93, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, All India Radio. The Committee adopted the Report with certain additions/modifications. The Committee also suggested some re arrangements of narrative portions.

Thereafter, the Committee authorised the Chairperson to finalise the report and present/lay it in both the Houses of Parliament.

*The Committee then adjourned.*