

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 Forty-Third Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2007-2008)' pertaining to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

2. The Forty-Third Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 27 April, 2007 and was laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on the same day. It contained 29 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:- 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 15, 16, 17, 19, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28 & 29.

Total: 18

Chapter-II

(ii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the reply 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:- 1, 18, 20, 22 & 27

Total: 05

Chapter-IV

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

Para Nos:- 7, 10, 11, 13, 14 & 21

Total: 06

Chapter-V

4. The Committee trust that utmost importance would be given to implementation of the recommendations/observations accepted by the Government. In cases, where it is not possible for the Department to implement the recommendations in letter and spirit for any reason, 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 action taken replies to the recommendations contained in Chapter-V of this Report should be furnished to them at an early date.

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

I. Plan allocation and utilization

Recommendation (Para No. 1)

6. In their Forty-Third Report the Committee observed that during the years 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 the Annual Plan allocations for the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting were lesser as compared to non-Plan allocations. The Committee also observed that the main reasons for reduced Plan allocations in the abovesaid years were due to the inability of the Ministry to optimally utilize the allocated funds as well as the failure on the part of Prasar Bharati to generate adequate Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR). In the light of the above findings, the Committee urged upon the Ministry to identify the weaknesses in the system, plug the loopholes and make serious efforts to optimally utilize the Annual Plan allocations during the Eleventh Plan Period.

7. The Ministry in their Action Taken Note have stated as follows:-

“For the Annual Plan 2006-07 the Ministry had initially proposed to the Planning Commission a Direct Budgetary Support (DBS) amounting Rs. 1467.83 Crore. However, after discussions at various stages, the Planning Commission finally allocated Rs. 538 Crore as DBS for Annual Plan 2006-07. Similarly, for Annual Plan 2007-2008, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had proposed a DBS outlay of Rs. 1777.90 Crore as against which the Planning Commission allocated Rs. 475 Crore. This Ministry is making all out efforts to ensure that the Plan outlay is utilized to the fullest extent. A system of regular monitoring and review of Plan Schemes has been put in place.”

8. The Committee note that during the years 2006-2007 and 2007-2008, against the proposed Direct Budgetary Support of Rs. 1467.83 crore and Rs. 1777.90 crore respectively, the actual corresponding allocations to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting were Rs. 538 crore and Rs. 475 crore. In their earlier Reports the Committee had found that one of the main reasons for reduced allocation of budgetary support to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has been the inability of the Ministry to fully utilize the allocated funds. As a matter of fact, the Planning Commission has a very valid ground in curtailing the originally proposed budgetary support to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in view of the Ministry's continuous shortfalls over the years in utilizing even the reduced allocations. In other words, the Ministry stand a good chance of getting an enhanced budgetary support if they utilize the allocated funds to the optimum extent. Therefore, the Committee once again impress upon the Ministry to optimally utilize the Annual Plan allocations and the system of regular monitoring and review of the Plan Schemes, as has reportedly been put in place by the Ministry, should be effectively operated to achieve the purpose.

II. Special Package for the North East Region

Recommendation (Para No. 18)

9. In their earlier Report, the Committee observed that although more than the required amount was available with Prasar Bharati for implementation of Phase-I of the Special Package for the North East Region, both AIR and Doordarshan chose to implement lesser number of projects. Not satisfied with the plea of low cost of equipment which resulted in under utilization of allocated funds, the Committee felt that more number of projects should have been identified by AIR and Doordarshan to ensure optimum utilization of funds earmarked for the Special Package.

10. The Ministry in their Action Taken Note have stated as follows:—

“**All India Radio:** Phase-I was approved in Jan, 2002 towards the end of 9th Plan at a cost of Rs. 24.8 crore for improvement and expansion of AIR services in the North-East including Sikkim and Island Territories. AIR projects approved under Phase-I included 6 projects namely, 10 KW FM Transmitters at Port Blair, Itanagar and Kohima and upgradation of existing uplinking facilities to digital system at Itanagar, Shillong and Guwahati. These projects were completed by 2003-04 as scheduled, except the 10 KW FM Transmitter project at Kohima where an interim set up of

1 KW FM Transmitter was provided. Installation of permanent set up of 10 KW FM Transmitter at Kohima is also in progress. Staff sanction for operation and maintenance of FM Transmitters is, however, still awaited.

Doordarshan: Special package for NE States & Island Territories, which was considered by the EFC in its meeting held on 31.01.02, *inter alia*, included a large number of Schemes for expansion and improvement of Doordarshan services and the outlay involved in the package for Doordarshan schemes was Rs. 470 crore. During the EFC meeting, it was decided that there was a need to look at the fresh technology option for coverage of uncovered areas and that the revised proposal be brought after finalization of 10th Plan outlay. Only four schemes of Doordarshan *viz.* upgradation of 5 Nos. of 1KW HPTs; 160 Cable headends; 2 satellite earth stations and satellite video phones costing Rs. 47.52 crore were approved for implementation under Annual Plan 2002-2003. All the above four schemes have since been completed. Total expenditure incurred on these schemes is Rs. 33.25 crore. Expenditure is less as compared to approved outlay due to less expenditure on equipment because of lower cost."

11. The Committee note that under Phase-I of the Special Package for the North-East Region, six Projects were approved for the All India Radio for setting up of Transmitters and upgradation of existing uplinking facilities to digital system. Although five projects have been completed by 2003-2004 as scheduled, the 10 KW FM Transmitter Project at Kohima is yet to be completed. The Ministry's contention, that staff sanction for operation and maintenance of FM Transmitters is still awaited, should not be construed as a valid reason for AIR not completing the Project. In the opinion of the Committee prudence requires that AIR should complete the targetted project at Kohima on top priority basis. The matter of staff sanction for operation and maintenance of FM Transmitters may also be pursued vigorously at the appropriate level.

12. The Committee note that only four schemes of Doordarshan at a cost of Rs. 47.52 crore were approved for implementation under Annual Plan 2002-2003, consequent upon the decision taken during the EFC meeting to look at the fresh technology option for coverage of uncovered areas. All the above four schemes have since reportedly been completed with an expenditure of Rs. 33.25 Crore. The lower expenditure has been attributed to lower cost of equipment. What the Committee tried to emphasize in their earlier Report was that

more schemes/projects should have been identified for effective as well as optimum utilization of the allocated funds under the Special Package. In other words, even after accomplishing the earmarked schemes/projects within the given time frame, if Doordarshan/All India Radio are left with sizeable unspent amount due to lower cost of equipment, they should thrive to identify some more important projects for coverage of the uncovered areas under the Special Package. The Committee desire that measures should be taken accordingly during the Eleventh Five Year period so that funds allocated in the Annual Plans under the Special Package for the North East Region are properly utilised.

III. Special Package for Jammu and Kashmir

Recommendation (Para No. 20)

13. In their Forty-Third Report, the Committee were dissatisfied to find that Phase-I of the Special Package for J&K which was approved as early as in 1999-2000 was still to be implemented fully as the construction of transmitters at Kupwara and Amritsar was yet to be completed and operationalised. Further, viewing seriously the undue delay in finalizing Phase-II of the J&K Special Package on account of inter-ministerial differences, the Committee impressed upon the Ministry to follow up the Scheme with other concerned ministries and finalise the same at the earliest.

14. The Ministry in their reply have stated as follows:—

“All India Radio: Special Plan for improvement and expansion of radio coverage in the State of Jammu and Kashmir was approved by the Government in 1999-2000. Installation of all the 12 Projects included in the Special Plan has been completed. These are Kathua, 10 KW FM Transmitter (Replacement of 6 KW), Rajouri, 10 KW FM Transmitter, Srinagar, 300 KW MW Transmitter (Replacement of 200 KW), 20 KW MW Transmitters at Kupwara and Naushera, 6 Relay centres with 1 KW MW Transmitters at Khalsi, Drass, Tiesuru Diskit, Nyoma and Padum and Kargil (200 KW MW Transmitter). All Projects have been commissioned except those at Padum, Nyoma and Diskit.

Doordarshan: Special J&K Plan was approved by the Government in 1999. All the Projects envisaged under this Plan have already been implemented. At two places *viz.* Kupwara and Amritsar the transmitters are functioning in interim set up with temporary towers. Construction of permanent tower at Kupwara has almost been completed and the transmitters at Kupwara are expected to be commissioned on full power shortly. Work of construction of tower at Amritsar is in progress and is expected to be completed during 2008. There had been delay in availability of land at Amritsar.

J&K Special Package Phase-II is being submitted to CCEA for approval shortly.”

15. The Committee note that installation of all the 12 Projects included in the J&K Special Plan for improvement and expansion of radio coverage in the State of Jammu & Kashmir have been completed by AIR. However, out of the 12 Projects already installed, 3 projects at Podum, Nyona and Diskit are yet to be commissioned. Similarly, for two Doordarshan Projects at Kupwara and Amritsar, transmitters are functioning still in an interim setup with temporary towers. Taking into consideration the strategic importance that the Government of India accord to J&K and the approval of the Special Plan way back in the Ninth Five Year Plan period, the Committee impress upon the Ministry/Air/DD to complete and commission the remaining Projects under the J&K Special Package without further delay. The Committee further desire that the Special Package Phase II, which has been inordinately delayed and still is to be submitted to the Cabinet for approval, be finalised at the earliest.

IV. Construction of Staff Quarters by Prasar Bharati

Recommendation (Para No. 22)

16. In their earlier Report, observing the tardy progress of construction of staff quarters by Prasar Bharati at four metro cities and 11 other places and the consequential lower fund utilization thereof, the Committee impressed upon Prasar Bharati to expedite the construction work of the staff quarters in view of the urgency involved and the welfare of the employees of Prasar Bharati.

17. The Ministry in their Action Taken Note have stated as under:—

“All India Radio: The expenditure incurred under Staff quarters during the year 2006-07 is Rs. 10.66 crore against SBG of Rs. 10.00 crore, thereby exceeding the allocations made. Total expenditure under this sub-head against the approved outlay of Rs. 40.00 crore in respect of All India Radio is Rs. 16.01 crore. The lower utilization during the 10th Plan period is mainly because of delay in getting the approval of local bodies at Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai and Kolkata. The provisions made for staff quarters during 2007-08 will be utilized and it is likely that additional amount may be required as the construction are already in full swing at Delhi. The works at Chennai, Mumbai and Kolkata are likely to be taken up shortly. The present position of construction of staff quarters at four metros and other places is given below:

- (i) Staff quarters at Kingsway Camp, Delhi: Construction of 590 nos. staff quarters at Kingsway Camp, Delhi has been sanctioned. There are old quarters at the site, most of which are occupied by the staff. The construction of quarters has been taken up in 2 phases due to the site conditions. In the first phase 323 nos. of quarters are under construction on the site at the open space and by demolishing the vacant quarters. The first phase is nearing completion and the target date is July/August, 2007. After the existing staff occupying the old quarters is shifted to newly constructed quarters, the old quarters will be demolished and construction of remaining quarters will start under phase II. Some of the quarters are proposed to be constructed at Todapur site which requires change of land use. The issue has already been taken up with DDA and Ministry of Urban Development but approval is still awaited.
- (ii) Staff quarters at Mumbai: Quarters are to be constructed at Borivelli site at Mumbai. Building plans are awaiting approval of local body.
- (iii) Staff quarters at Kolkata: The staff quarters were initially planned at Baishnavghat site but the local body approval not received as it required change of land use. Staff quarters are now planned at Patuli site. Building plans are already submitted to local body. Approval is awaited.
- (iv) Staff quarters at Chennai: Staff quarters are planned to be constructed at Guindi site. This required change of land use approval of which was received from the local body in

April, 2006. Building plans have been submitted to the local body and are awaiting approval.

- (v) Staff quarters at other stations: 108 nos. of staff quarters were planned at 6 AIR stations namely Vadodra, Ranchi, Leh, Mysore, Puducherry and Patna. Construction of these quarters is complete.

Doordarshan: The Scheme for construction of staff quarters for Prasar Bharati staff approved by the Government in December, 2004 at a cost of Rs. 160 crore, *inter alia*, includes construction of Doordarshan staff quarter at 15 places. Out of the 15 places, staff quarters at 4 places of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai are common for AIR and Doordarshan staff. Construction of staff quarters at Delhi is in progress and is to be taken up in the remaining 3 cities.

Out of the remaining 11 places, construction of staff quarters at 3 places *viz.* Lucknow, Hissar and Jaipur has already been completed. Status of construction of quarters at the remaining 8 places is given below:

- (a) Allahabad — Work is at advanced stage of completion.
- (b) Varanasi — Work is at advanced stage of completion.
- (c) Bhawanipatna — Work is in progress and likely to be completed during 2007-08.
- (d) Sambalpur — Work is in progress and likely to be completed during 2007-08.
- (e) Trichur — Work is in progress and likely to be completed during 2007-08.
- (f) Itanagar — Work is in progress and likely to be completed during 2007-08.
- (g) Patna — Tenders have been re-invited by CCW.
- (h) Bangaluru — Tenders have been received by CCW & are under scrutiny."

18. The Committee observe that the scheme for construction of staff quarters for the employees of Prasar Bharati approved by the Government in December, 2004 at a cost of Rs. 160 crore *inter alia*

includes construction of Doordarshan staff quarters at 15 places out of which staff quarters at 4 places i.e. Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai are common for AIR and Doordarshan staff. The Committee further observe that against the approved outlay of Rs. 40 crore for construction of staff quarters by AIR, the actual expenditure by the end of the Tenth Plan period has been Rs. 16.01 crore only. The low utilization of the approved outlay has been mainly attributed to delay in getting the approval of local bodies at the abovesaid four Metros. Although the actual expenditure by Doordarshan *vis-à-vis* the Tenth Plan outlay in this regard has not been furnished to the Committee, there must have been shortfalls in utilization of funds as is evident from the tardy progress of the construction of Doordarshan staff quarters. The Committee express their serious concern to find that staff quarters at 8 places besides the 4 Metros are yet to be completed. The Committee, therefore, urge upon the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Prasar Bharati to consider the plight of the employees with utmost seriousness and tackle all the procedural delays promptly and prudently to facilitate the construction of staff quarters at the remaining places at an early date, ensuring thereby optimum utilization of the Plan outlays.

V. Expansion of FM Services

Recommendation (Para No. 27)

19. In their Forty-Third Report, the Committee observed that against the Tenth Plan outlay of Rs. 11.45 crore for continuing schemes and Rs. 153.60 crore for new schemes for the expansion of FM Services, the actual expenditure by AIR was Rs. 8.36 crore and Rs. 27.46 crore respectively as on 31 December, 2006. The Committee further observed that out of the approved target of commissioning 120 FM Stations during the Tenth Plan Period, only 22 Stations were completed or nearing completion while the remaining 98 projects were carried forward to the Eleventh Plan period. In view of the above, the Committee recommended that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting as well as All India Radio should make concerted efforts to speed up the implementation process and achieve both physical and financial targets earmarked for the Scheme during the Eleventh Plan Period.

20. The Ministry in their Action Taken Note have stated as under:—

“Against the SBG of Rs. 13.01 crore allocated during 10th Plan for Continuing Schemes and Rs. 176.60 crore for New Schemes, the actual expenditure up to 31st March, 2007 is Rs. 8.84 crore and

Rs. 45.43 crore respectively. The utilization being 77.21% in Continuing Schemes and 29.58% in New Schemes.

While taking note of Committee's observations, it is stated that the main reasons which had hampered the implementation of FM projects during 10th Plan were:

1. Procurement proposal for 28 Nos. of 10 KW FM Transmitters was cleared by Ministry in October, 2006 (against the original proposal for 33 Nos.) Advance AT for procurement was placed in December, 06 but the firm did not deposit Performance Guarantee. Therefore, order has been cancelled. Now, fresh tenders have been invited and are due for opening shortly.
2. Proposal for pre-dispatch inspection of 6 Nos. of 20 KW FM Transmitters at manufacturer's place was cleared by Ministry in August, 2006. Transmitters have since been received and installation in progress.
3. Approval of 19 numbers of new stations with 1 KW FM Transmitters, 5 KW FM Transmitter at Silchar and 10 KW FM at Gangtok included under phase-II of North East Special Plan was received in May, 2006. Sites for these Centres are being identified with the help of State Governments. Procurement of 1 KW FM Transmitters is also in progress. Action for implementation of 5 KW FM Transmitter at Silchar and 10 KW FM Transmitter at Gangtok is in progress.
4. Delay in offer of sites and demand notes from State Governments. Besides, cost of sites in some cases is very high like Jamnagar (Rs. 67 lakh), Maldah (Rs. 35 lakh), Tamluk (Rs. 2.34 crore), Motihari (Rs. 25 lakh) and Nellore (Rs. 68 lakh).
5. Besides above, it may be mentioned that proposals for any new Projects which involve creation of posts are not being approved as a number of Projects are already lying unutilized due to non-availability of O&M staff."

21. The Committee note that against the Budgetary Support of Rs. 13.01 crore allocated during the Tenth Plan period for Continuing Schemes and Rs. 176.60 crore for New Schemes under expansion of FM services, the actual expenditure by the end of the Plan period has been Rs. 8.84 crore and Rs. 45.43 respectively. The shortfalls in

Schemes have been attributed to delay in getting sites and demand notes from the State Government, high cost of sites, non-deposit of Performance Bank Guarantees by the firms, etc. The Committee feel that these are procedural rigmaroles and bound to be experienced quite often when implementing schemes/projects. What is required to deal with such problems is advance planning, timely action and proper coordination with other agencies. The Committee recommend that the Ministry/AIR should take measures accordingly so that the 98 Projects carried over to the Eleventh Plan period are accomplished on time and with optimum fund utilisation.

22. The Committee find that according to the Ministry, proposals for new Projects which involve creation of posts are not being approved and a number of projects are already lying unutilized due to non-availability of operation and maintenance staff. The Committee are really surprised at such a paradoxical situation. On the one hand, the Ministry are taking up new schemes/projects for implementation while on the other, similar schemes/projects are non-functional, even after completion, due to want of operation and maintenance staff. The Committee are of the firm view that this problem should be addressed to in all its implications and suitable corrective action taken accordingly.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Tenth Plan Performance

Recommendation (No. 2)

The Committee note that the total Tenth Plan proposed allocation to the three sectors of the Ministry, *viz.* Information, Films and Broadcasting Sector was Rs. 5130 crore. Against this, the actual allocation made for the Five Annual Plans 2002-2007 was Rs. 4381 crore and the total expenditure upto 28th February, 2007 was Rs. 2741.09 crore. The percentage of the total Plan expenditure of the Ministry upto 28th February, 2007 in respect of 10th Plan outlay was 53.43. The Plan expenditure in all the three sectors namely, Information, Film and Broadcasting were 58.63%, 58.41% and 62.86% respectively over the total allocation for the Five Annual Plan periods. The figures speak for themselves bringing out the dismal performance of the Ministry in utilization of Plan allocations and achievements of targets. Taking note of the unsatisfactory trend in the utilization of funds under the Plan allocation, as early as in 2004-2005, *i.e.* in the beginning of the third year of the Plan, the Committee had in their 4th Report on Demands for Grants 2004-2005 cautioned the Ministry to take corrective steps to arrest the trend, which does not seem to have been taken heed of. Without mincing words, the Committee would like to place on record their anguish about the functioning of the Ministry and their capability to effectively fulfill the wide mandate given to them in respect of information, education and entertainment in the specific fields of print and electronic media and films. What dismays the Committee is that the Ministry does not seem to have made any serious internal assessment to identify the root causes leading to abysmally low utilisation of Plan funds. The Committee are of the firm view that such state of affairs cannot be allowed to continue in a Ministry assigned with the responsibility of information and broadcasting which is a very socially sensitive and vital sector. There is an emergent need to bring about greater efficiency and revitalize the three key sectors of information, films and broadcasting with a view to ensuring better results during the current 11th Plan. They, therefore, recommend that a concrete plan of action for improved performance in the new Plan period be drawn with specific strategy for each sector in consultation

with different Wings/Units under the Ministry. This should also be communicated to all the Wings under the Ministry and their strict compliance ensured at all levels through regular review and monitoring. The Committee would like to be informed of the measures taken by the Ministry in the above context.

Action taken by the Government

The observations of the Standing Committee have been noted. In respect of 11th Five Year Plan for I & B sector, Planning Commission had set up a Working Group under the Chairmanship of Secretary (I&B), comprising of senior Government officials and non-officials/experts in the field for making an in-depth study of the status and future programmes of various sectors of this Ministry, Four Sub-Groups were formed to assist the Working Group. The Working Group finalized its reports and submitted them to the Planning Commission. The Ministry was allocated only Rs. 475 crore in the Plan side in the annual Plan 2007-2008. The 11th Plan proposal of the Ministry has not yet been finalized by the Planning commission. However, a system of monitoring to review the Plan Schemes/Projects regularly at the implementing level and the Ministry level has been put in place so as to ensure that the objectives envisaged in the Plan are achieved.

Sd/-

(R.C. Misra)

Additional Secretary & FA

[M/o I&B O.M. No. 4/3/2007-PC (Vol. III) dated 5.6.2007]

Tenth Plan Performance

Recommendation (No. 3)

The Committee note with concern that a number of schemes/projects chosen for implementation during the 10th Plan were dropped while formulating the Plan Outlay for the first year of the 11th Plan. This included important schemes like modernization of Photo Division; Information, Communication, Technology (ICT) activities in hilly/tribal/desert/sensitive and border areas and training of human resources development by song & Drama Division; modernization and replacement of obsolete equipments of the Films Division; induction of new technologies like Internet Radio Broadcasting, Digital Broadcasting, etc. by All India Radio; induction of IT enabled multimedia by Doordarshan; etc. Although the 11th Plan has not been finally approved, it is a clear indication that the schemes had remained on paper during the 10th Plan period and have not seen the light of

the day. Undoubtedly, it implies bad planning and poor implementation of schemes prevalent in the Ministry that definitely calls for a radical change. The Committee also feel concerned that several major projects which were part of the 10th Plan have not been completed and are being carried forward to the 11th Plan. Digitalisation and automation of Prasar Bharati, setting up of Transmitter under J&K Special scheme and NE Special Package, construction of Sochna Bhawan in New Delhi, Directorate of Film Festival's Film Festival Complex, etc. are a few among such projects. While on the one hand several projects were either not taken up or were delayed, on the other hand, there were serious shortfalls in the utilization of Plan allocations. These facts further reinforce the Committee's observations made earlier about the Ministry's unsatisfactory approach to the planned activities in this vital sector. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to take corrective measures in all these spheres with a view to reversing these negative trends and improving the overall performance of the Ministry during the 11th Plan period.

Action taken by the Government

The observations of the Standing Committee have been noted with due care. Some of the Schemes, which were dropped by the Planning Commission while finalizing the Annual Plan 2007-2008, have been again proposed for inclusion in the 11th Plan. The system of monitoring and review of Plan Schemes/Projects has been further activated in the Media Units as well as in the Ministry. The performance of all Media Units and Sectors is regularly reviewed at the level of Secretary (I&B). This Ministry is making all out efforts to ensure that Schemes/Projects are implemented successfully within time targets set.

Sd/-
(R.C. Misra)
Additional Secretary & FA

[M/o I&B O.M. No. 4/3/2007-PC (Vol. III) dated 5.6.2007]

Thrust Areas of Eleventh Plan

Recommendation (No. 4)

The Committee note that the Approach Paper of the Planning Commission for the 11th five Year Plan has found that the entertainment and media services sector is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate exceeding 19% during the 11th Plan period. The indications are that the growth level will be about 42% in

Television, 19% in films, 4% in radio, 2% in music, 31% in print media, 2% in live entertainment and 3% in advertising. The Working Group set up by the Planning Commission on Information and Broadcasting, while formulating its recommendations, has taken a view that the growth potentiality of the sector needs to be captured through appropriate policy environment. According to the Ministry some of the new proposals included in the 11th Plan proposals are conversion of Indian Institute of Mass Communication into International Media University, setting up of Institute of Mass Media Studies, setting up of Global Film School, holding of National Digital Festival and setting up of National Centre of Excellence for Gaming and Special Effects. The Working Group had also recommended starting of an international channel with public-private partnership to project India's global presence and its soft power for which an outlay of Rs. 500 crore @Rs. 100 crore per annum in the 11th Plan might be provided as Government contribution. This proposal is stated to be under the consideration of a Working Group under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister. In the meantime, the Ministry have approved an amount of Rs. 0.97 crore for the year 2007-2008 for the Scheme. The Committee trust that the findings of the Planning Commission and the recommendations of the Working Group would be pursued with utmost sincerity by the Government. They suggest that the Ministry should look into the need to create appropriate policy environment to sustain the projected growth in the entertainment and media services sectors. The Committee would like to be apprised of the specific action taken by Government in this regard.

Action taken by the Government

Ministry of I&B attaches a great deal of importance and priority to these Schemes/Projects and is of strong conviction that these Schemes/Projects will be implemented successfully during the 11th Plan period.

Sd/-
(R.C. Misra)
Additional Secretary & FA

[M/o I&B O.M. No. 4/3/2007-PC (Vol. III) dated 5.6.2007]

Information Sector

Recommendation (No. 5)

National Press Centre (NPC)

The Committee notes that Press Information Bureau's Scheme for setting up the National Press Centre (NPC) was initiated as early as

in the 8th Plan (1992-1997). It is distressing to find that despite the land being allotted at 3, Raisina Road, New Delhi initially in September 1994 and at 7, Raisina Road subsequently in November-December, 2001 and the foundation stone for the project having been laid by two Prime Ministers on 1st October, 1994 and 5th December, 2001 the project has been in the doldrums during the span of three consecutive Five Year Plans. The reasons advanced for justifying the slippage, *viz.* procedural delays at different stages and the need for obtaining clearances from statutory bodies, etc. are not tenable as these are the usual formalities required to be completed for any projects of this nature. Not only has the undue delay deprived the nation of the advantage of a world class National Press Centre, it has also exposed the lack of proper mechanism in place within the Ministry to monitor implementation of Plan Schemes and optimum utilization of scarce resources allocated for their execution. The Committee had deplored the delay in setting up of the National Press Centre in their Fourth Report on demands for Grants (2004-2005) and thirty Second Report on Demands for Grants (2006-2007). They regret to note that despite the Committee pursuing the project so vigorously, there has hardly been any tangible progress. While placing on their serious displeasure at the way the entire project has been inordinately delayed the Committee stress that at least henceforth stringent measures should be taken to ensure speedy completion of the remaining formalities before handing over of the plot to NBCC for completion of the project within the stipulated 18 months.

Action taken by the Government

The Plan Scheme for "Setting up of National Press Centre' (NPC) at New Delhi was started in the 8th Five Plan (1992-1997). However, as noted above by the Committee, the plot was re-allocated at 7, Raisina Road in November-December, 2001. The Press Information Bureau has been vigorously pursuing and closely monitoring the progress of the work with NBCC, to whom the work of construction of the building was awarded by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on 16.2.2006. The NBCC obtained the approval for demolition of the existing building at the proposed site from NDMC after getting the No Objection Certificates issued by CPWD and Directorate of Estates in this regard, and completed demolition of the existing building by 15.5.2007.

NBCC had submitted the architectural plans of National Press Centre to NDMC on 24.2.2006 or approval. As the site of the Project was under a selected area, namely, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road Institutional Area, the same could not be finalized in isolation and

was subject to approval of Urban design scheme or Rajendra Prasad Road Institutional Area by NDMC/DUAC. Since then, NBCC has been following up the preparation of the Master Plan for RP Institutional Area by CPWD and its approval by NDMC and DUAC. As on 1.5.2007 the Master Plan prepared by CPWD has been submitted to NDMC. It is expected that after due scrutiny, the Master Plan will be sent to DUAC for approval which is expected to be received shortly. Thereafter NBCC shall prepare the revised drawing for NPC based on the approved overall scheme and submit the same to NDMC for approval. After initial scrutiny, the proposal will be forwarded to DUAC/Fire Deptt./DCP (Licensing) for their approval. After getting approvals from all these Authorities, NDMC will release the approved drawings.

It may be submitted that various statutory approvals are required to be obtained before construction of NPC can be started. These approvals are to be given by the agencies concerned *viz.* DUAC, NDMC etc. as per their own procedures over which PIB has no control. It is also submitted that there has been to avoidable delay on the part of PIB and the matter has been continuously pursued. NBCC/PIB will actively pursue to get the aforesaid approvals and make all efforts to ensure that the Project is completed within the stipulated 18 months from the start of the construction.

Sd/-
(Stuti Kacker)
Joint Secretary (P&A)

[M/o I&B O.M. No. 23/14/2007-Press, Dated 26.6.2007]

Recommendation (No. 6)

International Media University

The Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) has been able to establish itself as an Institute of repute in the field of communication, teaching, training and research. Notwithstanding the various long-term and short-term courses offered by it to meet the specific needs of the industry, Government and Public Sector, its performance in the area of research and evaluation studies and collaboration with Regional Centres of learning has been quite unimpressive with the utilization of allocated funds during the 10th Plan period for various Schemes. The under-utilization of allocations for the Scheme, Research and Evaluation Studies, is stated to be on account of the vacant faculty positions. During the examination of Demands for Grants (2006-07), the Committee were informed that steps were being taken to fill up the

vacant position in the Research Department of the Institute. The vacant posts do not seem to have been filled up and neither have subsequent vacancies been filled up. The Committee also note with concern that despite the tall claims and the available funds, hardly has any progress been made in entering into collaboration with Regional Centres of learning for courses in mass communication in order to make available the Institute's expertise through the existing centres. The dismal performance of the Institute in these spheres raises doubts about the capability of the institution to expand its operations beyond the existing framework. The Committee were informed that a proposal has been worked out to convert the IIMC into International Media University which is to be approved by the Planning Commission. After upgrading the skills and profile of the Institution, the proposed University is expected to cater to the training and research needs of third world countries in the area of journalism and mass media. When enquired about the courses that will be offered to the students by the University, there seemed to be no clarity in this regard. With the advancement being made by the media and entertainment industry throughout the world, it is imperative that a set of degree as well as diploma courses in tune with the changing needs of the industry will have to be designed by the institute before being upgraded as an International University. the Committee desire that prompt measures be taken for bringing about overall improvement in the functioning of the Institute and also for commencing preparatory work for its conversion into an International University.

Action taken by the Government

The reasons for shortfall in Research and Evaluation Studies and Collaboration Scheme during 10th Plan period are as follows:

1. Research and Evaluation Studies

Many research studies undertaken by IIMC during the 10th Plan period were sponsored and financed by various Ministries/sponsors, which engaged the time and efforts of the limited available manpower in the Research unit of IIMC. These sponsored projects were generating Revenue for the Institute and, therefore, with the limited manpower some of the Research Projects could not be undertaken. The expenditure of studies conducted out of Plan grant depends on the size and area of study. Most of the studies conducted by the Institute were of shorter duration but provided useful inputs for conducting Institute's academic programmes. Besides this, the Research Department of IIMC is headed by a Professor (Research). The post of Professor (Research) is lying

vacant since 1.4.2004 and, therefore, with the existing manpower it was not possible to utilize all the funds allocated as per the Budget Estimates.

2. Collaboration with Regional Centres of Learning

The reason for shortfall in physical as well as financial terms in the collaboration scheme was due to poor response of Regional Centers/Universities for collaborative arrangements with them. The Institute made all possible efforts within the available resources and manpower, to finalize collaborations with a number of Universities. But, except in the case of Nagaland University, none of the others came forward to finalize collaborations and sign an agreement/MOU with IIMC. Hence due to poor response from Regional Centres/Universities, the Scheme has been discontinued after completion of 10th Plan.

3. Action Taken by IIMC to fill up the vacant posts

All direct recruit vacancies in IIMC are reported in the Annual Direct Recruitment Plan (ADRP) of the Ministry for getting them cleared by the Screening Committee. As soon as they are cleared, action for filling up through advertisements is taken at IIMC. 4 Posts cleared by the Screening Committee have been advertised and screening process is completed. Selection Committees are being constituted to select the candidates for 2 posts. For the remaining two posts due to non-availability of the suitable candidates, necessary action is being taken to re-advertise.

4. Action taken/proposed to be taken by IIMC to design a set of Diploma and Degree Courses in tune with changing needs of the Industry

The Institute proposes to constitute a High Powered Committee, with the approval of appropriate authorities, to finalize the subjects and syllabus to be taught in each training course, nomenclature of courses and number of courses to be conducted at each level. It is also proposed to organize workshops/seminar with the participation of eminent academicians and media practitioners etc. to discuss the needs of media industry for trained manpower, with reference to the changing media scenario and for setting up a New Media University in the country.

The proposal for converting IIMC into International Media University has been taken up with the Planning Commission for allocation of funds.

5. Steps being taken for converting IIMC into International Media University during the 11th Plan period

(I) IIMC approached the UGC with a request to grant Deemed University Status to the IIMC.

(II) Action is being taken to create the necessary physical infrastructure such as:

- Construction of additional classrooms
- Additional faculty rooms
- Hostels
- Expansion of Library facilities
- Canteen facility
- Press expansion
- Computer school etc. by inviting detailed estimates from the CCW

(III) Similarly for creation of additional posts, proposals are being made and submitted for consideration of the competent authorities.

(IV) As mentioned above at point 4, the Institute proposes to introduce relevant UG/PG/Research Degree Courses. Their nomenclature, subjects to be taught, syllabus etc. are to be decided after conducting the workshops/discussions with the experts/ Recommendation of the Committees.

Sd/-
(Stuti Kacker)
Joint Secretary (P&A)

[M/o I&B O.M. No. 23/13/2007-IP&MC, dated 19.7.2007]

Film Sector

Recommendation (No. 8)

National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)

The National Film Development Corporation Ltd. (NFDC) was established with the distinct objective of promoting growth of the Indian film Industry and fostering excellence in cinema. As stated, the primary mandate of NFDC is to plan, promote and organize an integrated and efficient development of the Indian Film Industry.

Viewing from this perspective, the overall performance of NFDC and its achievements in financial terms and physical output over the years has been, to say the least, dismal. Admittedly, for more than three years of the 10th Plan period, NFDC was merely acting as an agent for procuring films for DD and as producer of petty advertisements for DAVP, activities which were in fact intended to be peripheral ones meant to generate some additional revenue. The Corporation was reportedly so cash starved on account of locking up of inventory of resources in films which remained uncompleted and an arbitration with Doordarshan involving roughly Rs. 30 crore that even the plan funds at its disposal could not be put to proper use. Astoundingly, the Corporation had been saddled with litigation involving Doordarshan although both entities come under the administrative control of the same Ministry. All these factors led to the sad spectacle of the Corporation settling down for peripherals forgetting its main mandate. The Committee are of the considered opinion that the Ministry cannot absolve itself of the responsibility for remaining a mute spectator for a long time when a tiny Public Sector unit like NFDC was almost gasping for breath. The Committee have reasons to believe that the performance of the Corporation at that period of time deteriorated, admittedly, on account of poor management. At this stage, the Committee can only express their serious displeasure about the callousness of the Ministry in monitoring the performance of NFDC and the inaction of the Corporation's management. They trust that having learnt lessons from the past experience, concerted efforts will now be made for restoring the Corporation to its past glory.

Action taken by the Government

National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)

During the 10th Plan, NFDC had a Scheme called "Production of Films—Own, Co-production and Subsidy Scheme" which was financed entirely through internal resources without any Plan support from the Government. As such, during the 10th Plan period the revenue generation activity of the Corporation was marketing of Doordarshan's commercial time and the Corporation was planning to use the internal generation of revenue for film production activity. However, because of the drastic fall in the margin out of the revenue from the marketing of commercial time the Corporation was starved of resources for film production. The marketing of the commercial time of Doordarshan had to be discontinued in Sept., 2003.

The dispute with DD was mainly concerning the sharing of revenue on the marketing of commercial time which was referred to arbitration

and the Corporation could successfully conclude the same and get rid of liability of Rs. 30 crore from the books of accounts. With the financial assistance of Rs. 4.77 crore extended by the Ministry, in 2006-07 the Corporation could meet the working capital requirement and restart the activities related to the production of films. The Corporation could manage to complete one pending film in Tamil, "SASANAM" and released it in April 2006. In spite of the adversities the Corporation could manage to produce 14 films during the 10th Plan period.

Sd/-
(V.B. Pyarelal)
Joint Secretary (Films)

[M/o I&B O.M. No. 202/6/2007-F (C), dated 31.7.2007]

Film Sector

Recommendation (No. 9)

National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) (Continued)

The Committee have been informed that the new management of the Corporation has embarked upon a number of new initiatives *viz.* mooted the proposal for infusion of additional funds and enhancement of its share capital, co-production of films, production of films in regional languages by first time filmmakers, etc. In keeping with its original mandate, NFDC has also undertaken a number of measures for creating a marketing and distribution network for films through negotiations with distributors and exhibitors for distribution deals, e-mail marketing and publicity campaigns and participation in various film festivals. NFDC is also rightly focusing on promoting India as a filming destination for foreign filmmakers in collaboration with Ministry of Tourism under the Incredible India Brand. Apart from the working capital loan of Rs. 19.77 crore extended by the Ministry during 2005-2006 and 2006-2007, the Corporation has proposed infusion of additional funds and enhancement of its share capital. A token provision of Rs. 10 lakh has been made in the Annual Plan 2007-2008 for equity enhancement. Against the proposed 11th Plan allocation of Rs. 60 crore for the scheme to support, films in regional languages, provision made in the Annual Plan 2007-08 is only Rs. 3 crore. The Committee welcome the new initiatives. Notwithstanding the optimism raised on account of the latest moves by NFDC, which of course are still at the nascent stage as of now, the Committee's feeling is that those might not be translated into reality unless drastic measures are taken for infusion of funds and revamping of the Corporation. The Committee, therefore, recommend that no efforts should be spared in

pursuing these initiatives and proposals to their logical conclusion so that NFDC will be able to establish itself as a leader in fostering excellence in cinema and promoting culture and understanding through the audio-visual media.

Action taken by the Government

As the Corporation was operating with a low capital base of Rs. 14 crore, which is insufficient to meet the present cost of budget for making a film, the Corporation has projected a fund requirement of Rs. 60 crore during 11th Plan period to pursue film production activities. This Ministry is proposing Rs. 30 crore in the 11th Plan under the scheme 'Film Production in various Regional Languages'.

To rejuvenate the functioning of the Corporation, the following new initiatives have been taken by the NFDC:

I. Production

- (i) A new Co-production Scheme has been announced wherein 30% of the budget is brought in by the filmmaker, another 30% by the Corporation and 3rd party financing 40%. Two Co-production Agreements have already been finalized and the 2nd Edition of the Co-production is under finalization.
- (ii) In order to encourage the regional filmmakers, the Corporation proposes to finance upto Rs. 2 crore to the first time filmmakers from each region.

II. Marketing

(i) Domestic Theatrical Distribution

In the changed scenario of coming up of multiplexes and the digital form of the theatrical distribution, the Corporation proposes to tie up with leading distribution companies having chain of multiplexes to undertake distribution of films of the Corporation.

(ii) Export

With a view to enhance the distribution overseas, the Corporation proposes to participate in major international film festivals like Cannes Film Market, American Film Market, MIPCOM and MIPTV. The Corporation also undertakes the marketing of independent filmmakers production on commission basis.

(iii) National Film Circle

The Corporation has strengthened the National Film Circle by typing up with various Regional Film Circles and the membership of National Film Circle has grown up multifold.

III. Other activities

With a view to promote India as film destination the Corporation is in dialogue with tourism Ministry under the Incredible India brand and also proposes to set up a separate cell attached to the Delhi Region office to coordinate the various clearances required by foreign producers.

IV. Capital Infusion

The Corporation has requested for enhancement in its authorized share capital and paid up capital to Rs. 50 crore. Steps have been initiated to first enhance the Corporation's authorized share capital. Subsequently, steps would be taken to increase its paid-up capital by converting the working capital loan extended to the Corporation in to equity as also infusing fresh funds. This would be carried out by seeking Cabinet approval for NFDC's re-structuring. It is submitted that all this would enhance the net worth of NFDC, which has been considerably eroded with the passage of time as equity was last infused in 1995-96 for Rs. 25.00 lakh only. The Corporation is making all out efforts to rejuvenate its functioning to achieve the primary mandate of production of films and hopes to make a major contribution to the film industry in the years to come.

Sd/-
(V.B. Pyarelal)
Joint Secretary (Films)

[M/o I&B, O.M. No. 202/6/2007-F(C), dated 31.7.2007]

Film Sector

Recommendation (No. 12)

Museum of Moving Images (MOMI)

The Committee note that setting up of Museum of Moving Images (MOMI) by Films Division is a project that was conceived during the 10th Plan and continuing in the 11th Plan with hardly any progress other than the MoU signed with the National Building Construction

Corporation (NBCC) for preparation of Detailed Project Report. Intended to be an entertaining and educational museum that will depict the history of Indian cinema through audio-visual presentation and display of important artifacts and at the same time educate film makers and film students through seminars and workshops, the Committee view it as a prestigious and unique institution in the film sector and attach much significance to it. The MOMI being a novel venture, the Committee desire that depiction of specific details, provision of facilities and achievement of aims of objectives should be spelt out clearly without leaving any room for ambiguity. While deprecating the delay in its implementation, the Committee stress that the project should be taken up in right earnest and its timely completion ensured.

Action taken by the Government

Keeping in view the objectives of the proposed Museum, the Ministry through the Films Division entered into an agreement with National Buildings Construction Corporation Ltd. for preparing a Detailed Project Report. Towards this, the services of Director of American Museum of the Moving Image, New York, the USA, which is the only other Museum in the world with comparable size and contents, were also taken for conceptualisation. The Architectural concept and Design of the Project has been approved and the preparation of the Detailed Project Report by National Buildings Construction Corporation Ltd. is under way. Every effort will be made to ensure that the project progresses as per a scheduled time-table.

Sd/-
(V.B. Pyarelal)
Joint Secretary (Films)

[M/o I&B, O.M. No. H-11013/02/2007-F(A), dated 12.7.2007]

Films Sector

Recommendation (No. 15)

Exports in Films

The Committee note that the Working Group set up by the Planning Commission has recommended that Government should make a roadmap with specific strategies double the export earning of Films sector by the end of the 11th Plan. Projection based on the current trend is that of a growth rate of overseas box office receipts at a

compounded annual growth of 18% on the basis of which overseas box office receipts are expected to rise from Rs. 700 crore approx. In 2007 to Rs. 1600 crore in 2011. Apart from the routine efforts by the Ministry, there is no integrated approach towards promotion of exports of films as the Indian film industry is in private sector and the export performance is dependent on individual efforts. In view of this, there is a proposal to create an Export Promotion Council (EPC) for the film industry. As this is expected to be a significant move for boosting film exports, the industry associations have been asked to set up EPC which could then seek Government support provided by the Department of Commerce under various schemes. Annual Plan 2007-08 has provided Rs. 3.82 crore to the Directorate of Film Festival under the scheme, Export Promotion through Film Festival in India and abroad. The proposal under the scheme for the year include organizing of International Film Festival of India, participation of Indian films in 45 foreign film festivals in different countries and selection of 21 feature and 21 non-feature films. The Committee are of the firm view that Indian films enjoy an edge over several other countries and, therefore, exports should receive focussed attention of the Government. They, therefore, desire that while ensuring proper utilization of allocated resources and meeting the set physical targets, the proposal for setting up Export Promotion Council for the film industry should be pursued vigorously as a thrust area.

Action taken by the Government

In the Plan, Govt. has recognised the need for focused attention towards the promotion of Indian films *vis-a-vis* increase in export of Indian films. Under the Plan Scheme, *viz.* "Participation in film Market in India and Abroad", Govt. has allocated Rs. 2.20 crore during 2007-08 towards increasing visibility and awareness about Indian films in foreign film markets. This is in addition to the Plan Scheme of the Directorate of Film Festival of Rs. 3.82 crore for Annual Plan 2007-08 for export promotion through participation in film festivals. The endeavour would receive a further fillip after the setting up of Export Promotion Council by the film industry. This Ministry is pursuing vigorously with the film industry for submitting the proposal for setting up of the Council. Once the Council is set up, it would be entitled to receive funds from Govt. of India for promotion of Indian films in a systematic and organised manner in untapped markets of the world.

Sd/-
(V.B. Pyarelal)
Joint Secretary (Films)

[M/o I&B, O.M. No. 106/05/2007-F(I), Dated 31.5.2007]

Broadcasting Sector

Recommendation (No. 16)

(i) Prasar Bharati

Digitalisation of Archives of Prasar Bharati

The Committee note that All India Radio has completed the process of converting its analog archives of 43,000 tapes collected up to November, 2001 into digital format. For approximately 10,000 tapes collected thereafter, approval has been given by the CEO/Director General, AIR for digitalization, which is yet to be taken up. Although the process of digitalization had already been started in Doordarshan since 2004, it is yet to pick up momentum. On account of constraints of space experienced by Doordarshan, it has been decided to move the Archives to CPC in the Asian Games village after shifting DD News from there to Mandi House. In their 42nd Action Taken Report relating to Demands for Grants (2006-2007), the Committee had recommended that efforts should be made by the Ministry for obtaining required funds to procure equipments for establishing professional and digitalized Archives in Doordarshan. The Committee trust that, as assured by the Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the CEO, Prasar Bharati, digitalization of Archives in AIR and Doordarshan would be taken up on priority basis and completed without further delay.

Action taken by the Government

DD-Archives has already started digitization of its holdings in the limited space available in Akashwani Bhawan. 4300 hours—7500 tapes have been digitized and the work is continuing in full swing. There is a proposal of shifting the archives to Central Production Centre (CPC) after the News vacates its space. The space will be redesigned according to the specific requirements of archives. DD-Archives is also acquiring a server based Media Asset Management Equipment which is presently at the stage of evaluation.

The 2nd Phase of digitization of 10,000 analogue tapes containing the recordings of Spoken Words and Music programmes has been started by the Central Archives from April, 2007 as per the standard format of digitization. Besides, the Central Archives has also taken an initiative to digitize the archival recordings preserved in various

libraries of All India Radio Stations. A comprehensive plan in this regard is being prepared for preservation of archival recordings, viz. identification and cataloguing, cleaning and quality enhancement, digitization in uniform format, creation of proper storage facilities, electronic transmission of such materials among regional archives as well as from Regional Archives to Central Archives and *vice-versa*. For this, major technical equipments like computers, server, CD writer, player, label printer, CTRs, etc. will be required. For that, necessary estimated funds are being projected for sanction by the competent authority.

Safety and Security are very essential part of digitization for which installation of biometric system in the Central Archives and storing of digitized material in fire resistance cabinets are under the process of purchase.

Sd/-
(Zohra Chatterji)
Joint Secretary (B)

[M/o I&B, O.M. No. 18/2/2007-BC-IV, dated 29.6.2007]

Broadcasting Sector

Recommendation (No. 17)

Prasar Bharati

Digitalisation of Archives of Prasar Bharati (Continued)

The Committee further note that the archives holdings of Prasar Bharati contain recordings of people, events, speeches, etc which are of immense historical value. These are very rare and valuable assets which are available exclusively in the Archives of Prasar Bharati. The Committee do not see any reason why these recordings cannot be produced and marketed commercially through different marketing outlets in the country and abroad. Presently DVDs and CDs produced by AIR and Doordarshan are sold only through the counters at their centers and during special events like Film Festivals. It has been stated that efforts are being made to market them through the wide network of post offices in the country. They recommend that Prasar Bharati should seriously consider commercial production and extensive marketing of its archival holdings.

Action taken by the Government

Prasar Bharati is a rich treasure trove of video recordings covering 40 years of broadcasting television programmes. A series of focused efforts is being made in consolidating this rich resource and creating a strong digital asset resource library available for all interested users. Basically this will also serve all the DD-Channels by giving re-purposed quality software. The DVD/VCD Project is also in full swing. High quality performances, theatre works, serials, documentaries, and also programmes based on arts and crafts have been identified for commercial release in the form of DVD etc. DD-Archives has planned to market them through various outlets in addition to DD and AIR outlets. Already there are a number of shops which are buying these products on retailers' discount and selling through their outlets. The MOU with India Post will also be finalized soon. In addition to all these efforts, DD-Archives will participate in the new digital technological revolution by introducing IPTV video on demand and other such prospective revenue earning activities depending on the technological and infrastructural resources and budgeting. Since 2003, All India Radio Central Archives has released music albums under the banner of 'Akashvani Sangeet'. So far AIR has released 42 albums and approximately 20 to 25 albums are expected to be released by the end of March 2008. These albums are available at the sales counters of AIR Stations and also with retail music shops.

As a marketing strategy, discount is being offered on MRP of all AIR/Doordarshan Archival releases. A special discount is given during fairs, festivals and music concerts in addition to bulk buyers and retailers.

There have been efforts to attract the Public Sector Units, which have resulted in getting the bulk orders from some of the leading companies. AIR has also initiated efforts to co-brand its Archival products by Nationalised Banks and other Corporate offices. Under this scheme, the front inlay cover of album carries logo and message as given by Corporate office or Bank. ONGC showed keen interest in co-branding the Archival products. On their request, AIR produces CDs of Hindustani Classical music, which have been used by them for gifts purpose to corporate sectors and also for propagation of their Company. A handsome revenue was earned by All India Radio by this venture.

1. All India Radio is also taking initiative for the extensive distribution of Akashvani Sangeet's albums. A leading and

reputed music company, INRECO (Indian Record Manufacturing Co., Chennai) has come out with the proposal for the distribution of AIR products in India and abroad. The matter is under process.

2. AIR is also working on the marketing of Archival Products through Indian Postal Department. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in this regard is being examined by the legal cell of AIR.
3. AIR is also considering actively the 'On-line' sales of AIR Products for their wider distribution.
4. All India Radio and Doordarshan are working jointly to produce Audio-Visual presentation of AIR Archival recordings in DVDs and VCDs in a creative and aesthetic manner. To begin with, under this new venture some selected audio recordings of AIR Archives have been handed over to Doordarshan Archives for their visualization.

Sd/-
(Zohra Chatterji)
Joint Secretary (B)

[M/o I&B O.M. No. 18/2/2007-BC-IV, dated 29.6.2007]

Broadcasting Sector

Recommendation (No. 19)

Prasar Bharati

Special Package for North East

Similarly, the way the Ministry have been dragging their feet in the process of approval of Phase II of the Special Package for North East is equally a cause of serious concern to the Committee. It is unimaginable that the Government would require about four years to formulate and approve a small scheme like NE Special Package which is practically meant for upliftment and speedier development of that Region. Even after formal approval of Phase II of the NE Package was given in May, 2006, nothing concrete seems to have been done so far to ensure timely implementation of the package except that AIR has planned to acquire sites for 19 Nos. of 1 KW FM Transmitter projects during the year. The Annual Outlay under the Special Package for 2007-08 for Doordarshan is Rs. 40 crore and for All India Radio it is Rs. 25 crore. As the Committee are seriously concerned about the development of North East and are keen that the allocations for the

Special Package are utilized to the fullest extent, they would like to insist that the Ministry gear up for taking up the projects in right earnest and complete them well within the stipulated time. The Committee would expect the Ministry to closely monitor implementation of projects covered under the Special Package on a regular basis in order to ensure that there are no slippages both in physical and financial targets.

Action taken by the Government

All India Radio: Approval of Phase-II of NE Package at a cost of Rs. 143.32 crore was given in the last week of May, 2006. AIR Projects approved under Phase-II includes:

1. 19 new FM stations—Sites for these stations are being identified with the help of concerned State Govts. Site at three places at Changlang, Tuipang and Udaipur have already been taken over from State Govt. Payment for Goalpara site also made and is to be handed over by State Govt. Demand for payment at Bomdila, Kolasib and Nutanbazar is under process. Sites have also been finalized for locations at Khonsa, Lumding, Ukhrul and Tamenglong, and demand notes for cost of sites are being got expedited from the State Governments. Sites for remaining locations are being identified. Site cost offered at Daporijo by State Government is very high. Matter has been taken up with the State Government. Procurement of FM Transmitters for these places is under process.
2. Addl. channels with FM Transmitter at existing centres at Silchar (5 KW) & Gangtok (10 KW)-Transmitters will be installed at T.V. sites. Procurement of Transmitters is in progress.
3. DSNG/MSS terminals-Procurement of equipment initiated.
4. Chinsura-1000 KW MW Transmitter (Replacement)-Estimate for Civil works is under sanction. Procurement of Transmitters is in progress.
5. Kavaratti-10 KW MW Transmitter (Replacement of 1 KW)-Procurement of Transmitter is in progress. Local Administration is to give additional piece of land. Matter is being pursued by AIR.
6. 100 Watt FM Relay Centres in remote locations (100 places)-More than 100 places have been finalized with the help of

State Governments and finalisation of locations is in progress. Tenders for purchase of transmitters are under process.

7. Implementation of Phase II is likely to be completed by 2009-10.
8. Outlay for North East Special Package in the ongoing Annual Plan 2007-08 is Rs. 25.00 crore (Rs. 22.50 crore under Capital and Rs. 2.50 crore under Software). All efforts will be made to utilize the funds made available during the current financial year.

Doordarshan: Special package (Ph-II) for expansion and improvement of Doordarshan services in NE region and Island territories (Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep) was approved by the Government in May, 2006. Implementation of the various Schemes is in progress. Four transmitter projects *viz.* DD1 & DD News LPTs at Car Nicobar & VLPTs at Swarajgram and Kalighat have already been completed and commissioned. Installation of interim HPT set up at Kokrajhar has also been completed and test transmission started.

All the Schemes being implemented, as part of Special package, are being monitored very closely on regular basis and every possible step is being taken to ensure that there is no slippage in physical and financial targets. Allocated amount of Rs. 40 crore for the Special package in Annual Plan 2007-08 is expected to be fully utilized.

Sd/-
(Zohra Chatterji)
Joint Secretary (B)

[M/o I&B O.M. No. 6/9/2006-B (Fin.), dated 2.7.2007]

Broadcasting Sector

Recommendation (No. 23)

Prasar Bharati

Doordarshan-Digitalisation & Modernization of Production Facilities

Digitalisation and Modernization of production facilities is undoubtedly a thrust area for Doordarshan for constantly upgrading and improving its operations. In spite of this, out of the 10th Plan targets under the scheme, digitalization of only 19 smaller studios

have been completed whereas work in six major studio centers at Jalandhar, Srinagar, Thiruvananthapuram, Bhubaneswar, Bhopal and Lucknow and 16 smaller studios are only nearing completion. The scheme included digitalization and modernization of production facilities, augmentation of existing studio facilities and automation of Transmitters (LPTs and VLPTs). Against the allocation of Rs. 424.66 crore under Plan (Capital) for the scheme, the actual utilization upto February, 2007 was only Rs. 295.62 crore which is only 69.61% of the allocation. The reasons for the low level of utilization are stated to be delays in availability of site, getting approval, construction of buildings and towers, procurement of equipment, etc. Mostly these are matters which should have been foreseen and overcome through regular review and monitoring of projects instead of allowing them to persist leading to undue delay in modernization of production facilities and non-utilization of allocated funds. While expressing their displeasure at the tardy implementation of the digitalization process, the Committee urge that prompt measures be taken for completion of the projects identified under the schemes during fiscal 2007-2008 and also for optimum utilization of the allocated amount of Rs. 61.43 crore.

Action taken by the Government

During 10th Plan, all the 17 major Studio Centres were targeted to be fully digitalized and 30 smaller Studio Centres were targeted to be partially digitalized. Full digitalization of 17 major Studio Centres and partial digitalization of 30 smaller Studio Centres has been completed during the 10th Plan period. As regards automation of transmitters, 193 old LPTs (100W) were envisaged to be replaced by new 500 watt (1+1) automode LPTs during 10th Plan period. Installation of 86 automode LPTs was completed during the 10th Plan period & 7 more CPTs are under installation. Action for procurement of 100 automade LPTs is being taken. As per present indications, these are expected to be installed in phases during 2007-08 and 2008-09.

All out efforts are being made by Doordarshan to complete the ongoing schemes of digitalization and modernization at the earliest possible. Amount allocated for digitalization and modernization in Annual Plan 2007-08 is Rs. 61.43 crore. The schemes on which this expenditure is envisaged, are at different stages of implementation and are expected to be completed during 2007-08. Allocated amount of Rs. 61.43 crore is expected to be fully utilized.

Sd/-
(Zohra Chatterji)
Joint Secretary (B)

[M/o I&B O.M. No. 6/9/2006-B (Fin), Dated 2.7.2007]

Broadcasting Sector

Recommendation (No. 24)

Prasar Bharati

Doordarshan—High Definition Television (HDTV) and DVB-H Transmission

The Committee have been informed that the pilot project in High Definition Television (HDTV), which produces five times more visual information than a conventional TV picture, has been approved and included in the draft 11th Plan. Besides upgrading its facilities, the pilot project is expected to help Doordarshan in its preparedness for providing feeds of TV coverage of important events of Commonwealth Games 2010 to foreign broadcasters in HDTV format. A provision of Rs. 39.20 crore has been made in the approved Annual Plan for 2007-2008 out of which Rs. 15 crore is for the HDTV pilot project for field production at Delhi. The proposals covered in the draft 11th Plan include schemes for setting up HDTV studios and digital transmitters at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai, for relay of HDTV programme and starting two HDTV Channels on DTH platform. In a sense, the project attains greater significance in view of the forthcoming Commonwealth Games. While appreciating the timely decision taken by the Government for induction of the technology, the Committee desire that the proposals included in the Plan Scheme be taken up and implemented promptly.

Action taken by the Government

The schemes for establishment of HDTV studios at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai along with digital transmitters at these places for relay of HDTV programmes and putting up 2 HDTV channels on DTH platform are included in the draft 11th Plan proposals, which are yet to be approved. Outlay of Rs. 441 crore is proposed for above schemes.

A Scheme for establishment of HDTV production and post production facility at Delhi and Mumbai has been formulated and is being processed for approval of SFC.

Sd/-
(Zohra Chatterji)
Joint Secretary (B)

[M/o I&B O.M. No. 6/9/2006-B (Fin.), Dated 2.7.2007]

Broadcasting Sector

Recommendation (No. 25)

Prasar Bharati

Doordarshan—High Definition Television (HDTV) and DVB-H Transmission (Continued)

It has been reported that Doordarshan has also initiated a pilot project of DVB-H transmission that will make possible to receive TV signals on mobile phones in the coverage zone of the transmitter. The project envisaged setting up the facility for DVB-H transmission in the cities of Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai, where digital transmitters presently exist, involving an estimated expenditure of about Rs. 40 crore. However, the scheme is yet to be formulated and approved. In view of the constant need for inducting innovative technologies in electronic media and the need for widening the viewer-ship of Doordarshan, the Committee desire that the proposal be taken up for serious consideration so that it could be sent to the Planning Commission for approval.

Action taken by the Government

Doordarshan's Pilot Project of DVB-H transmission has since been completed and commissioned. DVB-H transmission has been started with effect from 23.5.2007 with 8 Doordarshan channels *viz.* DD National; DD News; DD Bharati; DD Sports; DD Bangla; DD Punjabi; DD Podighai and DD Urdu. Transmission can be received within a range of about 10 Kms. from Akashvani Bhawan, Parliament Street, New Delhi where the DVB-H transmitter is located, on DVB-H enabled mobile phones.

Schemes for setting up DVB-H transmission facility in the cities of Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai have been formulated and these are being processed for approval of SFC.

Sd/-
(Zohra Chatterji)
Joint Secretary (B)

[M/o I&B O.M. No. 6/9/2006-B (Fin.), Dated 2.7.2007]

Broadcasting Sector

Recommendation (No. 26)

Prasar Bharati

All India Radio: Digitalisation and automation

In AIR too digitalization of production facilities and automation of studio and transmission facilities for enhancing technical quality of content and economizing the cost of operation was a major project in the 10th Plan. In spite of the scheme being taken up right at the beginning of the Plan period, it is distressing to find that the expenditure throughout five years of the Plan period has been far below the allocation leading to an actual utilization of only Rs. 66.46 crore upto February, 2007 against the allocation of Rs. 120.96 crore, which accounts for a mere utilization of 54.94% of the allocation. Thereafter, it is not surprising that a number of projects which are part of the scheme, viz. provision of Hard Disc based System at 109 stations, installation of 21 nos. of Portable MSS Terminals and installation of Digital Microwave Studio Transmitter Link at Cuddapah, Vijayawada, Srinagar, Patna, Jodhpur, Chandigarh, Kargil, Kota and Aurangabad are pending completion. The Committee have been time and again recommending that the Ministry should adhere to the time schedules and also strive to utilize the allocations fully. With the new Plan period having commenced already, they hope that the pending projects would be completed without any further delay. The Committee would like to be apprised of the final status of implementation of the projects and utilization of allocated funds. They also recommend that the projects identified for the annual Plan 2007-08 should be implemented within the time frame and optimum utilization of the Plan funds be made.

Action taken by the Government

Hard Disc Based System at 76 stations of AIR was provided and commissioned in April 2004 at a cost of approximately Rs. 8.48 crore. Provision of Hard Disc Based System at 69 more stations of AIR is also in progress. Advanced AT for the project has already been issued and the system is likely to be installed and commissioned by September 2007. Provision of Hard Disc Based System at 48 major stations of All India Radio is also currently in progress. Order for 564 Nos. of Workstations had already been placed on DGS&D and the systems are likely to be delivered and networked at these stations by June 2007. Procurement of other items like sound card and servers are also in different stages of implementation and the entire scheme is likely to be functional by December 2007.

Twenty one Portable MSS Terminals have already been procured. Necessary clearance for all the terminals (except for Srinagar) has already been obtained from DOT and WPC. Activation of these terminals is under process and is expected to be completed within a month's time. MSS terminal procured for Srinagar is under diversion since DOT has not issued clearance for Srinagar so far. Purchase order for Digital Microwave Studio Transmitter Link at Cuddapah, Vijayawada, Srinagar, Patna, Jodhpur, Chandigarh, Kargil, Kota and Aurangabad has already been placed. Necessary clearance from WPC for these links is awaited. Installation and commissioning of these equipments will be taken up immediately after receipt of necessary clearance from WPC.

The expenditure under Digitalization and Automation up to 10th Plan period is Rs. 71.03 crore against SBG allocated amounting to Rs. 119.16 crore. The utilization works out to 59.61%. Efforts are being made to complete the Scheme within the current financial year. Allocation during the year 2007-08 is Rs. 15.00 crore, which is considered insufficient, and additional demand will be projected at RE stage.

Sd/-
(Zohra Chatterji)
Joint Secretary (B)

[M/o I&B O.M. No. 6/9/2006-B (Fin.), Dated 2.7.2007]

Broadcasting Sector

Recommendation (No. 28)

Prasar Bharati

Private FM Radio

The new policy initiative in the area of Private FM Radio was initially started in 1999 for attracting private initiative to operationalise FM radio stations that provide programme of local content and relevance, improve the quality in reception and generation, encourage participation of local talent and generate employment. Phase II of the policy for expansion of FM Radio broadcasting through private agencies was notified on 13th July, 2005. Thus far, permission has been granted to 266 private FM channels for starting FM Radio stations, out of which 58 channels were operationalised till 29th March, 2007. 97 channels which could not be allotted as the bids were low would be notified again. An amount of Rs. 1145.48 crore was collected as

One Time Entry Fee from Phase II licensees and Rs. 27.79 crore as annual fee during the year 2006-07 till 21st February, 2007. An amount of Rs. 1 crore has been allocated in the Annual Plan for the purpose of co-location of 5 new towers. While appreciating the move, the Committee would like to impress upon the Government to create a hassle-free environment for the private broadcasters so that more and more entrepreneurs may be encouraged to join the cause. They also desire that prompt action be taken for allotment of the remaining channels so that number of new players may be encouraged to take up private broadcasting.

Action taken by the Government

Action has already been initiated for re-bidding of 97 channels. Tender document is being finalized in consultation with Ministry of Law in the light of experience gained during bidding held in 2006 for Phase-II. A few changes are being incorporated so that hassle-free environment and industry friendly terms and conditions can be created to attract more and more entrepreneurs to participate in next round of bidding.

Sd/-
(Zohra Chatterji)
Joint Secretary (B)

[M/o I&B O.M. No. 803/15/2007-FM/162, Dated 30.5.2007]

Broadcasting Sector

Recommendation (No. 29)

Prasar Bharati

(iii) Community Radio

The Committee note with satisfaction that their Recommendation No. 15 in the 32nd Report on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) to allow local communities and non-profit organizations to set up Community Radio has been accepted by the Government. As per the initial policy announced in December, 2002, licenses were to be granted only to well established educational institutions including IITs and IIMs. The Committee are hopeful that the change in policy will definitely encourage many local communities and NGOs to come forward to start Community Radio Stations which will facilitate integration of local communities and also help in educating and empowering the rural masses. From a list furnished to the Committee, it is seen that

there are 20 Community Radio Stations which are operational as of now and 63 Communities/NGOs have been issued letters of Intent for setting up Station. However, the Committee would like to point out that unless wide publicity about the facility is given in the rural areas, especially among the NGOs, small institutions and communities, the concept may remain confined to a few affluent institutions and NGOs and may never be taken advantage of by the local communities and groups for whom it is intended. Therefore, there is an urgent need to give wide publicity about the concept of Community Radio in the rural areas of the country. The Committee urge that the Government should work out a detailed strategy for doing it through various means like seminars and workshops, advertisements in the media and awareness programmes targeting Self Help Groups, NGOs, Panchayati Raj institutions, etc. As the allocation of Rs. 1 lakh for fiscal 2007-2008 is too meager for the purpose, the Committee desire that the Ministry should strive for getting more funds allocated at the RE stage and in the subsequent Annual Plans.

Action taken by the Government

Recognizing the potential of the medium towards social empowerment, the Ministry has decided to give wide publicity to the new policy on Community Radio. Some of the steps taken and proposed to be taken are given below:

- I. Detailed guidelines, application form and a Public Notice has been placed on the Ministry's website: www.mib.nic.in
- II. A Public Notice inviting applications for grant of permission to set up Community Radio station has been issued in various Newspapers.
- III. A workshop titled "National Consultation for practicing and potential Community Radio operators in India" was held in Delhi on 6th & 7th March 2007 by this Ministry in collaboration with UNESCO and other UN agencies. The purpose was to sensitise the new entrants. NGOs from all parts of the country and experts in the field participated in the workshop.
- IV. Letters have been sent to Chief Secretaries of the States requesting them to take necessary steps to sensitise the issue amongst the masses.
- V. "Popularising Community Radio policy among NGOs and other institutions" has also been made an agenda point in

XXVI SIMCON to be held at New Delhi shortly. This will help in creating awareness among the State Governments to take further steps in carrying forward the policy to the Panchayat level through State functionaries.

- VI. A training schedule involving workshops and seminars in different parts of the country is being worked out.
- VII. The Ministry is also seeking the help of other institutions/ organizations to hold regional/state level seminars and workshops on Community Radio. Efforts will be made to get more funds at RE stage for this purpose. The token amount is provided so that expenditure head gets created.

Sd/-
(Zohra Chatterji)
Joint Secretary (B)

[M/o I&B O.M No. 803/15/2007-FM/162, Dated 30.5.2007]

CHAPTER III

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

Demands for Grants for 2007-2008

Recommendation (No. 1)

The Committee observe that as per Demand No. 58 in respect of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the Budgetary allocation is for a total amount of Rs. 181.88 crore wherein the Plan section accounts for Rs. 475 crore and the Non-Plan section for Rs. 1206.88 crore. Against this, the Budgetary Support for the year 2006-2007 stood at Rs. 1716.04 crore (Plan Rs. 538 crore + Non-Plan Rs. 1178.04 crore) which was reduced to Rs. 1660.04 crore at the Revised Estimates stage to accommodate a higher Non-Plan expenditure of Rs. 1185.04 crore and a reduced Plan expenditure of Rs. 475 crore. The overall budget for the year 2007-2008 has, therefore, been increased by Rs. 21.84 crore over the budgetary provision for the year 2006-2007 which amounts to an insignificant increase of 1.32%. On a close scrutiny of the data relating to the Demands for Grants and the utilization of Budgetary allocations provided to the Committee year after year, it is quite evident that the main reason for slashing down the Annual Plan allocations in 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 was the inability of the Ministry to utilize sizeable portion of the funds allocated. This reflects poorly on the capability of the Ministry to plan and implement the Plan Schemes and projects. They also notice that another cause for substantial reduction in the Annual Plan outlay since 2006-2007 is the failure on the part of Prasar Bharati to provide Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR) for the Plan side on account of their pressing commitments on the Non-Plan side. The Committee's examination of the various activities of the Ministry as commented upon in the subsequent paragraphs clearly reinforces the Committee's viewpoint in this regard. They would, therefore, like to stress that the Ministry should take a serious note of the recommendations of the Committee and reorient their role particularly in fulfilling the targets in the 11th Plan making optimum use of the available funds. The Committee also urge that Ministry should make serious efforts to identify the weakness in the system in the light of the experience gained in the past and try to plug the loopholes so as to effectively utilize the allocated sum of

Rs. 475 crore provided in the grants for meeting the Plan expenditure during the year 2007-2008.

Action taken by the Government

For the Annual Plan 2006-07 the Ministry had initially proposed to the Planning Commission a Direct Budgetary Support (DBS) amounting Rs. 1467.83 Crore. However, after discussions at various stages, the Planning Commission finally allocated Rs. 538 Crore as DBS for Annual Plan 2006-07. Similarly, for Annual Plan 2007-2008, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had proposed a DBS outlay of Rs. 1777.90 Crore as against which the Planning Commission allocated Rs. 475 Crore. This Ministry is making all out efforts to ensure that the Plan outlay is utilized to the fullest extent. A system of regular monitoring and review of Plan Schemes has been put in place.

Sd/-

(R.C. Misra)

Additional Secretary & FA

[M/o I&B O.M No. 4/3/2007-PC (Vol. III) dated 6.6.2007]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see paragraph No. 8 of the Chapter-I).

Broadcasting Sector

Recommendation (No. 18)

(i) Prasar Bharati

(b) Special Package for North East

The Committee note that Phase 1 of Special Package for North East which was approved on 31st January, 2002, towards the end of the 9th Plan, was completed by AIR and Doordarshan during the 10th Plan period except for 10 KW FM Transmitter at Kohima. However, it is seen that Prasar Bharati has taken practically the whole of 10th Plan period to implement the projects included in Phase 1, thereby defeating the very purpose of the Special Package meant for speedier development of the North Eastern region. On scrutiny of the annual allocations, RE and actual expenditure, it is seen that although more than the required amount was available in the allocation available for Phase I of the Special Package, both AIR & Doordarshan chose to implement lesser number of projects. The Committee are not inclined

to agree with the justification of low cost of equipment put forward as the main reason for low level of utilization of allocations for Phase 1 of the package. They strongly feel that more number of projects should have been identified by AIR & Doordarshan to ensure optimum utilization of allocated funds for the special package.

[Para 18 of the Forty-Third Report of Standing Committee on Information Technology (14th Lok Sabha)]

Action taken by the Government

All India Radio: Phase-I was approved in Jan, 2002 towards the end of 9th Plan at a cost of Rs. 24.8 crore for improvement and expansion of AIR services in the North-East including Sikkim and Island Territories. AIR projects approved under Phase-I included 6 projects namely, 10 KW FM Transmitters at Port Blair, Itanagar and Kohima and upgradation of existing uplinking facilities to digital system at Itanagar, Shillong and Guwahati. These projects were completed by 2003-04 as scheduled, except the 10 KW FM Transmitter project at Kohima where an interim set up of 1 KW FM Transmitter was provided. Installation of permanent set up of 10 KW FM Transmitter at Kohima is also in progress. Staff sanction for operation and maintenance of FM Transmitters is, however, still awaited.

Doordarshan: Special package for NE States & Island Territories, which was considered by the EFC in its meeting held on 31.01.02, *inter alia*, included a large number of Schemes for expansion and improvement of Doordarshan services and the outlay involved in the package for Doordarshan schemes was Rs. 470 crore. During the EFC meeting, it was decided that there was a need to look at the fresh technology option for coverage of uncovered areas and that the revised proposal be brought after finalization of 10th Plan outlay. Only four schemes of Doordarshan *viz.* upgradation of 5 nos. of 1KW HPTs; 160 Cable headends; 2 satellite earth stations and satellite video phones costing Rs. 47.52 crore were approved for implementation under Annual Plan 2002-2003. All the above four schemes have since been completed. Total expenditure incurred on these schemes is Rs. 33.25 crore. Expenditure is less as compared to approved outlay due to less expenditure on equipment because of lower cost.

Sd/-
(Zohra Chatterji)
Joint Secretary (B)

[M/o I&B O.M. No. 6/9/2006-B (Fin.) dated 2.7.2007]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see paragraph Nos. 11 & 12 of the Chapter-I).

Broadcasting Sector

Recommendation (No. 20)

Prasar Bharati

J&K Special Package:

J&K Special Package is yet another crucial scheme devised with a view to improving and expanding radio and television coverage in Jammu & Kashmir region. To their dismay, the Committee find that the Special Package approved as early as in 1999-2000 is yet to be fully implemented. The work of construction of transmitters at Kupwara and Amritsar are yet to be completed and operationalised. Significantly, unlike in other schemes, as far as J&K Special scheme is concerned, there has been no scarcity of funds as there has been consistent under utilization of allocated funds and also savings in projects implemented. The Committee cannot but express their displeasure at the way strategic and well meaning projects conceived in the overall interest of the nation are allowed to languish for no reason other than lack of determination on the part of the implementing agency. They also view seriously the undue delay in finalizing Phase II of J&K Special package on account of inter-Ministerial differences at the stage of project formulation. As the second Phase of the package has been considerably delayed, the Committee would impress upon the Ministry to follow up the scheme with the concerned Ministries and have it finalized at the earliest. They expect the Ministry to ensure timely planning and implementation of the package so the people of the region are not deprived of the consequent benefit of the scheme.

Action taken by the Government

All India Radio: Special Plan for improvement and expansion of radio coverage in the State of Jammu and Kashmir was approved by the Government in 1999-2000. Installation of all the 12 Projects included in the Special Plan has been completed. These are Kathua, 10 KW FM Transmitter (Replacement of 6 KW), Rajouri, 10 KW FM Transmitter, Srinagar, 300 KW MW Transmitter (Replacement of 200 KW), 20 KW MW Transmitters at Kupwara and Naushera, 6 Relay centres with 1 KW MW Transmitters at Khalsi, Drass, Tiesuru Diskit, Nyoma and Padum and Kargil (200 KW MW Transmitter). All Projects have been commissioned except those at Padum, Nyoma and Diskit.

Doordarshan: Special J&K Plan was approved by the Government in 1999. All the Projects envisaged under this Plan have already been

implemented. At two places *viz.* Kupwara and Amritsar the transmitters are functioning in interim set up with temporary towers. Construction of permanent tower at Kupwara has almost been completed and the transmitters at Kupwara are expected to be commissioned on full power shortly. Work of construction of tower at Amritsar is in progress and is expected to be completed during 2008. There had been delay in availability of land at Amritsar.

J&K Special Package Phase-II is being submitted to CCEA for approval shortly.

Sd/-
(Zohra Chatterji)
Joint Secretary (B)

[M/o I&B O.M. No. 6/9/2006-B (Fin.), dated 2.7.2007]

Comments of the Committee

(Please *see* paragraph No. 15 of the Chapter-I).

Broadcasting Sector

Recommendation (No. 22)

Prasar Bharati

Construction of Staff Quarters by Prasar Bharati

The Committee note that construction of staff quarters by Prasar Bharati which was approved in December, 2004 has been carried forward to the 11th Plan. The project envisaged construction of staff quarters at four metro cities and 15 other places for employees of Prasar Bharati by March, 2007. However, out of the total number of 600 quarters to be constructed in Delhi, only 323 are expected to be ready during 2007-08. Only in two places the construction work has been completed, whereas in 8 places the construction work is in progress. In the other metro cities and five other places the work is yet to begin for want of clearance from local bodies, etc. As against the total approved cost of Rs. 215 crore for the project, the expenditure incurred upto February, 2007 is only Rs. 33.77 crore. Going by the target of march 2007 for completion of construction, the progress achieved is totally unimpressive more so in the ace of the deadline given to Prasar Bharati employees by the Ministry of Urban Development to vacate their Government accommodation latest by November, 2007. Realizing the urgency involved and keeping in view

the welfare of the employees of Prasar Bharati, the Committee would like to impress upon Prasar Bharati to expedite the construction work so that its employees may not be put to undue hardship for want of accommodation.

Action taken by the Government

All India Radio: The expenditure incurred under Staff quarters during the year 2006-07 is Rs. 10.66 crore against SBG of Rs. 10.00 crore, thereby exceeding the allocations made. Total expenditure under this sub-head against the approved outlay of Rs. 40.00 crore in respect of All India Radio is Rs. 16.01 crore. The lower utilization during the 10th Plan period is mainly because of delay in getting the approval of local bodies at Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai and Kolkata. The provisions made for staff quarters during 2007-08 will be utilized and it is likely that additional amount may be required as the construction are already in full swing at Delhi. The works at Chennai, Mumbai and Kolkata are likely to be taken up shortly. The present position of construction of staff quarters at four metros and other places is given below:

- (i) Staff quarters at Kingsway Camp, Delhi: Construction of 590 nos. staff quarters at Kingsway Camp, Delhi has been sanctioned. There are old quarters at the site, most of which are occupied by the staff. The construction of quarters has been taken up in 2 phases due to the site conditions. In the first phase 323 nos. of quarters are under construction on the site at the open space and by demolishing the vacant quarters. The first phase is nearing completion and the target date is July/August, 2007. After the existing staff occupying the old quarters is shifted to newly constructed quarters, the old quarters will be demolished and construction of remaining quarters will start under phase II. Some of the quarters are proposed to be constructed at Todapur site which requires change of land use. The issue has already been taken up with DDA and Ministry of Urban Development but approval is still awaited.
- (ii) Staff quarters at Mumbai: Quarters are to be constructed at Borivelli site at Mumbai. Building plans are awaiting approval of local body.
- (iii) Staff quarters at Kolkata: The staff quarters were initially planned at Baishnavghat site but the local body approval not received as it required change of land use. Staff quarters are now planned at Patuli site. Building plans are already submitted to local body. Approval is awaited.

- (iv) Staff quarters at Chennai: Staff quarters are planned to be constructed at Guindi site. This required change of land use approval of which was received from the local body in April, 2006. Building plans have been submitted to the local body and are awaiting approval.
- (v) Staff quarters at other stations: 108 nos. of staff quarters were planned at 6 AIR stations namely Vadodra, Ranchi, Leh, Mysore, Puducherry and Patna. Construction of these quarters is complete.

Doordarshan: The Scheme for construction of staff quarters for Prasar Bharati staff approved by the Government in December, 2004 at a cost of Rs. 160 crore, *inter alia*, includes construction of Doordarshan staff quarter at 15 places. Out of the 15 places, staff quarters at 4 places of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai are common for AIR and Doordarshan staff. Construction of staff quarters at Delhi is in progress and is to be taken up in the remaining 3 cities.

Out of the remaining 11 places, construction of staff quarters at 3 places *viz.* Lucknow, Hissar and Jaipur has already been completed. Status of construction of quarters at the remaining 8 places is given below:

- (a) Allahabad — Work is at advanced stage of completion.
- (b) Varanasi — Work is at advanced stage of completion.
- (c) Bhawanipatna — Work is in progress and likely to be completed during 2007-08.
- (d) Sambalpur — Work is in progress and likely to be completed during 2007-08.
- (e) Trichur — Work is in progress and likely to be completed during 2007-08.
- (f) Itanagar — Work is in progress and likely to be completed during 2007-08.
- (g) Patna — Tenders have been re-invited by CCW.
- (h) Bangaluru — Tenders have been received by CCW & are under scrutiny.

Sd/-
(Zohra Chatterji)
Joint Secretary (B)

[M/o I&B O.M. No. 6/9/2006-B (Fin.), Dated 2.7.2007]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see paragraph No. 18 of Chapter-I)

Broadcasting Sector

Recommendation (No. 27)

Prasar Bharati

All India Radio—Expansion of FM Services

Yet another sphere where the projects have been lagging behind the schedules and utilization of allocations over the years has been abysmally low is in the implementation of the schemes for Expansion of FM Services. This has been engaging the attention of the Committee in the past. Both in the 32nd Report on Demands for Grants (2006-07) and its Action Taken (42nd) Report the Committee had expressed their serious displeasure at the way proposals meant for Expansion of FM Services have been languishing for years together. It is seen at the end of the 10th Plan period that against the Plan outlay of Rs. 11.45 crore for continuing schemes and Rs. 153.60 crore for new schemes for Expansion of FM Services, the actual expenditure up to 31st December, 2006 was Rs. 8.36 crore and Rs. 27.46 crore respectively, the utilization being 73.01% in continuing schemes and as low as 24.32% in new schemes. Obviously, the trend of achievements in the physical targets is disheartening with 120 out of the proposed 133 FM Transmitter projects getting approval and only 22 of them having been completed or are likely to be completed shortly. The remaining 98 projects have been carried forward to the 11th Plan, many of which are still at the very initial stages of implementation. What startles the Committee is that the gloomy scenario in the implementation of projects for Expansion of FM Services in AIR has been continuing unabated, despite the conviction voiced by the Ministry that "it (FM Radio) is another area which is growing very fast". The Committee hope that at least from now, the Ministry and the AIR will take up the challenge and make concerted efforts to speed up the implementation process for the scheme, clear the backlog and also focus on achieving the physical and financial targets set for the 11th Plan period.

Action taken by the Government

Against the SBG of Rs. 13.01 crore allocated during 10th Plan for Continuing Schemes and Rs. 176.60 crore for New Schemes, the actual expenditure up to 31st March, 2007 is Rs. 8.84 crore and Rs. 45.43

crore respectively. The utilization being 77.21% in Continuing Schemes and 29.58% in New Schemes.

While taking note of Committee's observations, it is stated that the main reasons which had hampered the implementation of FM projects during 10th Plan were:

- (1) Procurement proposal for 28 Nos. of 10 KW FM Transmitters was cleared by Ministry in October, 2006 (against the original proposal for 33 Nos.) Advance AT for procurement was placed in December, 06 but the firm did not deposit Performance Guarantee. Therefore, order has been cancelled. Now, fresh tenders have been invited and are due for opening shortly.
- (2) Proposal for pre-dispatch inspection of 6 Nos. of 20 KW FM Transmitters at manufacturer's place was cleared by Ministry in August, 2006. Transmitters have since been received and installation is in progress.
- (3) Approval of 19 numbers of new stations with 1 KW FM Transmitters, 5 KW FM Transmitter at Silchar and 10 KW FM at Gangtok included under phase-II of North East Special Plan was received in May, 2006. Sites for these Centres are being identified with the help of State Governments. Procurement of 1 KW FM Transmitters is also in progress. Action for implementation of 5 KW FM Transmitter at Silchar and 10 KW FM Transmitter at Gangtok is in progress.
- (4) Delay in offer of sites and demand notes from State Governments. Besides, cost of sites in some cases is very high like Jamnagar (Rs. 67 lakh), Maldah (Rs. 35 lakh), Tamruk (Rs. 2.34 crore), Motihari (Rs. 25 lakh) and Nellore (Rs. 68 lakh).
- (5) Besides above, it may be mentioned that proposals for any new Projects which involve creation of posts are not being approved as a number of Projects are already lying unutilized due to non-availability of O&M staff.

Sd/-
(Zohra Chatterji)
Joint Secretary (B)

[M/o I&B O.M. No. 6/9/2006-B (Fin.), dated 2.7.2007]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see paragraph No. 21 & 22 of the Chapter-I).

CHAPTER V

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

Photo Division

(Recommendation No. 7)

From the figures furnished by the Ministry, the Committee note that in 2006-07 the Direct Budgetary Support to the Photo Division at BE stage was Rs. 125 lakh which was raised to Rs. 155 lakh at RE stage, but the utilization up to 31st December, 2006 has been Rs. 69.42 lakh only. Against this, it is surprising to note that in the year 2007-08 the DBS has been slashed down to a meager amount of Rs. 2 lakh although the allocation proposed by the Ministry was to the tune of Rs. 55 lakh. The Committee have gathered an impression that in the fast changing scenario in the information sector, the role of Photo Division is fast eroding. In this context, the Committee welcome the move of the Ministry to merge the Photo Division with the Press Information Bureau (PIB) at the regional and field levels with a view to facilitate synergy and coordination between the two units and enabling easy and prompt access to the huge reservoir of photographs available at the disposal of the Photo Division. However, such a merger at the headquarters has not been done. The Photo Division has a huge repository of photographs for which the digitalization process is reportedly almost complete and they are being made available online in the PIB's website. Although the services provided by the Division are basically meant for media units of Central and State Governments, non-publicity organizations and the general public besides the press, at the field level it caters mainly to the needs of the press desiring visuals for use along with news reports. With a view to synergize the operations and facilitate single window approach for the services provided by the Ministry, the committee are of the strong view that the Government should seriously consider the possibility of merging the Photo Division with PIB. In the Committee's view, merging of the Ministry's media unit for visual support with the Information Bureau will equip the merged unit to cater to the information needs of the Government Departments, the press and the public more effectively, besides facilitating optimum utilization of the rich repository of photographs at its disposal.

Action taken by the Government

As against the Budget Estimates of Rs. 125.00 lakh under Plan, which was enhanced to Rs. 155.00 lakh at R.E. stage, Photo Division made an expenditure of Rs. 146.14 lakh during the financial year 2006-07. As regards the Annual Plan 2007-08 of Photo Division, two schemes have been approved by the Planning Commission and a token provision of Rs. 1.00 lakh for each Scheme has been made. These Schemes would be implemented during the Annual Plan 2007-08 with suitable augmentation of funds.

The recommendation of the Committee for merger of Headquarter of Photo Division with PIB, has been noted for further examination.

Sd/-
(Stuti Kacker)
Joint Secretary (P&A)

[M/o I&B O.M. No. 10/8/2007-MUC, dated 25.7.2007]

Film Sector

Recommendation (No. 10)

Children's Film Society of India (CFSI)

The Committee have been engaging their attention on the low utilization of funds and poor performance in physical targets by the Children's Film Society, India (CFSI) for quite sometime. Against the 10th Plan allocation of Rs. 1759 lakh for the most important continuing scheme, 'Film Production', which includes production, dubbing subtitling and purchase o films, the actual utilization up to 31st December, 2006 has been stated to be only Rs. 983.05 lakh which works out to only 55.89% of the allocation. The physical achievement by the Society for making feature films was 22 as against a target of 29, for short films it was 10 against a target of 12, for doubling it was 31 against a target of 70, for subtitling it was 24 against a target of 43 and for purchase of films 7 against a target of 19. Further as against a target of reaching out to 207 lakh children audience, only 166 lakh children were covered under the scheme, 'Exhibition of films in municipal school'. The same reasons, viz. non-availability of suitable stories/scripts, Directors not sticking to schedules, non-availability of child artistes, technicians and location of shooting, etc. are being advanced before the Committee every time which is an indication of

lack of seriousness and determination of the part of CFSI to overcome the constraints and achieve the target. Not surprisingly, the Planning Commission has shifted the scheme 'Film Production', from Plan to non-plan without making any allocation for fiscal 2007-08 although an amount of Rs. 1173 lakh was proposed. With the meagre non-plan allocation of Rs. 42 lakh for CFSI in 2007 which is also to be utilized to meet day to day expenditure of the Society, the targets have been sliced down to production of 5 feature films and 2 short films, dubbing of 14 films, subtitling of 10 feature and 2 short films and purchase of 3 films. Considering the level of allocation and the lack of will prevalent in CFSI, even these targets seem to be too ambitious. The Committee are of the firm view that with the increasing rise in the corrupting influence of media on children, the mandate of CFSI to provide children and young people with value based entertainment through films attains greater importance. They, therefore, express their serious displeasure at the way the physical and financial performance by CFSI consistently fell below the targets and the lack of initiative on the part of the society to overcome the bottlenecks. In the opinion of the Committee, shifting the scheme, 'Film Production' for Plan to Non-Plan and non-allocation of specific funds for it, would not only adversely affect the scheme itself but also would make the very existence of the Society in fructuous. The Committee, therefore, recommend that need for adequate funds for the scheme should be taken up at the RE stage.

Action taken by the Government

In the 11th Plan, the Plan Scheme pertaining to Children's Film Society of India, *viz.*, 'Film Production' consisting of various sub-schemes like Film Production, Film Festival, Modernisation and Augmentation of equipment and Animation and Script Writing workshops was transferred from Plan to Non-Plan. However, Finance Ministry has now written that in schemes, which are continuing Plan Schemes, the Ministry has to review its allocations under Plan to absorb the liabilities of such Schemes through re-appropriations wherever possible. Hence, the Ministry will have to review the allocations of its various Plan Schemes to identify funds for re-appropriation. The recommendations of the Committee have been noted for compliance.

Sd/-

(V.B. Pyarelal)

Joint Secretary (Films)

[M/o I&B O.M. No. H-11013/02/2007-F(A), dated 12.7.2007]

Film Sector

Recommendation (No. 11)

Children's Film Society of India (CFSI)

A major project of CFSI *i.e.* the CFSI Film Complex at Hyderabad which envisaged construction of in-house facilities for all aspects of filmmaking and initially mooted in the 9th Plan, continued to remain a non-starter in the 10th Plan and has now been continued in the 11th Plan. Despite the State Government of Andhra Pradesh having allotted about 10 acres of land in Jubilee Hills area for setting up the building complex, there has been a stalemate on account of the insistence of the State Government to have a film training institute there instead of production facilities, as proposed by CFSI. Discussions at the level of the Chief Minister and the Chief Secretary of the State have not yielded any result. In the context, the Ministry have not been able to set any time frame for completion of the project as further progress is directly linked to MoU to be signed with the State Government. It is astonishing to find that there has been no clear understanding between the Ministry and the State Government regarding the nature of the CFSI Film Complex even after the land for the project was allotted by the State Government. The Committee desire that the project, having languished during the last two Plan periods, should receive the top most attention of the Ministry and every effort should be made to sort out the matter with the State Government and take the project to its logical conclusion.

Action taken by the Government

Children's Film Society of India (CFSI)

The Children's Film Complex proposed to be constructed at Hyderabad will be utilised by Children's Film Society of India and the Ministry of information & Broadcasting for not more than 15 days in two years during the biennial International Children's Film Festival. For the remaining part of the year, it is the State Government of Andhra Pradesh which will be utilising the Complex. Hence the demand of the State Government that this Ministry should pay for the day to day maintenance and running of the complex is unjustified. Keeping this in view, they have been asked to submit a suitable model regarding the upkeep and maintenance of the complex. However, in spite of lapse of more than nine months, State Government has not responded till date. However, Ministry is pursuing the matter at higher levels.

Sd/-

(V.B. Pyarelal)

Joint Secretary (Films)

[M/o I&B O.M. No. H-11013/02/2007-F(A), Dated 12.7.2007]

Films Sector

Recommendation (No. 13)

National Centre of Excellence for Animation, Gaming and Special Effects

The Committee have been informed that in places like Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Goa, sizeable investment is being done in the areas for animation, gaming and special effects. A Committee, set up to identify new opportunities in the areas of Information, Communication and Entertainment where the State needs to play a pro-active role highlighted the need for generating, on an average, at least 3000 trained personnel every year for the animation and gaming sector. The special effects sector is also expected to grow at similar levels indicating a consistent need for trained manpower. This would require appointment of a consultant. Since it requires state-of-the-art technology, highly skilled manpower and huge investment, Government's share for setting up the Centre on a public-private partnership basis is expected to be approximately Rs. 75 crore. While the proposal awaits approval for inclusion in the 11th Plan, a budgetary allocation of Rs. 10 lakh has been proposed for the year 2007-08. In view of the significance attached to setting up of the Centre in the context of growing demands of skilled manpower in the areas of Animation, Gaming and Special Effects, the Committee recommend that the project be pursued and implemented at the earliest.

Action taken by the Government

As recognition towards the need of trained manpower for the Animation, Gaming and Special Effect Sector, Govt. attaches high importance for setting up of the Centre for Excellence for Animation, Gaming and Special effects on Public/Private Partnership. Accordingly, Planning Commission has been approached for inclusion of the Scheme with an estimated cost of Rs. 75 crore in the 11th Five Year Plan. 'In principle' approval of the Planning Commission is yet to be received. The Govt. notes the recommendation of the Standing Committee and would be pursuing for the setting up of the Centre in right earnest.

Sd/-

(V.B. Pyarelal)

Joint Secretary (Films)

[M/o I&B O.M. No. 106/05/07-F(I), Dated 31.5.2007]

Films Sector

Recommendation (No. 14)

Digitalisation of Films

It is needless to highlight the importance of digitalization of films of historical importance preserved in the archives of Films Division. When the Committee pointed out that Mumbai, where the Film Archives is situated, is not the right place for preservation of films because of humidity conditions, the Secretary, Ministry of information and Broadcasting, conceding to the observation, informed the Committee that storage facility with air-conditioned vaults was being constructed at National film Archives of India, Pune for shifting the Archives there. Efforts were stated to be on war footing to digitalise about 8100 films preserved in the Archives by march 2007 as part of Phase I of the Digitalisation process in order to check further deterioration in the films and work has been completed in respect of 5,000 odd films. These films are also being put on the website so that people could access the information. In Phase II of the Digitalization process, it was proposed to concentrate more on restoration of the original material and upgrading the sound system by calling for original track from wherever possible, as the quality has deteriorated and become harsh and sharp in historically important films of 40s and 50s. However, the Committee are constrained to note that against a proposed allocation of Rs. 25 crore in the 11th Plan for the scheme, *viz.* 'Digitalisation of Archive Films', no provision at all has been made in the Annual Plan 2007-2008. The Ministry have assured the Committee that the matter would be taken up with the Planning Commission as part of the 11th Plan proposals. In view of the urgency involved in restoration and preservation of films of historical importance, the Committee stress the due priority be accorded to the scheme for digitalization of archive films and adequate allocations be made for it so that Phase II of digitalization could be taken up and completed with the urgency it deserves.

Action taken by the Government

The Plan Scheme 'Digitalisation and Web Casting of Films Division's films' is an important Plan Scheme of the Films Division in which all the records available in the archives of Films Division are proposed to be converted into digital format for better preservation. Towards this, an amount of Rs. 350.00 lakh has been allocated in the Annual Plan 2007-08. While all the 8100 films available in the archives have been categorised into 'Most Precious', 'Precious', and 'Normal'

categories, nearly 5000 films have already been digitised. Digitalisation of the remaining films is likely to be completed within the first half of the 11th Five Year Plan after which only the current and new films will remain to be digitised.

[M/o I&B O.M. No. H-11013/02/2007-F (A), Dated 12.7.2007]

It may be added that there has been no provision made by the Planning Commission in the first year (2007-08) of the 11th Plan towards "Acquisition and Digitalization of the Archive Films". The matter has been taken up with the Planning Commission for inclusion, as part of the Schemes meant for the remaining period of the 11th Plan, an amount of Rs. 25 crore towards "Acquisition and Digitalization of the Archive Films". If approved, the work of digitalization will commence from 2008-09 onwards on the basis of allocation.

[M/o I&B O.M. No. 814/12/2006-F(C), Dated 20.6.2007]

Sd/-
(V.B. Pyarelal)
Joint Secretary (Films)

Broadcasting Sector

Recommendation (No. 21)

Prasar Bharati

Shortage of Manpower

The Committee note that the Achilles' heel hindering optimum utilization of the infrastructure build by Prasar Bharati is the acute shortage of manpower being experienced by AIR and Doordarshan. Doordarshan has reportedly commissioned 194 projects without any staff sanction. Additional 251 projects, which include 20 studio centers, have been commissioned for which only partial staff sanction is available. Two studios at Calicut and Rajouri are technically ready and yet to be commissioned for want of staff. Further, 53 LPTs are relaying only partial transmission due to non-availability of adequate staff. In All India Radio, 30 projects have been commissioned without sanctioning Operation & Maintenance staff. 8 projects are technically ready, but could not be commissioned as staff is yet to be sanctioned. According to the Ministry, redeployment of staff has been done to the maximum possible extent and it is no more possible to provide staff by way of redeployment. While the Committee are in agreement with the austerity measures initiated by the Government in general, they feel that in the case of a corporation like Prasar Bharati, the question

of recruitment of manpower would have to be viewed separately keeping in view the unique nature of its role and working. With projects scattered all over the country, it is not possible to operate and maintain the projects without the minimum number of Operation & Maintenance staff. It perturbs the Committee that with several of the completed projects having been not commissioned on account of shortage of staff, the very objective for which scarce resources were invested is being defeated. Lying idle for a long time, the installed projects face the danger of turning obsolete and unusable. Having failed to convince the Ministry of Finance about the need to sanction additional staff for its operations, the Ministry have taken up the matter of urgent requirement of additional staff for commissioned projects as a separate item and a term of reference for the Group of Ministers. Having taken a close look at the entire situation, the Committee have arrived at the inevitable conclusion that a solution has to be found to help Prasar Bharati fully operationalise all the completed projects in order to the masses with full benefits of the mass media. The Committee stress that the matter be pursued vigorously at the highest level so that an amicable solution could be found for meeting the requirements of manpower in Prasar Bharati.

Action taken by the Government

Prasar Bharati is facing severe shortage of staff due to which the commissioned Stations/Offices are not fully operational. The requisite staff for new Projects has not been sanctioned. However, Stations and Offices are being run by redeployment of staff from the existing Offices. The matter has been referred to the Group of Ministers for their consideration and recommendation. Follow up action will be taken after receipt of the recommendation of GoM.

Sd/-
(Zohra Chatterji)
Joint Secretary (B)

[M/o I&B O.M. No. 1604/07/2007-BA(E), Dated 15.6.2007]

NEW DELHI;
3 December, 2007
12 Agrahayana, 1929 (Saka)

NIKHIL KUMAR,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on
Information Technology.

APPENDIX I

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (2007-08)

The Committee sat on Friday, the 30th November, 2007 from 1630 hrs. to 1815 hrs. in Committee Room No. G-074, Parliament Library Building, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Nikhil Kumar — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Abdullakutty
3. Shri Ramesh Dube
4. Shri Nikhil Kumar Choudhary
5. Shri G. Nizamuddin
6. Shri Badiga Ramakrishna
7. Shri Tufani Saroj
8. Shri Tathagata Satpathy
9. Shri K.V. Thangka Balu

Rajya Sabha

10. Shri N.R. Govindrajar

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri P. Sreedharan — *Joint Secretary*
2. Shri P.C. Koul — *Deputy Secretary*
3. Shri D.R. Mohanty — *Under Secretary*

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee. Thereafter, the Committee considered and adopted the following Draft Reports:

- (i) Draft Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations of the Committee contained in their Forty-Third Report on Demands for Grants (2007-2008) relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

- | | | | |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|
| (ii) | *** | *** | *** |
| (iii) | *** | *** | *** |
| (iv) | *** | *** | *** |

3. The Committee, then, authorised the Chairman to finalise the above said Draft Reports and present the same to the House.

The Committee, then, adjourned.

***Matter not related to this Report.

APPENDIX II

[Vide Paragraph No.5 of Introduction]

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

- (i) Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government:
Sl. Nos : 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 15, 16, 17, 19, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28 & 29.
- Total :18
Percentage: 62.06%
- (ii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government:
Sl. Nos : 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:
Sl. Nos : 1, 18, 20, 22 & 27
- Total : 05
Percentage : 17.24%
- (iv) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies are of interim nature:-
Sl. Nos : 7, 10, 11, 13, 14 & 21
- Total : 06
Percentage : 20.69%

FIFTY-FIRST REPORT
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(2007-2008)

(FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
AND BROADCASTING

*[Action taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the
Committee contained in their Forty-Third Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha)
on Demands for Grants (2007-2008)]*

Presented to Lok Sabha on 4.12.2007

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 5.12.2007



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

December, 2007/Agrahayana, 1929 (Saka)

C.I.T. No. 173

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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(2007-2008)

Shri Nikhil Kumar — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Abdullakutty
3. Shri Ramesh Dube
4. Shri Nikhil Kumar Choudhary
5. Shri Sanjay Shamrao Dhotre
6. Smt. Jayaprada
7. Shri Narahari Mahato
8. Shri Bhubaneshwar Prasad Mehta
9. Shri Harish Nagpal
10. Shri G. Nizamuddin
11. Shri Sohan Potai
12. Shri Lalmani Prasad
13. Kunwar Jitin Prasad
14. Shri Badiga Ramakrishna
- **15. Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal
16. Shri Tufani Saroj
17. Shri Tathagata Satpathy
18. Smt. Rubab Sayeda
19. Shri K.V. Thangka Balu
20. Shri P.C. Thomas
21. Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu

Rajya Sabha

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

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri M. Rajagopalan Nair — *Additional Secretary*
2. Shri P. Sreedharan — *Joint Secretary*
3. Shri P.C. Koul — *Deputy Secretary*
4. Shri D.R. Mohanty — *Under Secretary*

* Nominated w.e.f. 24 August, 2007.

** Nominated w.e.f. 5 October, 2007 *vice* Vishnu Deo Sai ceased to be member of this Committee w.e.f. 30 August, 2007.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Standing Committee on Information Technology, (2007-2008) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Fifty-First Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in their Forty-Third Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2007-2008)' relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

2. The Forty-Third Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 27 April, 2007 and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on the same day. The Department furnished Action Taken Notes on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Report on 13 August, 2007.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 30 November, 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 Forty-Third Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given at Appendix-II.

NEW DELHI;
3 December, 2007

12 Agrahayana, 1929 (Saka)

NIKHIL KUMAR,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on
Information Technology.

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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(2007-2008)**

FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA

**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
AND BROADCASTING**

*[Action taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the
Committee contained in their Forty-Third Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha)
on Demands for Grants (2007-2008)]*

FIFTY-FIRST REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December, 2007/Agrahayana, 1929 (Saka)