

**42**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(2006-2007)**

**FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA**

**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION  
AND BROADCASTING**

*[Action taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations  
of the Committee contained in their Thirty Second Report  
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2006-07)]*

**FORTY-SECOND REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

*March, 2007/Phalguna, 1928 (Saka)*

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(2006-2007)

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*[Action taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations  
of the Committee contained in their Thirty-Second Report  
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2006-07)]*

*Presented to Lok Sabha on 21.3.2007*

*Laid in Rajya Sabha on 21.3.2007*



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI

*March, 2007/Phalguna, 1928 (Saka)*

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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(2006-2007)

Shri Nikhil Kumar — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

*Lok Sabha*

2. Shri Abdullakutty
3. Shri Nikhil Kumar Choudhary
4. Shri Sanjay Shamrao Dhotre
5. Smt. Jayaprada
6. Shri Bhubaneshwar Prasad Mehta
7. Shri Harish Nagpal
8. Shri G. Nizamuddin
9. Shri Sohan Potai
10. Shri Lalmani Prasad
11. Kunwar Jitin Prasad
12. Shri Vishnu Deo Sai
13. Shri Tufani Saroj
14. Shri Tathagat Satpathy
15. Shri K.V. Thangkabalu
16. Shri P.C. Thomas
17. Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu
- \*18. Smt. Rubab Sayeda
- \*\*19. Shri Narahari Mahato
- #20. Shri Badiga Ramakrishna
21. Vacant

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\* Nominated *w.e.f.* 25th September, 2006 in place of Shri Rajnarayna Budholiya, MP (L.S.)

\*\* Nominated *w.e.f.* 28th November, 2006.

# Nominated *w.e.f.* 23rd February, 2007.

*Rajya Sabha*

- ##22. Vacant
23. Shri Praveen Rashtrapal
  24. Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad
  25. Shri Dara Singh
  26. Shri A. Vijayaraghavan
  27. Shri N.R. Govindraj
  28. Shri Motiur Rahman
  29. Shri Eknath K. Thakur
  30. Shri Shyam Benegal
  31. Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Rajagopalan M. Nair — *Additional Secretary*
2. Shri P. Sreedharan — *Joint Secretary*
3. Shri Cyril John — *Deputy Secretary*
4. Smt. Geeta Parmar — *Executive Officer*

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##Vacated dated 15th December, 2006.

## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman Standing Committee on Information Technology (2006-07) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Forty Second Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in their Thirty Second Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

2. The Thirty-Second Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 2.8.2006 and laid in Rajya Sabha the same day. The Department furnished Action Taken Notes on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Report on 15.12.2006.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 20.3.2007.

4. For facility of reference and convenience Recommendations/Observations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the body of the Report.

5. An analysis of Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Thirty-Second Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given at Annexure-II.

NEW DELHI;  
20 March, 2007  

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29 Phalgun, 1928 (Saka)

NIKHIL KUMAR,  
Chairman,  
Standing Committee on  
Information Technology.

## CHAPTER I

### REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on Information Technology deals with action taken by Government on the recommendations/ observations of the Committee contained in their Thirty-Second Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2006-2007)' pertaining to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

2. The Thirty-Second Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 2 August, 2006 and was also laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha the same day. It contained 28 recommendations/observations.

3. Action Taken Notes in respect of all the recommendations/ observations contained in the Report have been received and categorised as under:

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

Para Nos: 1 to 6, 11, 13 to 16, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24 & 27

Total: 17

Chapter-II

- (ii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of replies of the Government:

Para Nos: Nil

Total: Nil

Chapter-III

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

Para Nos: 10, 17, 22 & 26

Total : 04

Chapter-IV

- (iv) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies are of interim in nature:

Para Nos: 7 to 9, 12, 20, 25 & 28

Total: 07

Chapter-V



4. The Committee trust that utmost importance would be given to the implementation of the recommendations/observations accepted by the Government. In cases, where it is not possible for any reason for the Ministry to implement the recommendations in letter and spirit, the matter should be reported to the Committee with reasons for non-implementation. The Committee further desire that Action Taken Notes on the recommendations/observations contained in Chapter-I and final replies to the recommendations contained in Chapter V of this Report should be furnished to them at an early date.

#### A. Digitalisation of Archives

##### Recommendation (Para No. 10)

5. Emphasising the need for digitalisation of the archival records in Prasar Bharati, the Committee had recommended as follows:

“Historic speeches of prominent leaders, memorable contributions of great musicians, singers etc have immense value. The Committee’s examination has, however, revealed that due to paucity of funds, the digitalisation of these archival records is not taking place in the place it is desired. The Committee strongly feel that such valuable possessions should be digitalized without any further delay and the Ministry should make the funds available for its speedy digitalisation. The Committee would like to be kept informed of the progress made on this count.”

6. The Ministry in their action taken reply have stated as follows:

“Digitalisation of the holdings in Doordarshan has already been started from 2004, but it is not being carried out at the optimum pace. Required funds have been projected in the 11th Plan. However, it may take three years for the funds to reach the Archives for procuring necessary equipments for establishing professional and digitised Archives.

All India Radio has achieved a major goal by digitising its analog archives of 43,000 tapes collected up to November, 2001 and the project was over on 31 January, 2005. All the recordings have been converted into digital format with proper data entry. However, approximately 10,000 tapes collected in the archives from November, 2001 till date are yet to be digitised. For this purpose a project has already been approved by CEO/Director General, All India Radio and allocation of funds is under examination.”

7. While taking note of the progress achieved by All India Radio (AIR) in digitalisation of its analog archives comprising of 43,000 tapes collected upto November, 2001, the Committee express their serious displeasure at the tardy progress achieved so far in digitalisation of holdings in Doordarshan. It is a clear indication of the low priority accorded to digitalisation of archives consisting of recordings of historic events, speeches, etc. which are required to be preserved for posterity. The fact that some of these recordings are of immense national importance, calls for serious attention of Prasar Bharati for according due priority to digitalisation of its archives, since we owe a legacy to the future generations, such valuable asset should not be squandered away. The Committee, therefore, would like to stress that the Ministry should make concerted efforts to obtain the required funds for procuring necessary equipments for establishing professional and digitalized Archives in Doordarshan without waiting for three more years as indicated in the reply. They also trust that by now the required funds for completion of digitalisation in AIR must have been obtained and the digitalisation process must be in full swing. The Committee would like to be updated of the progress achieved in this regard.

#### **B. J&K Special Package**

##### **Recommendation ( Para No. 16)**

8. Calling for expeditious implementation of J&K Special Package, the Committee had recommended as follows:

“The Committee observe that in the examination of DFG for 2004-05 the Committee were informed that the Kargil 200 KW 14 MW Tr. Project which was targeted to be completed in 2003-04 would be completed in 2004-05. The Committee were also informed that five technically ready projects with 1 KW FM MW transmitters at Diskit, Drass, Nyoma, Radum and Tiesuru are awaiting commissioning for want of operational and maintenance staff. In their reply on low utilisation of funds under Revenue (Misc.) head 2005-06 the Ministry stated that the Kargil project is technically ready but there is a delay in commissioning of the project and hence there was no expenditure in the operation & maintenance. The shortage of manpower, the Ministry stated, is there because of a ban on recruitment against newly created posts. In fact, the shortage of manpower is the principal reason for non-commissioning of almost all the technically ready projects of both AIR and Doordarshan. The Committee are of the opinion that apart

from the sizeable amount of money that have been spent and are not being put to use because of the non-commissioning of projects even after 2-3 years of their being technically ready, not only is the very purpose of providing a special package to AIR & Doordarshan for J&K defeated but it is also making the equipment unserviceable and obsolete with each passing year. In the opinion of the Committee, this is a clear case of poor co-ordination among the two Ministries (Finance & Personnel) of the Government on account of which the Ministry of I&B is made to suffer. The Committee are of the view that if additional allocation of funds can be given under a J&K Special (Plan), special sanction for the execution and maintenance of the assets created from these special funds by way of sanction of posts and allowing the Ministry to recruit manpower should also be given simultaneously. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should make special efforts to convince the Ministries of Finance and Personnel of the urgency of removal of the ban on recruitment in J&K as a special case. In the meantime, Prasar Bharati may explore the idea of hiring defence personnel on deputation and deploying them alongwith redeployed staff of Prasar Bharati on attractive deputation terms exclusive to J&K so that the projects may be operationalised at the earliest for the benefit of local people.”

9. In their action taken reply, the Ministry have stated as follows:

“All India Radio: Approval of the Ministry for continuation of posts sanctioned for operation & maintenance of Projects under J&K Special Package upto February, 2007 has been conveyed to AIR.

However, matter regarding manpower requirements of Prasar Bharati is under consideration of GoM, whose recommendations are awaited.

In the meantime the 200 KW MW Transmitter at Kargil and 1 KW FM MW Transmitters at Drass at Tiesuru have been partially and provisionally commissioned w.e.f. 1st September, 2006 by arranging staff on tour and transfer. In this way 9 out of 12 projects included in J&K Special package have since been operationalised at

1. Kathua -10 KW FM Tr. (Replacement of 6 KW FM)
2. Srinagar -300 KW FM MW Tr. (Replacement of 200 KW FM)
3. Khalsi - 1 KW MW Tr. (Relay)

4. Kupwara - 20 KW FM MW Tr. (Relay)
5. Naushera - 20 KW FM MW Tr. (Relay)
6. Rajouri - 10 KW FM Tr. (Relay)
7. Drass - 1 KW FM MW Tr. (Relay)
8. Tiesuru - KW FM MW Tr. (Relay)
9. Kargil - 200 KW FM MW Tr.

Three projects namely, Relay centres with 1 KW FM MW Trs. at Diskit, Nyoma and Paduma are technically ready.

Doordarshan: 362 (356 + 6) posts were sanctioned for operation & maintenance of projects approved under J&K Special Plan. All the projects under J&K Special Plan have since been commissioned. Scheme of Rajouri Studio was approved later, Installation of Rajouri Studio has been completed and is technically ready.”

**10. The Committee note with satisfaction that the 200 KW MW Transmitter at Kargil and 9 out of 12 Projects included in J&K Special Package have since been operationalised by AIR. However, the three projects, viz., Relay Centres with 1 KW FM MW Transmitters at Diskit, Nyoma and Paduma which are technically ready, have not been operationalised. Similarly, 200 KW MW Transmitter at Kargil and 1 KW FM MW Transmitters at Drass and Tiesuru were commissioned on 1st September, 2006 only provisionally and partially by arranging staff on tour and transfer. The Committee trust that approval for continuation of posts sanctioned under J&K Special Package upto February, 2007 must have been further extended to facilitate operation and maintenance of the Projects which have been commissioned under the Special Package.**

**11. It is needless to say that when it comes to matters like J&K Special Plan, Government needs to adopt a more pragmatic approach keeping in view the overall interest of the nation and lift the ban on recruitment against newly created posts. Only then could the full benefit of the projects sanctioned under the Special Plan reach the local people. The Committee, therefore, desire that the manpower requirements of Prasar Bharati in J&K region should be attended to on top priority as a special case. They reiterate the earlier recommendation that till such time the ban on recruitment against newly created posts is lifted, Prasar Bharati should seriously consider the possibility of hiring defence personnel on deputation basis and also deploying its own staff on attractive terms of deputation so**

that the partially commissioned projects and those which are technically ready, but have not yet been commissioned for want of operational and maintenance staff are commissioned and made fully operational. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard.

### C. Expansion of FM Services

#### Recommendation (Para No. 17)

12. Expressing dissatisfaction over the inordinate delays in rolling out FM services at various places across the country, the Committee had recommended as under:

“The Committee note that out of a total outlay of Rs. 328 crore for expansion of FM Services of All India Radio (AIR) and total allocation of Rs. 154.51 crore from 2002-03 to 2005-06, only an amount of Rs. 22.12 crore had been spent. The Committee are informed that out of 51 Nos. of FM transmitters targeted for 2005-06 (*viz.* 33 Nos. 10 KW FM FM, 6 Nos. 20 KW FM FM, 4 Nos. 5 KW and 8 Nos. of 1 KW FM FM transmitters) 8 Nos. of 1 KW FM transmitters have been operationalised and rest will be shifted to next year (*i.e.* 2006-07). On a closer examination of the data provided by the Ministry during 2003-04 and 2005-06 the Committee find that some of these transmitters (*i.e.* Banswara, Alwar, Chittorgarh, Kurukshetra, Surat, Kochi & Jorhat) were on the original physical target list for 2003-04 (*see* Annexure-IV) and some (*i.e.* Nagpur, Hyderabad, Chandigarh, Sholapur, Vijayawada, Jalandhar, Patna, Bikaner, Ranchi & Trinaveli (*see* Annexure-V and VI) were on the original physical target list for 2004-05. Targets are shifted repeatedly over the years. The expenditure in 2002-03 has been 7.27%, in 2003-04 was 14.26%, in 2004-05, 15.2% and in 2005-06, 13.69%. The Ministry owe an explanation on these perceptible shortcomings resulting not only in low expenditure ratio under this scheme but also denying the benefits to the people. The Committee’s examination further revealed that in several cases, where approvals and the funds had been available, the implementation process was slow. All these, clearly show the totally unsatisfactory progress in the expansion of FM services of AIR which is a matter of great concern to the Committee. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should thoroughly look into the reasons for the delay and fix responsibility for the same.”

13. The Ministry in their action taken reply have stated as follows:

“Targets which have been shifted from the previous years are mainly 10 KW FM Transmitter projects. This has resulted due to the delay in procurement of these transmitters. After finalizing the tenders, the purchase proposal for procurement of 33 Nos. of 10 KW FM Transmitters was sent to the Ministry for clearance in September, 2005. After detailed examination procurement of 28 transmitters out of 33 has been approved by the Ministry on 09.10.2006.

6 Nos. of 20 KW FM Transmitter projects included as targets during 2005-06 were shifted to 2006-07 due to delay in procurement of these transmitters. The purchase order for these transmitters was placed on M/s Nautel in September, 2005 after receiving DG’s approval. The Delivery period was due upto 15.01.06, the firm offered their transmitter for inspection at their works in Nova Scotia, Canada in November, 2005. The factory acceptance test was an essential condition for the acceptance of Transmitters. Factory inspection test of 20 KW FM Transmitters has been conducted from 23.08.2006 to 02.09.2006 and the transmitter consignments are expected to arrive by November, 2006.

Further 4 Nos. of 5 KW FM Transmitters have since been procured. 3 already installed at Kurseong, Baripada & Hyderabad and the remaining one will be installed at Oras after building is ready in the ongoing financial year.”

**14. The Committee note that the contention of the Ministry that targets were shifted from previous years mainly in respect of 10 KW FM Transmitters is not factually correct. On a close scrutiny it is found that except in the case of 8 Nos. of 1 KW FM Transmitters which were operationalised in 2005-06, the targets in respect of about 43 FM Transmitters were invariably shifted by a year or even more. The Ministry’s own role in contributing to the delay is evident from the fact that it took almost 13 months to process the purchase proposal for procurement of 33 Nos. of 10 KW FM Transmitters, of which only 28 Nos. were finally cleared. In the case of 6 Nos. of 20 KW FM Transmitter Projects also the Project had to be shifted from 2005-06 to 2006-07 on account of delay in procurement of Transmitters. The planning and implementation process for projects in AIR and the Ministry leaves much to be desired. Therefore, it is not surprising that there have been slippages in the implementation of projects and the utilization of allocations has been abysmally low year after**

year. It leads to the inevitable conclusion that planning and implementation process needs to be geared up both in AIR and the Ministry in order to ensure timely execution of projects and utilization of allocated funds. The Committee trust that steps will be taken to streamline the system and all out efforts will be made for installation and operationalisation of all the FM Transmitters targeted for 2006-07 in the current financial year itself.

**D. New Technologies like Internet Radio Broadcasting, Digital Broadcasting, etc.**

**Recommendation (Para No. 18)**

15. Favouring induction of new technologies like Internet Radio Broadcasting, Digital Broadcasting, etc., the Committee had recommended as follows:

“The Committee are informed that ‘in-principle’ approval of Planning Commission for new technologies like Internet Radio Broadcasting, Digital Broadcasting etc. of 10th Plan is yet to be received by the Ministry and hence the schemes have not yet started. The Committee are of the opinion that these technologies may be advantageous to the listeners of AIR as they provide multiple options for tuning into AIR programmes alongwith many other add-on services which seem promising. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry may take up the matter with Planning Commission for an early approval for this scheme.”

16. The Ministry in their action taken reply has stated as follows:

“Planning Commission is insisting for tying up of funds for ‘in-principle approval’. Since no fund has been earmarked in either DBS or IEBR of 2006-07, the AIR Schemes like Digital Broadcasting, etc. are proposed to be deferred to 11th Five Year Plan.”

**17. In an era of fast changing technology, it is imperative that AIR inducts innovative technologies in electronic media in order to upgrade and modernize its operations and to equip itself it face the emerging challenges effectively. It was with this objective in view that the Committee had emphasized that the Ministry should pursue with the Planning Commission the proposal for induction of new technologies like Internet Radio Broadcasting, Digital Broadcasting, etc. Since the Planning Commission is reportedly insisting for tying up of funds for ‘in-principle approval’. The Committee would impress upon the Ministry to pursue the proposal in right earnest so that**



**AIR will have the benefit of new technologies for achieving its mission and objectives.**

**E. National Press Centre (NPC)**

**Recommendation (Para No. 22)**

18. Expressing dissatisfaction over the slow progress in the National Press Centre (NPC) Project, the Committee had recommended as follows:

“The Committee in their Fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2004-05) had expressed concern over the delay in the setting up of the National Press Centre having state of the art facilities at New Delhi. On an assurance by the representatives of the Ministry during evidence to the effect that the project would be commissioned on time, the Committee had desired that the funds earmarked for the year be utilized for the Press Centre. While considering the Action Taken by the Ministry, the committee were not satisfied with the progress and therefore, impressed upon the Department to complete the project with utmost urgency. The Committee have now been informed that an MoU has been signed with NBCC on 16th February 2006 for the construction of National Media Centre at New Delhi stating that the project should be executed in a time bound manner, and that the building handed over duly furnished in “Ready to occupy conditions” to PIB within 24 months which shall start from the date of approval of design/ drawings from statutory authorities, release of initial deposit and handing over of land for construction. The Committee are further informed that the approval of designs/drawings from statutory authorities is still pending. The Committee’s examination has, in fact, revealed that the work is still going on at a snail’s pace. They desired that necessary steps should be taken with a view to ensuring completion of the project within the stipulated two years.”

19. The Ministry in their action taken reply have stated as follows:

“The work on the project has not taken off for want of necessary clearances from Delhi Urban Art Commission (DUAC), New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) and Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD). Secretary, I&B, has written to Secretary, Urban Development, on 18th April, 2006 and again on 2nd August, 2006 requesting him to instruct the CPWD to present the revised urban form proposal at the earliest to DUAC, so that DUAC can clear the same and Ministry of I&B can then request the NDMC to pass the building plan proposal which is already with them. However despite follow up, the response of the MoUD is still awaited.”



20. It is highly distressing to note that even after 12 years have passed since a plot of land in Raisina Road, New Delhi was allotted to the Ministry and the foundation stone for the project was laid twice, viz. on 1st October, 1994 and 5th December, 2001, by none other than the Prime Ministers of the country, the project for setting up the National Press Centre has almost remained a non-starter. Until clearances are received from the statutory authorities like Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD), Delhi Urban Art Commission (DUAC) and New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) and the land is handed over to NBCC with the initial deposit, construction of the project cannot commence. The Committee take a serious note that clearance from MoUD has been pending for a long time, that too despite the follow-up done by the I & B Ministry. According to the Committee this project is a glaring example of a crucial project caught up in red tape because of which the nation is being deprived of a world class National Press Centre with state-of-art facility for receiving and disseminating information to the media.

21. The Committee express their serious displeasure at the way the entire project has been inordinately delayed and the slow progress made in clearance by the statutory authorities. They desire that the matter be taken up at the highest level to clear the project without any further delay. The Committee trust that all mandatory clearances will be obtained in the shortest possible time and the land will be handed over to NBCC for completion of construction of the National Press Centre within the stipulated two year period. The Committee would like to be informed of the precise progress made in the matter.

#### **F. Press Council of India (PCI)**

##### **Recommendation (Para No. 24)**

22. Stressing the need to provide Press Council of India with more regulatory powers in view of the growing commercialisation of print media, the Committee had recommended as follows:

“The Committee learn that the Press Council was established in 1978 under an Act of Parliament for the purpose of preserving the freedom of the Press and maintaining and improving the standard of Newspapers and News Agencies in the country. The Committee are informed that the advisories issued by PCI carry only moral force and are not enforceable in a Court of Law. The Committee are of the opinion that with the growing commercialization of print media, there may be greater violations of the Act in subjects

relating to surrogate advertisements, obscene pictures/materials, etc. Advisories carrying only moral force may not be effective in regulating violations. Therefore, there is an urgent need to amend the PCI Act, 1978 to provide PCI with more regulatory powers for maintaining sound ethical and moral standards of journalism thus protecting the freedom of Press. The Committee feel the need of wider consultations among the interested parties to evolve consensus on important issues relating to media to further strengthen it."

23. The Ministry in their action taken reply have stated as follows:

"The grant of additional powers to PCI requires amendment to the Press Council Act, 1978. PCI has proposed certain amendments to the Act. The proposed amendments to the Act and other proposals for grant of additional powers to PCI are being examined in the Ministry."

**24. The Committee, while expressing satisfaction over the fact that the Ministry are presently examining various proposals for Amendment to PCI Act, 1978, trust that the Ministry would hold wider consultations with all stakeholders to evolve consensus among them over the proposed amendments to the Act. In view of the urgency involved in granting more regulatory powers to PCI for maintaining sound ethical and moral standards and preserving freedom of the Press, the Committee urge that amendments to the PCI Act should be carried out without undue delay. The Committee desire to be kept informed of the progress on this count.**

#### **G. Children's Film Society of India (CFSI)**

##### **Recommendation (Para No. 26)**

25. Taking note of the poor performance in physical targets under the CFSI's "Film Production" scheme and consequent low utilization of funds, the Committee had recommended as follows:

"The Committee note that expenditure under "Film Production" scheme has been consistently low during this plan period. This scheme had an allocation of Rs. 352.00 lakh out of Rs. 519.40 lakhs for CFSI which is more than 60% of CFSI's total Budget for the year 2005-06. The target set for production of feature films was five and two short films were completed in the year. Similarly in the dubbing of films against a target of fourteen versions only four versions were completed and out of three films that were to

be purchased only one was purchased. The Committee further note that during the four years of the Xth Plan period 2002-2006, whereas the target for production was five feature films per year and two short films per year ten feature films and eight short films were completed. The Committee are informed that the main reason for underutilization has been on-receipt of suitable film proposals/synopsis and scripts which consequently resulted in a lesser number of films approved by the Script Committee. The dubbing was less because of non-availability of Indu Sound Stock. The Ministry in their Action Taken Replies to a similar recommendation of this Committee while considering the Demands for Grants (2005-2006) had stated that the Chairperson has appealed to the Film Writers Association for providing necessary publicity and support. The CFSI had also written to eminent film makers and General Body of CFSI had also been requested to explore the possibility of having films made especially in their regional languages and forwarded to the Society. The Committee feel that efforts of the Society in this direction are not enough and it has not been able to attract good scripts. There is no dearth of talent in the field of creative writing considering the talents available within the country. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Society should give wide publicity to its requirements for scripts, organize competition to attract budding talents, tie up with the Universities/Institutes of excellence and provide scholarship in the field of creative writing."

26. The Ministry in their action taken reply have stated that they have noted the recommendation for compliance.

**27. The Committee take a very serious note of the casual reply furnished by the Ministry on their recommendation relating to low utilization of funds and poor performance in physical targets under the CFSI's "Film Production" Scheme. Children's Film Society of India is an important unit in the Films Division of the Ministry. Considering the fact that CFSI was established with the noble objective of providing children and young people with "value based" entertainment through the medium of films, the declining trend in the working of the organization causes serious concern to the Committee. The Committee expect the Government to attach utmost importance to the recommendations. While reiterating their earlier recommendations, the Committee desire that the Ministry should vigorously pursue the recommendations and also apprise them of the status of their implementation.**

## CHAPTER II

### RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

#### I. Budgetary Grants for 2006-2007

##### Recommendation (Para No. 1)

The Committee observe that as per Demand No. 58 for the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the Budgetary allocation for 2006-2007 is for a total amount of Rs. 1716.04 crore wherein the Plan section accounts for Rs. 538.00 crore and the Non-Plan section for Rs. 1178.04 crore. As against this, the Budgetary Support for the year 2005-2006 stood at Rs. 1603.03 crore (Plan Rs. 528 crore + Non-Plan Rs. 1075.03 crore) which was increased to Rs. 1637.04 crore at the Revised Estimates stage to accommodate a higher Non-Plan expenditure of Rs. 1182.81 crore and a reduced Plan expenditure of Rs. 454.23 crore. The overall Budget for the year 2006-2007 has, therefore, been increased by Rs. 79 crore over the budgetary provision for the year 2005-2006 which is an increase of 4.8 per cent. Assuming a yearly inflation of around 10 per cent, an increase of 4.8 per cent in the Budget is very minimal. The Committee feel that this reflects poorly on the capacity of the Ministry to execute their plans and utilize the allocated funds. The Committee's examination of the various activities of the Ministry as commented upon in the subsequent paragraphs clearly reinforces these observations. The Committee would, therefore, like to stress that the Ministry should play a more active role particularly in fulfilling their targets in the thrust areas thereby making maximum use of the budget available to them. The Committee trust that the Ministry would be able to effectively utilize, the allocated funds of Rs. 538 crore provided to them in the grants for meeting the Plan expenditure during the year 2006-2007.

##### Action Taken by the Government

For the Annual Plan 2005-06 the Ministry had initially proposed to the Planning Commission a DBS amount of Rs. 1386.64 Crores. However, after discussions at various stages, the Planning Commission finally allocated Rs. 528 crores as DBS for Annual Plan 2005-2006. Similarly, for Annual Plan 2006-2007, the Ministry of I&B had proposed a DBS outlay of Rs. 1467.83 Crores as against which, the Planning

Commission allocated Rs. 538 crores. This Ministry is making all possible efforts to ensure that the Plan outlay is utilized to the optimum level.

[Ministry of I&B OM No. G-20016/10/2006-B&A,  
dated 15.12.2006]

## **II. Achievements in the Tenth Plan**

### **Recommendation (Para No. 2)**

The Committee observe that the total Tenth Plan allocation to the three sectors of the Ministry *viz*, Information sector, Film sector and Broadcasting sector was Rs. 5130 crore. As against this, the actual allocation made for the five Annual Plans 2002-2007 is Rs. 4381 crore and the total expenditure upto December 2005 is Rs. 2104.33 crore, Assuming that there is 100 per cent utilization of the plan outlay for the year 2006-2007, the percentage of the total expenditure of all the three sectors in respect of the total Tenth Plan outlay at the end of the Tenth Plan period would be approximately 51.5 per cent of the original outlay Sector-wise speaking, the utilization of the Plan expenditure is 30.6 per cent in respect of Information sector, 33.24 per cent in respect of Film sector and 49.21 per cent in respect of the Broadcasting sector. These figures clearly speak of the dismal performance of the Ministry in achieving the plan target. This also casts doubts about the quality of performance of the Ministry in discharging the assigned functions in the socially sensitive and vital sectors. In the opinion of the Committee, the Ministry should make vigorous efforts not only in enhancing the utilization of the budget but also to improve the overall strategy of the three sectors so that they are in a position to perform the social functions to the nation effectively and give better results during the XIth Plan. They, therefore, recommend that an independent study should be carried out for each sector by experts in the field, which may recommend measures for the overall improvement of all the sectors of the Ministry.

### **Action Taken by the Government**

The observations of the Standing Committee have been noted. For finalization of the XIth Plan of the Ministry of I&B, Planning Commission has set up a Working Group under the Chairmanship of Secretary (I&B). The Committee comprises of senior government officials and non-officials experts in the field. For making in-depth study of the status and future programmes of various sectors of this Ministry, four Sub-Groups have also been formed with outside experts. It is

expected that the Sub-Groups/Working Group would make appropriate recommendations which will be placed before the Planning Commission. Depending upon the approval of Planning Commission and the budgetary support from the Government, the plans and programmes of this Ministry in the XI Plan would be formulated and implemented in an effective manner.

[Ministry of I & B, OM No. G-20016/10/2006-B&A,  
dated 15.12.2006]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 3)**

The Committee learn that the Direct Budgetary Support to the Ministry in each of the five years of the Tenth Plan has been Rs. 415 crore, Rs. 415 crore, Rs. 480 crore, Rs. 528 crore and Rs. 538 crore respectively. The allocation of the Internal Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR) of Prasar Bharati has been Rs. 463 crore, Rs. 475 crore, Rs. 475 crore and Rs. 592 crore. There is no allocation of IEBR in the year 2006-2007. The Committee observe that the IEBR support to the Ministry has been more than the DBS but, strikingly, the total expenditure by the Ministry has been Rs. 693.2 crore in 2002-2003, Rs. 524.23 crore in 2003-2004, Rs. 421.24 crore in 2004-2005 and Rs. 465.67 crore (upto December 2005) in 2005-2006. In other words, the expenditure had been met largely from DBS only. The Committee learn that one of the main reasons for the low Plan expenditure has been the delayed approvals and procedural formalities. The North-East (NE) and the Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) packages involving the investment of approximately Rs. 700 crore have been delayed for over two years because of the delay in 'in-principle' approval by the Planning Commission. The other reason was the Prasar Bharati was not able to provide the kind of Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR) for the Plan side that was projected by them at the time of Tenth Plan projections as they had greater commitments on the Non-Plan side. The Committee feel that, although these may be reasons which are external to the Ministry and appear to be genuine, the Ministry do not appear to have tried to look into the shortcomings which were hampering utilization of funds in each of the sectors through an internal assessment. The Committee while expressing their anguish over the unsatisfactory performance of the Ministry, recommend that they should make concrete plans for better utilization of allocated funds by reformulating its policy and work culture in the Ministry. The Committee trust that the Ministry will take immediate positive steps in this direction and keep the Committee apprised of the progress made.

### **Action Taken by the Government**

The observations of the Standing Committee have been carefully noted. The monitoring and review of Plan Schemes have been further activated in the Media Units as well as in the Ministry. The performance of all media units and sectors is being reviewed at the level of Secretary (I&B) on a weekly basis, so as to ensure optimal implementation of schemes and removal of bottlenecks. This Ministry is making all possible efforts to reduce the shortfall in achievement of targets to the barest minimum level.

[Ministry of I & B, OM No. G-20016/10/2006-B&A,  
dated 15.12.2006]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 4)**

The Committee observe that some of the reasons for the low utilization have been the various stages of approvals that have to be obtained, legal and contractual obligations to be complied with, other procedural formalities, shortage of manpower, reduction in IEBR support to Capital Grant, problems in retendering and the 'in principle' approval by the Planning Commission. The most common reason for delay relates to the 'in principle' approval given by the Planning Commission. The North-East Special Package. (Phase-II), the J&K package are glaring examples which the Ministry have repeatedly cited as examples of delay for over two years which has results in under-utilization of approximately Rs. 700 crore in the Tenth Plan. Although, the Committee are in full agreement and acknowledge the exercise of 'in principle' approval as an opportunity to review the existing schemes so as to avoid multiplicity, weed out old schemes which may no longer be relevant, restrict spreading of scarce resources over a large number of projects etc. The Committee are of the strong conviction that since the Government had allocated additional funds and a special package for the faster development of North East and J&K, there ought not have been any further hindrances. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their concern as expressed in their Report on the Demands for Grants for the year 2005-2006 for a relook on the procedure of 'in-principle' approval by the Planning Commission and recommend that the procedure be streamlined in the interest of completion of schemes on time within the available Plan Funds. This is all the more necessary in the case of an organization like Prasar Bharati which has to complete in the market for its very survival.

### **Action Taken by the Government**

The Planning Commission has recently reviewed the procedure for 'in principle' approval and issued revised guidelines vide their U.O. No. N11016/4/2006-PC dated 29.08.2006 (copy enclosed). It is expected that the revised guidelines would help in speedier implementation of the projects and schemes.

[Ministry of I & B, OM No. G-20016/10/2006-B&A,  
dated 15.12.2006]



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PLANNING COMMISSION

Yojana Bhavan, Sansad Marg,  
New Delhi-110 001.

**Subject: Guidelines regarding inclusion of new Schemes in the Plan, enhancement of Five Year Plan/Annual Plan outlays, major changes in the scope and investment approval of the Plan Schemes, for the Central Ministries/Departments.**

I. Proposals are often received from the Ministries for inclusion of new schemes in the Plan, enhancement of Five Year Plan/Annual Plan outlays, major changes in scope of the schemes (including change in objectives, criteria and pattern of assistance/subsidies etc.). In this regard, inclusion of new schemes in the Plan requires '*in principle*' approval of Planning Commission before they are submitted for approval to competent authorities as per existing delegation of powers. From the Eleventh Five Year Plan, the following procedure would be adopted for inclusion of schemes/projects in the Plan.

**(a) Schemes that would not require '*In Principle*' approval:**

Formulation of a Five Year Plan is a detailed exercise preceded by extensive deliberations and consultations by the Working Groups and Steering Committees. The existing schemes are examined by the Working Groups/Steering Committees and revamping/modifications/strengthening are suggested in many cases. The Steering Groups also recommend initiation of new schemes to fulfil specific objectives after taking into account the plan priorities and the availability of resources.

- (i) In case of the existing schemes which need to be continued in the next Plan, no '*in principle*' approval would be required. This does not, however, mean that schemes can be continued from one Plan to another without going through a rigorous Zero Based Budgeting exercise. In case a new component is to be added to an existing scheme, this would be considered by the Steering Committee and recommended for inclusion in the Five Year Plan. In case the component to be added is included in the Five Year Plan with adequate allocation of resources, the additional component in existing Schemes would not require '*in principle*' approval.

- (ii) The new schemes/projects which are proposed to be taken up in the Plan have to be indicated in the Plan Document and financial resources have to be fully provided for that scheme/project. In such cases, *'in principle'* approval of the Planning Commission would not be required.
- (iii) It may be noted that a more mention of a project/scheme/additional component in an existing scheme without adequate plan provision at the beginning of the Five Year Plan period would not be exempted from the discipline of *'in principle'* approval procedure in brief, only the new schemes/projects/additional components that have been included in Five Year Plan with full provision of resources would not require *'in principle'* approval.

**(b) Schemes that would require *'in principle'* approval:**

- (i) Scheme/Project/additional component in an existing scheme which could not be included in the Five Year Plan with adequate provision would require *'in principle'* approval of the Planning Commission before the Ministries/Departments seeks sanction of the appropriate authorities for taking up the scheme/project.
- (ii) For seeking *'in principle'* approval, the Ministries/Departments should submit a detailed note to the Planning Commission on the justification for the new scheme/project with a broad outline of the proposed scheme/project.
- (iii) After obtaining *'in principle'* approval, the Ministries/Departments shall conduct an exercise to find resources for the proposed scheme/project/additional component in an existing scheme in consultation with Planning Commission. This would require a detailed analysis of requirement and availability of funds for the existing Schemes and Projects. In case requirement of funds is higher than the availability, the Ministries/Department should undertake a reprioritization exercise in consultation with subject division in Planning Commission and based on the result give details of commitments on on-going schemes/projects along with the requirement and availability of funds for the proposed scheme/project additional component in an existing scheme clearly spelling out the implications of the reprioritization (in terms of re-phasing of on-going schemes and/or weeding out of schemes together with its impact on physical output).

- (iv) After obtaining '*in principle*' approval of Planning Commission (which would mean specific approval of Secretary Planning Commission) and tying up financial resources, the Ministry/Department would process the scheme/project/additional component in an existing scheme to obtain necessary approvals as per existing delegation of powers through SFC/EFC/PIB, as the case may be.

**II. Enhancement of Five Year Plan/Annual Plan outlays:** The Five Year Plans are generally indicative in nature. They are operationalized through Annual Plans. As such outlays to be provided by the Planning Commission for the Annual Plan will take into consideration such adjustments and enhancement as may be necessary. After the Annual Plans have been finalized and corresponding amounts provided in the Budget of the Central Ministries, upward revision of more than 10% of the Budget Estimate at the Revised Estimate stage, should be referred by the concerned Ministry to the Planning Commission and it is only after the Planning Commission concurs that these should be taken up with the Ministry of Finance for Supplementary Grants.

**III. Change in Scope:** Major changes in the scope of the schemes already included in the Plan, in terms of change in objectives, coverage of population, criteria, pattern of subsidy, assistance, etc. should be first referred to the Planning Commission for obtaining concurrence in the same manner as a new scheme (item 1 above) before the revised scheme is processed for sanction by the competent authority. In case of continuing CSS, approval for change in scope etc., may be sought as per the existing procedure and delegation of authority from the Planning Commission, as in other Plan Schemes.

**IV. Sanction of the Scheme:** All continuing and new schemes included in the Five Year Plan are to be sanctioned by the competent authority (Board of Companies/Ministries/Ministry of Finance/CCEA) after the recommendations of the respective body (DSC/SFC/EFC/PIB, etc.) as the case may be, in accordance with the existing delegation of financial powers. These approvals should be processed by the Central Ministries only after necessary Plan provisions are available in the Five Year Plan/Annual Plan. In case of new schemes, these should be processed after the Planning Commission has concurred to their inclusion in the Plan.

**V. Procedure for Introduction of a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS):** Approval of full Planning Commission is necessary for including a CSS in the Plan. For introduction of a new Centrally

Sponsored Scheme (CSS), which meets the criteria\* laid down by the Committee of National Development Council (NDC), the Ministries/ Departments should first obtain an 'in principle' approval of the Planning Commission, (specific approval of Secretary, Planning Commission) giving justification for introduction of the scheme and indicating:

- (i) Whether the existing Centrally Sponsored Schemes being run by the Ministry/Department have been reviewed and schemes identified for closure, weeding out and/or merger with full details thereof;
- (ii) Whether an exercise has been carried out for avoidance of multiplicity of implementation machinery, and if so, results thereof;
- (iii) Scheme-wise details of number of posts sanctioned/created at the Ministry/Department, Central State and District level;
- (iv) Whether any rationalization exercise has been undertaken, and if so, details thereof;
- (v) Are there existing schemes with similar objectives in the Ministry/Department of other Central Ministries/ Departments and/or schemes with similar objectives being implemented by the State Governments, and if so, details thereof and the justification for taking up the new scheme instead of strengthening/modifying the existing schemes;
- (vi) The reasons for not implementing the scheme under State Plan with earmarked funds.

The receipt of this communication may kindly be acknowledged.

sd/-

(R. SRIDHARAN)

Joint Secretary (Administration)

Tel. No. 2309 6598

Secretaries of all Central Ministries/Departments.

[Planning Commission U.O. No. N-11016/4/2006-PC, dated 29.8.2006]

\* Narasimha Rao Committee (Committee of NDC on CSS) in its first meeting held on 1st November, 1986, approved the modified criteria for retention of existing and initiation of new Centrally Sponsored Schemes as set out below:

- The fulfilment of an importance national objective such as poverty alleviation, achievement of minimum standards in education, or;
- The programme has a regional or inter-State character or;
- The programme or scheme should be in the nature of a pace setter or should relate to demonstration, survey or research

## **Utilisation of Funds**

### **Recommendation (Para No. 5)**

The Committee are informed that around 80 per cent of the Plan expenditure of the Ministry is utilised by Prasar Bharati and the balance of 20 per cent, which may be around Rs. 100 crore worth of projects, are utilised for the other units, in the Information and Film sectors. From the figures furnished by Prasar Bharati, the Committee note that out of a Direct Budgetary Support of Rs. 360 crore in 2002-2003, Rs. 370 crore in 2003-2004, Rs. 422.1 crore in 2004-05, Rs. 445 crore in 2005-2006, Prasar Bharati has been able to spend Rs. 300.50 crore in 2003-2004, Rs. 189.86 crore in 2003-2004, Rs. 184.53 crore in 2004-2005 and Rs. 222.30 crore in 2005-2006. The Committee also observe that the utilization of Plan funds by Prasar Bharati for the years 2003-2004, 2004-2005, 2005-2006 is quite low as compared to the allocation. Two reasons were put forth by Prasar Bharati for the same. Firstly, large projects have to obtain approval of the Ministry of Finance or the Planning Commission for allocation of resources before they can start and, secondly, because of a shortfall in the Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources which is more than 50 per cent of the Plan outlay. The Committee feel that large projects should necessarily be carefully-planned, well in advance before they can be taken up for execution. Similarly, a shortfall in the Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources in Projects executed by Prasar Bharati is, undoubtedly, a management problem. The Committee are of the firm opinion that Prasar Bharati should evolve a sound system for making internal assessment and taking timely corrective/remedial measures with a view to ensuring achievement of targets and proper utilization of resources. The Committee would like to be informed of the measures taken by Prasar Bharati in the above context.

### **Action Taken by the Government**

Prasar Bharati has stated that due to some innovative steps, it has been able to augment its revenue earning from Rs. 717.02 crore (2004-2005) to 1064.84 crore (2005-2006) which would ensure enhanced allocation of IEBR for plan activities.

Besides, all the schemes are being reviewed on weekly and monthly basis at Prasar Bharati and also by Secretary (I&B) to ensure maximum utilisation of funds during annual Plan period. The schemes for the North-East Special Package Phase-II have been approved by Cabinet and schemes for the J&K Special package phase-II are also at the final stage of approval.

[Ministry of I&B, O.M. No. G-20016/10/2006-B&A,  
dated 15.12.2006]

## **Financial Independence**

### **Recommendation (Para No. 6)**

The Prasar Bharati Act envisages that Prasar Bharati shall endeavour to augment its revenue earnings year after year, strengthen its mechanism for resource mobilization and take effective steps for optimally utilising the resources to progressively reduce dependence on grants-in-aid from Central Government. The Committee's examination revealed that the net revenue earned by Prasar Bharati during the years 2002-2006 was Rs. 587.25 crore, Rs. 567.95 crore, Rs. 717.02 crore and Rs. 144.64 crore respectively whereas the grant-in-aid received by Prasar Bharati for the years 2003-2006 amounted to Rs. 1085.38 crore, Rs. 1096.71 crore and Rs. 1243.59 crore. The revenue earnings of Prasar Bharati come from commercial activities relating to advertisements, sports, films and new schemes floated for getting programmes for Doordarshan National Network and from miscellaneous activities relating to consultancy, leasing out infrastructure and sale of CDs, VCDs etc. The Committee observe that the revenue earnings of Prasar Bharati are approximately 50 per cent of the Government funds given to Prasar Bharati in the form of grants-in-aid therefore, they will have to earn an equal amount each year to be independent of grant-in-aid from Central Government. The Committee have been informed that out of the gross Rs. 1218.10 crore income of Prasar Bharati for the year 2005-2006, the earnings from advertisements in the market ranges somewhere between Rs. 600 to Rs. 700 crore out of which Rs. 150-200 crore is earned from Government. The total Television Advertisement Revenue in the country is of the range of Rs. 5000 crore out of which Prasar Bharati has a share of 20 per cent of the market. The Committee feel that having the infrastructure and the sufficient skilled manpower which private channels do not possess, Prasar Bharati can reasonably enhance their share in the advertisement market from 20 per cent by adopting suitable marketing strategies. They, therefore, urge upon Prasar Bharati to strive hard to take up the challenge of being independent of Government resources and perform for higher profits.

### **Action Taken by the Government**

Prasar Bharati Act emphasises on the Public Service Broadcaster role of Prasar Bharati with the support of funds provided by the Central Government after due appropriations made by Parliament.

The mandate given to Prasar Bharati as per Prasar Bharati Act is to organize and conduct public broadcasting services to inform, educate and entertain the public. As such the role of Prasar Bharati is different

from other private broadcasters and this organization cannot work purely on commercial basis. The earning of commercial revenue is not primary objective of the organization but is only incidental to its activities. Besides, the social and public broadcasting role is higher in comparison with its commercial activities.

However, it has been the endeavour of Prasar Bharati to augment revenue earnings every year and reduce its dependence on the Government support. In order to augment the commercial revenue various steps which *inter-alia* includes the following are being taken:

1. Changing fixed point chart to include more popular programme so as to attract more advertisement/commercial.
2. Devising new formats of programming as per the local needs which have increased the listenership/viewership.
3. Revision and review of its rate card at regular intervals keeping in view the competition existing in the market.
4. Exploring avenue for letting out its studios to private producers and also educational broadcasters like universities & colleges.
5. Review the rules for incorporating penal clause on cancellation of sponsorship/spots to avoid loss of commercial time & revenue.
6. Release of archival material in the market in the form of Audio Cassettes/CDs and VCDs

These steps have resulted into quantum jump in revenue figures for the year 2005-06. It is expected that Prasar Bharati would be able to do away the Government assistance step by step.

[Ministry of I&B, O.M. No. G-20016/10/2006-B&A,  
dated 15.12.2006]

## **Maintenance of Accounts**

### **Recommendation (Para No. 11)**

The Committee regrets to note that the Accounts of Prasar Bharati are presently not being maintained in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Government for Central Autonomous Bodies. The Committee recommends that Government procedures should be followed and as assured by the Ministry during evidence, the accounts should be maintained in the accrual system in a very short time. The Committee desire that this should be implemented in the next Report to be tabled in both the Houses.



### **Action Taken by the Government**

The accounts of Prasar Bharati were being prepared in the approved format for central Autonomous Bodies from 2000-01, but without following the accrual system of accounting. From the year 2005-06, the annual accounts have been prepared on accrual system of accounting.

[Ministry of I&B, O.M. No. G-20016/10/2006-B&A,  
dated 15.12.2006]

### **North-East Special Package-Doordarshan:**

#### **Recommendation (Para No. 13)**

The Committee observed that the Phase-I of the NE Special Package has utilized major component of the capital expenditure, however, the Revenue (Software) component deserves much to be achieved. Out of 3756 episodes targeted for the year 2005-06, the Ministry has achieved a total of 1123 episodes which is 30% of the total. The Committee further observe that the Tenth Plan has an approved outlay of Rs. 380.55 crore for the NE Special Package Phase-II which is yet to be initiated because of the delay in approval from the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).

### **Action Taken by the Government**

Approval of Phase-II of NE Package in respect of All India Radio at a cost of Rs. 143.32 crore has since been received in the last week of May, 2006. AIR proposals approved under Ph-II include:

1. 19 new FM stations
2. Addl. channels with FM Tr. at Silchar (5 KW) & Gangtok (10 KW)
3. DSNG/MSS terminals
4. Chinsura-1000 KW MW Tr. (Replacement)
5. Kavaratti-10 KW MW Tr. (Replacement of 1 KW)
6. 100 low power unmanned FM transmitters (100 W)

New sites are to be acquired for the 19 new FM stations & 10 KW MW Transmitter proposed at Kavaratti with the help of the State governments. Site surveys are being conducted and sites for some of the locations like Bomdila, Changlang, Khonsa, Goalpara, Tuipang, Chemphai, Udaipur & Nutan Bazar have been tentatively finalized &



demand notes for cost of sites are being got expedited from the State governments.

Procurement of equipment has already been initiated & specifications are under finalization for most of the equipment.

For the proposed 100 Watt FM transmitters, more than 100 locations have been identified in consultation with the respective State governments. Finalisation of locations is in progress.

#### **Action Taken Note (Doordarshan)**

The Budget under software special package for production of programmes provided to all the Kendras of North-Eastern Region for the financial year 2005-06 for commissioning of programmes and also for in-house production and royalty has been fully utilized by the Kendras.

Budget provided for the year 2006-07 under Software Special Package is under the process of utilization by the Kendras of North-Eastern Region.

[Ministry of I&B, O.M. No. G-20016/10/2006-B&A,  
dated 15.12.2006]

#### **North-East Special Package-Doordarshan:**

##### **Recommendation (Para No. 14)**

The Committee are of the opinion that a Special Package was given to North-East to get faster results and achieve targets in a specific time frame which in the normal course would have taken a much longer period. But, after observing the pace of implementation of Phase-I they feel that nothing special has been achieved through a special package. The Committee are constrained to note that it has taken the Ministry 4 years of the 10th Plan to get the approval for phase-II. The Committee feel that the Ministry should be more sensitive to the development of the North-East and project/schemes should be taken up with greater zeal so as to complete them in time so that the objectives set forth through special packages are fulfilled. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should see that the Phase-II starts this very financial year and concrete results are obtained by the year end.

### **Action Taken by the Government**

Special Package (Ph.II) for improvement and expansion of Doordarshan services in NE region and Island territories has been approved by the Government in May, 2006. Hardware schemes for NE region included in this package are under:

1. 2 NE channels (provision of uplinking facility)
2. 25000 DTH receive units with TV sets
3. HPT, Kokrajhar
4. Maint. Centres—2 no. (Passighat & Agartala)
5. DSNG units—4 no.
6. Aug. of OB & post production facilities

Action for implementation of the above schemes is in progress & the package is expected to be fully implemented by 2008-09. Financial sanction for all the schemes included in the package, including above mentioned schemes, have been issued. Site for HPT, Kokrajhar has been identified. Tenders for DTH receive units have been received & are under technical evaluation. Tenders for 25000 TV sets and 4 DSNG units have been invited.

Ph-I of Special NE package was approved in Jan., 2002. All the schemes, as under, approved as part of Ph-I of Special package have already been implemented:

- (i) 160 Cable headends in uncovered villages of 8 NE States—since completed.
- (ii) Upgradation of 1 KW HPT's (DD1) at Shillong, Imphal, Aizawl, Itanagar & Kohima to 10 KW HPT's—since completed.
- (iii) Earth stations at Shillong & Aizawl—since completed.
- (iv) Satellite video phones—since completed.

[Ministry of I&B, O.M. No. G-20016/10/2006-B&A,  
dated 15.12.2006]

### **Community Radio Stations—All India Radio**

#### **Recommendation (Para No. 15)**

The concept of Community Radio Stations has introduced as a low power radio station in FM mode to be installed and run by local

communities and non-profit organizations such as universities, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for educational, cultural, and economic development of the respective communities. The Committee are of the opinion that a Community Radio Station could play an important role in a community's endeavour for its educational, cultural and economic development thus ultimately improving the living standard of that community. The growth and spread of Community Radio Station in India is very limited and India is lagging far behind as compared to other countries including many developing ones. The growth of Community Radio Stations in India is restricted due to lack of a comprehensive policy in this regard. The Committee are informed that a proposal for allowing setting up of Community Radio Stations by local Communities and non-profit organizations is under consideration of a Group of Ministers (GoM) for quite some time now. The Committee recommend that the Ministry should make concerted efforts to finalise a comprehensive policy regarding the spread of Community Radio Stations in such a manner that the concept is adopted by small and the larger communities all over India and the masses are benefited by it. The Committee are also of the opinion that the Government should consider extending financial and technical assistance under this scheme to those communities which are situated in backward and remote areas of the nation.

#### **Action Taken by the Government**

In so far as the Grant of Permission for Community radio broadcasting to 'Non Profit' organizations like Universities, Registered Societies of NGOs and other reputed civil society organizations is concerned, the Group of Ministers (GoM) considered the proposal on 20th September 2006. The recommendations of the GoM have been incorporated in the proposal submitted to the Cabinet and the Cabinet has considered the proposal on 16th November 2006 and has approved the proposal for the Grant of Permission for Community radio broadcasting to 'Non-profit' organizations *viz.* Civil Society & Voluntary organizations, State Agricultural Universities, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institutions, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, Registered Societies and Autonomous bodies and Public Trusts registered under Societies Act or any other such act relevant for the purpose in addition to the educational institutions. The guidelines for the same have been placed on Ministry's website and are also annexed.

2. As far as the Committee's opinion regarding the Government to consider extending financial and technical assistance to those communities that are situated in backward and remote areas of the

nation is concerned, it may be stated here that the Government does not have such a proposal. The community radio stations will be purely self financed and supported by the institutions/organizations desirous to set up and operate these stations. The responsibility of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting shall be limited to grant of permission to the eligible institutions/organizations for setting up community radio stations.

[Ministry of I&B, O.M. No. G-20016/10/2006-B&A,  
dated 15.12.2006]

## **Policy Guidelines for setting up Community Radio Stations in India**

### **Foreword**

In December 2002, the Government of India approved a policy for the grant of licenses for setting up of Community Radio Stations to well established educational institutions including IITs/IIMs.

The matter has been reconsidered and the Government has now decided to broad base the policy by bringing 'Non-profit' organisations like civil society and voluntary organisations etc. under its ambit in order to allow greater participation by the civil society on issues relating to development & social change. The detailed policy guidelines in this regard is given below:

### **1. Basic Principles**

An organisation desirous of operating a Community Radio Station (CRS) must be able to satisfy and adhere to the following principles:

- (a) It should be explicitly constituted as a 'non-profit' organisation and should have a proven record of at least three years of service to the local community.
- (b) The CRS to be operated by it should be designed to serve a specific well-defined local community.
- (c) It should have an ownership and management structure that is reflective of the community that the CRS seeks to serve.
- (d) Programmes for broadcast should be relevant to the educational, developmental, social and cultural needs of the community.

- (e) It must be a Legal Entity *i.e.* it should be registered (under the registration of Societies Act or any other such act relevant to the purpose).

## **2. Eligibility Criteria**

- (i) The following types of organisations shall be eligible to apply for Community Radio licences:
  - (a) Community based organisations, which satisfy the basic principles listed at para 1 above. These would include civil society and voluntary organisations, State Agriculture Universities (SAUs), ICAR institutions, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, Registered Societies and Autonomous Bodies and Public Trusts registered under Societies Act or any other such act relevant for the purpose. Registration at the time of application should at least be three years old.
  - (b) Educational institutions
- (ii) The following shall not be eligible to run a CRS:
  - (a) Individuals;
  - (b) Political Parties and their affiliate organisations; [including students, women's, trade unions and such other wings affiliated to these parties.]
  - (c) Organisations operating with a motive to earn profit;
  - (d) Organisations expressly banned by the Union and State Governments.

## **3. Selection Process & Processing of the applications**

- (a) Applications shall be invited by the Ministry of I&B once every year through a national advertisement for establishment of Community Radio Stations. However, eligible organisations and educational institutions can apply during the intervening period between the two advertisements also. The applicants shall be required to apply in the prescribed application form along with a processing fee of Rs. 2500/-and the applications shall be processed in the following manner:
  - (i) Universities, Deemed Universities and Government run educational institutions will have a single window clearance by putting up cases before an inter-ministerial

committee chaired by Secretary (I&B) for approval. No separate clearance from MHA & MHRD shall be necessary. Once the WPC Wing of the Ministry of Communication & IT earmarks a frequency at the place requested by the institution, a Letter of Intent (LoI) shall be issued.

- (ii) In case of all other applicants, including private educational institutions, LoI shall be issued subject to receiving clearance from Ministries of Home Affairs, Defence & HRD (in case of private educational institutions) and frequency allocation by WPC wing of Ministry of Communication & IT.
- (b) A time schedule for obtaining clearances as below shall be prescribed:
- (i) Within one month of receipt of the application in the prescribed form, the Ministry of I&B shall process the application and either communicate to the applicant deficiencies, if any, or will send the copies of the application to the other Ministries for clearance as prescribed in para 3(a)(i) and 3(a)(ii) above, as the case may be.
  - (ii) The Ministries concerned shall communicate their clearance within three months of receipt of the application. However, in the event of the failure of the concerned Ministry to grant the clearance within the stipulated period of three months, the case shall be referred to the Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary (I&B) for a decision for issue of LoI.
  - (iii) In the event of more than one applicant for a single frequency at a given place, the successful applicant will be selected for issue of LOI from amongst the applicants by the Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary (I&B) on the basis of their standing in the community, the commitment shown, the objectives enunciated and resources likely to be mobilized by the applicant organisation as well as its credentials and number of years of community service rendered by the organisation.
  - (iv) Within one month of the issue of the Letter of Intent (LoI) the eligible applicant will be required to apply, in

the prescribed format and with the requisite fee, to the WPC Wing of the Ministry of Communication & IT, Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi for frequency allocation & SACFA clearance.

- (v) A time frame of six months from the date of application is prescribed for issue of SACFA clearance. In the event of non-receipt of such clearance from the Ministry of Communication & IT within the stipulated period of six months, the case will be referred to the Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary (I&B) for a decision.
- (vi) On receipt of SACFA clearance (a copy of which shall be submitted by the applicant), the LoI holder shall furnish a bank guarantee in the prescribed format for a sum of Rs. 25,000/-. Thereupon, the LoI holder will be invited to sign a Grant of Permission Agreement (GoPA) by Ministry of I&B, which will enable him to seek Wireless Operating License (WOL) from the WPC Wing of the Ministry of Communication & IT. The Community Radio Station can be made operational only after the receipt of WOL from the Ministry of Communication & IT.
- (vii) Within three months of receipt of all clearances i.e. signing of GOPA, the Permission Holder shall set up the Community Radio Station and shall intimate the date of commissioning of the Community Radio Station to the Ministry of I&B.
- (viii) Failure to comply with time schedule prescribed above shall make the LoI-GoPA holder liable for cancellation of its LoI/GoPA and forfeiture of the Bank Guarantee.

#### **4. Grant of Permission—Agreement conditions**

- (i) The Grant of Permission Agreement period shall be for five years.
- (ii) The Grant of Permission Agreement and the Permission letter will be non-transferable.
- (iii) No permission fee shall be levied on the Permission Holder. However, the Permission Holder will be required to pay the spectrum usage fee to WPC wing of Ministry of Communication & IT.

- (iv) In case the Permission Holder does not commence his broadcasting operations within three months of the receipt of all clearances or shuts down broadcasting activity for more than 3 months after commencement of operation, its Permission is liable to be cancelled and the frequency allotted to the next eligible applicant.
- (v) An applicant/organisation shall not be granted more than one Permission for CRS operation at one or more places.
- (vi) The LOI Holder shall furnish a bank guarantee for a sum of Rs. 25,000/- (Rupees twenty five thousand) only to ensure timely performance of the Permission Agreement.
- (vii) If the Permission Holder fails to commission service within the stipulated period, he shall forfeit the amount of bank guarantee to the Government and the Government would be free to cancel the Permission issued to him.

#### **5. Content regulation & monitoring**

- (i) The programmes should be of immediate relevance to the community. The emphasis should be on developmental, agricultural, health, educational, environmental, social welfare, community development and cultural programmes. The programming should reflect the special interests and needs of the local community.
- (ii) At least 50% of content shall be generated with the participation of the local community, for which the station has been set up.
- (iii) Programmes should preferably be in the local language and dialect(s).
- (iv) The Permission Holder shall have to adhere to the provisions of the Programme and Advertising Code as prescribed for All India Radio.
- (v) The Permission Holder shall preserve all programmes broadcast by the CRS for three months from the date of broadcast.
- (vi) The Permission Holder shall not broadcast any programmes, which relate to news and current affairs and are otherwise political in nature.
- (vii) The Permission Holder shall ensure that nothing is included in the programmes broadcast which:



- a. Offends against goods taste or decency;
  - b. Contains criticism of friendly countries;
  - c. Contains attack on religions or communities or visuals or words contemptuous of religious groups or which either promote or result in promoting communal discontent or disharmony;
  - d. Contains anything obscene, defamatory, deliberate, false and suggestive innuendoes and half truths;
  - e. Is likely to encourage or incite violence or contains anything against maintenance of law and order or which promote-anti-national attitudes;
  - f. Contains anything amounting to contempt of court or anything affecting the integrity of the Nation;
  - g. Contains aspersions against the dignity of the President/ Vice President and the Judiciary;
  - h. Criticises, maligns or slanders any individual in person or certain groups, segments of social, public and moral life of the country;
  - i. Encourages superstition or blind belief;
  - j. Denigrates women;
  - k. Denigrates children.
  - l. May present/depict/suggest as desirable the use of drugs including alcohol, narcotics and tobacco or may stereotype, incite, vilify or perpetuate hatred against or attempt to demean any person or group on the basis of ethnicity, nationality, race, gender, sexual preference, religion, age or physical or mental disability.
- (viii) The Permission Holder shall ensure that due care is taken with respect to religious programmes with a view to avoid:
- (a) Exploitation of religious susceptibilities; and
  - (b) Committing offence to the religious views and beliefs of those belonging to a particular religion or religious denomination.

#### **6. Imposition of penalty/revocation of Permission Agreement**

- (i) In case there is any violation of conditions cited in 5(i) to 5(viii), Government may *suo motto* or on basis of complaints

take cognisance and place the matter before the Inter-ministerial Committees on Programme and Advertising Codes for recommending appropriate penalties. On the recommendation of the Committee a decision to impose penalties shall be taken. However, before the imposition of a penalty the Permission Holder shall be given an opportunity to represent its case.

- (ii) The penalty shall comprise of:
  - (a) Temporary suspension of Permission for operating the CRS for a period upto one month in the case of the first violation.
  - (b) Temporary suspension of Permission for operating the CRS for a period upto three months in the case of the second violation depending on the gravity of violation.
  - (c) Revocation of the Permission for any subsequent violation. Besides, the Permission Holder and its principal members shall be liable for all actions under IPC, CrPC and other laws.
- (iii) In case of revocation of Permission, the Permission Holder will not be eligible to apply directly or indirectly for a fresh permission in future for a period of five years.

“Provided the penalty imposed as per above provision shall be without prejudice to any penal action under applicable laws including the Indian Telegraph Act 1885 and Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act 1933, as modified from time to time.”

- (iv) In the event of suspension of permission as mentioned in para 6 (ii) (a) & (b), the permission holder will continue to discharge its obligations under the Grant of Permission Agreement during the suspension period also.

## **7. Transmitter Power and Range**

- (i) CRS shall be expected to cover a range of 5-10 km. For this, a transmitter having maximum Effective Radiated Power (ERP) of 100 W would be adequate. However, in case of a proven need where the applicant organisation is able to establish that it needs to serve a larger area or the terrain so warrants, higher transmitter wattage with maximum ERP upto 250 Watts can be considered on a case-to-case basis, subject to availability of frequency and such

other clearances as necessary from the Ministry of Communication & IT. Requests for higher transmitter power above 100 Watts and upto 250 Watts shall also be subject to approval by the Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

- (ii) The maximum height of antenna permitted above the ground for the CRS shall not exceed 30 meters. However, minimum height of Antenna above ground should be at least 15 meters to prevent possibility of biological hazards of RF radiation.
- (iii) Universities, Deemed Universities and other educational institutions shall be permitted to locate their transmitters and antennae only within their main campuses
- (iv) For NGOs and others, the transmitter and antenna shall be located within the geographical area of the community they seek to serve. The geographical area (including the names of villages/institution etc.) should be clearly spelt out along with the location of the transmitter and antenna in the application form.

#### **8. Funding & Sustenance**

- (i) Applicants will be eligible to seek funding from multilateral aid agencies. Applicants seeking foreign funds for setting up the CRS will have to obtain FCRA clearance under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 1976.
- (ii) Transmission of sponsored programmes shall not be permitted except programmes sponsored by Central & State Governments and other organisations to broadcast public interest information. In addition, limited advertising and announcements relating to local events, local businesses and services and employment opportunities shall be allowed. The maximum duration of such limited advertising will be restricted to 5 (Five) minutes per hour of broadcast.
- (iii) Revenue generated from advertisement and announcements as per Para 8 (ii) shall be utilized only for the operational expenses and capital expenditure of the CRS. After meeting the full financial needs of the CRS, surplus may, with prior written permission of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, be ploughed into the primary activity of the organization *i.e.* for education in case of educational institutions and for furthering the primary objectives for which the NGO concerned was established.

## 9. Other Terms & Conditions

- (i) The basic objective of the Community Radio broadcasting would be to serve the cause of the community in the service area of the Permission Holder by involving members of the community in the broadcast of their programmes. For this purpose community shall mean people living in the zone of the coverage of the broadcasting service of the Permission Holder. Each applicant will have to specify the geographical community or the community of interest it wants to cover.  
  
The Permission Holder shall provide the services of his CRS on free-to-air basis.
- (ii) Though the Permission Holder will operate the service under these guidelines and as per the terms and conditions of the Grant of Permission Agreement signed, the permission shall be subject to the condition that as and when any regulatory authority to regulate and monitor the broadcast services in the country is constituted, the Permission Holder will adhere to the norms, rules and regulations prescribed by such authority from time to time.
- (iii) The Permission Holder shall provide such information to the Government on such intervals, as may be required. In this connection, the Permission Holder is required to preserve recording of programmes broadcast during the previous three months failing which Permission Agreement is liable to be revoked.
- (iv) The Government or its authorized representative shall have the right to inspect the broadcast facilities of the Permission Holder and collect such information as considered necessary in public and community interest.
- (v) The Government reserves the right to take over the entire services and networks of the Permission Holder or revoke/ terminate/ suspend the Permission in the interest of national security or in the event of national emergency/ war or low intensity conflict or under similar type of situations.
- (vi) All foreign personnel likely to be deployed by way of appointment, contract, consultancy etc. by the Permission Holder for installation, maintenance and operation of the Permission Holder's services shall be required to obtain prior security clearance from Government of India.

- (vii) The Government reserves the right to modify, at any time, the terms and conditions if it is necessary to do so, in public interest or for the proper conduct of broadcasting or for security considerations.
- (viii) Notwithstanding anything contained anywhere else in the Grant of Permission Agreement, the Government shall have the power to direct the Permission Holder to broadcast any special message as may be considered desirable to meet any contingency arising out of natural emergency, or public interest or natural disaster and the like, and the Permission Holder shall be obliged to comply with such directions.
- (ix) The Permission Holder shall be required to submit their audited annual accounts to the Government in respect of the organization/division running the CRS. The accounts shall clearly show the income and expenditure incurred and the Assets and Liabilities in respect of the CRS.
- (x) A Permission Agreement will be subject to such other conditions as may be determined by the Government.
- (xi) The Government shall make special arrangements for monitoring and enforcement of the ceiling on advertisements, particularly in those areas where private FM radio stations have been granted licenses.

### **J&K Special Package**

#### **Recommendation (Para No. 16)**

The Committee observe that in the examination of DFG for 2004-05 the Committee were informed that the Kargil 200 KW 14 MW Tr. Project which was targeted to be completed in 2003-04 would be completed in 2004-05. The Committee were also informed that five technically ready projects with 1 KW MW transmitters at Diskit, Drass, Nyoma, Radum and Tiesuru are awaiting commissioning for want of operational and maintenance staff. In their reply on low utilisation of funds under Revenue (Misc.) head 2005-06 the Ministry stated that the Kargil project is technically ready but there is a delay in commissioning of the project and hence there was no expenditure in the operation & maintenance. The shortage of manpower, the Ministry stated, is there because of a ban on recruitment against newly created posts. In fact, the shortage of manpower is the principal reason for non-commissioning of almost all of the technically ready projects of both AIR and Doordarshan. The Committee are of the opinion that apart

from the sizeable amount of money that have been spent and are not being put to use because of the non-commissioning of projects even after 2-3 years of their being technically ready, not only is the very purpose of providing a special package to AIR & Doordarshan for J&K defeated but it is also making the equipment unserviceable and obsolete with each passing year. In the opinion of the Committee, this is a clear case of poor co-ordination among the two Ministries (Finance & Personnel) of the Government of account of which the Ministry of I&B is made to suffer. The Committee are of the view that if additional allocation of funds can be given under a J&K Special (Plan), special sanction for the execution and maintenance of the assets created from these special funds by way of sanction of posts and allowing the Ministry to recruit manpower should also be given simultaneously. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should make special efforts to convince the Ministries of Finance and Personnel of the urgency of removal of the ban on recruitment in J&K as a special case. In the meantime, Prasar Bharati may explore the idea of hiring defence personnel on deputation and deploying them alongwith redeployed staff of Prasar Bharati on attractive deputation terms exclusive to J&K so that the projects may be operationalised at the earliest for the benefit of local people.

#### **Action Taken by the Government (All India Radio)**

Approval of the Ministry for continuation of posts sanctioned for operation & maintenance of Projects under J&K Special Package upto February, 2007 has been conveyed to AIR.

However, matter regarding manpower requirements of Prasar Bharati is under consideration of GoM, whose recommendations are awaited.

In the meantime the 200 KW MW Transmitter at Kargil and 1 KW MW Transmitters at Drass at Tiesuru have been partially and provisionally commissioned *w.e.f.* 1st September, 2006 by arranging staff on tour and transfer. In this way 9 out of 12 projects included in J&K Special package have since been operationalised at

1. Kathua - 10 KW FM TR. (Replacement of 6 KW)
2. Srinagar - 300 KW MW Tr. (Replacement of 200 KW)
3. Khalsi - 1 KW MW Tr. (Relay)
4. Kupwara - 20 KW MW Tr. (Relay)

5. Naushera - 20 KW MW Tr. (Relay)
6. Rajauri - 10 KW FM Tr. (Relay)
7. Drass - 1 KW MW Tr. (Relay)
8. Tiesuru - KW MW Tr. (Relay)
9. Kargil - 200 KW MW Tr.

Three projects namely, Relay centres with 1 KW MW Trs. at Diskit, Nyoma and Paduma are technically ready.

#### **Action Taken Note (Doordarshan)**

362 (356+6) posts were sanctioned for operation & maintenance of projects approved under J&K Special Plan. All the projects under J&K Special Plan have since been commissioned. Scheme of Rajouri Studio was approved later, Installation of Rajouri Studio has been completed and is technically ready.

[Ministry of I&B, O.M. No. G-20016/10/2006-B&A,  
dated 15.12.2006]

#### **Comments of the Committee**

Please *see* Paragraph Nos. 10 & 11 of Chapter-I

#### **New Technologies like Internet Radio Broadcasting, Digital Broadcasting**

##### **Recommendation (Para No. 18)**

The Committee are informed that 'in-principle approval' of Planning Commission for new technologies like Internet Radio Broadcasting, Digital Broadcasting etc. of 10th Plan is yet to be received by the Ministry and hence the schemes have not yet started. The Committee are of the opinion that these technologies may be advantageous to the listeners of AIR as they provide multiple options for tuning into AIR programmes alongwith many other add-on services which seem promising. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry may take up the matter with Planning Commission for an early approval for this scheme.

#### **Action Taken Report (All India Radio)**

Planning Commission is insisting for tying up of funds for 'in-principle approval'. Since no fund has been earmarked in either DBS

or IEBR of 2006-07, the AIR Schemes like Digital Broadcasting, etc. are proposed to be deferred to 11th Five Year Plan.

[Ministry of I&B, O.M. No. G-20016/10/2006-B&A,  
dated 15.12.2006]

### **Comments of the Committee**

Please *see* Paragraph No. 17 of Chapter-I

### **Satellite Radio Service by AIR**

#### **Recommendation (Para No. 19)**

Various digital broadcast technologies have been developed across the world for satellite broadcasting. The Committee have been informed that introduction of this technology will give convergence benefits including mobile listeners with multiple, multi-media, choice. The Committee are of the opinion that a 'Satellite Radio Service' of AIR will make available all Channels of AIR from a single platform, more effectively and with enhanced quality alternative to its listeners. Further, the reach of such service could be made global to provide one more option for AIR to reach out to immigrant Indians population overseas. The Committee, therefore, recommend that Ministry should consider this suggestion and if found feasible, after examining all implications including security aspects, launch such service at the earliest.

#### **Action Taken by the Government**

All India Radio has already launch 20 Radio Channels in different regional languages from various State capitals which are available countrywide through the Ku band DTH platform (DD Direct +) of Prasar Bharati, benefiting the listeners all over India. Besides, an Experimental Satellite Digital Multimedia Broadcasting is proposed in the 11th Five Year Plan, which is under finalisation.

[Ministry of I&B, O.M. No. G-20016/10/2006-B&A,  
dated 15.12.2006]

### **(iii) Implementation of Conditional Access System (CAS)**

#### **Recommendation (Para No. 21)**

The Committee had in the past expressed their dissatisfaction over the manner of implementation of the Conditional Access System (CAS) in the country. The regret to observe that CAS has now been introduced



in Chennai only and its implementation in Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata has been pending due to various reasons. The matter is also presently pending in the Delhi high Court. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have admitted that CAS still has relevance in terms of affordability of consumers in spite of the fact that other alternative technological modes such as DTH, IPTV, Broadband and web-casting etc. are available as choices to the consumers in the broadcasting sector. According to them, CAS would remain economically viable for larger sections of consumers in comparison to other technological modes. Considering these facts, the Committee are of the opinion that the Ministry should come out with a clear-cut-policy on the issue so that the customers are not denied of this viable broadcasting option. The Committee also desire that the Ministry should undertake a study of the functioning of CAS in developed South-East Asian Countries and suitably use the feedback in evolving the policy. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in the matter.

#### **Action Taken by the Government**

Regarding Conditional Access System (CAS), it may be mentioned that after intensive consultation with stakeholders and examination of the TRAI's recommendations and in pursuance of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi order dated 20.7.2007, the Government has issued a notification on 31.7.2006 for implementing CAS in the areas notified *vide* notification dated 10.7.2003. The Government has also framed rules for smooth implementation of CAS, which have also been notified on 31.7.2006.

[Ministry of I&B, O.M. No. G-20016/10/2006-B&A,  
dated 15.12.2006]

#### **Indian Institute of Mass Communication**

##### **Recommendation (Para No. 23)**

The Committee are informed that the faculty of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) consists of academicians, researchers and practicing media professionals who have done significant work in their fields of specialization. It undertakes joint research projects and organizes short-term courses to meet specific needs of the Industry, Government & Public Sector organizations. The Committee are further informed that due to the limited manpower availability owing to vacancies in Research Department, the IIMC is pre-occupied with sponsored projects (work) which generates more income and resources with the result that the Institutes' own projects are delayed. Further, it has been submitted that a post of Professor in the Research

Department is lying vacant and a proposal has been referred to the Ministry under Annual Direct Recruitment Plan (ADRP), 2004 for approval of the Screening Committee. Considering the fact that the IIMC is a centre of excellence in the field of communication, teaching, training and research and it aims to be a world class institute, the Committee are of the considered opinion that the Institute must be provided with the necessary infrastructure to carry out their assigned jobs in an effective manner.

#### **Action Taken by the Government**

The Screening Committee for Group 'A' posts has approved one post each of Professor and Associate Professor in IIMC for filling up under ADRP 2004. IIMC has been asked by the Ministry to take appropriate action for filling up the posts. Apart from this, action for filling up the post of Director, IIMC has already been initiated. The post has been advertised and is likely to be filled shortly.

In an effort to improve the infrastructure at IIMC, a residence for the Director, IIMC, and additional hostels for girls have been constructed during 10th Plan, under the scheme "Building & Housing Project".

Under the scheme 'Modernisation and expansion of facilities for electronic/print/radio & TV Journalism' the Institute upgraded its existing facilities and procured latest computer/equipment necessary for training purposes, during the 10th Plan. IIMC started its own FM Radio Station 'Apna Radio' to impart specialized training. A Digital Van is also being procured to give practical experience to the students in the field.

In its 11th Plan proposal the Institute has proposed to convert its PG Diploma programmes into a Master's Degree programme in Journalism and Advertising & Public Relations. Since media education needs comprehensive and continuous updating with the rapid changes in the print and electronic media industries, IIMC plans to update its labs, studios, audio/video facilities, equipment etc. and to continue persuasion of collaboration for increasing coverage in mass communication education. Besides, infrastructure like additional classrooms, additional library facilities and also hostel facilities are to be developed further. For this, Institute has proposed an outlay of Rs. 1300 lakhs.

[Ministry of I&B, O.M. No. G-20016/10/2006-B&A,  
dated 15.12.2006]

## **Press Council of India (PCI)**

### **Recommendation (Para No. 24)**

The Committee learn that the Press Council was established in 1978 under an Act of Parliament for the purpose of preserving the freedom of the Press and maintaining and improving the standard of Newspapers and News Agencies in the country. The Committee are informed that the advisories issued by PCI carry only moral force and are not enforceable in a Court of Law. The Committee are of the opinion that with the growing commercialization of print media, there may be greater violations of the Act in subjects relating to surrogate advertisements, obscene pictures/materials, etc. Advisories carrying only moral force may not be effective in regulating violations. Therefore, there is an urgent need to amend the PCI Act, 1978 to provide PCI with more regulatory powers for maintaining sound ethical and moral standards of journalism thus protecting the freedom of Press. The Committee feel the need of wider consultations among the interested parties to evolve consensus on important issues relating to media to further strengthen it.

### **Action Taken by the Government**

The grant of additional powers to PCI requires amendment to the Press Council Act, 1978. PCI has proposed certain amendments to the Act. The proposed amendments to the Act and other proposals for grant of additional powers to PCI are being examined in the Ministry.

[Ministry of I&B, O.M. No. G-20016/10/2006-B&A,  
dated 15.12.2006]

### **Comments of the Committee**

Please *see* Paragraph No. 24 of Chapter-I

## **Setting up of MOMI**

### **Recommendation (Para No. 27)**

The Committee note with dismay that there has been consistently negligible expenditure under this scheme during first four years of tenth plan, as a result of which the MOMI is still on papers and an agreement is yet to be signed between the Films Division and the National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC) for the construction of MOMI. The Ministry have submitted that the vetting of draft

agreement by the Ministry of Law took considerable time. However, the Committee are not satisfied with the progress made by the Ministry in this project so far. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should take up this project with priority and complete it at the earliest.

#### **Action Taken by the Government**

Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between FD and NBCC. NBCC has been awarded contract for preparing Detailed Project Report (DPR) for this project. In this connection it has submitted a concept paper which has been prepared on the basis of discussion held under the chairmanship of Secretary, (I&B). NBCC will be submitting the DPR within 90 days of the concept paper being approved and the first installment of the DPR fees is released to them. Thus there has been progress in the implementation of MOMI.

The recommendation of the Committee has also been noted for compliance.

[Ministry of I&B, O.M. No. G-20016/10/2006-B&A,  
dated 15.12.2006]

**CHAPTER III**

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

-Nil-

## CHAPTER IV

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

#### **Recommendation (Para No. 10)**

Historic speeches of prominent leaders, memorable contributions of great musicians, singers etc. have immense value. The Committee's examination has, however, revealed that due to paucity of funds, the digitalisation of these archival records is not taking place in the place it is desired. The Committee strongly feel that such valuable possessions should be digitalized without any further delay and the Ministry should make the funds available for its speedy digitalisation. The Committee would like to be kept informed of the progress made on this count.

#### **Action Taken by the Government**

Digitalisation of the holdings in Doordarshan has already been started from 2004, but it is not being carried out at the optimum pace. Required funds have been projected in the 11th Plan. However, it may take three years for the funds to reach the Archives for procuring necessary equipments for establishing professional and digitised Archives.

All India Radio has achieved a major goal by digitising its analog archives of 43,000 tapes collected up to November, 2001 and the project was over on 31 January, 2005. All the recordings have been converted into digital format with proper data entry. However, approximately 10,000 tapes collected in the archives from November, 200 till date are yet to be digitised. For this purpose a project has already been approved by CEO/Director General, All India Radio and allocation of funds is under examination.

[Ministry of I&B, O.M. No. G-20016/10/2006-B&A,  
dated 15.12.2006]

#### **Comments of the Committee**

Please *see* Paragraph No. 7 of Chapter-I

## **Expansion of FM Services**

### **Recommendation (Para No. 17)**

The Committee note that out of a total outlay of Rs. 328 crore for expansion of FM Services of All India Radio (AIR) and total allocation of Rs. 154.51 crore from 2002-03 to 2005-06, only an amount of Rs. 22.12 crore had been spent. The Committee are informed that out of 51 Nos. of FM transmitters targeted for 2005-06 (*viz.* 33 Nos. 10 KW FM, 6 Nos. 20 KW FM, 4 Nos. 5 KW and 8 Nos. of 1 KW FM transmitters) 8 Nos. of 1 KW FM transmitters have been operationalised and rest will be shifted to next year (*i.e.* 2006-07). On a closer examination of the date provided by the Ministry during 2003-04 and 2005-06 the Committee find that some these transmitters (*i.e.* Banswara, Alwar, Chittorgarh, Kurukshetra, Surat, Kochi & Jorhat) were on the original physical target list for 2003-04 (*see* Annexure-IV) and some (*i.e.* Nagpur, Hyderabad, Chandigarh, Sholapur, Vijayawada, Jalandhar, Patna, Bikaner, Ranchi & Trinulveli (*see* Annexures-V and VI) were on the original physical target list for 2004-05. Targets are shifted repeatedly over the years. The expenditure in 2002-03 has been 7.27%, in 2003-04 was 14.26%, in 2004-05, 15.2% and in 2005-06, 13.69%. The Ministry owe an explanation on these perceptible shortcomings resulting not only in low expenditure ratio under this scheme but also denying the benefits to the people. The Committee's examination further revealed that in several cases, where approvals and the funds had been available, the implementation process was slow. All these, clearly show the totally unsatisfactory progress in the expansion of FM services of AIR which is a matter of great concern to the Committee. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should thoroughly look into the reasons for the delay and fix responsibility for the same.

### **Action Taken by the Government (All India Radio)**

Targets which have been shifted from the previous years are mainly 10 KW FM Transmitter projects. This has resulted due to the delay in procurement of these transmitters. After finalizing the tenders, the purchase proposal for procurement of 33 Nos. of 10 KW FM Transmitters was sent to the Ministry for clearance in September, 2005. After detailed examination procurement of 28 transmitters out of 33 has been approved by the Ministry on 09.10.2006.

6 Nos. of 20 KW FM Transmitter projects included as targets during 2005-06 were shifted to 2006-07 due to delay in procurement of these transmitters. The purchase order for these transmitters was placed on

M/s Nautel in September, 2005 after receiving DG's approval. The Delivery period was due upto 15.01.06, the firm offered their transmitter for inspection at their works in Nova Scotia, Canada in November, 2005. The factory acceptance test was an essential condition for the acceptance of Transmitters. Factory inspection test of 20 KW FM Transmitters has been conducted from 23.08.2006 to 2.09.2006 and the transmitter consignments are expected to arrive by November, 2006.

Further 4 Nos. of 5 KW FM Transmitters have since been procured. 3 are already installed at Kurseong, Baripada & Hyderabad and the remaining one will be installed at Oras after building is ready in the ongoing financial year.

[Ministry of I&B, O.M. No. G-20016/10/2006-B&A,  
dated 15.12.2006]

#### **Comments of the Committee**

Please *see* Paragraph No. 14 of Chapter-I

#### **National Press Centre (NPC)**

##### **Recommendation (Para No. 22)**

The Committee in their Fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2004-05) had expressed concern over the delay in the setting up of the National Press Centre having state of the art facilities at New Delhi. On an assurance by the representatives of the Ministry during evidence to the effect that the project would be commissioned on time, the Committee had desired that the funds earmarked for the year be utilized for the Press Centre. While considering the Action Taken by the Ministry, the committee were not satisfied with the progress and therefore, impressed upon the Department to complete the project with utmost urgency. The Committee have now been informed that an MoU has been signed with NBCC on 16th February 2006 for the construction of the National Media Centre at New Delhi stating that the project should be executed in a time bound manner, and that the building handed over duly furnished in "Ready to occupy conditions" to PIB within 24 months which shall start from the date of approval of design/drawings from statutory authorities, release of initial deposit and handing over of land for construction. The Committee are further informed that the approval of designs/drawings from statutory authorities is still pending. The Committee's examination has, in fact, revealed that the work is still going on at a snail's pace. They desired that necessary steps should be taken with a view to ensuring completion of the project within the stipulated two years.



### **Action Taken by the Government**

The work on the project has not taken off for want of necessary clearances from Delhi Urban Art Commission (DUAC), New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) and Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD). Secretary, I&B, has written to Secretary, Urban Development, on 18th April, 2006 and again on 2nd August, 2006 requesting him to instruct the CPWD to present the revised urban form proposal at the earliest to DUAC, so that DUAC can clear the same and Ministry of I&B can then request the NDMC to pass the building plan proposal which is already with them. However despite follow up, the response of the MoUD is still awaited.

[Ministry of I&B, O.M. No. G-20016/10/2006-B&A,  
dated 15.12.2006]

### **Comments of the Committee**

Please *see* Paragraph Nos. 20 & 21 of Chapter-I

### **Children's Film Society of India**

#### **Recommendation (Para No. 26)**

The Committee note that expenditure under "Film Production" scheme has been consistently low during this plan period. This scheme had an allocation of Rs. 352.00 lakh out of Rs. 519.40 lakhs for CFSI which is more than 60% of CFSI's total Budget for the year 2005-06. The target set for production of feature films was five and two for short films in this year (2005-06). As against this, two feature films and two short films were completed in the year. Similarly in the dubbing of films against a target of fourteen versions only four versions were completed and out of three films that were to be purchased only one was purchased. The Committee further note that during the four years of the Xth Plan period 2002-2006, whereas the target for production was five feature films per year and two short films per year only ten feature films and eight short films were completed. The Committee are informed that the main reason for under utilization has been on-receipt of suitable film proposals/synopsis and scripts which consequently resulted in a lesser number of films approved by the Script Committee. The dubbing was less because of non-availability of Indu Sound Stock. The Ministry in their Action Taken Replies to a similar recommendation of this Committee while considering the Demands for Grants (2005-06) had stated that the Chairperson has appealed to the Film Writers Association for providing necessary

publicity and support. The CFSI had also written to eminent film makers and General Body of CFSI had also been requested to explore the possibility of having films made especially in their regional languages and forwarded to the Society. The Committee feel that efforts of the Society in this direction are not enough and it has not been able to attract good scripts. There is no dearth of talent in the field of creative writing considering the talents available within the country. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Society should give wide publicity to its requirements for scripts, organize competition to attract budding talents, tie up with the Universities/Institutes of excellence and provide scholarship in the field of creative writing.

#### **Action Taken by the Government**

Recommendation has been noted for compliance.

[Ministry of I&B, O.M. No. G-20016/10/2006-B&A,  
dated 15.12.2006]

#### **Comments of the Committee**

Please *see* Paragraph No. 27 of Chapter-I

## CHAPTER V

### RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES ARE OF INTERIM NATURE

#### **Restructuring of Prasar Bharati**

##### **Recommendation (Para No. 7)**

The Committee have been informed that Prasar Bharati has liabilities to the tune of Rs. 2978 crore as on 1st April, 2006 with an annual accruing interest on these liabilities. The liabilities of Prasar Bharati have come through loans taken by Prasar Bharati, Space Segment Charges and Spectrum Charges. The Committee are informed that Prasar Bharati cannot go into joint venture and also cannot borrow from the market to pay off these loans. The earnings of Prasar Bharati are so meagre that projects suffer due to insufficient funds. The only way to get rid of the liabilities could be through a write off these loans by Central Government or through enhanced earnings. The Committee feel that capital restructuring is step in the right direction. In this connection, the Committee are informed that a Committee constituted by Government on the subject has submitted their Report which is presently stated to be under consideration of the Ministry of Finance. The Committee, therefore, urges the Government to consider the report of the Committee on restructuring of Prasar Bharati and take necessary follow-up measures with a view to enabling Prasar Bharati to meet their twin objectives of social obligation as well as financial independence in an effective manner in the prevailing competitive market environment.

##### **Action Taken by the Government**

The report of the Committee is currently before the Group of Ministers constituted to look into the problems of Prasar Bharati.

[Ministry of I&B, O.M. No. G-20016/10/2006-B&A,  
dated 15.12.2006]

##### **Recommendation (Para No. 8)**

The Committee desire that while undertaking the restructuring exercise of Prasar Bharati, the career prospects of its employees, who have been serving the creative urge of the country over several decades should be duly taken care of. The Committee would like to be informed of the action taken in the matter.

### **Action Taken by the Government**

A GOM (Group of Ministers) has been constituted to consider various issues pertaining to functioning of the Prasar Bharati including service conditions and financial package for the employees for joining Prasar Bharati. This also covers the proposals for formulating service conditions with higher financial incentives to all the employees or consider the suggestions of the Prasar Bharati that the pay, service/allowances and other service conditions of the employees of Prasar Bharati may be considered on the pattern of Central PSUs like MTNL, BSNL or any other comparable organizations.

[Ministry of I&B, O.M. No. G-20016/10/2006-B&A,  
dated 15.12.2006]

### **Digitalisation of Archives**

#### **Recommendation (Para No. 9)**

The Committee are aware that Doordarshan as well as All India Radio have huge amount of records of archival value which form a part of our national heritage. Their attention has been drawn to reports of pilferage of this valuable possession thereby making it a permanent loss to Prasar Bharati and also to the nation. The Committee cannot but express their serious concern over this. They, therefore, recommend that such cases should be thoroughly investigated and action taken against the culprits. The Committee would like to be informed of the action taken in the matter.

### **Action Taken by the Government**

There is no case of pilferage from Central Archives, Doordarshan. Adequate measures have been already taken to protect the holding and only authorized persons are allowed to have access and work on the holdings within the premises of the Archives. A close watch and vigil is being kept on the work flow.

All India Radio is having its Central Archives in Delhi consisting of 47,000 audio tapes, which form a part of our national heritage. All India Radio is ensuring all steps to preserve these valuable recordings for posterity and all the tapes are kept in 24 hours air conditioned library with norms at par with international specifications. As far as the reported loss of recordings in which one valuable recording was found missing in November, 2004, the Vigilance Section of DG: AIR has initiated an enquiry into it and the matter is progressing.

[Ministry of I&B, O.M. No. G-20016/10/2006-B&A,  
dated 15.12.2006]

## **Restoration of Section 22 of PB Act:**

### **Recommendation (Para No. 12)**

The Committee note that Section 22 of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 gave it immunity from taxes and duties. This exemption has been withdrawn *w.e.f.* 1st April, 2003 and now Prasar Bharati has to bear the burden of all taxes. However, on the advice of the Ministry of Finance, Prasar Bharati registered itself as a charitable institution engaged in the pursuit of general public utility under section 12A read with section 12AA (1) (b) of the Income Tax Act and thus the tax exemption from payment of IT withdrawn by the Finance Act, 2002 has been restored *w.e.f.* 1.4.2003. However, presently, Prasar Bharati is made to pay service tax and the annual liability of which stands to be around Rs. 70-72 crore. State Governments are also coming up with bills for the payment of surcharge on electricity, property tax, motor vehicle tax and a huge amount towards property tax. Prasar Bharati has pleaded for restoration of Section 22 of the Act on the ground that it is a public broadcaster and also in view of the fact that such a provision existed before April, 2003. The Committee learn that this issue is also included in the terms of references on the financial restructuring of Prasar Bharati of a Group of Ministers (GOM) on Prasar Bharati. The Committee trust that the points made by Prasar Bharati would be looked into in all its implications with a view to extending all possible help to Prasar Bharati so as to enable it to play its public broadcasting role more effectively. The Committee would like to be kept apprised of the decision taken in the matter.

### **Action Taken by the Government**

As rightly observed by the Committee, this item is under consideration of Group of Ministers. The Committee would be informed of the decision taken in the matter.

[Ministry of I&B, O.M. No. G-20016/10/2006-B&A,  
dated 15.12.2006]

## **(ii) The Broadcasting Bill**

### **Recommendation (Para No. 20)**

The Committee learn that the Ministry has issued a large number of notices to different channels for violation of programme and advertising codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994 advising them to be more careful in future. The Committee

are informed that the Ministry are in process of introducing a Bill to set up a Broadcasting Regulatory Authority of India to receive and dispose of complaints on content telecast by TV channels and to deal with other regulatory issues in the Broadcasting sector. The said Bill was expected to be introduced in Parliament during the monsoon session, 2005. The Committee are of the opinion that there is an urgent need to put in place a regulatory mechanism for the Broadcasting sector. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should make earnest efforts to introduce the said Bill to Parliament at earliest.

#### **Action Taken by the Government**

The broadcasting Services Regulation Bill 2006 has been posted on the website of the Ministry inviting comments of the stakeholders/general public. The Comments received from the Stakeholders/general public are being examined for finalizing the draft Bill.

[Ministry of I&B, O.M. No. G-20016/10/2006-B&A,  
dated 15.12.2006]

#### **(iv) Winding up of Song & Drama Division and the Directorate of Field Publicity**

##### **Recommendation (Para No. 25)**

The Committee are informed that the Song and Drama Division and the Directorate of Field Publicity are two very important units of the Information Wing of the Ministry. The artists in the Song and Drama Division possess exemplary local talent and are engaged as per need without being a burden on the Ministry. Similarly the field publicity units fulfil the need of communication, publicity and extension work in remote and far-flung areas. Both these units play a vital role in educating the masses through various kinds of awareness campaigns and inter-personal exchanges. The Committee are further informed that the Expenditure Reform Commission (ERC) in its Second Report has amongst other findings recommended that the Films Division, Photo Division, Song and Drama Division (S&DD), Directorate of Field Publicity (DFP) and Publications Division may be wound up. Keeping in view the importance of the Song and Drama Division and the DFP, the Ministry did not accept the recommendation of the ERC. The Ministry approached the Committee of Secretaries (COS) but the Committee of Secretaries (COS) also reiterated for closure of S&DD and DFP. The Committee recognize the importance of these units and their contribution in the field, particularly in the remote and far-flung areas. They are of the firm opinion that these traditional media units are of immense help in reaching the masses for communication, publicity and awareness campaigns etc. These media units are also

playing a crucial role promoting local talent by providing them a platform. The Committee are, therefore, of the strong conviction that winding up of these units will be a great loss to the nation and to the national talent. They definitely need to be encouraged. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should leave no stone unturned and put up a strong case again before the Committee of Secretaries (COS) for reconsideration of their decision. They would like to be informed of the position.

#### **Action Taken by the Government**

The matter was referred to Cabinet Secretariat *vide* this Ministry's Letter No. 17/1/2006-Admn. IV dated 21.07.2006 for placing the matter before the Committee of Secretaries (COS) for reconsideration. However, the Cabinet Secretariat *vide* their U.O. No. 331/21/2006-CA. IV dated 22.08.2006 has informed that all the matters of differences between the Ministry and recommendations of Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC) will be dealt by Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. Accordingly, the matter has been referred *vide* this Ministry's Letter No. 17/1/2006-Admn. IV dated 04.09.2006 to the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance for reconsideration.

[Ministry of I&B, O.M. No. G-20016/10/2006-B&A,  
dated 15.12.2006]

#### **Piracy in Film and Music Sectors**

##### **Recommendation (Para No. 28)**

One of the thrust areas in the Tenth Five Year Plan is imposition of stringent curbs on film piracy in order to boost the revenues of the industry. The Committee are, however, deeply concerned about the wide-spread complaints of the rising incidence of piracy in the film and music sector. The Committee are informed that the legal provisions regarding copyright in Cinematography Films & Music are covered under the Copyright Act 1957, which falls under the purview of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have stated that they have made suggestions for restricting incidence of piracy in the film and music sector while considering the ongoing amendments to the Copyright Act. The Committee are further informed that the Ministry are also examining the need to enact on Optical Disc Law to counter piracy in the entertainment sector in consultation with the stakeholders. The Committee are of the view that piracy is not only detrimental to the growth of film industry but also discourages creativity and innovation in various fields of film making. The Committee, therefore, are of the considered opinion that there is an imperative need to enact suitable

laws followed up with effective implementation in the over all interest of the film industry. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should expedite the initiatives stated to have been taken by them in this direction to their logical conclusions. The Committee would like to be informed of the precise action taken in the matter.

### **Action Taken by the Government**

The Copyright Act, 1957, which falls under the purview of the Ministry of Human Resource Development contains, *inter alia*, legal provisions regarding copyright in cinematograph films and music. The Act is amended from time to time to keep in consonance with International Copyright Law. This Ministry has also made suggestions for restricting incidence of piracy in the film and music sector while considering the ongoing amendments to the Copyright.

2. This Ministry in consultation with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and other stakeholders, is examining the need to enact on Optical Disc Law to counter piracy in the entertainment sector. FICCI has set up a Working Group on Optical Disc Law, which has prepared a draft law in this regard. The draft law has been circulated by FICCI amongst the Working Group for soliciting comments and aims to cover the procedural and other requirements in the sphere of optical discs (*i.e.* relating to CDs, VCD's etc). The final draft is expected to be submitted to this Ministry shortly.

3. In pursuance of the decision taken by the Hon'ble Minister of Information and Broadcasting during the meeting with Film Industry representatives recently, a Core Group on Piracy, the Exhibition Sector including Multiplex and Issues of Certification has been set up under the Chairpersonship of Smt. Shabana Azmi on 29.9.06. It has been requested to submit its report by 30.11.06. The recommendations of this Core Group will be for the future course of action considered necessary of combat the menace of piracy from the Film and Music Sector.

[Ministry of I&B, O.M. No. G-20016/10/2006-B&A,  
dated 15.12.2006]

NEW DELHI;  
20 March, 2007  

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29 Phalgun, 1928 (Saka)

NIKHIL KUMAR,  
Chairman,  
Standing Committee on  
Information Technology.





(iii) Draft Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in their Thirty-Second Report on “Demands for Grants (2005-06)” relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

3. The Committee, then, authorised the Chairman to finalize and present the Reports to the House on a day convenient to him.

**The Committee, then, adjourned.**

ANNEXURE II

[Vide Paragraph No. 5 of Introduction]

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE  
RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS CONTAINED IN  
THIRTY-SECOND REPORT (FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)  
OF THE COMMITTEE

(i)	Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government: Para Nos: 1-6, 11, 13-16, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24 & 27	
	Total:	17
	Percentage:	60/71%
(ii)	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government: Para No: Nil	
	Total:	Nil
	Percentage:	Nil
(iii)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration: Para Nos: 10, 17, 22 & 26	
	Total:	4
	Percentage:	14.28%
(iv)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies are of interim nature: Para Nos: 7-9, 12, 20, 25 & 28	
	Total:	7
	Percentage:	25%