

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE
(1975-76)

(FIFTH LOK SABHA)

EIGHTY-SIXTH REPORT

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
(TELEVISION)

Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixty-Fourth Report of the Estimates Committee (Fifth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting—Television.



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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(FIFTH LOK SABHA) ON THE MINISTRY OF
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85		5	Para 3.60	Para 3.65
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(1975-76)

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STUDY GROUP 'E' OF THE ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

(1975-76)

CONVENER

Shri Sudhakar Pandey

MEMBERS

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12. **Shri R. V. Swaminathan**
13. **Shri K. P. Unnikrishnan**
14. **Shri K. Veeriah**

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Estimates Committee, having been authorised by the Committee, present this 86th Report of the Estimates Committee on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixty-Fourth Report of the Estimates Committee (Fifth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting—Television.

2. The Sixty-Fourth Report of Estimates Committee (Fifth Lok Sabha) was presented to Lok Sabha on the 30th April, 1974. Government furnished their replies indicating action taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendations contained in the Report on the 28th February and 1st April, 1975. The replies were examined by Study Group 'E' of the Estimates Committee (1975-76) at their sitting held on the 3rd September, 1975.

3. The draft Report was adopted by the Estimates Committee (1975-76) on the 10th September, 1975.

4. The Report has been divided into the following Chapters:—

- I. Report.
- II. Recommendations which have been accepted by Government;
- III. Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies;
- IV. Recommendations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee;
- V. Recommendations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited.

5. An analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixty-Fourth Report of Estimates Committee (Fifth Lok Sabha) is given in the Appendix. It would be observed therefrom that out of 134 recommendations made in the Report, 104 recommendations i.e. 77.7 per cent have been accepted by Government. The Committee do not desire to pursue 12 recommendations i.e. 8.9 per cent in view of Government's replies. The

Committee have not accepted the replies of Government in respect of 8 recommendations i.e. 5.9 per cent. Final replies of Government to 10 recommendations i.e. 7.5 per cent have not yet been furnished to the Committee.

NEW DELHI;
October 9, 1975.

Asvina 17, 1897 (Saka)

R. K. SINHA,
Chairman,
Estimates Committee.

CHAPTER I

REPORT

IMPLEMENTATION OF SCHEMES

Recommendation at Serial Number 6 (Para 2.41)

In paragraph 2.41 of their 64th Report (Fifth Lok Sabha), the Estimates Committee had suggested that keeping in view the problems inherent in the acquisition of land, delivery of the equipments, managerial build up and organisational set-up, a realistic time-bound schedule for the completion of the various T.V. Schemes in hand and those proposed to be taken up during the Fifth Plan period, should be drawn up and effective steps taken to ensure implementation of the schemes according to schedule.

2. In reply, Government have stated that the main bottleneck in drawing up a realistic and time-bound schedule for the completion of the various T. V. projects under the Fifth Plan, has been the uncertainty about the availability of plan resources and that the proposals had to undergo several revisions due to constraint of resources. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had recommended to the Planning Commission to clear selected radio and TV projects proposed to be included in the Fifth Plan for advance action so that land could be acquired in the last year of the Fourth Plan itself. Due to uncertainty about the availability of the Plan resources, the Planning Commission has not been able to identify even the core projects which could be included in the Fifth Plan with the result that no advance action has been possible.

3. The Committee appreciate the difficulties arising out of the uncertainty about availability of Plan resources. Nevertheless, they feel that even after taking into account the overall constraint of resources vis-a-vis other plan priorities, it should have been possible for Government to at least identify during the Fourth Plan period the core TV schemes that could be included in the Fifth Plan for which advance action in the Fourth Plan itself could have been initiated. The Committee would, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation that the Fifth Plan T.V. proposals should be finalised expeditiously, and a time-bound programme for the completion of the schemes both in hand and those proposed to be taken up during

the Fifth Plan should be drawn up and effective steps should be taken to ensure proper and close coordination at all levels to enable their completion according to schedule.

Recommendation at Sl. No. 16 (Para 2.70)

4. In paragraph 2.70 of their 64th Report, the Estimates Committee had expressed their distress over the manner in which the Jullundur T.V. Scheme had been dealt with at various stages. The proposal to set up Jullundur T.V. Station with relay centres at Kasauli, Amritsar and Bhatinda which was originally estimated to cost Rs. 3.5 crores was subsequently revised to cost Rs. 9.761 crores to provide cent per cent population coverage in Punjab. The proposal was again revised to cost Rs. 9.08 crores on the advice of the Ministry of Finance which, on further examination, was reduced to Rs. 7.38 crores by the Ministry of Finance. The Ministry of Finance ultimately approved the scheme at an estimated cost of Rs. 5.50 crores by completely deleting the provision for staff quarters, one relay centre at Bhatinda and studio facilities at Jullundur. The main reason for rise in the cost of the scheme from Rs. 3.5 crores to Rs. 5.50 crores had been attributed to increase in the cost of site at Jullundur, increase in the complement of film equipment later found to be necessary, higher cost of building and increase in the cost of equipment to be supplied by B.E.L. etc. The Committee had hoped that specific provision would be made in the revised estimates for likely increase in the prices by the time the project would be executed.

5. In their reply, Government have stated that it is not the practice to make provision for anticipated escalation in the cost of equipments and other works in the project costs. While considering the proposals, the Ministry of Finance/PIB have also advised that escalation of costs in future should not be provided for in the project estimates and that the estimates should be based on the ruling prices at the time of preparation of estimates.

6. **The Committee are of the view that for a more realistic cost assessment of a plan/proposal, provision of anticipated escalation in the prices has to be taken into account as far as possible. Rise in the prices is a common phenomena and based on the past experience, future escalation in the prices can be calculated, to a greater extent on the average escalation in prices during the past five years or so. The Committee would like to reiterate their earlier recommendation that specific provision should be made in the estimates, keeping in view the likely increase in prices by the time a project is executed. The Committee would further emphasise that the existing system of**

coordination should be reviewed thoroughly with a view to streamlining the procedure of framing, scrutinising and sanctioning the schemes/projects and, if necessary, suitable guidelines should be laid down in this regard.

Recommendation at Sl. No. 18 (Para 2.74)

7. In paragraph 2.74 of their 64th Report, the Committee had commented on the manner in which the setting up and commissioning of the Amritsar Transmitting Station had been planned, defeating the very purpose for its commissioning on war emergency. They had expressed surprise that setting up of the transmitting station was taken up without making any assessment of the programme requirements for telecasting and without arrangements for their production and availability simultaneously with its commissioning. The result was that though the installation was completed in November, 1972, service from the transmitting station could be started only in September, 1973 when arrangements for the production and recording of the programmes to be telecast had been made at Delhi T.V. station after its renovation.

8. In reply, Government have stated that the Amritsar T.V. centre was originally conceived as a relay station of Delhi T.V. centre but gradually it assumed a new responsibility as a Production Centre working with close support of Delhi T.V. Centre. The Programme had to be devised, produced and carried in Delhi and sent to Amritsar for telecast. This was a major change in concept affecting the nature and working of the centre which caused delay in inauguration of the transmitter for regular transmission.

9. Government in their earlier written note included in the 64th Report had informed the Committee that the original date for commissioning the Amritsar Station on war emergency was April, 1972, allowing six weeks for installation after receipt of equipment at site. But the equipment itself was received in the Middle of September, 1972 and the installation was completed on 1st November, 1972. In the meantime, war conditions had eased and the urgency under which the project was sanctioned had diminished. It was, therefore, felt that telecasting the same programmes as were put out from Delhi Centre would not be quite acceptable to the viewers in Punjab and Lahore and it would be more appropriate to originate special programmes for the area.

10. The Committee are of the view that assuming that the Amritsar T.V. Centre was originally conceived as a relay station of Delhi T.V.

Centre to meet the war emergency requirements, there is nothing to show that Government had drawn up any plan to devise, produce and relay programmes from this station simultaneously with the improvement in the emergency conditions when the special programmes for war emergency were no longer required. Even though, the war conditions had eased and the emergency under which the project was sanctioned had diminished by the time the relay station was commissioned, service could only be started after a period of almost one year from its commissioning.

11. The Committee would like to reiterate that the setting up and commissioning of the Amritsar relay centre and the assessment of the programme requirements for telecasting exhibited lack of advance planning and effective coordination between the authorities concerned with the implementation of the project. The Committee feel that the existing system of coordination should be thoroughly reviewed not only to streamline the procedure of framing scrutinising and sanctioning the future T.V. Schemes/projects but also to assess their programme requirements with a view to drawing up a planned programme to devise, produce and telecast the programmes from the TV/relay stations simultaneously with their commissioning.

Recommendation Sl. No. 19 (Para 2.84)

12. In paragraph 2.84 of their 64th Report, the Committee had noted that there had been a delay of more than two years in the expansion of Delhi T.V. Centre not mainly because of the difficulty in the acquisition of site for the transmitter complex but because of faulty planning in the selection and finalisation of a suitable site necessitating changes in the site for one reason or the other. The Committee desired that effective steps should be taken to sort out the issues involved in the transfer of the finally selected site near Hindu Rao Hospital, Delhi, for the transmission complex expeditiously to avoid further delay.

13. In reply, Government have stated that in order to expedite the transfer of this site, the Deputy Minister of Information and Broadcasting addressed the Lt. Governor, Delhi in April, 1974. The Lt. Governor referred the matter to D.D.A. whose Town Planner asked for the conceptual layout plan of the site. The sample layout plan for the transmitter building and 200 M tower was sent to D.D.A. in June, 1974. The Town Planner inspected the site in July, 1974 and a decision is awaited.

14. The Committee are surprised to note that the transfer of the finally selected site for the expansion of Delhi T.V. Centre is yet

to be finalised pending decision by the D.D.A. even though the site was inspected by the Town Planners in July, 1974. The Committee are unable to appreciate the delay in sorting out the issues involved in the transfer of site. The Committee while reiterating their earlier recommendation would like to stress the desirability of sorting out the issues involved expeditiously and urge that the transfer of the site should be finalised without further delay.

T.V. STUDIO & TRANSMISSION EQUIPMENT

Recommendation at Sl. No. 55 (Para 2.234)

15. In paragraph 2.234 of their 64th Report, the Committee had desired that a firm assessment of hardware requirements for the developmental programmes of T.V. during the Fifth Plan period should be urgently made and orders for the same should be placed on the suppliers well in advance, keeping in view the lead time required for production and delivery so that the equipment etc., are available in time for the proposed T.V. Projects.

16. In their reply, Government have stated that it has not so far been possible to make a firm and final assessment of hardware requirements for the development of T.V. during the Fifth Plan as, due to constraint in resources, a clear picture has not emerged.

17. The Committee have in para 3 of this Report expressed the view that even after taking into account the overall constraint of resources vis-a-vis other plan priorities, it should have been possible for Government to atleast identify during the Fourth Plan period the core T.V. Schemes that could be included in the Fifth Plan for which advance action in the Fourth Plan itself could have been initiated. While reiterating their earlier recommendation, the Committee desire that the Fifth Plan T.V. Schemes should be finalised without further delay and early steps taken to prepare a realistic projection of the hardware requirements for these schemes and to place orders for the same on the suppliers well in advance so that the necessary equipment etc., is available in time for the proposed T.V. Schemes.

T.V. PROGRAMME

Recommendations at Sl. Nos. 74 and 93 (Paras 3.72 and 3.149)

18. In paragraph 372 of their 64th Report (Fifth Lok Sabha), the Estimates Committee had recommended that rural programme

should be periodically evaluated by a small team comprising of the representatives of A.I.R., Departments of Agriculture, Health and Family Planning, Education and other experts in the field having full understanding of the rural requirements so as to assess their usefulness and suggest measures to improve them and to develop a sense of participation in the rural audience by giving them programmes that were not only entertaining but also stimulating and helped in the development of attitudes, values, motivations and social patterns which were most appropriate for their all round progress and development.

19. In their reply, Government have stated that an evaluation of Krishi Darshan was undertaken by the Audience Research Section of Television Centre, A.I.R. in January, 1968. In 1973-74, a study to determine the extent and manner of functioning of the rural teleclubs (community viewing centres) and to assess the profile of the members of the teleclubs who constitute the core audience has also been conducted. It has also been stated that there are three Committees viz. Policy Committee: (ii) Subjects Committee and (iii) Field Organisation Committee, for the effective management of the agricultural T.V. projects.

20. In paragraph 3.149 of their Report, the Committee had recommended that apart from the audience research wing which would be a part of the T.V. organisation, there should be an independent and objective evaluation of the T.V. Programmes to see whether the programmes were fulfilling the objectives for which T.V. was introduced and to suggest improvements wherever necessary. The Committee felt that it would be desirable to associate with such evaluation the representatives of the Ministries of Education, Agriculture, Health and Family Planning and outside experts in various fields.

21. In their reply, Government have stated that the objectivity of assessment by the Audience Research Wing of A.I.R. is maintained. Whenever necessary, a totally independent survey is undertaken, as for instance, such a survey has been done in the case of Srinagar T.V. Viewing Scheme.

22. The Committee note that an evaluation of Krishi Darshan programme was undertaken by the Audience Research Section of T.V. Centre, A.I.R., as far back as 1968 and that there are three committees for the effective management of the Agricultural T.V. Projects. The Committee also note that the objectivity of the assess-

ment of T.V. programmes is maintained by the Audience Research Wing of A.I.R. It is, however, doubtful whether evaluation of the Krishi Darshan and other T.V. programmes by Audience Research Wing of A.I.R. It is, however, doubtful whether evaluation of the Committee had in view. The Committee would like to reiterate their earlier recommendation that apart from the audience research wing of A.I.R., there should be an independent and objective evaluation of Krishi Darshan and other T.V. programmes so as to identify shortcomings and bring about improvements wherever necessary. The Committee would also like to reiterate that in order to assess whether these programmes were fulfilling the objectives for which T.V. was introduced, it would be desirable if the representatives of the Ministries of Education, Agriculture, Health and Family Planning as well as outside experts in various fields are associated with such evaluation.

Implementation of Recommendations

23. The Committee would like to emphasise that they attach the greatest importance to the implementation of the recommendations accepted by Government. They would therefore, urge that Government should keep a close watch so as to ensure expeditious implementation of the recommendations accepted by them. In cases where it is not possible to implement the recommendations in letter and spirit for any reason, the matter should be reported to the Committee in time with reasons for non-implementation.

24. The Committee also desire that further information where called for in respect of recommendations included in Chapters-II and V of the Report may be intimated to them expeditiously.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Sl. No. 1 Para 1.8)

The Committee note that introduction of TV in India has had a low priority and that it was only during the 4th plan that expansion of TV net-work in the country was seriously thought of. They agree that other pressing problems like agricultural and industrial development, employment, education etc., facing the country, required higher priorities compared to Television. Now the Government have taken a decision to expand the TV net work in the country, the Committee would like to sound a note of caution that extreme care should be taken in regard to planning and programming of TV broadcasts in the country. It is to be realised that TV medium, as an audio-visual medium, is very powerful for mass-communication and has a unique role to play in this regard. It is an important means of transmission of messages relating to national development. It can play a vital role in the successful implementation of Five Year Plans and accepted national socio-economic policies. The Committee recommend that Government should learn a lesson from the experience gained in the use of this medium in foreign countries and its effect on the viewers and carefully plan the use of this powerful medium for nation building activities and for achievement of socio-economic objectives, besides providing healthy entertainment, by directing it in proper channels.

Reply of Government

Government agree with the Committee's observations on the need to use television as an aid to national development and on the need to devote great care to programming. Indeed, it is these principles which have guided the formulation of national television Plan.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting D.O. No.
1/90/73-TV dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 2 Para 2.28)

The Committee note that the IV Five Year Plan envisaged completion of six month T.V. Stations viz., Bombay, Srinagar, Madras,

Calcutta, Lucknow and Jullundur and 7 Relay Stations at Poona, Amritsar, Kasauli, Kanpur, Asansol, Kharagpur and Mussoorie at an estimated cost of Rs. 23 crores. It was estimated that on the completion of these projects the All India coverage of the population by TV service would be about 16.8 per cent and 7 per cent of population in the rural and urban areas respectively.

The Committee also note that only two TV Mother Stations at Bombay and Srinagar and two relay centres at Poona and Amritsar have been commissioned and that the achievement in terms of population coverage will be 4.7 per cent only (till March, 1974) of which 2.5 per cent will be in the rural areas and 2.2 per cent in the urban areas, the remaining TV stations|relay Stations being spilled over to the V Plan period.

The Committee are unhappy at the slow progress in the execution of the television projects|schemes during the IV Plan period.

The reasons for the slow progress in the implementation of the TV Schemes have been mainly attributed to the time taken in the acquisition of sites, revision in the scope of the project, decision to revise the specifications of TV towers in the case of certain TV stations and delay in supply in the equipment etc.

The Committee are constrained to observe that there has been lack of proper initial planning and estimation which necessitated revision in the scope of projects at a later stage resulting in delays in the execution of the projects.

The Committee need hardly emphasise the desirability of close coordination and concerted efforts at all levels of planning and implementation of schemes|projects to achieve the desired results.

The Committee feel that in the light of the experience gained, the reasons retarding the progress in the implementation of the plan schemes should be indentified and the existing arrangements for co-ordination and the implementation of the schemes reviewed in their entirety with a view to streamlining the entire arrangements to ensure smooth implementation of the schemes in future.

The Committee need hardly emphasise that continuous review of progress is of vital importance for ensuring successful and timely implementation of projects. There should be annual performance

review of the schemes which should be incorporated in the Annual Report of the Ministry.

Reply of Government

The main reasons for the slow progress in the implementation of the IV Plan Television Schemes were (i) delays in the acquisition of sites, and (ii) the change in the scope of the projects. Arrangements for coordination and implementation of the schemes have been thought of and help of the State Governments is being sought for early acquisition of sites. The State authorities are now associated from the very start in the acquisition proceedings to cut short the delays on this account.

In the light of the experience gained in the implementation of T.V. Projects, standardisation of the T.V. Set-up has been achieved to a great extent.

The progress of T.V. Schemes is being reviewed at regular intervals in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and remedial action wherever necessary is taken to remove the bottlenecks and compress activity durations.

A critical review of all the A.I.R. projects including T.V. projects, is incorporated in the Annual Plan of A.I.R.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 3 Para 2.36)

The Committee note that acquisition of land for TV station/relay station takes anything between one to three years because of legal difficulties and financial constraints and that the normal time schedule for their completion is between three and four years.

The Committee also note that at times there is delay in the procurement of equipment for scheme/projects as the normal procedure for ordering them through DGS&D has to be followed.

The Committee are strongly of view that the whole procedure for acquisition of land and procurement of equipments etc., has to be rationalised.

Reply of Government

The Ministry agrees with the Committee's observations.

The question of speedy issue of financial sanctions for AIR projects with a view to ensuring their implementation according to the schedule and to attain the Plan target of the expenditure was considered in consultation with the Ministry of Finance as early as July 1971. This Ministry had, *inter alia*, proposed that once the Expenditure Finance Committee/Public Investment Board had approved the project as a whole, it should not be necessary for this Ministry to approach the Ministry of Finance for expenditure sanction to various constituent parts of a project, provided the cost of these constituents units does not exceed the figure provided for in the EFC/PIB memo. While the Ministry of Finance agreed that it would be within the competence of this Ministry to issue expenditure sanctions for procurement of equipment and acquisition of site under the delegated powers after approval of the project by them as a whole, they did not agree to such sanction being accorded by this Ministry to civil estimates prepared by the Civil Construction Wing of AIR and these are still required to be referred to the Ministry of Finance for concurrence.

As regards procurement of equipment the matter was taken up with the Ministry of Supply who have agreed to this Ministry's placing orders for AIR equipment direction on BEL but they did not agree to this Ministry's placing direct order on TSL for TV towers.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation Serial No. 4 (Para 2.39)

It was brought to the notice of the Committee that the Ministry of Finance has been approached for their concurrence in initiating advance action for the acquisition of sites and ordering of equipment etc. required for the TV/Relay Stations proposed to be set up during the Fifth Plan period and that their formal concurrences was being awaited. The Committee would like to be apprised of the final decision taken in this regard.

Reply of Government

Concurrence of Ministry of Finance is still awaited, to advance action being taken in the matter of selection and acquisition of sites and procurement of equipment for the Programme Production Centres at Hyderabad, Patna and Cuttack and fourteen TV transmitters proposed to be established, for providing on-going television

service to the areas served by the SITE, after conclusion of the Experiment in June/July 1976.

The Planning Commission have approved an allocation of Rs. 38 crores for this project, out of which Rs. 33 crores are to be spent during the current Plan period and the balance of Rs. 5 crores is to spill over to the Vith Plan. The project has not, however, yet been cleared by Ministry of Finance.

The phasing of expenditure on this project was again discussed recently on 27th January, 1975 by the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission with representatives of this Ministry, Ministry of Finance, Communications, Space, Electronics etc. and in view of the present severe financial constraints, the Planning Commission has now allotted only an amount of Rs. 5 crores for this project in the Annual Plan of this Ministry for 1975-76. As a result, the tempo of action to ensure continuity of TV service to the cluster areas after SITE will be slowed down. While on the one hand there is bound to be a gap in continuity of programmes to the cluster areas, arrangements for continued TV service can be ensured during 1976-77 to some of the States covered by SITE. The remaining areas are proposed to be brought into the on-going service in the subsequent year.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting D. O. No. 1/90/73-TV, dated 27-2-1975].

Comments of the Committee

The final result of action taken in this regard may be intimated to the Committee.

Recommendation (Serial No. 5 Para 2.40)

Television programme is new to the country and it is therefore imperative that the Ministry charged with the responsibility for implementation of the programme should be vested with adequate powers to initiate timely action in the matter of acquisition of land and the ordering of equipments etc. for new TV Stations. The Committee would like Government and the Planning Commission to examine whether some additional funds could be specifically earmarked and made available for taking such advance action. Government should also consider the question of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting being authorised to place orders direct on public undertakings such as Bharat Electronics and Triveni Structural for supply of equipment in the interest of speedier execution of projects.

Reply of Government

This recommendation is actually addressed to the Ministry of Finance and the Planning Commission. The matter will, therefore, be taken up with them for obtaining their approval to the proposals made by the Estimates Committee.

In so far as the question of placing orders direct on public undertakings is concerned, this Ministry has already been authorised to place orders direct on BEL. Ministry of Supply has not, however, agreed to placing orders direct on Triveni Structural's Ltd.

D.G. A.I.R. has now been authorised to place direct orders on Messrs. BEL for the equipment, both TV and Broadcasting for which they are the sole producers in the country without going through DGS&D. A similar proposal to authorise D.G. AIR to place direct orders on Messrs. Triveni Structural's Ltd. in respect of TV towers was considered but the Department of Supply did not agree to this suggestion. However, recently, an order for the TV towers at Calcutta, Madras, Lucknow and Kanpur totally approximately to Rs. 170 lakhs has been placed by D.G. AIR directly on Messrs. Triveni Structural's Ltd., since DGS&D did not agree to place order for the same on the TSL.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV, dated 27-2-1975].

Comments of the Committee

The Committee would like to be apprised of the result of action taken regarding earmarking of additional funds and making them available for taking advance action in the matter of acquisition of land etc., for TV stations.

Recommendation (Serial No. 7 Para 2.42)

The Committee suggests that necessary steps should also be taken simultaneously to seek active cooperation of the State Government concerned where TV/Relay station is proposed to be set up in sorting out the procedural delays in the acquisition of sites and necessary procedure evolved to maintain close coordination with the State machinery for the purpose.

Reply of Government

Close coordination is being maintained with the State Governments in the matter of site acquisition in the case of TV/Relay Stations.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV, dated 27-2-1975].

Recommendation (Serial No. 8 Para 2.43)

The Committee feel that there is need for a realistic reassessment of the capacity of the indigenous suppliers of TV equipment etc., particularly BEL to meet with the assumed time schedule, the requirements of the schemes/projects proposed to be taken up during the Fifth Plan period both the spilled over schemes as well as the new schemes. Based on such a reassessment a time bound programme for the supply of indigenous equipment required for TV/Relay Stations should be drawn up in consultation with the Department of Electronics and BEL and necessary procedure evolved for proper and close coordination to ensure that the implementation of any TV/Relay Stations is not held up for delay in the supply of equipment, etc.

Reply of Government

Close coordination already exists between All India Radio and Messrs. Bharat Electronics for indigenous development and manufacture of TV and Broadcasting equipments. A production programme is drawn up in mutual consultation between the two organisations for the total Plan period and this is being reviewed constantly to keep to the committed dates of delivery of equipment consistent with the requirement of various stations. The requirements of equipment for the Fourth Plan schemes had already been intimated to Messrs. BEL. The scope and the outlay for the TV Schemes in the Fifth Plan are still under discussion with Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance. However, Messrs. BEL have been kept apprised of the results of these discussions and tentative decisions taken thereat.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV, dated 27-2-1975].

Recommendation (Serial No. 10 Para 2.45)

The Committee need hardly stress the need to step up the progress in respect of TV Schemes in hand so as to complete them as early as possible as further delay in their completion would involve higher cost due to continued escalation in prices.

Reply of Government

Every possible effort is made to complete the projects within the time schedule. All the projects are systematically and regularly

reviewed to identify the areas of retardation and earliest remedial measures are taken.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV, dated 27-2-1975].

(Recommendation (Serial No. 11 Para 2.54))

The Television Centre at Srinagar is yet another example of unrealistic planning and estimation in respect of the cost of the project. In the case of certain items, provision was made on assumptions which did not prove to be correct. The Committee hope that keeping in view the experience gained every possible care would be taken in framing a more realistic estimate of the proposed augmentation of the television facilities at Srinagar which are estimated to cost Rs. 3 crores and effective measures would be taken to ensure proper coordination at all levels of planning and implementation of the scheme to avoid any delay in the execution of the project.

Reply of Government

The Government and All India Radio have now gained sufficient experience in the setting up of Television stations. This experience coupled with the emergence of BEL as the main supplier of equipment would definitely ensure the future estimates to be more realistic. The Schemes for additional facilities at Srinagar will be implemented as speedily as possible within the constraints imposed by the availability of financial resources and *inter-se* priority for the various schemes contemplated during the Fifth Plan period.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV, dated 27-2-1975].

Recommendation (Serial No. 12 Para 2.55)

The Committee note that the TV Station at Srinagar which started operation on low power antenna has switched over to normal antenna with effect from 6th November 1973.

The Committee note that out of 550 community viewing centres proposed to be selected, 440 centres have been selected of which 150 centres have been provided with community viewing TV sets.

The Committee desire that immediate steps should be taken to finalise the remaining community viewing centres and to provide them with TV sets expeditiously, so as to extend TV service to these areas also without delay.

Reply of Government

The location for all the 550 community viewing sets have been finalised in consultation with the Jammu and Kashmir State authorities. However, as a result of the discussions at a recent meeting held in Srinagar, locations of some of the centres are under review. Secretary (Information), Jammu and Kashmir State, is personally dealing with this. By now about 366 TV sets have already been installed and the balance are under installations.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV, dated 27-2-1975].

Recommendation (Serial No. 13 Para 2.58)

The Committee would like that the question regarding electrification of the villages]locations selected for TV service where TV reception is expected to be good but power is not available should be taken up with the State Government.

Reply of Government

Initially the installation of TV community sets is being restricted to only electrified villages. However, the point regarding electrification of the TV Transmitter has already been impressed upon the State Government during the discussions we have been having with them for the expansion of the Community Viewing Scheme in the State. The State Governments are seized of the problems and they are being reminded to expedite electrification work.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV, dated 27-2-1975].

Recommendation (Serial No. 14 Para 2.59)

The Committee note that in view of the fact that All India Radio has been responsible for the maintenance of the community receivers for sound Broadcasting in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, the existing organisation for maintenance of these receivers is proposed to be augmented suitably for the maintenance of community TV sets also under the central responsibility.

The Committee would like Government to carefully evaluate the experience of the working of community sets in Jammu and Kashmir so that in the light thereof, guidelines could be evolved for the location of these viewing centres as well as for the upkeep and efficient maintenance of community T.V. sets. The Committee feel

that unless the maintenance of community sets and their efficient functioning is assured it would hardly be possible to extend the benefit of television to the rural masses as the present cost of sets is too high for an ordinary farmer to afford its luxury.

Reply of Government

An exhaustive study of the Community Viewing and Community Listening in Kashmir has been undertaken in September, 1974 and its findings already discussed with the State authorities. It is hoped that the Community Viewing/Listening Schemes will now proceed on a more efficient basis.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 15, Para 2.61)

The Committee also stress the need for intensified research so as to evolve a T.V. set which would be hardy and render trouble-free service over a period and which could be maintained and repaired easily and economically. As many of the villages may not have electricity, though coming in the command area of the television centre, it is necessary to speed up the development and manufacture of transistorised television sets within the country for establishing viewing centres in such villages.

2. The Committee would like to be informed within six months of the concrete action taken and progress achieved in pursuance of the above recommendations.

Reply of Government

The Department of Electronics are concerned with the development and manufacture of television receiving sets in the country. Their comments have, therefore, been obtained on this recommendation. The Department of Electronics agrees with the views that there is need in the country for rugged, trouble-free TV sets, which can be maintained and repaired easily and economically. In so far as operations in rural areas are concerned, low-cost transistorised as operations in rural areas are concerned, low-cost transistorised factory answer through operation on dry batteries. In the present pattern of excise duty and Sales tax, the price differential between such a set and the more conventional larger set for use in the urban areas may not be large enough to act as an incentive. It has, therefore, been suggested that excise duty on such sets may be reduced or removed altogether so as to encourage their wider adoption. In any case, it is desirable that a greater effort by the R&D organisa-

tions, both in Government as well as industry, be put into the problem of developing a rugged TV set of tube dimension 12"—15" which can operate off easily available batteries. When such a design is available, it should be possible to standardise it and ensure its production in large quantities so that they can be made available to the consumers at reasonable prices.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV dated 27-2-75]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee would like to be apprised of the decision taken with regard to the reduction/removal of the excise duty on low-cost transistorised TV sets so as to encourage their wider adoption.

The Committee would also like to emphasise that research efforts to develop and manufacture of low-cost transistorised TV sets should be intensified so that such TV sets could not only be made available to the consumer at a reasonable price but could also be installed in the unelectrified villages coming in the command area of the TV centre to give them the benefit of TV Service simultaneously with the electrified villages in those areas.

Recommendation (Serial No. 17 Para 2.73)

The Committee note that the site for the location of the studio centre at Jullundur has been taken over and that the site for the transmitter at Jullundur and relay centre at Kasauli has been provisionally selected. The Committee desire that concerted efforts should be made to acquire the transmitter site at Jullundur and for relay centre at Kasauli expeditiously.

Reply of Government

Site for T.V. Transmitting Centre at Jullundur was taken over on 24.7.1974.

Provisional sites selected for T.V. Relay Centre at Kasauli earlier could not be made available to All India Radio by the Defence Authorities. Another site at a place called the "Mount" has been selected in June, 1974, and Ministry of Defence has been requested to transfer it to All India Radio. The site is likely to be handed over in the near future.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 20, Para 2.87)

The Committee note that in the Union Territory of Delhi, 68 TV sets have been provided in the Community viewing centres in the rural areas as against 166 TV sets provided in the urban areas.

The Committee cannot understand why the number of community viewing centres in the rural areas of the Union Territory of Delhi should be only 68 when the community viewing area in the rural sector within the command of Delhi TV station is over 446 sq. miles. The Committee would like Government to review the working of the existing rural TV centres and take effective measures to increase the community viewing centres in the rural areas. The Committee have elsewhere in the report given recommendations about the need for efficient maintenance of TV sets at the community viewing centres and they would like Government to keep these recommendations in view while establishing more community viewing centres in the rural areas of Delhi.

The Committee would like to be informed of the progress made in this behalf within six months.

Reply of Government

89 TV Community sets have been installed in the rural areas covered by the service of TV Transmitter, Delhi. It is proposed to install another 100—150 sets in the villages around Delhi against the allocations under the Annual Plan 1974-75. The Community Viewing sets around Delhi are being maintained by a Maintenance Wing attached to the Television Centre, Delhi. The sets reported faulty are immediately replaced and the faulty receivers are repaired at the workshop if such repair cannot be undertaken on-the-spot at the Community Centre itself. The Maintenance Scheme has been working satisfactorily.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/96/73-TV dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 21, Para 2.98)

The Committee are unhappy to note that the Lucknow TV Station scheduled to be completed in the Fourth Plan period, will now be completed and commissioned in the Fifth Plan period as the Lucknow TV Scheme too has been a victim of the land acquisition problem which has been one of the major causes for the slow progress in the implementation of the various TV Schemes.

The Committee earlier in the Report have expressed the view that in the light of the experience gained, it is imperative to have

the existing administrative procedures simplified and to initiate advance action for the acquisition of land and ordering of equipment etc. to cut down delays and to avoid escalation in cost.

The Committee desire that concerted efforts should be made both at the Central and State level to finalise the site and to complete the acquisition proceedings expeditiously.

Reply of Government

In the light of experience gained on the implementation of Fourth Plan projects, advance action has been initiated on the Vth Plan Television Schemes.

Transfer/acquisition of sites for new projects is being taken up at the highest level both at the Centre and the State to cut down delay and time consuming procedures in transfer of land.

One of the factors that contributed to delay in procurement of equipment was the processing of cases through DGS&D. The procedure has now been simplified by authorising A.I.R. to place direct indent on B.E.L. for electronic equipment for which this Public Sector Undertaking is the sole manufacturer.

2.51 acres of site adjacent to Oudh Gymkhana Club was already taken over in July, 1972 and February, 1973 and costs paid. As this land was not sufficient, it was later decided in August, 1973 that another contiguous land of about 3 acres known as USIS site will be made available to A.I.R. for evolving a proper and integrated design of TV Studios. However, on reconsideration, the State Government were not willing to part with this and instead offered another site of 9.328 acres on Ashoka Marg, Lucknow in November, 1973 for this purpose. This site was inspected by the officers of A.I.R. in December, 1973 and considered suitable. Ministry of I&B addressed the Chief Minister of U.P. in January 1974 for transfer of this site at the earliest. This site was under occupation by the Chief Medical Officer and the offices of the S.D.O. Hydell, Lucknow. The portion of the site measuring about 5.6 acres under the occupation of the Chief Medical Officer was allotted to A.I.R. on rent by the Area Rationing Officer under the Rent Control Act in February, 1974. This portion of the site was vacated by the Chief Medical Officer in July, 1974 and has been taken over by A.I.R. on 6th July, 1974 itself. An application for acquisition of the full 9.328 acres site was also filed by the Regional Engineer (North), All India Radio, New Delhi on 15-5-1974 under the Urgency Clause of the Land Acquisition Act with the Dy. Commis-

senior, Lucknow. Ministry of I & B had addressed the Chief Secretary, Government of U.P. on 2-5-1974 for transferring the site to All India Radio. State Government have intimated on 12-8-1974 that the Governor of U.P. has approved the transfer of the full site comprising of Bungalow No. 22 and 24 at Ashoka Marg, Lucknow for the purpose of setting up TV Centre. State Government has demanded advance payment of Rs. 14,07,208.73 for the estimated cost of site before handing over the site to A.I.R. Necessary steps for advance payment are under way.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting D. O. No. 1/90/73-TV dated 27-2-1975]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee would like to be apprised of the final result of action taken to make advance payment for the site and take its possession.

Recommendation (Serial No. 22, Para 2.101)

The Committee note that a separate T.V. Cell has been created in the Directorate General, A.I.R. to ensure undivided attention to T.V. projects. The Committee would like to be apprised of the results achieved in the expeditious execution of this project with the setting up of the TV Cell in the Directorate-General, A.I.R.

Reply of Government

The TV Cell functioning in the Directorate is in respect of "Design work" only. Purchase, Progress and Estimates Sections are still handling both Sound and TV projects. For the TV Cell to function efficiently, more staff is necessary. The proposal for additional staff is under consideration in consultation with Ministry of Finance. In spite of staff limitations, the TV Cell has been working zealously. Engineering Officers of the Cell are constantly on the move for the acquisition of site, helping installation work in all regions, coordinating with State Governments and other Central Organisations etc.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 23, Para 2.103)

The Committee hope that the Studio equipment procured for the Lucknow T.V. Station and diverted for utilisation at the Base Pro-

duction centres for Satellite at Delhi would be available in time for installation and commissioning of Lucknow T.V. Station.

Reply of Government

According to the present schedule of supply of equipment, it is expected that the equipments diverted to Base Production Centre at Delhi, will be available for installation and commissioning of Television Studio at Lucknow.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 25, Para 2.117)

The Committee are not satisfied with the manner in which the whole question regarding finalisation of the site of Calcutta T.V. and its acquisition has been dealt with. The process of selection and acquisition of site was started as far back as September 1969 and its finalisation and acquisition took more than four years. The acquisition formalities are yet to be completed.

The Committee are of the view that with more concerted efforts and close and proper coordination among the authorities concerned, the period taken in the selection, finalisation and acquisition of the site could have been reduced considerably.

The Committee desire that effective measures should be taken to complete the acquisition formalities in respect of the site finally selected for the Calcutta T.V. Centre expeditiously.

Reply of Government

Permissive possession of the Golf Course 9.6 acres site was taken over on 21st March, 1973 after payment of Rs. 29.19 lakhs towards the cost of this site. CMDA have intimated that on the basis of the current award, the cost is likely to be about Rs. 3 lakhs per acre and the formal transfer would await completion of the formalities. It is understood from the Special Officer of the CMDA that the award of the Collector for the entire site has since been finalised and the final cost figures will be intimated shortly to CMDA.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 26, Para 2.120)

The Committee would also like Government to finalise the contract for the construction of the T.V. building at Calcutta without

delay so that the construction work could be taken up and the T.V. station commissioned according to the revised schedule.

Reply of Government

Design Competition for Calcutta T.V. Studio has already been held and the Architect for the work have also been selected and appointed. Draft Agreement to be entered into with the Architects has also been finalised. The Agreement will be signed soon.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1|90|73-TV dated 27-2-75]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee would like to stress that the matter should be finalised expeditiously and a time-bound programme drawn up to ensure that the TV building at Calcutta is completed according to the revised schedule.

Recommendation (Serial No. 27, Para 2.121)

The Committee note that bulk of the T.V. equipment procured for Calcutta is proposed to be diverted to Base Production Unit at Cuttack for production and pre-testing of programmes for Satellite T.V. experiment.

The Committee would, however, like to stress that adequate measure should be taken to maintain and safeguard the remaining equipment from any damage that might be caused due to passage of time.

The Committee would also like to emphasise that effective measures should be taken by Government to ensure the timely availability of the equipment so diverted so that the commissioning of the T.V. station at Calcutta is not delayed for want of equipment.

Reply of Government

Adequate precautions have been taken for the maintenance and safeguarding of the balance equipment.

M/s. Bharat Electronics had earlier intimated that they would supply the equipment ordered for the Base Production Centres which will recoup the equipment diverted by August/September, 1974. However, in the month of June, 1974 it was learnt that their order on their West German collaborators regarding the supply of imported components, etc. was still to be formalised with the result that the equipment would now get considerably delayed. Every efforts is

being made to expedite the equipment. DGAIR is constantly in touch with M|s. Fernseh, the West German collaborators of M|s. BEL who are to supply the imported components to B.E.L., Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance who are to approve the contracts for the above components since the foreign exchange release is under West German credit and M|s. B.E.L. A delay of approximately 5-6 months is anticipated. However, all out efforts are being made to reduce the slippage as much as possible.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1|90|73-TV dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 28, Para 2.124)

The Committee note that the State Government of West Bengal have agreed to meet the additional expenditure to the tune of Rs. 25 lakhs for installing a T.V. studio as an interim arrangement for telecasting the programmes till a permanent T.V. station is commissioned at Calcutta. The Committee hope that the equipment procured for the temporary T.V. Studio at Calcutta would be gainfully utilised after the commissioning of a permanent T.V. station at Calcutta and that there would be no loss on this account.

Reply of Government

Every piece of equipment used for the temporary set-up at Calcutta will be utilised for the permanent set up. The dismantling of the temporary set-up and commissioning of the permanent set up has been worked out in advance so that their dislocation in service is kept to unavoidable minimum.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1|90|73-TV dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 32, Para 2.136)

The Committee have elsewhere in the Report emphasised the desirability of taking all precautionary measures to maintain and safeguard the remaining equipment from any damage where bulk of the equipment is proposed to be diverted to some other TV Station.

All precautionary measures had been taken to maintain and safeguard equipment. The installation of these has now been taken up in the Television Centre buildings which are ready at Madras.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1|90|73-TV dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 34, Para 2.151)

The Committee note that in May, 1972, the Planning Commission had set up a Steering Group on Communication and Broadcasting in

connection with the formulation of the Fifth Plan proposals. The shelf of the projects originally prepared involving an estimated expenditure of Rs. 179 crores—Rs. 94 crores for Sound Broadcasting and Rs. 85 crores for TV was subsequently revised to Rs. 501 crores—Rs. 193 crores for Sound Broadcasting and Rs. 308 crores for T.V. Subsequently it was further revised to Rs. 341 crores—Rs. 137 crores for Sound Broadcasting and Rs. 104 crores for TV—for setting up 3 mother stations at Cuttack, Hyderabad and Patna and 17 relay stations. The Committee further note in the Draft Fifth Plan, a provision of Rs. 80 crores only has been made for the development of T.V.

The Committee feel that the process of framing and finalising the proposals for T.V. schemes to be undertaken in the Fifth Plan, has taken an unduly long time. The Committee are of the view that with a more realistic approach and better coordination at all levels, the Fifth Plan TV Schemes could have been finalised much earlier leaving sufficient time to initiate advance action for the implementation of the proposals according to schedule as it takes several years for a T.V. projects to be commissioned.

Reply of Government

The delay in finalising the draft Fifth Plan proposals for development of T.V. in the country was mainly due to the fact that the Planning Commission were not able to indicate earlier the allocation that could be made available for this purpose. The Draft Fifth Plan, which was ready in April 1974 indicated the allocation of Rs. 80 crores for T.V. development and the proposals were revised accordingly.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1|90|73-TV
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 35, Para 2.153)

The Committee are of the view that if it is desired to create a truly mass-oriented nation-wide television system in the country, a large percentage of the outlay should take into consideration the capital and operational cost of community viewing TV sets as the prevailing high prices of the TV sets have made them beyond the reach of common man and the installation and maintenance of community viewing sets would be a formidable and expensive proposition.

The Committee therefore feel that unless this fact is recognised and taken into cognizance in the development of TV in the Seventies, television would become a conventional entertainment for the affluent sections of society and the very purpose of its introduction

to achieve the national objectives in bringing about environmental changes and Socio-economic developments through this powerful medium would be defeated.

Reply of Government

The new Fifth Plan proposals for the development of T.V. in the country included a provision of Rs. 38 crores for the Community Viewing Scheme for providing TV Sets in the areas to be covered by the T.V. Station to be set up as part of the Fourth and Fifth Plans. This allocation was, however, later reduced to Rs. 10 crores only to provide for funds for the on going Satellite project. This worked out to about 800 sets for the area served by each Television Transmitter. However, at its meeting held on September 6, 1974, the Planning Commission directed that only a sum of Rs. 5.00 crores should be spent during the Fifth Plan and the balance should spill-over to the Sixth Plan. The Ministry of Finance have sanctioned only 440 sets in the first year of the Fifth Plan (1974-75) at a cost of Rs. 20 lakhs and 2000 sets for 1975-76.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV,
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 36, Para 2.155)

The Committee, while recognising the role that television can play in social and economic development are aware of the overall constraints of the resources, and country's pressing priorities like food, employment, industrial development etc. They feel that the programme for the development of a technically complex and expensive service like TV has to be planned on long-term basis and implemented in a phased manner.

The Committee, therefore, agree that the investment on TV development programme during the Fifth Plan may cover spill-over schemes and such viable schemes which would further the objective of socio-economic development.

Reply of Government

This has been noted and the development of TV in the country is already being implemented in a phased manner.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV,
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 37, Para 2.157)

The Committee have in paragraph 7.38 of their 39th Report (Fifth Lok Sabha) observed that although 23.4 per cent of the villages in the country have been electrified, there are wide disparities in the provision of electricity in the various States. While there are States like Haryana and Tamil Nadu where practically every village has been electrified there are State like Assam where only 3.3 per cent of the Villages have been electrified.

The Committee are strongly of the view that if TV has to be developed in the country as a powerful medium to play a vital role in meeting the communication gap, spreading literacy and modern agricultural technology and for achieving the socio-economic objectives, the TV system in the country has to be phased as far as practicable in harmony with the programme of rural electrification as almost 80 per cent of the Indian population to-day lives in Villages. As it may take a long time before most of the rural areas are electrified Government will have to depend largely on Transistorised T.V. sets so that the unelectrified villages coming in the command area of Television Centres also benefit from the T.V. media.

Reply of Government

The total number of electrified villages within the service area of IV Plan TV Centres and those proposed TV Centres in V Plan as on 31-3-72 is around 22,530 apart from the 435 towns. With the reduced outlay of Rs. 5 crores for Community Viewing in the V Plan, the total No. of receivers that could be procured is only 11,040. Thus the No. of electrified villages outnumbers the total TV sets that could be provided during V Plan. It has, therefore, been decided, that initially the installation of TV Community Sets be restricted to electrified villages only.

Transistorised TV sets are manufactured indigenously by M/s ECIL Hyderabad. These operates from heavy duty re-chargeable Car-type batteries. A Scheme was worked out for installing transistorised TV Sets in unelectrified villages. But due to the necessity of continuous charging of batteries and establishment of necessary arrangements therefor at the maintenance centres, the cost was found to be very high. The question of utilising Solar Cells for operation of these receivers has been examined. The cost of these Cells is at present very prohibitive. In view of the above, there is no proposal for the present to install Transistorised TV Sets in unelectrified Villages.

ISRO is, however contemplating to utilise the Transistorised TV Sets operated from Car-type batteries in about 150 unelectrified villages in the cluster areas for SITE Experiment. The evaluation by the ISRO, in the working of the sets is awaited.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV,
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 38, Para 2.159)

The Committee have elsewhere in this Report recommended the development and manufacture of transistorised T.V. sets on priority basis to meet the needs of T.V. Community Viewing Centres in rural areas. The Committee would like to see significant development in this field in the Fifth Plan period.

Reply of Government

Our aim had always been to evolve a rugged television receiver to withstand the rigours of transport handling in difficult terrain and climatic conditions. M/s Electronics Corporation of India Limited, Hyderabad have developed a rugged transistorised receiver which will be tried during 'SITE' experiments. In this the manufacturer has evolved a design which is operative both from mains as well as batteries (car batteries). These receivers will soon be going into use and feedback on the performance will help in developing even a further suitable design.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV,
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 39, Para 2.173)

The Committee note that the Fourth Plan envisaged completion of 5,000 kms of broad-band microwave links for TV network connecting Delhi to Bombay, Bombay to Calcutta, Calcutta through Lucknow to Delhi and down from Lucknow towards Jabalpur. In the Srinagar side, Delhi-Jullundur-Srinagar were anticipated to be connected with broad-band microwave links. In terms of achievement, however, only 3,000 kms microwave links are likely to be completed by the end of the Plan period and the remaining 2000 kms would be spilled over to the Fifth Five Year Plan. The Committee further note that a tentative target of 15,000 kms of broad-band and narrow-band micro-wave system (Broad-band 10,000 to 12,000-kms including spill-over of 2000 kms from the Fourth Plan) has been proposed during the Fifth Plan period.

The reason for not achieving the target of 5000 kms of broad-band microwave is mainly attributed to slippage both as regards indigenous development and in placing orders on firms in Canada and Hungary for supply of equipment from abroad. The equipment from Canada would only meet the part requirement for connecting Delhi-Bombay—Calcutta-Delhi routes while another order for supply of equipment for Bombay-Madras, Mangalore and Trivandrum routes has been placed with a Hungarian firm.

The Committee are constrained to observe that the whole planning as regards laying down the targets and drawing up the programme and completing formalities for supply of equipment has been unrealistic.

The Committee stress that there should be close coordination between the AIR and the Department of Posts and Telegraphs so that the requisite broad-band microwave links are available for extending the range of coverage as soon as the planned TV stations are commissioned. The Committee would like Government to prepare an integrated plan for the purpose and take concrete measures to implement the same.

Reply of Government

The 5th Plan T.V. Schemes include a project to provide TV coverage to 'SITE' areas as on 'On-Going' programme facility after the 'SITE' Experiment is over in Mid. 1976. Accordingly, it was proposed to connect the following T.V. Centres proposed under the above scheme where P & T could possibly provide TV wideband links in time:

State	Wideband microwave circuit	Date when firm demand was placed on P & T Deptt.,
Rajasthan	Delhi to Jaipur and Jaipur to Bundi	27-12-73
Bihar	Delhi to Patna, Patna to Motihari & Patna to Saharsa	7-1-74
Orissa & Madhya Pradesh	Cuttack to Sambalpur and Cuttack to Raipur	7-1-74
Karnataka/Andhra Pradesh	Poona to Hyderabad and Hyderabad to Gulbarga	7-1-74

At a meeting which was held in the Planning Commission on 12-12-1973 where representatives of Ministry of I & B, P & T Department and AIR were present, it was pointed out by P & T Deptt. that the normal period required to provide microwave linkage varied from 4 to 5 years but considering the priority of the programme, they would try their best to meet the target of Mid-1976 for the various circuits mentioned above.

It may be mentioned that the targets for providing the microwave circuits depend only upon the P & T Department. Till now, we have not received any indication from the Posts and Telegraphs Department regarding any change in the schedule for meeting the targets of Mid-1976 in respect of our demands referred to above.

A close co-ordination between AIR and P & T Department has been existing since the very inception of Television Planning. The microwave network planning of the Posts & Telegraphs Department has been framed with the active co-ordination of the Planning and Development Unit of All India Radio. Our future development plans are very much integrated with the P & T Microwave Network Planning.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV,
dated 27-2-75]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee hope that the microwave net work will be planned by the authorities concerned in such a way so as to ensure that the target of Mid-1976 for the various wide-band microwave circuits is achieved and made available for extending the range of TV coverage with the commissioning of the TV stations in those areas.

Recommendation (Serial No. 40, Para 2.177)

The Committee feel that high priority should be given to development and manufacture of broadband microwave equipment within the country to meet the ambitious targets laid down in the Fifth Plan.

Reply of Government

This recommendation has been brought to the notice of the Department of Electronics and P & T Department. A note prepared by the Department of Electronics is attached.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV,
dated 27-2-75]

Note prepared in the Department of Electronics

Broadband microwave communication equipment is being developed within the country by the Telecommunications Research Centre, New Delhi, the Indian Telephone Industries, Bangalore and the Bharat Electronics Ltd., Bangalore. The equipment is currently under production at the Indian Telephone Industries; Bharat Electronics has also plans to produce this equipment in the country. The Department of Electronics maintains a close liaison and is constantly reviewing the status of the development and production activity for microwave equipment in the country with the above organisations and the Ministry of Communications.

The Indian Telephone Industries has the following programmes and schedules:

- (i) The 6 GHz wide-band microwave communication equipment which has been manufactured by the ITI and supplied for the Poona-Secunderabad route has been updated for the purpose of providing 960 channel CCIR grade performance with TV capability for installation on the Bombay-Poona route. The production of this equipment is expected to be commenced by middle of 1975-76, and about 100 trans-receivers of this type are expected to be supplied by the ITI to the P & T during 1975-76.
- (ii) The ITI is also evolving a 6 GHz 1800 channel microwave communication equipment by further refining and upgrading the 960 channel equipment. The development and evaluation of this equipment is expected to be completed by mid 1975. Production would start during 1976-77. It is proposed that the 6 GHz 960 channel up-dated version and the 1800 channel version will have TV capability.
- (iii) As regards the 4 GHz 1800 channel communication equipment which is currently under development at the Indian Telephone Industries, a pilot production programme for about 20 bays is slated for the year 1975-76. Regular production of this equipment will be possible after the test and evaluation on the equipment is completed. The production is expected to commence during 1976-77. This equipment will also have TV capability.

As regards the development and production programme of the Bharat Electronics Limited, the 4 GHz 1800 channel microwave communication equipment is presently under development. This

equipment uses the microwave-integrated-circuit technology for realising many subsystems and components. While the subsystems and components are still under development, the results obtained so far are encouraging. A six-hop one-way simulated channel is slated to be offered for evaluation by P & T by 1975. The regular production is expected to start during 1976-77. This equipment will be completed with necessary modem, supervisory and protection switching equipments. This equipment will also have the TV capability.

The development and production programmes for Microwave equipment are constantly reviewed by the Department of Electronics and appropriate action is taken to support financially wherever possible the R & D and production programme for development of Broadband Microwave Systems.

Recommendation (Serial No. 41, Para 2.186)

The Committee are unable to appreciate the circumstances in which an agreement for a Satellite Instructional Television Experiment (SITE) was signed in September, 1969 with the US National Aeronautics and Space Organisation for the purpose of gaining experience in the use of Satellite for television propagation.

- (i) The whole technology of receiving signals direct from the satellite into television receiver is untried.
- (ii) The cost on this experiment is estimated at Rs. 9 crores.
- (iii) Even if the experiment is successful, the satellite will be available for one year only.
- (iv) The possibilities of having our own satellite are very remote as the costs of Launching a satellite are prohibitive.
- (v) The TV receiver sets required for receiving programmes from satellites are costlier and it is not certain whether the same could be used for terrestrial receiving programmes from the normal TV transmitters.

It is moot point whether in the present developmental stage of the country, the financial constraints as well as the requirements of resources for other priority items, it was a wise step for the Government to have gone in for this experiment. Since the whole programme is in an advanced stage and the satellite is expected in 1975, the Committee would like Government to exercise utmost economy in the implementation of this programme and to ensure that maxi-

imum benefit is derived from the scarce financial resources that are being spent on this costly experiment.

Reply of Government

The Department of Space who are concerned with these conclusions in the report, have commented as under:—

2. The decision taken in 1969 to sign the Agreement has to be viewed against the background of conditions existing at that time. The only possibility of accomplishing the Social development objectives of bringing educational television and telecommunication facilities to rural areas within a reasonable time was through a satellite capable of putting Television signal over large areas. The availability of the ATS-F satellite, even though for a limited period, provided a good opportunity for gaining invaluable experience. It is worthwhile to note the following points in this connection:

- (i) NASA had made significant headway in the field of communication satellites; ATS-1 and ATS-3 Communication Space craft had been launched successfully. All indications in respect of technology were clear that direct community reception was indeed feasible by deploying a large size (9.5m) high gain, narrow beam antenna and a relatively high power (80 watt) transmitter in space. Even though the technology for receiving signals direct from satellite into television receiver was as yet untried, the confidence level on the technology in the scientific community was so high as to make the risk involved in anticipating success negligible. In fact, the events since have proved that this confidence was not misplaced. The UHF transponders on board ATS-6 for SITE are functioning as per specifications. A recent field test of Indian made Direct Community Reception Systems designed and fabricated for SITE with ATS-6 in USA has been very successful.
- (ii) Out of the total expenditure of Rs. 9.00 crores, a significant part will be spent on permanent assets such as Earth Stations and studios which would be useful in any event. The advancement of technology and the training of skilled personnel in the course of the experiment is also invaluable.
- (iii) At the time of signing the Agreement it was expected that an Indian National Satellite could be got ready by the time when the Experiment was to end. The National

Satellite system design was such as to assimilate the experience of SITE and not only continue transmission in the SITE village clusters but to steadily expand the coverage over the country.

Even after the postponement of a decision on a Indian Satellite (INSAT) AIR's SITE Continuity Plan makes provision for covering 80 per cent of SITE villages from mid-1976 onwards through terrestrial means. While the hardware part of SITE would be proven in a year, the instructional objectives of SITE would continue to be fulfilled even when the satellite is no longer available.

- (iv) It is true that under the current resources situation in the country, it is not clear as to when a decision on INSAT may be available. However, it is to be noted that cost of the Space segment in an operational satellite system for television broadcasting/distribution and telecommunications, is a small fraction of the total system cost; a major portion of the cost is attributable to the ground segment and its upkeep. It may also be noted that a satellite with a large number of proven sub-systems sufficient to meet the minimum requirements of a National Satellite can be procured and put into orbit at a cost of the order of Rs. 30 crores.
- (v) The Television sets for SITE Direct Community Receivers are designed for conversion into conventional Television sets by flips of a patchcord and these can be used to receive normal terrestrial Television transmissions by using normal VHF Television receiving antenna with them.

3. The Government fully agree with the Estimates Committee regarding the need for utmost economy in implementation of the Programme and would make every effort to ensure that medium benefit is derived from the Experiment. This is being done.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV,
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial Nos. 42 and 43 Paras 2.188 and 2.189)

The Committee are of the view that the comparative costs, as indicated by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, do not decisively favour any one particular type of TV system in the country. Before making any choice among the TV technologies, important factors like (i) speed at which the technology can help in establish-

ing a nationwide TV system subject to national constraint of resources; (b) the extent to which the system can offer flexibility in building the TV system and (c) the extent of the risk of failure involved in a particular technology will have to be taken into consideration.

2.189. The Committee are strongly of the view that considering the magnitude of the expenditure involved, the complexity of the hardware and software involved the question of developing a nation wide pure satellite system terrestrial system hybrid system or a mix of the system of TV would require critical evaluation in its entirety in consultation with the Departments of Space and Communications and other authorities concerned after evaluating the experience gained during one year SITE experiment and keeping in view the following aspects in respect of Satellite system:

- (i) The suitability of the new untried technology and its economic viability for the country having wide language and cultural diversities;
- (ii) International constraints on power and radio band width on telecommunication;
- (iii) Scope and possibility of using a nationwide satellite system for other communication purposes.
- (iv) Availability of the regional or State TV sub-stations for a nationwide satellite system.
- (v) The extent of self reliance and self-sufficiency in ground and space technology and in software development.
- (vi) Manpower requirement for production, transmission and maintenance of the specially designed TV sets for direct reception from the satellite and recurring and non-recurring expenditure involved.
- (vii) Vulnerability of the Satellite during enemy hostility as compared to terrestrial TV and security problem relating to its operation and the possibility of using one or more channels of the satellite by an unfriendly country for propaganda purposes.
- (viii) The extent of benefits as compared to the cost.
- (ix) Limited life of the Satellite necessitating investments at intervals of 5 to 7 years.

The Committee would like Government to examine the recommendations of INSAT task Force in depth keeping in view the above

mentioned aspects as also the economic viability of the Satellite system and also Indian capability of launching a Satellite.

Reply of Government

The Department of Space, who are concerned with these conclusions have replied as under:

The Government entirely agree with the Estimates Committee that a decision on the choice of one out of different TV technologies and on the development of a nationwide TV system has to be based on detailed studies in depth of the various factors mentioned by them. The Department of Atomic Energy earlier and now the Department of Space have always kept these factors in view while proposing policies and programmes in respect of Satellite Instructional Television Experiment (SITE) and the Indian National Satellite (INSAT). As early as in 1967, the Department of Atomic Energy organised a study of the cost and significance of a synchronous satellite to link isolated rural communities and distant population centres in India through a national system for mass communication using television, Specialists from the concerned Government Departments/Agencies participated in the study and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of USA, cooperated with the study team. After studying the feasibility and cost benefit comparison of four alternative systems ranging from an exclusive terrestrial system at one end to an exclusive satellite system at the other, and having regard to the various factors regarding their suitability and relevance to Indian conditions, international constraints on power and radio hand width, scope of satellite for communication purposes, availability of TV stations for a nation-wide system, self-reliance and Self-sufficiency in ground and space technology, manpower requirements, vulnerability of the satellite and its life, the team came to the conclusion that a hybrid system with direct satellite reception in thinly populated areas and rebroadcast stations in relatively densely populated rural areas would be the best choice. The INSAT Task Force set up by the Planning Commission which submitted its reports in September, 1973 as well as its various working Groups also considered the various economic and technological factors mentioned by the Estimates Committee.

3. The risks involved in the launching, orbital placement and functioning of communication satellites have now been reduced to a level where they are no deterrents to a number of operational and experimental systems which are coming into existence. Among our neighbouring Asian nations, Japan has signed procurement contracts for two experimental communication and TV Satellites and

even a country like Indonesia has taken a policy decision for a domestic system of its own. Iran is seriously considering a domestic satellite system of its own while a consortium of Arab countries has already decided in favour of a regional satellite system. These developments themselves speak of the confidence in the technology that now exists.

4. The Government in having all relevant factors continually in view and studies on alternative national satellite systems with varying capabilities, cost and implementation time frames, are continuing in the Department of Space. The final choice will be made on the basis of the most cost effective solution consistent with approved national objectives and continued use of TV system even during hostile action by unfriendly countries.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 44, Para 2.191)

The Committee note that the Satellite experiment (SITE) which was due to commence in 1972-73 will now commence in June, 1975. The reason for delay in the launching of the Satellite has been attributed to the slippage in the NASA schedule in granting the contract for building the Satellite and subsequent decision to conduct a similar experiment in USA. The Committee also note that the cost of the Satellite originally estimated at Rs. 6.36 crores has been revised to Rs. 9 crores because of delay in launching the satellite earlier estimates being tentative, rise in the cost of material and the additional items which were not originally budgetted for.

The Committee feel that since it was known as early as January, 1971 that there would be a delay of about 18 months in the availability of Satellite to India, it should have been possible to frame a more realistic estimates for the Satellite programme keeping in view the various factors that were likely to result in the escalation of overall cost. The Committee cannot but reiterate that the whole process of framing and scrutinising the estimates should be streamlined with a view to framing estimates on a more realistic basis.

Reply of Government

The Department of Space have stated that the reasons for increase in the cost of the experiment are as noted by the Estimates Committee. The Committee's views regarding the need to streamline the process of framing and scrutinising the estimates have been noted and will be followed.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 45, Para 2.196)

The Committee note that out of 500 villages tentatively selected in each of the six States viz., Bihar, Rajasthan, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Mysore, only, 400 villages in each of these States would be finally selected for the SITE experiment by physically visiting these villages.

The Committee hope that final selection of the villages would be completed well in advance of the SITE experiment and in order to gain widest possible experience, the cluster of villages to be covered with SITE experiment, would be selected taking into consideration the backwardness of the region, their culture, linguistic and agricultural background.

Reply of Government

The selection of villages for the SITE is being made by the Department of Space, who have stated that the final selection of 400 villages in each of the states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh has been completed after physically visiting them. In making the selection, backwardness of the region and the cultural, linguistic and agricultural background of the villages have been taken into account to the extent possible subject to the physical limitations such as electrification, availability of suitable community centres and other infrastructure.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 46, Para No. 2.198)

The Committee desire that efforts should be made to ensure the availability of sufficient inputs and infrastructure facilities to the selected villages so that the techniques suggested in the programmes are adopted in those villages and full benefit of the experiment is derived.

Reply of Government

The Government fully agree with the recommendation of the Estimates Committee. In fact, efforts have already been made to get the cooperation of the State Governments concerned to ensure provision of necessary inputs and infrastructure for the Experiment. For instance, for the Karnataka cluster, a state-level policy and co-ordination committee and district level utilisation committee

have been set up. Similar arrangements have also been worked out in respect of all states where SITE clusters are located.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 47 & 48, Paras 2.205 and 2.209)

The Committee note that for the SITE instructional programmes, the AIR is primarily responsible for the software segment i.e. production of the programmes for the SITE for which Base Production centres are being set up at Delhi (for Rajasthan & Bihar), Cuttack (for Orissa and Madhya Pradesh) and Hyderabad (for Andhra Pradesh and Karnatak).

The Committee also note that a total number of programme hours required for the SITE experiment is estimated to be 1500 hours, of which 360 hours will be for viewing by children in schools and for teacher training.

The Committee further note that about 200 hours of ready made programme would be available and that the actual programming required to be done would be approximately 900 hours of general programme and 360 hours of programme for school and teacher training.

The Committee desire that concerted efforts should be made to ensure that the required number of hours of capsuled programme is ready in accordance with the requirements of the various regions, keeping in view their language, agricultural practices, food habits, social customs and culture and economic conditions etc. well in advance of the launching of the Satellite in close co-ordination with the State Governments concerned and other agencies like Ministries of Education, Agriculture, Health and Family Planning, National Council of Agriculture Research, Film Division etc. to derive the maximum benefit from the SITE experiment.

2.209. The Committee note that the audience profile studies for Andhra and Mysore region have been completed and that studies in other regions are under way.

The Committee desire that concerted efforts should be made to complete the audience profile studies in the remaining regions to ensure that the programmes are formulated in accordance with the requirements of the various regions.

Reply of Government

Audience profiles in respect of all the six States concerned have been compiled and are already in the hands of the producers to ensure that the programmes are formulated in accordance with the requirements of the regions. The production work at the three Production Centres has already started in earnest. Every effort is being made to have the desired number of capsuled programmes ready in advance of transmission 1975.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 49, Para 2.211)

The Committee note that the man-power requirements for the production, transmission and training for the SITE programme have been worked out and that some staff has already been recruited and others are in the process of being recruited. The Committee trust that the staff would be in position in time for the assigned task to implement the SITE programme.

Reply of Government

The required man power for production of programmes has been recruited, trained and positioned at all the three Production Centres at Delhi, Cuttack and Hyderabad. The studios have been commissioned and the production work is in full swing. Similarly, the Department of Space have ensured that staff would be in position in time to undertake the assigned tasks for the implementation of the SITE transmission programme.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 50, Para 2.212)

The Committee note that during the Fifth Plan itself it would not be possible to launch our own Satellite, continuing the programme of SITE. The Committee, therefore, consider it imperative that the three mother stations at Hyderabad, Cuttack and Patna with necessary micro-wave links required for continuing the SITE programme are established and are operational before June, 1976 at the latest to feed the programme to the six clusters of villages being selected for the SITE programme after the Satellite moves away after a year.

Reply of Government

Government appreciates the need to provide continuing service to the areas which will receive programmes via the satellite and

has prepared a phased scheme. Rs. 5 crore have been allocated for 1975-76 which will enable AIR/TV to cover a part of the SITE area by terrestrial system after August 1976. Other areas will be covered in subsequent years.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 51, Para 2.220 & 2.221)

The Committee note that a detailed scheme has been worked out for the maintenance and operation and availability of specially designed TV sets which would be working on a module system.

The Committee hope that availability of sufficient spares as also of adequate number of spare TV sets as stand by for replacement as and when necessary would be ensured for smooth and efficient operation of the community viewing sets in the cluster areas.

Reply of Government (Deptt. of Space)

The supply and maintenance of specially designed "augmented" T.V. sets in the cluster areas to be covered by the SITE is the responsibility of the Department of Space, who have confirmed that adequate number of spare sets for each of the six clusters and maintenance spares for each of the maintenance centres and sub-centres are being provided to ensure smooth and efficient operation of the community viewing sets in the cluster areas.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 52, Para 2.222)

The Committee suggest that a suitable machinery might be evolved to maintain a close co-ordination with the State Governments concerned and to ensure proper functioning of the TV sets in the six cluster areas.

Reply of Government (Deptt. of Space)

The Department of Space have stated that the suggestions of the Estimates Committee have been noted. In fact, a suitable machinery is being evolved to maintain a close liaison with the State Governments concerned and to ensure proper functioning of the TV sets in the cluster areas.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 53, Para 2.223)

The Committee elsewhere in the Report have suggested that suitable guidelines should be laid down for the upkeep and efficient maintenance of the community viewing TV sets.

Reply of Government (Deptt. of Space)

In so far as maintenance of specially designed Community Viewing TV sets to be installed in cluster areas during SITE is concerned, the Department of Space has stated that the suggestion of the Committee has been noted. Suitable guidelines are being laid down for the up-keep and efficient maintenance of these TV sets, and a detailed scheme in this regard will be put into operation. Post-cards with pictorial representations of the various types of defects that can arise have been designed. The instructions are such as to enable even illiterate persons to mark the defects on the cards. The defects will be rectified by the maintenance sub centres which have been established.

2. In so far as the question of maintenance of community viewing sets to be installed by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting as part of its Fifth Plan projects is concerned, the maintenance of such sets will be the responsibility of the State Governments concerned, who have been supplied the necessary guidelines for their efficient maintenance.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 54, Para 2.229)

The Committee note that, at present, the import content in T.V. transmitter is of the order of 40 per cent while in the case of studio equipment, it is 80 per cent.

The Committee also note that the electronics industry is rapidly moving towards greater indigenous capability and production and that part of the transmitter and studio equipment is being supplied by BEL and to what extent the equipment has also been standardised.

The Committee further note that items like video type recorders, sound mixers for programme and announcer studios, 16 mm film equipment etc. are still required to be developed and produced indi-

generously and that they account for significant foreign exchange.

The Committee are of the view that in order to establish indigenous production of the items being imported, it is necessary that a developmental plan should be drawn up and intensive efforts made to accelerate the space of research and development to yield the maximum results in the shortest possible time.

The Committee would like the Department of Electronics to prepare an integrated plan in consultation with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting so that our country can become self-reliant in this sensitive mass media of communication at the earliest. The Committee would like to be informed of the concrete measures taken in pursuance of the above recommendations within six months.

Reply of Government (Department of Electronics)

The Department of Electronics who are concerned with these recommendations have stated that the production of specialised equipment such as Video Tape Recorders, Sound Mixers and 16 mm film equipment can be undertaken in the country by existing manufacturing units provided there is adequate demand for them. The Space Application Centre at Ahmedabad has developed some of these equipment such as Sound Mixers, Video Mixers, Switches and other auxiliary equipment for TV studios with a comparatively lower foreign exchange component. The production of Video Tape Recorders is also being considered by some of the existing units. The technology for this purpose, however, has not yet been standardised and there is, therefore, need for making a more intensive study of the problem before licensing units in this area.

The Department of Electronics has drawn up a Five-Year Plan as well as a perspective Ten Year Plan, one of whose objectives is to enable the country to become largely self-reliant particularly in the field of professional electronics. For this purpose it is proposed to set up a number of new units for the manufacture of professional grade electronic components. The first step in this direction is to draw up an equipment profile from which a component profile is to be derived. The second step is the standardisation of components so that quantities involved can become sufficiently large for production on an economically meaningful scale. In addition, the Electronics Commission is also operating an R&D programme for funding units both in the public sector as well as the academic institutions in areas which are considered important from the point of view of achieving self-reliance. During the Fifth Five Year Plan, the R&D outlay for this purpose is expected to be about Rs. 45 crores. Action is also being taken in consultation with the Bharat

Electronics and All India Radio to achieve self-reliance in regard to the TV transmitters required by A.I.R.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1|90|73-TV,
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 56, Para 2.239)

The Committee are in agreement with the observations made by the UNESCO Commission in their Report on Television Development and Training in India that with the coming up of the TV Stations into operation, there would be extensive requirement of inputs of film material for which it would be necessary to draw upon 16 mm film technology fully responsive to the needs of the television stations.

The Committee note that four TV Film Production Centres for producing TV films and documentaries are proposed to be set up by the Films Division at New Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras involving an outlay of Rs. 118.16 lakhs each during the first six years.

The Committee have dealt with this subject in detail in paras 1.66 and 1.67 of their 59th Report (5th Lok Sabha) on Films Part—II.

Reply of Government

This Ministry had proposed an outlay of Rs. 5 crores for inclusion in the Fifth Plan for setting up 4 TV Film Production Centres. The Planning Commission, however, has reduced this provision to Rs. 1.25 crores only during the Fifth Plan. With this provision it would be possible to set up only one Centre. The project is awaiting clearance of the Ministry of Finance.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1|90|73-TV,
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 57, Para 2.242)

The Committee note 60 per cent of the TV Programmes are at present either studio based or video-taped. There is need to diversify the programmes, with greater accent on covering subjects of interest, outside the studio not only to meet the cultural, linguistic and socio-economic requirements of the regions but also to ensure larger participation of the people. The Committee would urge Government to take necessary actions to achieve the above objectives at the earliest and use the production technology which may be best suited to achieve optimum results.

Reply of Government

Television Stations have standing instructions to ensure the coverage of people's participation in programmes, whether studio based or on film. The film units of the T.V. Stations have been asked to provide a greater amount of outside coverage. Further, wherever a TV O.B. Van is available, programmes featuring outside locations and people are being arranged.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1|90|73-TV,
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 58 Para 3.22)

The Committee note that out of a total of 549 Higher Secondary Schools and 395 Middle Schools in Delhi, 424 Higher Secondary Schools and 90 Middle Schools have been provided with educational TV Sets leaving 125 Higher Secondary Schools and 305 Middle Schools still uncovered with TV service. The Committee further note that only 4 community TV Centres have been provided for the benefit of physically and socially handicapped children.

The Committee feel that the progress made in providing educational TV sets particularly to the Middle Schools and for the physically and socially handicapped children since 1964-65 has not been satisfactory.

The Committee hope that in the Fifth Plan period every endeavour will be made by the authorities concerned to provide TV sets in all the Higher Secondary and Middle Schools and the institutions of the physically and socially handicapped children.

Reply of Government

Noted.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1|90|73-TV,
dated 31-3-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 59 Para 3.25)

The Committee regret to note that while an expert had recommended as early as 1960 gradual extension of TV service to primary schools and that while there has been an increasing realisation of the need for much larger TV media support for the primary schools for several reasons, nothing has been done to provide TV service in these schools so far and this matter is still being examined in consultation with the various authorities concerned.

The Committee need hardly emphasise that the first four to five years of schooling of a child are the most important formative years for him, during which he needs every motivation and encourage-

ment. There is, therefore, a greater need for paying special attention to the primary school level education as compared to others.

The Committee, therefore, recommend that the question of introducing educational TV at primary school level should be decided expeditiously and that a time bound programme be chalked out to provide TV service in all the primary schools as far as possible at a very early date.

Reply of Government

AIR has been giving special attention to the question of provision of Television Programme Service for Primary School children. In spite of limited resources and Studio facilities a beginning has been made in Delhi where a bi-weekly service has started since March 3, 1975. Srinagar TV Centre is introducing a service for Primary School Children from June, 1975. Bombay TV Centre is in consultation with the State Government exploring the possibility of starting Programmes for Primary Schools.

It has also been decided that Primary School Educational TV Service would be an integral part of new TV Stations which are coming up during this year at Calcutta and Madras.

In the Satellite Instructional Television Experiment which is due to begin from August 1, 1975, there will be a one and half hour morning transmission on all working days which will telecast programmes for the Primary School going children. A schedule of topics has been finalised in consultation with the Ministry of Education, NCERT and State Education Department. Production of programmes is now in full swing.

With a view to assisting the AIR in organising the proposed TV service, the Ministry of Education have recently set up a Committee for the purpose of selecting films suitable for primary school children out of the existing film materials.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1|90|73-TV,
dated 31-3-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 60 Para 3.28)

The Committee also suggest that the State Governments of Maharashtra and Jammu and Kashmir, which have already started TV service, may be urged to consider the question of introducing educational TV at the primary level in a phased manner in consultation with the State Education Departments and the AIR. It may

also be stressed upon the State Governments where TV service is likely to be started during the Fifth Plan period that AIR should plan the educational TV programmes for schools including primary schools, well in advance of the commissioning of TV Stations in those States.

Reply of Government

Noted. The Educational Technology Project launched by the Ministry of Education aims at developing an integrated use of all mass media and instructional technology including television, at all levels of education, from the primary to the university stage. However, the suggestion of the Estimates Committee will be conveyed to the State Governments.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1|90|73-TV,
dated 31-3-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 61 Para 3.29)

The Committee note that with a view to developing a systematic approach in education, an educational technology cell is proposed to be set up in all the States with Central assistance to ensure proper use of mass media education.

The Committee note that apart from the establishment of a Centre of Educational Technology at Delhi, the State Government of Maharashtra have already established an Educational Technology Cell and that the State Governments of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir propose to set up similar cells.

The Committee suggest that the State Governments concerned where TV stations are proposed to be set up during the Fifth Plan period, be requested to take expeditious steps to establish Educational Technology Cells well in advance of the setting up of these stations so that audio-visual instructional materials are ready in time to feed TV education programmes.

Reply of Government

The educational technology programme of the Ministry of Education envisages the setting up Educational Technology Cells in 21 States of the country, in a phased manner. Full financial assistance is being made available for the purpose up to 31st March, 1977. Cells have been set up in Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Madhya Pradesh has decided to set up a cell and the financial sanction will be shortly issued. The Ministry

of Education are pursuing the matter with the other States. The suggestion of the Estimates Committee has been noted and it will be communicated to the State Governments.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV,
dated 31-3-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 62 Para 3.32)

The Committee are surprised to note that no study to evaluate the utilization and effectiveness of school programmes has so far been conducted either by the Directorate of Education or the Ministry of Education excepting one or two studies conducted by AIR on actual physical operation of T.V. sets in schools.

The Committee are given to understand that continuous evaluation is being carried out by the staff of TV Branch of Delhi Directorate of Education by visits to the schools, on-the-spot meetings and questionnaire issued to the students and teachers. While such an evaluation is welcome, it cannot be considered a substitute for an objective evaluation which should be carried out jointly by the Central and State Ministries concerned on a systematic and scientific basis periodically to identify the deficiencies and to suggest improvements for better utilisation of the media, with a view to achieve best results.

The Committee hope that the proposed State Council of Schools broadcasting, consisting of representatives from the Centre and Directorate of Education and educational experts and broadcasters etc. would be set up soon for feedback and evaluation of the educational programmes.

Reply of Government

During the Satellite Experiment programmes on TV addressed to Primary Schools will be telecast for one year over a large area spread over six States. Mechanisms to assess the effectiveness and utilization of these programmes has already been evolved in collaboration with ISRO. The results of this evaluation will provide useful guidance for the planning and broadcasting of TV for Primary School in other places. The evaluation is being undertaken in consultation with the State Governments concerned. Further action can be taken after the evaluation results are available.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV,
dated 31-3-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 63 Para 3.35)

The Committee suggest that the proposed Council should *inter-alia* evaluate the quality and presentation of the Educational TV programmes and the improvements that can be made by incorporating other devices such as pictures, films, slides, graphic material and the like and selection and preparation of the TV lessons in relation to the syllabus and adequacy or otherwise of the duration of these lessons on TV and the extent to which the present time allocation has served the intended purpose.

In this connection, the Committee would like to emphasise that besides making continuous efforts to improve the quality of E.T.V. programmes and enrichment of its contents it should also be ensured that educational TV programmes are fully integrated with the school syllabus and are a real aid to class room teaching. The programmes should be such as kindle a thirst for knowledge among the student audience and raise their mental horizon and dimensions. In this context, the Committee would like that a critical study of educational TV programmes in other advanced countries may be made to benefit from their experience in drawing up our educational programmes.

Reply of Government

Under the Project for the setting up of an Educational Technology Centre which is being executed in collaboration with UNDP a number of Central and State officers will be sent for training abroad in various fields of Educational Technology. This training will provide an opportunity to Indian personnel to undertake, among other things, a critical study of educational television programmes in other countries.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV,
dated 31-3-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 66 Para 3.39)

The Committee recommend that with a view to attaining maximum results and maintaining close and proper coordination between the various agencies responsible for ETV i.e. AIR, Director of Education, Ministry of Education and the schools, there should be frequent and regular meetings between the representatives of the Ministry of Education, Director of Education, AIR and the schools to discuss matters of policy and educational problems to evolve meaningful programmes and to secure effective cooperation between them in the implementation of these programmes.

Reply of Government

Noted.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1|90|73-TV,
dated 31-3-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 67 Para 3.40)

The Committee are of the view that if the medium of ETV is to be used efficiently and economically, it should also be ensured that there is no avoidable duplication between programmes produced by the various T.V. Stations.

The Committee recommend that the educational TV programme/scripts should be so produced that it is possible to exchange these programmes not only within the same linguistic regions but also with other TV stations as far as possible. This would also help in reducing the cost of production of programmes considerably.

Reply of Government

Noted. However the fact is that the languages and subject matter will be different in most of the educational programmes and this has to be taken into account.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1|90|73-TV,
dated 31-3-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 68 Para 3.42)

The Committee note that closed circuit is proposed to be used for teacher training purposes. The Committee have no doubt that the cost of production of these programmes would be carefully gone into *vis-a-vis* the expected benefit before implementing it.

Reply of Government

Noted.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1|90|73-TV,
dated 31-3-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 69 Para 3.62)

The Committee regret to note that no progress has been made to introduce the following programmes for the farmers which was recommended by the UNESCO Commission as far back as 1969:

- (i) General Farm Programme;
- (ii) Farmer Training TV short courses; and

- (iii) Teleclub|broadcasting in those areas where community decision and action is important to development desired agricultural practices.

The main reasons for non-implementation are the non-inclusion of community viewing scheme in the Fourth Plan and the inability of the State Governments to meet the expenditure on the Community viewing TV sets. These objectives are now proposed to be achieved in the Fifth Plan period.

The Committee wish that a beginning on an experimental basis had at least been made in the Fourth Plan so that it could be improved upon in the light of experience for more extensive implementation in the Fifth Plan.

Reply of Government

Programmes for the Farmers are a regular feature at the Television Centres. The elements of programming mentioned in the Committee's recommendations are present in these programmes; but they have to be put on a more organised basis which will be done during the Fifth Plan.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1|90|73-TV,
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 71 Para 3.69)

The Committee are strongly of the view that

- (i) urbanised programmes should be kept to the minimum.
- (ii) Programmes should be based on rural development.
- (iii) Programmes, besides being entertaining, should be aimed to improve agricultural practices, contribute to national integration and vocational guidance and ensure active participation of the rural audience.
- (iv) Programmes should be integrated with other programmes of community development planned by various Ministries like Education, Agriculture, Health and Family Planning, Social Welfare etc. to make them more intensive and co-ordinated.

Reply of Government

The approach has to be related to the viewing facilities and distribution of sets between the rural and urban areas. While there

are roughly 1,50,000 sets to-day in Delhi and other cities and towns in the service areas, the number of TV sets in rural areas both private and community may not be more than a few hundreds. In spite of the relatively small number of sets in the rural areas, the frequency of Krishi Darshan has been increased gradually and now it is a 30 minutes programmes on three days of the week. Further more, in a number of other programmes on the general service, rural development is projected.

An integrated and coordinated approach has already been adopted. The Agricultural Television Project is in fact a collaborative effort of several departments engaged in rural development. With a view to reinforcing and fortifying the efforts by other departments, TV Centre, for instance arranged last year a series of programmes on adult literacy with the title 'Aap Bhi Padh Sakte Hain'—in the programmes for farmers. The basic aim of the programme was to make the illiterate farmers and others to read and write and to contribute more effectively to the process of economic and social development.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90,73-TV,
dated 27-2-75]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee would like to stress that based on the experience and keeping in view the needs and preference, there should be a constant endeavour to bring about improvements in the programmes meant for the rural audience so as to contribute to their economic and social development.

Recommendation (Serial No. 72 Para 3.70)

The Committee consider that programmes for rural women should receive high priority and should deal with subjects such as, child care, nutrition and sanitation, food preparation and storage, family planning personal and environmental hygiene, and the like. The programmes should be in simple language which could be easily understood by rural people.

Reply of Government

The suggestion has been noted. In fact, the Krishi Darshan Programme on some of the Wednesdays has a lady compere from rural area and is directed to the rural family. There is, however, need to provide viewing facilities in the countryside for women folk. For, the audience of community TV sets is predominantly a male

audience possibly because of shyness of the rural women to view the television programmes alongwith menfolk.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV,
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 73, Para 3.71)

The Committee would also like to emphasise that follow-up action on the agricultural practices and family planning programmes is very necessary so that farmers could be enlightened on the use of practices and programmes by practical demonstration. With this end in view, assistance and collaboration of the ministries concerned viz. Ministries of Agriculture and Health and Family Planning should be actively sought on a regular footing. The services of extension workers in rural areas should also be enlisted in this regard.

Reply of Government

Ministries of Agriculture and Health and Family Planning have been apprised of the recommendation and further changes in the programme pattern will be effected on the basis of evaluation reports received from them. In general the Government accept the recommendation.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV,
dated 27-2-75].

Recommendation (Serial No. 76, Para No. 3.82)

The Committee note that a scheme for the repair and maintenance of the Community viewing T.V. sets is under the examination of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The Committee desire that this scheme should be finalised expeditiously in consultation with the State Governments concerned.

The Committee however, desire that the whole scheme should be carefully examined and drawn up keeping in view the experience gained in the maintenance of the Community Radio receivers, the staff required etc. Care should be taken to avoid overstaffing and keeping the expenditure to the minimum. Arrangements for the maintenance of Community T.V. sets should be made so as to synchronise with the installation of these sets, with the commissioning of new T.V. Stations.

Reply of Government

The model Scheme for maintenance of Community Viewing Sets has been worked out actually on the basis of experience gained by the maintenance of Community Viewing sets in and around Delhi by the Delhi Television Centre and also the experience gained in the maintenance of Community Radio Receivers. The question of over-staffing and minimum expenditure has been taken into account while formulating the scheme. Maintenance arrangements will be settled with the State Governments before the sets are installed.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV,
dated 27-2-75].

Recommendation (Serial No. 77, Para 3.84)

The Committee also desire that in the scheme, the sphere of responsibility of the Central Government and the State Governments should be clearly defined so that there is no ambiguity in the matter of repairs and maintenance of community viewing TV sets which should be kept in perfect working condition so as to fulfil the purpose for which these sets are provided.

Reply of Government

The responsibility of the Central and the State Governments have already been defined in the proposals for the Community Viewing Scheme. According to this, the initial cost of T.V. sets will be borne fully by the Central Government. The maintenance of the sets will be the sole responsibility of the States. They will have to establish requisite Maintenance Centres about which guidance has been given in the model Maintenance Scheme, which has been sent to the concerned State Governments.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV,
dated 27-2-75].

Recommendation (Serial No. 78, Para 3.96)

Judging from the data regarding audience preference furnished by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting it is evident that 'Chitrahari' (92.3 per cent) and Hindi feature film (88.5 per cent) are the most sought after programmes. The study regarding audience preference also indicates that most of the other programmes find a low place in it. It is thus evident that either the audience is indifferent to these programmes or these programmes are poorly presented.

The Committee are of the view that there is need for serious thinking on the part of the authorities concerned to strike a balance between "education" and "entertainment" and to take effective and remedial measures to use this powerful medium as a tool for national development.

Reply of Government

The high percentage of audience preference to programmes of "Chitrahahar" and Hindi feature films has been taken note of and effective and remedial measures are being taken to strike a balance between "Education" and "Entertainment" programmes. However, the larger number of Feature Film viewers does not necessarily mean that the quality of programmes with educational content is poor.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV, dated 27-2-75].

Recommendation (Serial No. 79, Para 3.98)

The Committee need hardly stress that as the T.V. programmes are seen by the whole family, including the children and as the mind of the children is very impressionable, there is greater need for designing and producing healthy programmes on T.V. having educative value. 'Chitrahahar' and feature films are popular for obvious reasons, but the effect of such programmes on the minds of Children and adolescents cannot be ignored.

Reply of Government

The recommendation made by the Committee is kept in view in planning and production of all T.V. programmes.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV, dated 27-2-75].

Recommendation (Serial No. 80, Para 3.99)

The Committee feel that TV entertainment programmes should not merely depend on the film industry. The Committee desire that dependence on feature films etc. should be moderated by producing more TV films suited to the special requirements of the medium and the needs of the viewers.

Reply of Government

Government agree with the recommendation of the Committee. Within the resources available, every effort will be made to produce

special T.V. films by assigning them to prominent film producers. A prominent film maker has recently been commissioned to make a series of six films which could be used for SITE as well as at other T.V. Stations. A scheme for setting up of T.V. Film Production Units has also been included in the Fifth Plan.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV, dated 27-2-75].

Recommendation (Serial No. 81, Para 3.100)

The Committee note that Government have set up a Committee to screen the films to judge their suitability for showing on T.V. They would like the Committee set up by Government to prescribe suitable norms for selecting films for screening on T.V.

The Committee need hardly stress that while the films selected for T.V. should be entertaining, these should be free from sex, nudity, violence and crime and should be such as would help to inculcate our cultural and moral values and socio-economic objectives etc. among the viewers. The programmes would do well to focus attention on problems like urban and civic living, self employment, vocational training, increasing productivity etc.

Reply of Government

Essentially, only film with 'U' certificate are screened on T.V. Apart from that utmost care is taken and discretion used in selecting the feature films on Television. In other programmes, effort is made to focus the attention of viewers on problems like urban and civic living, self-employment, vocational training, increasing productivity etc.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV, dated 27-2-75].

Recommendation (Serial No. 82, Para 3.102)

The Committee regret to note that at present no programmes are being telecast for the benefit of industrial workers. The Committee feel that as industrial workers form a sizeable part of population in metropolitan and other industrial cities where T.V. Stations are in operation or are proposed to be installed, suitable programmes of their interest should be ~~drawn up in~~ consultation with various institutes concerned with the Workers' Education Programmes and presented on T.V.

Reply of Government

Programmes are now being telecast for the benefit of industrial workers who form a sizeable population of the metropolitan and industrial cities.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV, dated 27-2-75].

Recommendation (Serial No. 84, Para 3.108)

The Committee are in agreement with the findings of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication that the basic shortcoming of Delhi's TV news programme is lack of visual emphasis essential to effective TV programming.

The Committee are strongly of the view that for the purpose of making the news on TV more interesting, there is greater need for visual presentation relevant to the news than the reader. For this, the Committee feel that there is need for close coordination between the Newsreel Unit of the Films Division and TV service for pooling their manpower and production resources to give a new look to the news presentation on T.V.

The Committee are also of the view that in the content of the Indian situation, TV news should have its own format, style and distinctive role to play. The Committee, therefore, desire that there should be constant endeavour to help it to develop its own character in the collection, reporting, editing, production and presentation.

Reply of Government

We agree with the Committee. Eight members of the Staff have recently been provided special training in TV News and Current Affairs. They are now working as a team at Delhi T.V. Centre. The visual content of T.V. news is also being given more emphasis within the resources available. The recommendation about coordination with the Films Division has been noted.

Simultaneously, distinct TV News/Current Affairs Units are being created at all T.V. Centres.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV, dated 27-2-75].

Recommendation (Serial No. 85, Para 3.111)

The Committee note that there are senior announcers doing the newscasting in Hindi and that the selection of news readers in

English is to be made from amongst the staff and outsiders for which details are being worked out. The Committee would like this to be completed expeditiously.

Reply of Government

This is related to para 3.103. The proposed T.V. News/Current Affairs Units will, instead of Announcers, include Reporters who will be involved in collection as well as presentation of News. To have Announcers to read news over Television was a temporary expedient.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV, dated 27-2-75].

Recommendation (Serial No. 86, Para 3.119)

The Committee note that by and large documentaries shown on TV are those which are produced by the Films Division and by other individual producers.

The Committee also note that foreign documentaries obtained are strictly screened and only those documentaries which have educative value and provide entertainments, are shown on TV.

The Committee feel that whereas showing of foreign documentaries on TV may help to enhance knowledge about other countries, there is greater need to show more documentaries depicting Indian way of life, culture, art etc. and historical events and on other subjects like achievements made in the field of science and technology which would help greatly in increasing the horizon and knowledge of the viewers about the advancements made in the country.

Reply of Government

.. Committee's recommendation has been noted and action will be taken as suggested by them.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV, dated 27-2-75].

Recommendation (Serial No. 87, Para 3.121)

The Committee suggest that larger number of persons should be encouraged to produce T.V. Shorts and films dealing with subjects of vital and absorbing interest to public.

Reply of Government

Plans have been set afoot to tap outside talent in the production of T.V. Programmes and to involve private producers of eminence to produce short films for the benefit of viewers.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV, dated 27-2-75].

Recommendation (Serial No. 88, Para 3.122)

The Committee recommend that efforts should be made to make full use of the untapped valuable material in the National Archives and the National Library/Museums for making short documentary T.V. films in close coordination and collaboration with the Central Ministries and the State Departments concerned.

Reply of Government

Estimates Committee's suggestion for making full use of untapped material in the National Archives and the National Library/Museums for making short documentaries for TV will be implemented. In a way, to some extent, the above material has already been tapped for use in shorts.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV, dated 27-2-75].

Recommendation (Serial No. 89, Para 3.123)

The Committee recommend that the interviews etc. with eminent personalities recorded for telecasting may not only be widely shown on T.V. but should also be preserved permanently for future use. The Committee desire that suitable guidelines should be laid down for the purpose.

Reply of Government

This has been noted. It is proposed to establish a Television Archive Library.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV, dated 27-2-75].

Recommendation (Serial No. 90, Para 3.126)

The Committee note that apart from the films produced by the Children Film Society, Children films are also obtained from other countries under cultural agreements and these films are shown on TV once a month.

The Committee feel that the present rate of showing children's films only once a month is on the low side. The Committee consider that there is need for telecasting more children's films during a month. The Committee would, however, like to stress that extreme care should be exercised in choosing films for child audience. The Committee have given concrete suggestions for improving the number and quality of children's films in their 59th Report on Ministry of Information and Broadcasting—Films (Part II).

Reply of Government

The need to increase the frequency of showing children films is appreciated and the suggestion to put out more films accepted, subject to availability of films suitable for child audiences.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV,
dated 27-2-75].

Recommendation (Serial No. 91, Para 3.132)

The main objective of TV is to help bring about desirable social and economic changes in the country. While commercial services on T.V. may bring in some money by way of advertisements etc., the business interest cannot be expected to have the same commitments. It is true that benefiting by the experience of U.S.A. certain countries have tried to safeguard, by statute where necessary, control over the programme policy but there is no gain saying the fact that it would intimately effect the contents and style of programme.

The Committee are convinced that commercialisation of Television at this stage is not called for.

Reply of Government

Government agreed that commercialisation of Television at this stage is not called for.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 92, Para 3.146)

The Committee are surprised to note that when the Audience Research Unit was reorganised no investigator was provided for the TV Centre and the staff provided to the Audience Research Unit of T.V. Centre was not adequate to meet the requirements.

The Committee are of the view that Audience research and evaluation of programmes is an integral part of any broadcasting system.

Without a continuous research and evaluation of programme, the telecasting system will not have a reliable basis to improve its programmes to subserve better the national objectives and improve its audience appeal.

The Committee hope that the Audience Research Wing of TV would be suitably manned in the Fifth Plan to meet the requirements.

Reply of Government

Proposals to augment the Audience Research Wing of TV are under consideration as part of the reorganisation scheme of Audience Research of AIR during the Fifth Plan period.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-75].

Comments of the Committee

The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress made in this direction.

Recommendation (Serial No. 94, Para 3.150)

The Committee suggest that suitable guidelines for the purposes of conducting programme evaluation studies should be laid down.

Reply of Government

Suitable guidelines for the purposes of conducting evaluation studies are laid down from time to time. However, these guidelines will be revitalised as suggested in the recommendation of the Estimates Committee.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-1975]

Recommendation (Serial No. 99, Para 3.188)

The Committee feel that with a view to gaining knowledge and insight into the ways and means by which TV can be effectively used as a tool in the national development it is essential to conduct intensive research in the programme formats particularly those related to the national objectives.

Reply of Government

Government accept the recommendation and hope that the Programme prototype research activity will strengthen the capacity of the programmes to create and telecast programmes related to national objectives.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-1975]

Recommendation (Serial Nos. 100 and 101, Paras 3.189 and 3.191)

Para No. 3.189. The Committee are of the view that because of the language diversity, it is necessary to design and plan research for the software development keeping in view the local interest and requirements so that the viewers of the region|area may identify the programme with their needs and develop a sense of participation. Designing a programme for the software development would, therefore, imply some fundamental research and understanding about the people in that area, method of execution with the participation of local people and evaluation and feedback to design the next programme.

The Committee suggest that an analysis of the present and projected capability of producing the software requirements should be made and necessary steps should be taken in advance for the development of the programme in close coordination with the Central and State authorities.

Para 3.191. The Committee suggest that software development should take into account the programme requirements of the weaker sections of society and should be tailored keeping their needs in view.

Reply of Government

Government agree with the views of the Committee. Television Stations do try to give due consideration to the taste as well as the basic requirements of the viewers. Feedback and evaluation are regarded as important tools in the hands of programmers to make the output relevant and significant particularly for the rural people.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-1975]

Recommendation (Serial No. 102, Para 3.192)

The Committee note that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting propose to set up a Television Programme Research and Prototype Production unit to undertake research in programme forms and formats particularly those which are related to the national objective and that the proposal is under the consideration of the Ministry of Finance.

The Committee desire that the proposal should be finalised expeditiously and the Committee apprised of the progress made in implementing it.

Reply of Government

The proposal to set up a Television Programmes Research and Prototype Production unit has since been approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee in the Ministry of Finance. The Governing Council of the Film and Television Institute of India has approved the creation of the requisite posts and follow-up action is being taken to make the appointments.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV dated 27-2-75].

Recommendation (Serial No. 103, Para 3.194)

The Committee note that the audience profile study in the Andhra and Mysore regions is almost complete and that such studies in Rajasthan and Bihar have already been completed.

The Committee desire that efforts should be made in close coordination with all concerned to complete the studies expeditiously so that the programmes could be designed, produced and protected to determine their suitability in accordance with the requirements of the regions/areas well in advance of the T.V. service in these areas.

Reply of Government

This point has been discussed in detail under Serial Nos. 47 and 48—Paras 2.205 and 2.209.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV dated 27-2-1975]

Recommendation (Serial No. 104, Para 3.196)

The Committee suggest that a phased programme to undertake audience profile studies in other regions where TV service is likely to be extended during the 5th Plan period should also be drawn up in consultation with the authorities concerned and necessary steps taken to ensure that such studies are undertaken and completed according to schedule.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been noted for action.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV dated 27-2-1975]

Recommendation (Serial No. 105, Para 4.29)

The Committee note that the existing TV Training Centre, Delhi, was set up in 1971 in collaboration with UNDP/UNESCO with the main objective to provide trained man-power for using the TV stations in the country. In terms of the collaboration agreement which is for a period of 3 years. (10-8-1971 to 9-8-1974) the UNDP contribution will be in the form of experts, fellowships and foreign equipment to the tune of 1.14 million dollars whereas Government will provide local staff, building and indigenous equipment estimated to cost Rs. 130 lakhs.

The Committee further note that the training centre is, at present, imparting training to the staff of AIR only and after the completion of the training, the trainees are posted to various TV stations by the AIR. The average expenditure per trainee works out to Rs. 5,5000/- approximately (excluding salary etc. of the trainees).

The Committee also note that the existing training facilities in the Training Centre at Delhi are limited and that it is proposed to equip the Centre by constructing buildings etc. for minimum training areas like film, studio, editing, processing and printing rooms and air conditioning plant room. The Committee further note that the sanctioned strength of twenty-six professional staff was short by seven in the various categories and that the vacancies in certain cases have not been filled for as long as two years. The Committee are given to understand that adequate facilities are being provided in the Training Centre at Poona where the existing Training Centre is expected to be shifted in 1974 and that as against the average turn-over of 64 trainees per course, an average turn-over of 100 trainees per course and that of 200 trained personnel per annum is expected when the Training Centre at Poona has its own permanent facilities.

The Committee are surprised that even though the Delhi Training Centre was started as early as 1971, it not only lacks facilities in certain minimum technical areas but even the full complement of professional teaching staff, is not in position and that the Training Centre at Poona with all the necessary facilities is yet to come up.

The Committee, therefore, feel that the importance of training in the various fields of TV has not been fully realised and the problem of meeting the man-power requirements of TV stations has not been dealt with satisfactorily.

The Committee cannot but emphasise that manpower and training problems ought to be considered and decided at the earliest stage

of planning TV stations as delays in such decisions mitigate against having a viable, efficient and satisfying service. The Committee therefore urge that expeditious and effective steps should be taken to remove the deficiencies in the existing training facilities to make it self-sufficient and also to accelerate the construction work of the training centre at Poona to ensure its commissioning without delay.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been noted for action. It may be added that the construction of the T.V. Training Centre building at Poona has already been completed and the Centre has moved into its permanent building in the Film and T.V. Institute Campus at Poona in July 1974, where technical and other facilities on an extensive scale have been provided.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-75].

Recommendation (Serial No. 196, Para 4.35)

The Committee suggest that an evaluation of the existing training imparted at the Delhi Training Centre should be made with a view to bringing about improvements in the teaching methods and also to know how far the persons trained at the Centre have really proved useful for TV service.

Reply of Government

A mid-term appraisal of the work done at the T.V. Training Centre has already been done by a team of two experts specially deputed by the UNDP, namely Mr. Lyle Nelson, Chairman, Deptt. of Communications, Stanford University, California and Frank Goodship, Director, Division of Development of Mass Media, UNESCO. The team, which submitted its report on April 22, 1973, commended the work done at the T.V. Training Centre in Delhi, and the performance of the Bombay T.V. station which is, in a sense, the end-product of the Training Centre. The team described the project as one of the most successful of its kind, and listed its achievements as: 181 trained (plus 73 in training), satisfactory progress of the Poona Centre and a new and dynamic spirit in Indian television as manifested in Bombay.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-75].

Recommendation (Serial No. 107, Para 4.36)

The Committee are of the view that as the television network is developed during the Seventies, it would be necessary that a flow of

competent and well trained personnel is available to meet the needs of TV/relay station for the production and technical operation, in addition to research, curriculum specialists, educational planners etc. for an effective development of the system. The Committee, therefore, recommend that keeping in view the phased development of TV during the Fifth Plan period and thereafter and the needs of each of the TV station for the various categories of personnel, the training capacity of the Institute for the various categories of personnel should be planned and a phased programme for training in the various fields of TV should be drawn up and necessary steps taken to select the trainees with a view to ensuring the availability of required man-power with the commissioning of a TV station.

Reply of Government

Government have already set up the Television Training Centre in the 4th Five Year Plan in collaboration with UNESCO/UNDP to meet the present and projected requirements of All India Radio in terms of the trained manpower. The training capacity of the Institute for the various categories of Television personnel has been planned and phased accordingly. This Centre which has a maximum capacity of producing 200 trained personnel per year will be able to meet the future requirements of the All India Radio.

Pending completion of the permanent complex at Poona, the Television Training Centre was functioning in New Delhi on a temporary basis since July, 1971. Five training courses were conducted in the set up at New Delhi producing a total of 333 trained personnel, both production and technical to meet the requirements of Television Centres at Bombay, Srinagar and Amritsar as also the requirements of the Base Production Centres at Delhi, Cuttack and Hyderabad for the Satellite Instructional Television Experiments (SITE) scheduled for May, 1975. The Centre has shifted to Poona in its permanent complex within the Film & TV Institute campus in July, 1974. The sixth training course for Television personnel for TV stations at Calcutta and Madras has commenced from October 2, 1974 and will end in the third week of March, 1975, when another 50 trained personnel would become available.

The Television Training Centre is being extended to undertake research in Television programming and development of prototypes of TV programmes suitable for use in the context of our national development. The new project "Television Programme Research and Prototype Production Unit" has already been approved by the Gov-

ernment of India. Action to extend the activities of the Television Training Centre in this direction has already been initiated.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 108, Para 4.37)

The Committee are of the view that, apart from the training at the Institute, there would still be areas of in-service training which will be the continuing responsibility of the TV stations themselves. The Committee, therefore, suggest that necessary arrangements for such training should also be made simultaneously with the setting up of new TV stations.

Reply of Government

Arrangements are being made to provide in-service training in those areas which are not yet covered by the TV Training Centre. In fact some of the newly recruited staff are being provided training and experience by attachment to existing TV Centres.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 109, Para 4.38)

Television is a growing industry in the country having considerable employment potentiality and the training institutes have an important role to play. The Committee, therefore suggest that with the expansion of TV training facilities, trainees from the open market on all India basis should also be selected and encouraged to receive training in the various fields of TV for which suitable norms regarding the basic qualifications etc. required for each branch of training should be laid down.

Reply of Government

The Television Training Centre has been set up primarily to impart 'in-service' training to the personnel selected for manning the T.V. Centres. The trainees for programme production courses are being selected on all-India basis by advertising the vacant positions while the technical trainees are drawn from the existing staff of All India Radio. As and when the capacity of the Institute grows and the pressing needs of AIR have been met, the Film & T.V. Institute will consider taking in a limited number of candidates sponsored by other institutions working in the field of media.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-75]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee would like to stress that TV having considerable employment potentiality with its growth in the years to come, selection of trainees from the open market should not be restricted to the production course only but should be made open for various other fields of TV with the growth of the Institute's capacity.

Recommendation (Serial No. 112, Para 4.41)

The Committee note that a Committee has been set up to investigate the area of coordination, if any, between the TV Training Centre and the Film Institute when the TV Training Centre moves to Poona. The Committee would like to be apprised of the findings of the Committee and the action taken by Government thereon.

Reply of Government

*A copy of the Report of the Expert Group on the proposed integration of the Film and TV Institute of India, submitted on March 26, 1974, is attached.

The two Wings of the Institute have already been merged and the Institute has been converted into a Society under the Societies Registration Act w.e.f. October 1, 1974. The other recommendations made by the Group are under consideration.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-75]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken by Government in implementation of the recommendations of the Expert Group.

Recommendation (Serial No. 113, Para 4.42)

The Committee note that AIR's Staff Training School undertakes training on servicing of TV receivers and some basic lectures on TV are being given as part of the training programme for lower grade operational staff in the general field of broadcasting engineering. The Committee also note that the West German Government have agreed to gift some television equipment for the said school and after the arrival of the equipment regular courses of maintenance training in TV are proposed to be instituted.

*Not printed.

The Committee recommend that with the expansion of AIR's Staff Training School (Technical) maximum training facilities should be extended to the State Governments for training the personnel in servicing and maintenance of TV sets. The Committee also recommend that various engineering and polytechnics institutes should be encouraged to provide specialised training courses on servicing TV sets etc. to meet the growing demand in this regard, with the development of TV network in the country.

Reply of Government

With the setting up of more T.V. Stations, there is an urgent need to start a number of regular maintenance courses in T.V. in order to train all the engineers who help in handling various types of complicated equipments in the T.V. stations. While one or two courses have been run by Staff Training School (Technical) AIR with the help of equipment facilities available at the T.V. Centre, Delhi, augmentation of such courses on a regular basis would depend on Staff Training School (Technical) acquiring the necessary equipment which is still awaited.

Training facilities extended to State Governments for training the personnel in the maintenance of Community T.V. sets are outlined as below:—

Session No.	Period	Total No. of Students	Remarks
1st	Aug. 72 to Dec. 72	12	This includes 7 officials from the Government of Maharashtra.
2nd	Feb. 73 to July 73	10	This includes 4 officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs—Police Wireless.
3rd	Aug. 73 to Dec. 73	14	This includes 3 officials from Punjab and 2 from Maharashtra and 3 from Madras Governments.
4th	Jan. 74 to May 74	14	This includes 3 from Madras, 1 from Punjab, 3 from Maharashtra and 1 from College of Military Engg.
5th	June 74 to Oct. 74	15	This includes 3 each from Madras and West Bengal, 2 from U. P. and 1 from Gujarat Governments.

The requests of various State Governments who have communicated their requirements are being considered and accommodated to the best possible extent. It may be mentioned in this connec-

tion that the requirements as originally communicated by Punjab and Maharashtra Governments have already been met.

As regards the starting of T.V. Receiver Servicing Courses by various Engineering Polytechnics in India, the Ministry of Education, Government of India, has entrusted the work of drawing up a uniform syllabus to Prof. A. P. Jambulingam of "Technical Teachers Training Institute, Adyar Madras" who had consulted Staff Training School (Technical) of AIR in February, 1974, before drawing up the syllabus. The Special Curriculum for post-Diploma course in Television (with an emphasis on "servicing and maintenance") prepared by the Curriculum Development Unit of the Technical Teachers' Training Institute, Madras, has been sent to all the State Governments. Each State Government has been requested to select at least one polytechnic already conducting diploma course in electronics/telecommunication to introduce the above diploma course and to advise all other polytechnics to organise their normal courses in Electronics with emphasis on TV servicing and repair etc. as part of the programmes of diversification of diploma courses in the Fifth Plan for which provision has been made in the State Plans.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 114, Para 4.44)

The Committee note that a Committee consisting of officials and non-officials members has been constituted for the purposes of making selection of the trainees on the basis of their aptitude and past background. The Committee feel that the existing procedure of making selection of AIR staff either for sending abroad or for receiving training at the training institute should be streamlined to minimise the chances of persons leaving the service after getting training resulting in infructuous expenditure. The Committee suggest that suitable guidelines should be laid down for the purpose.

Reply of Government

So far as staff going abroad are concerned, they sign a bond to serve A.I.R. on their return for a minimum period of three years. Trainees sent to the T.V. Training Centre in Poona are required to sign an undertaking that they would reimburse the training expenses to the Government in case they decide to leave after training.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 115, Para 4.45)

From the data furnished by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting with regard to the deployment of untrained staff, the Committee note that a large number of untrained persons are functioning in various positions. To quote a few, there are 8 untrained Producers Grade as against 5 trained Producers 14 untrained Cameramen Grade I, as against 6 trained Cameramen, 20 Production Assistants as against only 1 trained, whereas 30 untrained Engineering Assistants, 12 Senior Technicians and 17 Technicians are there without a single trained persons in the respective cadre.

The Committee are unhappy at this unsatisfactory state of affairs which indicates lack of proper planning. They would like the Government to take suitable measures to train the remaining staff according to a time-bound programme so as to deploy competent and trained staff in the filed.

Reply of Government

The capacity of the T.V. Training Centre is being used to the full. But in the present developing situation, it has not been possible for the Centre to train all the Staff who should be trained. The position will ease in due course and all the concerned staff will be required to undergo a course.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 116, Para 4.60)

The Committee are unhappy to note that no tangible progress has been made in teachers training programme so far even though the desirability of such programmes at various levels was emphasised by the UNESCO Commission as far back as 1969. It is only now that a Centre for Education Technology has been set up under the Educational Technology Project of the Ministry of Education to evolve a suitable programme to undertake teachers' training. The Bombay and Srinagar TV Stations have already been commissioned but the educational programmes from these Stations are yet to start. This indicates that planners entrusted with the responsibility of teachers training programme did not attach due importance to this aspect right from the initial stage and did not prepare plans therefor.

The Committee desire that the programme for teachers training and script writers at various levels, should be evolved expeditiously

so that no time is lost in starting educational programmes simultaneously with the commissioning of a TV Station.

Reply of Government (Ministry of Education)

The UNESCO Mission was mainly concerned with the training needs of the Television Wing of AIR. It did not include any expert on teacher training. As stated in the evidence given by the representative of the Ministry of Education before the Estimates Committee, the question is one of priority. There are other alternatives that are likely to give better results than Broadcast type television in the field of teacher training. One of the alternatives is the closed circuit Television which the Ministry of Education propose to use for teacher training purposes. This is already in use in the Technical Teacher Training Institute, Madras. The Centre for Educational Technology set up by the NCERT, has been asked to examine this matter further and evolve suitable programmes for teacher training at various levels.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-75]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee would like to be apprised of the programme for teacher training evolved by the NSERT and the specific action taken by Government to implement it.

Recommendation (Serial No. 117, Para 4.61)

The Committee note that a model syllabus for teachers training schools has been circulated by NCERT with a view to improving the quality of education. The Committee suggest that a close watch should be maintained and periodical assessment made with regard to the improvements wherever and whenever necessary as such programmes are a continuous process.

Reply of Government (Ministry of Education)

Noted for action by Ministry of Education.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 118, Para 4.62)

The Committee suggest that to bring the teachers' training in line with the modern methods, the syllabus and the methods of teachers' training followed by various countries having educational TV programmes should be studied in depth to scout for significant ideas with a view to suitably adopting them as might be applicable to the Indian conditions and requirements.

Reply of Government (Ministry of Education)

Noted for action by Ministry of Education.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 120, Para 4.64)

The Committee regret to note that no provision has been made in the teachers training programme as regards training for teachers in basic education. The Committee feel that as basic education is an important ingredient of educational system in the country, it is imperative that the TV programmes for teachers training should be suitably augmented to include to cater to the needs of training teachers in basic education.

Reply of Government (Ministry of Education)

In the Report of the Education Commission headed by Dr. D. S. Kothari which has been accepted by Government, it has been stressed that the Basic Education programme needs to be reoriented to the needs of a society that has to be transformed with the help of Science and Technology. To achieve this objective, the Commission recommended that Work Experience which involves participation in some form of productive work under conditions approximating to those found in rural situations should be introduced as an integral part of education at all stages. The Commission suggested that the Work Experience should be forward-looking, in keeping with the character of the new social order. In pursuance of these recommendations work Experience is being introduced as an integral part of school education throughout the country. The NCERT

have already taken note of this shift in emphasis and have suitably modified the teacher training programme by including work experience in it.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 121, Para 4.66)

The Committee desire that similar educational Technology Cells should also be set up a phased manner in other States where TV Service is proposed to be started during the Fifth Plan period so that these States do not lag behind in meeting the requirements of educational TV.

Reply of Government (Ministry of Education)

The setting up of educational technology cells in States, in a phased manner, has already been provided in the Draft Fifth Five Year Plan of the Ministry of Education.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 122, Para 4.67)

The Committee are of the view that as and when teachers' education programmes are produced for TV, these programmes, besides being a part of the course content of the teacher-training schools, should become an integral part of the correspondence course to upgrade teacher training.

Reply of Government (Ministry of Education)

The view of the Estimates Committee is being communicated by Ministry of Education to the NCERT and the State Governments.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-75]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee would like to be apprised of the result of action taken by NCERT and the State Governments in this direction.

Recommendation (Serial No. 124, Paras 4.69 & 4.70)

The Committee are in agreement with the observation made by the UNESCO Mission that full potential of education media cannot be realised until trained personnel are available in sufficient numbers to operate the systems as they develop. For this, the following types of training are necessary:—

- (i) Training of educational planners in the application of mass media to educational system.
- (ii) Training of profession staff in the techniques and production methods of the media.
- (iii) Training of production personnel in the special methods, which are applied to educational programmes and material.
- (iv) Training of selected educators, extension officers and other specialists in the organisation and management of media based systems of education and extension.
- (v) Training of all those field workers and teachers, monitors and group teachers, directly concerned with the utilization of media which prepares them to take their place as effective component in the system.

The Committee, therefore, recommend that the training programme should be drawn up keeping in view the above aspects if the educational TV programme are to achieve fully their declared objectives.

Reply of Government (Ministry of Education)

The observations made by the UNESCO Mission were with reference to the operation by AIR of their television services and not with reference to class-room broadcasts. However, the Ministry of Education generally agree with these observations in the context of the All India Radio's plans for expansion of television in this country.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 127, Para 4.73)

The Committee suggest that the existing syllabus for the teachers training including pre-service and in-service training should be

evaluated in its entirety with the present needs of the various regions of the country.

Reply of Government (Ministry of Education)

The syllabus for B.Ed. and Elementary Teacher Training Institutions was reviewed and revised in 1969-70 by the NCERT and was made available to different institutions and universities for favour of adoption and adaptation depending upon their needs. A few workshops were also organised by the Council to update their curricula.

Two regional workshops are proposed to be organised by the Council to further review the B.Ed. and M.Ed. syllabus during 1974-75.

Development of a blue-print of inservice education is also being prepared by the Council which is expected to be available by the end of the current year (1974-75).

Course content for instructional television in teacher preparation programme is being developed by the Council in collaboration with the States and Universities where television is in operation.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 128, Para 4.74)

The Committee recommend that the existing arrangements for the teachers training at pre-primary, primary and secondary level as also the facilities available at the training schools should be reviewed to remove the deficiency, if any, and to bring about improvements. The training schools should also be equipped with modern libraries and technological devices to make them self-sufficient.

Reply of Government (Ministry of Education)

The recommendation of the Estimates Committee has been accepted. The National Council of Teacher Education has already taken up the study of teacher training institutions at primary and secondary levels.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 129, Para 5.17)

The Committee note that Government have decided that TV organisation would be separated from A.I.R. and that its future

set-up is under their active consideration. Keeping in view the fact that the TV net work is going to be progressively developed during the Seventies and that TV is for more sophisticated and complicated in the matter of techniques and operations requiring broader outlook, greater flexibility and freedom of action, the Committee feel that Government should examine in depth and arrive at a decision expeditiously about the nature of organisation that would be best suited for TV. As TV is a creative media, the organisational set-up should provide for flexibility and should be free from usual bureaucrat constraints.

Reply of Government

This has been noted for action.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-75]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee would like to be apprised of the result of action taken in the matter.

Recommendation (Serial No. 131, Para 5.21)

The Committee suggest that a comparative study of the terms and conditions of service, recruitment rules and staffing pattern etc. obtaining in other countries well-established in TV such as U.K., U.S.S.R., Italy, Canada etc. may also be made with a view to suitably adapting them as are applicable in accordance with the Indian conditions.

Reply of Government

Long thought and much consideration has gone into the preparation of the plans relating to the staffing pattern for Television. Every aspect of service conditions and assignment of duties has been looked into and the experience of other similar organisations has duly been taken note of while working on the staffing pattern of Television. Patterns obtaining in other countries as well as suggestions made by Staff Unions have been taken into account.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 133, Para 5.23)

The Committee further suggest that local Advisory Committees consisting of eminent educationists, artists, social workers etc., may

be attached to each TV Broadcasting Station to advise on TV programmes as also to give a sense of public participation in the working of the Television system.

Reply of Government

Government have already framed rules for the constitution of a Programme Advisory Committee at all TV Centres. The membership will cover the areas mentioned in the Committee's recommendations. Such a Committee has already been established at Delhi and action to appoint similar committees at other TV Centres has been initiated.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 134, Para 5.24)

The Committee desire that question of deployment of the necessary staff in advance of the commissioning of a TV station should be settled in consultation with the Ministry of Finance.

Reply of Government

This is already being done.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-75]

CHAPTER III

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

Recommendation (Serial No. 9, Para 2.44)

The Committee are concerned to note that the estimated outlay on the schemes which were originally included in the Fourth Five Year Plan, increased from Rs. 6.40 crores only to Rs. 16.20 crores at the time of the Mid-term appraisal and is now anticipated to rise to Rs. 31.60 crores, i.e., an increase of about 5 times of the original estimates. Similarly the estimated expenditure on four other schemes which were included in the Fourth Plan, during Mid-term appraisal (1971) has risen from Rs. 6.45 crores to Rs. 10.10 crores. The rise in the estimated cost has been attributed to escalation in the prices, revision in the scope of projects etc. The Committee strongly feel that the original estimates of the various projects/schemes were not only framed in a rather unrealistic manner but the wide variations in the original estimated costs and the latest revised costs also indicate the casual manner in which the costs of the schemes were estimated originally. The Committee realise that in a developmental economy, rises in costs are likely to occur but then the estimates should provide for such escalations in cost to enable Government to consider the schemes in a realistic manner before sanctioning them. The Committee feel that such wide variations between original estimated cost and the final costs of the projects, vitiate the very basis on which these schemes are approved by the Government. The Committee strongly recommend that not only this tendency should be curbed effectively but the responsibility for such abnormally unrealistic estimates should be fixed to avoid recurrence of such cases in future.

Reply of Government

As already explained, there are two factors that have contributed to the increase in cost of the projects. One of the reasons is general increase in prices and the other is the change in scope of the projects. The estimates of 1969 were based on the prices of the equipment in the international market at the time. TV equipment were not in the production line of M/s. BEL or any other indigenous source

at that time. Subsequently, M/s. BEL have taken up the production and the estimated costs at the time of the mid-term appraisal were based on the costs tendered by M/s. BEL for the equipment that they have taken up for production. Increase in cost of the civil works as applicable at that time has also been taken into account while arriving at the estimated costs. It may also be mentioned that there has been a considerable increase in the cost of steel towers for the TV antenna which are to be supplied by M/s. Triveni Structural Limited, a public undertaking, due to increase in the cost of steel and other factors. The scope of the projects also has undergone some change in the light of the past experience, as additional facilities were found to be required for proper production of programmes as now contemplated.

Subsequently, M/s. BEL and T.S.L. have increased the prices of the equipment and towers to be supplied by them. An inquiry Committee was also appointed by Government to go into the question of inadequate coverage of certain programmes and to give recommendations for proper coverage of local programmes. Based on the recommendations of the Committee, which included the provision of OB Vans and certain ancilliary equipment revised costs have been worked out for the various projects.

It is not the practice so far to make provision for anticipated escalation in the cost of equipment and other works in the project costs. In fact, where such provision has been made in the civil estimates, the provision for the escalation has been deleted while issuing the sanctions. While considering our proposal the Ministry of Finance, PIB have also advised that escalation should not be provided for in the project estimates and that the estimates should be based on the ruling prices at the time of preparation of the estimates.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 24, Para 2.116)

The Committee regret to note that the Calcutta T.V. Scheme is yet another case of unrealistic planning and under estimation of the expenditure involved in the scheme. The Scheme which was origi-

nally estimated to cost Rs. 99 lakhs was subsequently revised to cost Rs. 190.59 lakhs and is now estimated to go upto Rs. 760 lakhs.

Reply of Government

The proposal to set up a television station at Calcutta as part of the Fourth Plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 190.59 lakhs was approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee in March, 1971. The proposal included the construction of a TV studio building at a site near Victoria Memorial to provide for limited studio facilities and office accommodation and the construction of a transmitting station in the existing All India Radio's site at Eden Gardens with a 10 kw transmitter and a 150 metre high tower. Subsequently, Government approved a proposal to extend the coverage of Calcutta TV Station to the industrial areas of Durgapur and Asansol by setting up two relay centres at suitable locations. The Calcutta TV Station was thus now required to produce programmes to cater to the needs of not only the Calcutta station but also these two Relay Centres. Apart from the change in the status of the station on this account, it was also realised as a result of the experience gained with the Srinagar and Bombay TV stations, that in order to be able to cater effectively to the requirements of production of programmes as now envisaged, the limited studio facilities provided for in the E.F.C. Memo already approved would be inadequate and consequently more studios and additional equipment shall have to be provided at Calcutta along with the additional ancillary areas and office accommodation. Keeping all these factors into consideration and keeping in view the future requirements for further expansion, it was decided to acquire now itself a site large enough to accommodate these requirements. Accordingly, a site measuring 9.73 acres at the Tollyganj Golf Course has already been acquired at an estimated cost of about Rs. 30.00 lakhs. It is also proposed to provide Calcutta TV station with three independent studios including a large size studio for audience participation as against two studios provided for in the original proposal. A Rehearsal studio is also provided for. Provision for associated areas such as set construction, film activity and technical areas as well as office accommodation is also being made on an enhanced scale. The Ministry of Finance have approved the proposal at an estimated cost of Rs. 770 lakhs. Out of this Rs. 620 lakhs will be spent during the Fifth Plan and an expenditure of Rs. 150 lakhs will spill over to the Sixth Plan.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 29, Para 2.125)

The Committee note that the sites for T.V. Relay centres at Asansol and Kharagpur have been provisionally selected and their clearance from the Air Force authorities is still awaited.

The Committee desire that in the light of experience gained, effective measures should be taken to finalise and to acquire in time the sites for the transmitting stations at Asansol and Kharagpur.

Reply of Government

The site provisionally selected for Asansol in the Satellite Township has been disapproved by the Mining Adviser of West Bengal in view of the intensive mining operations in the area. Alternative sites have been surveyed and a suitable site belonging to Ministry of Defence has been located. Secretary, I & B has requested Secretary, Defence to give this site to A.I.R.

None of the suitable sites were available in Kharagpur due to proximity of the area to the airport. A Government site at Midnapur has been finalised and cleared by the D.G. C.A. for a height of 125 metre tower only. S.A.C.F.A. application for the siting of the relay station has been filed on 5-7-1974. Ministry of I & B have addressed the Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal for transfer of the site. Every possible effort is being made to acquire the site at the earliest.

However, recently owing to constraint in resources, it has been decided to defer major outlay on this project and it will therefore be spilled over to VI Plan as directed by the Planning Commission. The execution of the project will thus have to be taken up only in VI Plan period. Provision of sites has been earmarked during the V Plan and it is expected that the sites will be available in time for the execution of these projects.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV,
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 30, Para 2.127)

The Committee also note that tenders for the supply of transmitting equipment and accessories for these transmitting stations have been invited from M/s. Bharat Electronics.

The Committee desire that the question regarding placing of order with M/s. Bharat Electronics Ltd., for the equipment required

should be finalised expeditiously and a well coordinated plan drawn up for the procurement of the equipment both indigenous and imported to ensure commissioning of these centres along with the commissioning of the Calcutta TV Stations.

Reply of Government

Quotations for the Television transmitting equipment and antenna etc. were asked from M/s. BEL in September, 1973. M/s. BEL have, however, submitted their formal quotation in the month of August, 1974. In the meantime, while reviewing the total outlay on the Television schemes i.e. 4th Plan spill over plus the 5th Plan vis-a-vis the resources available, Planning Commission have suggested the deferment of the relay centres at Asansol and Midnapur. The procurement action for the equipment would accordingly now be initiated in 1977-78 so that the equipments are available in the first year of the VI Plan.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV,
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 31, Para 2.134)

The Committee note that the Commissioning of the Madras T.V. Station scheduled for September, 1974 has been delayed by six months and the T.V. Station is now scheduled to be completed by the *end of 1974. The reason for delay in the commissioning of the T.V. Station has been attributed to the subsequent decision to increase the height of the tower from 150 metre to 175 metre to provide facility for installation of another antenna for a second channel service in future.

The Committee desire that effective measures should be taken to ensure that the revised schedule of commissioning of Madras T.V. Station is adhered to.

*At the time of factual verification the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting have stated that the TV station would be completed by March, 1975.

Reply of Government

It was assessed earlier that the centre would be ready by March, 1975, if tower is ready by December 1974 and all studio equipment recouped by October, 1974.

There is likely to be slippage in the target date now due to delay anticipated in supply of equipment by M/s. B.E.L.

Studio equipments received in 1973 were diverted to Base Production Unit, Hyderabad and M/s. B.E.L. was to recoup the same by September, 1974. They, however, expect to supply the equipment now between January—March, 1975 as they anticipate delay in supply of components and sub-assemblies by a West German firm with whom they placed order. Effective coordination is being made between West German Government, Department of Economic Affairs, Government of India and M/s. B.E.L. to sort out bottlenecks and expedite the supplies.

If the equipments are supplied by M/s. BEL in January—March, 1975, the centre is likely to be ready during June—September, 1975. Efforts are, however, being made to advance the supply of equipment to enable completion of the project as early as possible

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV,
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 33, Para 2.137)

The Committee have also elsewhere in the Report stressed the need for proper and close coordination at all levels to ensure the timely availability of the equipment so diverted so as to ensure that the commissioning of a TV Station is not delayed for want of equipment.

Reply of Government

M/s. Bharat Electronics had earlier intimated that they would supply the equipment ordered for the Base Production Centres which will recoup the equipment diverted by August/September, 1974. However, in the month of June, 1974 it was learnt that their order on their West German Collaborators regarding the supply of imported components, etc. was still to be formalised with the result that the equipment would now get considerably delayed. Every effort is being made to expedite the equipment. D.G.A.I.R. is constantly in touch with M/s. Fornseh, the West German Collaborators of M/s. B.E.L. who are to supply the imported components to B.E.L., Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance who are to approve the contracts for the above components since the foreign exchange release is under West German credit and M/s. B.E.L. A delay of approximately 5-6 months is anticipated. How-

ever, all-out efforts are being made to reduce the slippage as much as possible.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV,
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 70, Para 3.60)

The Committee regret to note that the objective of utilising the TV media of mass communication for giving effective support to developmental efforts in the fields of education, agriculture, health and family planning and generally to educate and motivate people in participating in these sectors of national activity in rural areas in particular, has not so far been achieved to a great extent. The very fact that the number of viewers of Krishi Darshan Programme primarily meant for rural people, has been declining progressively every year from 49.87 per cent to 40.669 per cent during the period from 1968 to 1970 (upto August) goes to indicate that it has not had the desired impact.

The Committee note that various factors are responsible for this declining trend; more important among them are the programme treatment and content *viz.* repetitions, monotonous, dull, stale nature of programmes, programmes understandability, organisational deficiencies like lack of sitting arrangements, irregular operations of TV, unsuitable location of TV etc. social relationship between the TV custodians and the people, lack of entertainment programmes and adverse and unhealthy effect of programmes on the social environment and minds of children.

The Committee feel that the present T.V. Programmes mostly cater to the urban audiences with heavy emphasis on amateurish entertainment.

The Committee need hardly stress that TV has to fit in harmoniously with the needs and aspirations and social environment of those for whom the programmes are intended. The Committee would, therefore, like to emphasise that the reasons for the declining trend among the viewers of the rural programme mentioned in paras 3.52—3.61 of this Chapter, should be examined thoroughly and in depth and suitable remedial measures taken expeditiously to rectify these deficiencies, particularly as regards timing, frequency, length, format content and treatment of the programmes.

Reply of Government

Audience size may not be necessarily a true indicator of the success or failure of a programme. It is pertinent to add in this

connection that but for the sets installed by the Government of Haryana, the number of community viewing sets installed under the Agricultural Television Project have remained constant. What is more, some of these sets are not being operated for a variety of reasons including power failures. While the declining trend could also be attributed to some extent to the fact that the initial novelty of the medium may have worn off, all organisational bottlenecks at the viewing end have also not been removed.

As regards Krishi Darshan (the programme for farmers), it was initially telecast once a week. The frequency was later increased to twice a week and from July, 1970 the programme is being telecast three times a week. As far as treatment and content are concerned there has been continuous improvement. The actuality coverages on film are much more than before. We are also exploring the possibility of using the CB Van. Many more farmers now come to participate in the programme in the studios.

One of the three programmes of Krishi Darshan in a week, has been broad based and covers such topics as health, sanitation, child welfare and kitchen gardening etc. On a weekly basis farmers' queries are answered by experts. Sometimes farmers themselves assemble in the studios to discuss their problems with the experts or the spokesman of the Government. Occasionally, advance practices elsewhere in the country or even abroad are shown to broaden the horizon of the farmers. There are of course hard-core items dealing with improved agricultural practices, animal husbandry, poultry farming on a regular basis. Every effort is made to invest all these programmes with clarity, credibility and feasibility. Entertainment suited to the rural milieu has its share.

In this connection it may be added that selection of topics is made by a Subjects Committee of Experts drawn from Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Departments of Agriculture, Haryana, UP and Delhi Administration. This committee meets after every two months and gives detailed suggestions on the contents of the programmes as also on the experts.

Even after the schedule has been discussed changes are made to meet unforeseen changes or developments affecting agricultural conditions.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV,
dated 27-2-75].

Recommendation (Serial No. 75, Para 3.78)

The Committee are surprised to note that no provision for Community Viewing TV Sets was made to cover the service areas of TV transmitters to be installed under the Fourth Plan.

The Committee, however, note that a provision of 59,400 community viewing sets costing Rs. 46.83 crores was made in the Fifth Plan proposal which has been reduced to Rs. 17 crores by the Planning Commission.

The Committee, hope that within the financial constraints, every attempt would be made to provide community viewing sets to as many villages as possible.

The Committee need hardly stress that greater emphasis has to be laid on the maintenance of community sets and their efficient functioning if the benefit of television is intended to be extended to rural areas the present cost of TV sets is too high for an ordinary farmer to afford.

Reply of Government

The allocation for the Community Viewing Scheme in the Fifth Plan has been further reduced by the Planning Commission to Rs. 10 crores only of which resources will be made available only to the extent of Rs. 5 crores during the Fifth Plan period. The Ministry of Finance has tentatively approved the purchase of 440 Community T.V. sets in 1974-75 at a cost of Rs. 20 lakhs and about 2000 sets in 1975-76 at a cost of about Rs. 1 crore, further provision will be made in the light of the experience gained during these two years.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV,
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 96, Para 3.173)

The Committee would further urge Government to ensure that raw materials required by the TV components manufacturers are readily available to them so that the need for maintenance of large inventories by them, is obviated and production cost of TV is reduced.

Reply of Government (Department of Electronics)

The Department of Electronics have stated that they have been keeping a close watch on the availability of raw materials required by manufacturers of TV components. Within the limitation of foreign exchange availability, which has become particularly acute in recent months, efforts are being made to provide adequate foreign exchange for the import of raw materials. Some shortage is being experienced in regard to the high voltage Electrolytic Capacitors due to the etched Aluminium Foil or even the pure Aluminium Foil being unavailable in the international market. But, taken as a whole, the TV Receiver industry has not suffered unduly due to the shortage of components. There is, however, an overall limitation that raw materials licences are issued only for a limited period and hence productions cannot be planned well in advance. This is, however, a factor which is to be reckoned with over the entire industrial spectrum and not only for the TV Receiver industry.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O No. 1/90/73-
TV dated 27-2-1975]

Recommendation (Serial No. 98, Para 3.175)

The Committee note that import content in the TV receiver has already come down to Rs. 60 from Rs. 300-400 in the initial stage and it is likely to be reduced to Rs. 30 only in 1974-75. The Committee hope that it would be possible to eliminate altogether the import content of TV receivers by indigenisation within the shortest possible time, by intensifying research and development efforts in this regard.

Reply of Government (Department of Electronics)

The Department of Electronics have stated that they are conscious of the need to reduce the import content in our T.V. receivers through development of materials and components. The present import content of a T.V. Receiver is Rs. 60 per set excluding the import of a picture tube (which is roughly Rs. 100). A further reduction in the pack value given to T.V. Receiver manufacturer is expected when the T.V. deflection components become available in the country. Production of these components has already begun at Madras, Hyderabad and Delhi and it is anticipated that from the next year onwards it may be possible to reduce the TV pack value further.

However, the import content cannot be eliminated altogether since there is always need for specialised items and chemicals which are required in small quantities and whose production within the country may be uneconomic, unless there is a large volume demand for them. It is expected, however, that the total import content of a T.V. receiver (including the picture tube) may be brought down to Rs. 100 per set which will be 3 per cent of retail value of such a receiver.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV,
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 111, Para 4.40)

The Committee are unhappy to note that even though the UNESCO Mission, as early as 1969 recommended for a training programme on educational TV, it is only now that Government have established a Centre for Educational Technology under the NCERT for the purpose. The training of script writers, editors, educational planners and administrators etc. is also proposed to be undertaken at the TV and Film Institute, Poona. This, in the opinion of the Committee, goes to show that the planners did not attach due importance to the various types of training for the development of educational TV at the initial stage.

Reply of Government

The TV Training Centre since its inception in 1971 has been designed to provide training in E.T.V. For this purpose there is an altogether distinct department manned by personnel like Lecturer ETV Production, Lecturer ETV Film Production etc.

The UNESCO Mission did not recommend a new Centre for teacher training. However, the Ministry of Education have on their own, established a Centre for Educational Technology under the NCERT in collaboration with UNDP for promoting educational technology in this country. The Centre would *inter alia* provide training programmes for various categories of ETV personnel.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV,
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 125, Para 4.71)

The Committee recommend that nomination of teachers to take special course in Educational TV as also to plan summer or short-

in-service courses for teachers in the utilisation of TV in the classroom should be made by the Educational Technology unit of the Ministry of Education in close coordination with the Central and States departments of Education to achieve the desired results.

Reply of Government (Ministry of Education)

As most of the teaching in schools is done through local languages, the school broadcasts also have to be in the local languages. Central selection of teachers is not practicable. Arrangements for organising training of teachers in Educational TV or in the utilisation of TV in the classroom, are therefore to be made by the Educational Technology Cells being set up in the States in a phased manner. The question of nominating teachers by the Educational Technology Unit of the Ministry of Education does not, therefore, arise.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV,
dated 27-2-75]

CHAPTER IV

RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

Recommendation (Serial No. 6, Para 2.41)

The Committee recommended that keeping in view the problems inherent in the acquisition of land, delivery of the equipments, managerial build-up and organisational set up a realistic time-bound schedule for completion of the various TV schemes in hand and those proposed to be taken up during the Fifth Plan period should be drawn up and effective measures taken to ensure proper and close coordination at all levels to ensure implementation of the schemes according to the schedule.

Reply of Government

The main bottleneck in drawing up a realistic and time-bound schedule for the completion of various TV projects under the Fifth Plan has been the uncertainty about the availability of Plan resources. AIR's Fifth Plan proposals had to undergo several revisions due to constraint of resources.

To overcome the delay in land acquisition this Ministry recommended to the Planning Commission to clear selected radio and TV projects, which we had proposed for inclusion in the Fifth Plan for advance action so that All India Radio could acquire land for them in the last year of the Fourth Plan itself. The matter was considered in the Planning Commission but due to uncertainty about the availability of Plan resources it has not been possible to identify even the core projects, which Planning Commission could agree to include in the Fifth Plan and, consequently, no advance action has been possible.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV,
dated 27-2-75].

Comments of the Committee

Please see para 3 of the Report—Chapter I.

Recommendation (Serial No. 16, Para 2.70)

The Committee are distressed to note the manner in which the Jullundur T.V. Scheme has been dealt with at various stages. The proposal to set up Jullundur T.V. Station with relay centres at Kasauli, Amritsar and Bhatinda was initially estimated to cost Rs. 3.5 crores. This was subsequently revised to cost Rs. 9.761 crores to provide cent per cent population coverage in Punjab. The proposal was again amended to cost Rs. 9.08 crores on the advice of the Ministry of Finance. On further examination the cost of the scheme was reduced to Rs. 7.38 crores by the Ministry of Finance. Finally the scheme was approved at an estimated cost of Rs. 5.50 crores by completely deleting the provision for staff quarters, one relay centre at Bhatinda, studio facilities at Jullundur. The main reason for the rise in the cost of the scheme from Rs. 3.5 crores to Rs. 5.50 crores has been attributed to increase in the cost of site at Jullundur, increase in the complement of film equipment now found to be necessary, higher cost of building, increase in the cost of equipment to be supplied by B.E.L. etc.

The Committee trust that specific provision has been made in the revised estimates for likely increase in the prices by the time, the project would be executed.

The Committee feel that the existing system of coordination should be reviewed thoroughly with a view to streamlining the procedure of framing, scrutinising and sanctioning the schemes/projects and, if necessary suitable guidelines laid down in this regard.

Reply of Government

The scope of works envisaged under the proposal amounting to Rs. 9.61 crores would have provided television coverage to most of the areas in this border state, allowed for production facilities for a more varied range and longer duration of programmes and also permitted a different programme from Amritsar on occasions by utilising the telecine and video tape facilities presently available there. The scope had to be cut down due to financial constraints and a balance arrived at between programme production facilities coverage and available resources. As a result the coverage has been reduced, the production facilities at Jullundur itself would be on

a lesser scale and Amritsar would become only a relay centre. However, the technical facilities now being provided are just enough to provide a service on the lines as at other TV centres.

It is not the practice to make provision for anticipated escalation in the cost of equipments and other works in the project costs. While considering our proposals, the Ministry of Finance/PIB have also advised that escalation of costs in future should not be provided for in the project estimates and that the estimates should be based on the ruling prices at the time of preparation of estimates.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV dated 27-2-1975]

Comments of the Committee

Please see para 6 of the Report—Chapter I.

(Recommendation (Serial No. 18, Para 2.74)

The Committee are unable to appreciate the manner in which the setting up and commissioning of the Amritsar Transmitting Station had been planned as the very purpose for commissioning it on war emergency had been defeated. The transmitting station which was originally scheduled to be commissioned in April, 1972, was completed in November, 1972 and the service was started only in September, 1973.

The Committee are surprised to note that setting up of the Amritsar Transmitting Station was taken up without making any assessment of the programme requirements for telecasting and without making adequate arrangements for their production and availability simultaneously with the commissioning of the transmitting station. The result was that though the installation of the transmitting station was completed in November, 1972, service from the station could be started only in September, 1973 when arrangements for the production and recording of the programmes to be telecast from the transmission station were made at the Delhi TV Station after its renovation. This again goes to show lack of advance planning and effective coordination between all authorities concerned with the implementation of the projects.

Reply of Government

Amritsar Television Centre was originally conceived as a Relay Centre of Delhi Television Centre but gradually it assumed a new

responsibility as a Production Centre, working with close support of Delhi Television Centre. The programme had to be devised, produced and carried in Delhi and sent to Amritsar for telecast. This was a major change in concept affecting the nature and working of the Centre which caused delay in inauguration of the transmitter for regular transmissions.

Owing to the change in concept of the project, the new studio complex which was a gift from the West German Government, could be made operational in August, 1973, the staff was positioned, thereafter programmes were recorded and the Centre commissioned on 29-9-1973.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O No. 1/90/73-TV dated 27-2-1975]

Comments of the Committee

Please see paras 10 and 11 of the Report—Chapter I.

Recommendation (Serial No. 19, Para 2.84)

The Committee note that there has been delay of more than 2 years in the expansion of Delhi T.V. Centre. They consider that this delay was not mainly because of the difficulty in the acquisition of site for the transmitter complex but because of faulty planning in the selection and finalisation of a suitable site necessitating changes in the sites for one reason or the other.

The original proposal to locate the transmitter complex along with the tower in the projected N.D.M.C. building had to be abandoned because of the limitation imposed on height of the building in that area. The two alternative sites selected at Mandi House and the Exhibition ground had to be dropped because of objections raised by the Directorate General, Civil Aviation and Air Headquarters necessitating a survey for the selection of alternative sites.

The Committee desire that effective steps should be taken to sort out the issues involved in the transfer of the finally selected site near the Hindu Rao Hospital Delhi for the transmission complex expeditiously to avoid further delay.

Reply of Government

Cadastral survey map has been obtained from the Revenue authorities. In order to expedite the transfer of this site, Deputy Minister

of Information and Broadcasting addressed the Lt. Governor of Delhi in April, 1974. The Lt. Governor referred the matter to D.D.A. whose Town Planner asked for the conceptual layout plan of the site. The Sample Layout Plan for the Transmitter building and 200 M tower has been sent to D.D.A. in June, 1974. The Town Planner inspected the site in July, 1974 and a decision is awaited. The Ministry keeps reminding the Lt. Governor for an early decision in the matter.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O No. 1/90/73-TV dated 27-2-1975]

Comments of the Committee

Please see para 14 of the Report—Chapter I.

Recommendation (Serial No. 55 Para 2.234)

The Committee desire that a firm assessment of hardware requirements for the developmental programme of T.V. during Fifth Plan period should be urgently made. Orders for the same should be placed on the suppliers well in advance keeping in view the lead time required for production and delivery so that the equipments etc. are available in time for proposed T.V. projects.

Reply of Government

It has not so far been possible to make a firm and final assessment of hardware requirements for the development of T.V. during the Fifth Plan so, due to constraint in resources, a clear picture has not emerged. Attempts are, however, in hand to prepare realistic projections to facilitate timely availability of hardware to the extent possible.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O No. 1/90/73-TV dated 27-2-1975]

Comments of the Committee

Please see para 17 of the Report—Chapter I.

Recommendation (Serial No. 65 Para 3.38)

The Committee note that an interim Ministerial Coordination Committee was set up in September, 1972 *inter alia* to lay down guidelines for educational programmes or radio and television and to draft programme for training of personnel required for the purpose. The Committee would like to be apprised whether the aforesaid guidelines and draft programmes have been formulated and the action taken to implement them.

Reply of Government

So far as Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is concerned, a TV training Centre has already been set up. The training provided in this centre is both for general Programme Production as also for ETV. Production personnel for new TV Centres undergo a basic course of training. Provision has also been made for specialised courses in ETV as also for refresher courses and workshops. In addition to the training available in India, advantage is taken of Bursaries|fellowships and training facilities available in ETV in CEDO etc.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1|90|73-TV,
dated 31-3-75]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee would like to be apprised whether any guidelines have been laid down for educational programme on Radio and T.V. and also whether a programme for the training of personnel has been formulated by the interim ministerial coordination Committee set up in 1972 and the specific action taken by Government to implement them.

Recommendations (Sl. Nos. 74 & 93—Paras 3.72 & 4.149)

The Committee are surprised to note that no attempt has been made so far either by the Department of Agriculture or by AIR to evaluate the usefulness or otherwise of the rural programmes particularly 'Krishi Darshan' programme. The evaluation of 'Krishi Darshan' programme has been done by outside Researchers only.

The Committee are of the view that the various factors brought out by the Researchers as a result of the studies conducted by them,

need serious thinking with a view to taking effective remedial measures to develop the rural programmes on sound lines so as to achieve the maximum results.

The Committee recommend that rural programme should be periodically evaluated by a small team comprising of the representative of AIR, Departments of Agriculture, Health and Family Planning, Education and other experts in the field having full understanding of the rural requirements, so as to assess their usefulness and suggest measures to improve them and develop a sense of participation in the rural audience by giving them programmes that are not only entertaining but are also stimulating and help in the development of attitudes, values, motivations and social patterns which are most appropriate for their all round progress and development.

Reply of Government

An evaluation of Krishi Darshan was undertaken by the Audience Research Section of Television Centre, AIR in January, 1968. In 1973-74, a study to determine the extent and manner of functioning of the rural teleclubs (Community Viewing Centres) and to assess the profile of the members of the teleclubs, who constitute the core audience, has also been conducted.

The major evaluation carried out by the National Council of Educational Research and Training in 1969 was at the instance of the Department of Atomic Energy. All the collaborating agencies viz:—Indian Space Research Organisation, TV Centre, All India Radio, Indian Agricultural Research Institute and Delhi Administration were closely associated with the evaluation project.

There are three Committees for the effective management of the Agricultural TV Projects. These are:—

- (i) Policy Committee, (ii) Subjects Committee, and (iii) Field Organisation Committee. These Committees are responsible for taking steps to develop the ATV project on sound lines, and in the process, take into account the several research findings.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/9/73-TV,
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendation (Serial No. 93 Para 3.149)

The Committee recommend that, apart from the audience research wing which would be a part of the TV Organisation, there

should be an independent and objective evaluation of the TV programmes to see whether the TV programmes are fulfilling the objectives for which television was introduced and to suggest improvements, wherever necessary. It would be desirable if the representatives of the Ministry of Education, Agriculture, Health and Family Planning as well as outside experts in the various fields, are associated with such an evaluation.

Reply of Government

The objectivity of assessment by the Audience Research Wing of AIR is maintained. The Audience Research Officer of each Unit is under the direct control of the Director, Audience Research, who reports direct to the Director General.

All the same, whenever necessary, a totally independent survey is undertaken as for instance has already been done in the case of the Srinagar TV Viewing Scheme.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1|90|73-TV,
dated 27-2-75]

Comments of the Committee

Please see para 22 of the Report—Chapter I.

CHAPTER V

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

Recommendation (Serial No. 64, Para 3.37)

The Committee note that some functional and operational deficiencies and the points for improvements in educational TV were brought out at the seminar of Headmasters of Delhi schools held in February, 1973. The Committee would like suitable steps to be taken to rectify the shortcomings and effect improvements in the TV programmes, in the light of suggestions made at the Seminar.

Reply of Government

The suggestion of the Estimates Committee will be communicated to Delhi Administration.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1|90|73-TV,
dated 31-3-75]

Comments of the Committee

a The Committee would like to be apprised of the final decision taken by the Delhi Administration in effecting improvements in T.V. programmes in the light of the suggestions made at the Seminar.

Recommendation (Serial No. 83, Para 3.103)

The Committee would like Government to examine the feasibility of constituting a Programme Planning Board to lay down guidelines for the production and presentation of various T.V. programmes keeping in view the basic objective that T.V. is meant to be used in the development process as an instrument for social change and national cohesion.

Reply of Government

The feasibility of constituting a Central Programme Planning Board for T.V. programmes will be considered by Government in due course.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV,
dated 27-2-75]

Recommendations (Serial Nos. 95 & 97—Paras 3.172 Q 3.174)

The Committee note that at present the price of TV set is around Rs. 3500 which is so high that only well-to-do families can afford this luxury. The Committee consider that if this powerful medium of TV is to benefit a large section of people it would be necessary to bring down the cost of TV receivers drastically. The Committee have no doubt that with intensified research and development efforts, the manufacturing cost of TV could be brought down considerably and break through can be achieved as has happened in the case of radio sets. The Committee would therefore like the industry to make determined efforts by improved technology and other measures to reduce their manufacturing cost and marketing margins so that prices of TV sets are considerably brought down and TV is available at a reasonable price which is within the reach of common man.

Reply of Government

The Department of Electronics, who are concerned with the development of manufacturing capacity of T.V. receivers in the country, have stated that the present cost of a TV Receiver which is around Rs. 3,500 for a 19" Receiver is considered unduly high compared to the cost of Monochrome TV of similar dimension in the more advanced countries which sell for about Rs. 600 to 700. The high cost of TV Receiver is due to:—

- (i) High excise duty and sales tax obtaining in the country which account for as much as Rs. 1,200 to Rs. 1,400 of the retail price of a TV set;
- (ii) High customs duty on imported components. The duty on a TV glass bulb for instance is as much as 165 per cent.

- (iii) High cost of components indigenously made due to low volume of production and the duties on imported raw materials; and
- (iv) High cost of marketing and sales due to the limited volume of production.

The cost of a TV set can, therefore, be brought down only if some of these factors, which are not technological, can be altered in the right direction. The steep reduction of the cost of a Radio set in the mid-50s was made possible by break-through in the transistors technology. Perhaps if a similar break-through can occur in regard to the Large Scale Integration Chips, it may be possible to envisage a fall in the cost of the TV sets on technological considerations; otherwise the cost is likely to remain high unless Government is prepared to reduce the excise duties and sales tax on such items so as to bring them within the reach of a larger segment of the population.

Recommendation (Serial No. 97, Para 3.174)

The Committee note that one of the major elements contributing to the high price of TV set is taxation i.e., customs duty, excise duty, sales tax etc., which works out to about 35 per cent of its sale price. They note that the excise duty on TV sets has been increased from 10 per cent *ad valorem* to 20 per cent *ad valorem* this year itself. The Committee recommend that Government may examine the question of rationalisation of custom duty on imported material needed for the manufacture of TV receivers, excise duty and sales tax on TV, in the interest of making available moderately priced indigenous TV sets so that a large number of house-holders may buy TV sets and thus derive benefit from the programmes of development which are telecast. The Committee have no doubt that unless TV sets are placed within the reach of the common man, the objectives of TV as an instrument of social and economic change would not be achieved and the TV will remain a rich man's toy in a poor man's country.

Reply of Government

This Ministry had sent a note to the Ministry of Finance on 21st February, 1974 requesting for the abolition of the then existing excise duty of 10 per cent *ad valorem* on the TV sets as a step towards our objective of making television a more effective medium of mass communication and as an instrument of development. Unfortunately this did not lead to any positive result.

However, this recommendation of the Estimates Committee has again been brought to the notice of the Ministry of Finance for their consideration.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1|90|73-TV,
dated 27-2-75]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee would like to be apprised of the final decision taken by the Ministry of Finance regarding rationalisation of custom duty on imported material needed for the manufacture of T.V. receivers, excise duty and sales tax on T.V. so as to bring them within the reach of the common man.

Recommendation (Serial No. 110, Para 4.39)

The Committee note that the AIR Engineering Training School provides facilities for TV and electronics training and maintenance. The Committee desire that the existing facilities available at the AIR Engineering Training School should be reviewed with a view to extending the scope of training to cope with the future demand.

Reply of Government

The proposals for expanding the existing facilities at the Staff Training School (Tech.), AIR, in order to cope with the demands that would arise in future to train sufficient number of engineers in the maintenance of equipment both of sound broadcasting side as well as T.V. side are already under consideration.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1|90|73-TV,
dated 27-2-75]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee would like to be apprised of the final decision taken for expanding the existing facilities at the Staff Training School (Tech.), AIR.

Recommendation (Serial No. 119, Para 4.63)

The Committee recommend that a long term plan for promoting, organising and raising the quality of programmes and utilization of mass media for education both at the Central and State levels should be drawn and necessary guidelines laid down for close coordination at all levels for the successful implementation of the programmes and their periodical evolution.

Reply of Government (Ministry of Education)

The recommendation of the Estimates Committee has been forwarded by Ministry of Education to the Centre for Educational Technology for consideration.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-75]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee would like to be apprised of the final decision taken by the Ministry of Education in the matter.

Recommendation (Serial No. 123 Para 4.68)

The Committee recommend that as and when TV facilities are made available in a State, the Education Departments should be encouraged to install TV sets in the teacher training schools and the training programme outlined by NCERT in collaboration with the Teacher Training Institute.

Reply of Government (Ministry of Education)

The recommendation is being examined by Ministry of Education in consultation with NCERT.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-75]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee would like to be apprised of the final decision taken by the Ministry of Education in the matter.

Recommendation (Serial No. 126 Para 4.72)

The Committee suggest that suitable norm should be laid down for the selection of teachers for TV training and selection should be made on the basis of their standing in the profession, teaching experience in the subject and the like. Suitable incentives should also be given to the teachers to develop a sense of participation and to dispel their fear, if any, that TV is to promote education and not to replace them.

Reply of Government (Ministry of Education)

The suggestion of the Estimates Committee is being referred by Ministry of Education to NCERT.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-75]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee would like to be apprised of the final decision taken by the Ministry of Education in the matter.

Recommendation (Serial No. 130, Para 5.18)

The Committee note that the staffing pattern especially suited to the needs of TV are being worked out and that the procedure for recruitment of TV staff being followed at present on ad-hoc basis will be replaced as soon as the staffing pattern has been finalised.

The Committee also note that the question of going into staffing pattern and the staff position of TV by the Staff Inspection Unit of the Ministry of Finance has been pending with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for over two years.

The Committee suggest that the entire staffing pattern and staff position should be examined by the Staff Inspection Unit of the Ministry of Finance with which the experts in the field of TV may be associated. The Staff Inspection Unit should *inter-alia* lay down suitable norms of the staff in various categories.

Reply of Government

The broad proposals for the revised TV staffing pattern on the programme side have since been worked out and the proposals will be referred to the Ministry of Finance for their approval shortly. Similar staffing pattern for engineering and administrative staff is also being worked out.

Study for review of staffing position and laying down of work norms by SIU of the Ministry of Finance will be taken up after the revised staffing pattern is approved and implemented.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-75]

Comments of the Committee

The final decision with regard to the staffing pattern on the programme side as also for engineering and administrative staff may be intimated to the Committee.

Recommendation (Serial No. 132, Para 5.22)

The Committee note that association and coordination with the Ministries of Education, Agriculture, Health and Family Planning is only on ad hoc basis there is no regular coordination body. The Committee, therefore, recommend that with a view to having a closer coordination and efficient functioning of the organisation in the field of education, health and family planning and agriculture etc., the question of setting up an Advisory Board on TV consisting of the representatives of the Planning Commission, Ministries of Education, Health and Family Planning, Information and Broadcasting, Agriculture as also eminent artists, writers, educationists and film makers etc. may be considered.

Reply of Government

Close collaboration and coordination with the Ministries mentioned already exists, both at the Centre and the States. However, the point made with regard to the setting up of an Advisory Board will be considered.

[Ministry of Information & Broadcasting D.O. No. 1/90/73-TV
dated 27-2-75]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee would like to be apprised of the final decision taken in the matter.

NEW DELHI;
October 9, 1975.
Asvina 17, 1897 (S).

R. K. SINHA,
Chairman,
Estimates Committee.

APPENDIX

(Vide para 5 of Introduction)

Analysis of action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 64th Report of Estimates Committee (Fifth Lok Sabha).

1.	Total number of recommendations	134
2.	Recommendations which have been accepted by Government (<i>vide</i> recommendations Nos. 1-5, 7, 8, 10-15, 17, 20-23, 25-28, 32, 34-54, 56-63, 66-69, 71-73, 76-82, 84-92, 94, 99-109, 112-118, 120-122, 124, 127-129, 131, 133 & 134)	
	Number	104
	Percentage to total	77·7%
3.	Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies (<i>vide</i> recommendations Nos. 9, 24, 29-31, 33, 70, 75, 96, 98, 111, 125)	
	Number	12
	Percentage to total	8·9%
4.	Recommendations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee (<i>vide</i> recommendations Nos. 6, 16, 18, 19, 55, 65, 74, 93)	
	Number	
	Percentage to total	5·9%
5.	Recommendations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited (<i>vide</i> recommendations Nos. 63, 64, 95, 97, 110, 119, 123, 126, 130, 132).	
	Number	10
	Percentage to total	75%