

**46**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(2012-13)**

**FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA**

**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS  
(2013-14)**

**FORTY-SIXTH REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

*April, 2013/Vaisakha, 1935 (Saka)*

**FORTY-SIXTH REPORT**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(2012-13)**

**(FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS  
(2013-14)**

*Presented to Lok Sabha on 30 April, 2013  
Laid in Rajya Sabha on 30 April, 2013*



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

*April, 2013/ Vaisakha, 1935 (Saka)*

## CONTENTS

	COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE	(i)
	ABBREVIATIONS	(ii)
	INTRODUCTION	(iii)
	REPORT	
	PART I	
	NARRATION ANALYSIS	
Chapter I	INTRODUCTORY	1
Chapter II	Implementation status of recommendations of the Committee contained in Thirty-second Report on Demands for Grants (2012-13) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.	2
Chapter III	Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17) Allocations	2
	(i) New and On-going Schemes and status of Approvals	5
	(ii) Demands for Grants (2013-14)	7
Chapter IV	BROADCASTING SECTOR	8
	(i) Prasar Bharati - Budget Estimates (2013-14)	8
	(ii) Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR)	10
	(iii) Financial Viability of Prasar Bharati	12
	(iv) Modernization of Prasar Bharati	15
	(v) Outstanding Dues from Doordarshan Kendras and National Channels	16
	(vi) Filling up of Posts in Prasar Bharati	18
	(vii) Autonomy and Accountability of Prasar Bharati	20
	(viii) Issues related to transmission in Border Areas	24
	(ix) Issues related to digitization and Set top Boxes	25
	(x) Expansion of FM Radio	27
	(xi) Scheme of supporting Community Radio	29
Chapter V	INFORMATION SECTOR	30
	(i) Indian Institute of Mass Communication	31
	(ii) Initiatives of the Ministry in Social Media	33
Chapter VI	FILM SECTOR	34
	(i) Global Film School	35
	(ii) Setting up of National Center of Excellence for Animation Gaming and Special Effects	36
	(iii) Central Board of Film Certification	37
	(iv) Cinematograph Act, 1952	39
	Part-II	
	Recommendations/Observations	41-63
	Annexures	
<b>I.</b>	Statement showing Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actual Expenditure of 2012-13	64
<b>II.</b>	Minutes of the Tenth Sitting of the Committee held on 3 <sup>rd</sup> April, 2013.	67
<b>III.</b>	Minutes of the Eleventh Sitting of the Committee held on 17 <sup>th</sup> April, 2013.	71

**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**  
**(2012-13)**

**Shri Rao Inderjit Singh** - **Chairman**  
**Lok Sabha**

2. Shri Abdul Rahman
3. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
4. Shri Raj Babbar
5. Shri Nikhil Kumar Choudhary
- \* 6. Shri Khagen Das
7. Shri A. Ganeshamurthi
8. Shri Rajen Gohain
9. Smt. Darshana Jardosh
10. Shri H.D. Kumaraswamy
11. Shri Baidya Nath Prasad Mahato
12. Shri Sadashivrao D. Mandlik
13. Dr. Thokchom Meinya
- \*\* 14. Dr. Prasanna Kumar Patasani
15. Shri Tapas Paul
16. Shri Radhe Mohan Singh (Ghazipur)
17. Smt. Seema Upadhyay
18. **Vacant**
19. **Vacant**
20. **Vacant**
21. **Vacant**

**Rajya Sabha**

22. Shri Joy Abraham
23. Shri Mohammed Adeb
24. Shri Javed Akhtar
25. Shri Salim Ansari
26. Shri Bharatsinh Prabhatsinh Parmar
- # 27. Dr. Kanwar Deep Singh
28. Shri Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar
29. Dr. C.P. Thakur
- @ 30. **Vacant**
31. **Vacant**

**Secretariat**

- |    |                     |   |                     |
|----|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Shri Brahm Dutt     | - | Joint Secretary     |
| 2. | Shri N.C. Gupta     | - | Director            |
| 3. | Dr. Sagarika Dash - |   | Deputy Secretary    |
| 4. | Shri Sandip Prasad  | - | Executive Assistant |

\* Nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 13.12.2012 *vide* Shri Ramsinh Rathwa, *vide* Lok Sabha Bulletin Part -II dated 13.12.2012.

\*\* Nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 09.01.2013 *vide* Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 09.01.2013.

# Nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 28.03. 2013 *vide* Rajya Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 01.04.2013

@ Shri Rajkumar Dhoot, M.P. Rajya Sabha resigned on 11.02.2013 from Committee.

**ABBREVIATIONS**

BE	-	Budget Estimate
RE	-	Revised Estimate
AIR	-	All India Radio
DD	-	Doordarshan
IEBR	-	Internal and Extra Budgetary Resource
GBS	-	Gross Budgetary Support
NFHM	-	National Film Heritage Mission
NCOE	-	National Centre of Excellence
BECIL	-	Broadcasting Engineering Consultants India Limited
DGACR	-	Director General of Audit, Central Revenues
IPTV	-	Internet Protocol Television
DTH	-	Direct to Home
DAS	-	Digital Addressable System
MSO	-	Multi System Operator
LCOs	-	Local Cable Operators
STBs	-	Set Top Boxes
NIA	-	Notice for inviting Applications
CR	-	Community Radio
CRSS	-	Community Radio Support Scheme
IIMC	-	Indian Institute of Mass Communication
SRFTI	-	Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute
FTII	-	Film and Television Institute of India
NCoEAGV	-	National Centre of Excellence for Animation, Gaming and Visual Effects
CBFC	-	Central Board of Film Certification

## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Standing Committee on Information Technology (2012-13) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Forty-sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2013-14) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

2. The Standing Committee on Information Technology (2012-13) was constituted on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2012. One of the functions of the Standing Committee, as laid down in Rule 331E of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha is to consider Demands for Grants of the concerned Ministry/Department and to make a Report on the same to the House.

3. The Committee considered the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for the year 2013-14 which were laid on the Table of the House on 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2013. The Committee took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2013.

4. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2013.

5. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for appearing before the Committee and furnishing the information, that the Committee desired in connection with the examination of the Demands for Grants.

6. The Committee would also like to place on record their deep sense of appreciation of the valuable assistance rendered to them by the officials of Lok Sabha Secretariat attached to the Committee.

7. For facility of reference and convenience Recommendations/Observations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in Part-II of the Report.

**New Delhi**  
**23 April, 2013**  
**03 Vaisakha, 1935 (Saka)**

**RAO INDERJIT SINGH**  
**Chairman**  
**Standing Committee on**  
**Information Technology**

**REPORT****PART – I****NARRATION ANALYSIS****I. Introductory**

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, through the mass communication media consisting of radio, television, films, press and print publications, advertising and traditional modes of communications such as dance and drama, play an effective role in helping people to have access to free flow of information. The Ministry is involved in catering to the entertainment needs of various age groups and focusing attention of the people on issues of national integrity, environmental protection, health care and family welfare, eradication of illiteracy and issues relating to women, children, minority and other disadvantaged sections of the society.

1.2 The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, as per the allocation of Business Rules, has a wide mandate in respect of information, education and entertainment to be executed with functions relating to print and electronic media as also films.

The following is the mandate of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting:

- News services through All India Radio (AIR) and Doordarshan (DD) for the people including Indians abroad;
- Development of Broadcasting and Television;
- Import and Export of Films;
- Development and promotion of film industry
- Dissemination of information about India within and outside the country through publications on matters of national importance.
- To liaise with State Governments and their organizations in the field of information and publicity; and
- To serve as a constant link between the Government and the Press and act as a clearing house of official information and authentic data pertaining to the Union Government's plans and programmes.

1.3 The Ministry are assisted and supported in their activities through 13 Attached and Subordinate organizations, 06 Autonomous organizations and 02 Public Sector Undertakings. The Ministry is broadly divided into three sectors *viz.*

- (i) The Broadcasting Sector;
- (ii) The Information Sector; and
- (iii) The Film Sector.

**II. Implementation status of recommendations of the Committee contained in Thirty-second Report on Demands for Grants (2012-13) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.**

1.4 The Standing Committee on Information Technology presented/laid the Thirty-second Report on Demands for Grants (2012-13) relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2012. Out of 33 recommendations, 13 recommendations (Sl. Nos.1, 2, 3, 9, 13, 21, 22, 23, 24, 29, 31, 32 and 33) were accepted by the Government. The Committee reiterated 9 of their recommendations (Sl. No. 5,7,8,10,12,15,19,25 and 30) in their Fortieth Report presenting to Parliament on 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2012. The Committee did not desire to pursue 2 recommendations (Sl. Nos. 18 and 26) in view of the replies of the Government. Reply to 09 recommendations (Sl. No. 4, 6,11,14,16,17, 20, 27 and 28) were interim in nature. Hon'ble Minister made a statement in the House regarding the status of implementation of recommendations contained in Thirty-second Report on 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2012 in Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha in pursuance of Direction 73A of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha.

**III. Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17) Allocations**

1.5 The Committee have been informed that the total plan outlay sought by the Ministry for Twelfth Plan is Rs. 21731 crore including Rs. 5000 crore IEBR from Prasar Bharati and Plan outlay approved is Rs. 8583 crore including IEBR of Rs. 1000 crore from the Prasar Bharati. The proposed Outlay, Budget Estimate, Revised Estimate and Actual Expenditure for the Twelfth Plan (2012-17) are as follows:-

**(Rs. In crore)**

Financial Year	Proposed	BE	RE	Actual (upto 31.03.2013)	%age Utilisation w.r.t. RE
Twelfth Five Year Plan	21, 731.00*	8583.00^	-	-	-
2012-13	3280.30	905.00	676.00	611.38	90.4
2013-14	2252.00	905.00	-	-	-

\* Including Rs. 5000 crore IEBR

^ Including Rs. 1000 crore IEBR



1.6 Asked about the achievements of the Ministry during the first year of the Twelfth Five Year Plan and whether the Ministry was satisfied with performance under various schemes, the Ministry informed that the Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) for Twelfth Plan was communicated in September 2012 by Planning Commission, which is a necessary component for appraisal/approval of the new schemes for Twelfth Plan. However, the Ministry adopted an innovative approach, in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission, pending finalization of Twelfth Plan outlay, to get the appraisal and approval of the on-going component of new schemes done for the first year outlay, after obtaining SFC/EFC appraisal. Accordingly, without loosing time, the implementation of the schemes began well in advance in the first year. This was an improvement in the planning process during Twelfth Plan over XI Plan. As soon as the Twelfth Plan outlay was communicated in September 2012, SFC/EFC Memos were prepared for new plan schemes and circulated taking into account the outlay for entire five years for Twelfth Plan. Out of the 19 new schemes, five have been approved so far, and the rest 14 are in advanced stages of the appraisal and approval. By adopting the above approach, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has been able to implement plan schemes and incur expenditure prudently.

1.7 The amount proposed, the allocations at BE, RE stage and Actual Expenditure on the plan side during each year of the Annual Plans 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 are given as under:-

(Rs. in crore)					
Year	Proposed by the Ministry	Amount at BE stage	Amount at RE stage	Actual Expenditure	% age of utilization
2011-12	1718.75	861.00	786.72	762.81	96.96
2012-13	3280.30	905.00	676.00	611.33	90.4
2013-14	2252.00	905.00	-	-	-

1.8 From the above data, it can be seen that the amount allocated by the Planning Commission as compared to the amount proposed by the Ministry has been significantly less (approximately 40-50 per cent). When asked to explain the huge variations in the proposed outlay and allocations at BE and RE stage and also the reasons/justifications cited by the Planning Commission for reduction/ of funds at approval stage, the Ministry informed as under:-

“Generally, the Ministry proposes outlay for Annual Plan to the Planning Commission at a level which according to it, should be made available for all its activities. But in reality the allocation is determined by the Planning Commission, keeping in view the total available resources for the country as a whole and Govt.’s commitment to meet demands for priority sectors”.

1.9 The data furnished by the Ministry also shows that the Actual Expenditure by the Ministry during the year 2012-13 was 63.14 per cent of the projections set at BE stage and with reference to RE stage, the actual expenditure was 90.4 per cent.

1.10 When the Committee enquired about the reasons for actual expenditure falling short during the above period, the Ministry stated that the reduction of Budgetary support to Annual Plan 2012-13, at BE stage, is from Rs. 905 crore to Rs. 676 crore at RE stage. This is mainly due to the following:

“Overall funds scarcity in the Government of India resource position; and proportionately low expenditure reported till September 2012.

1.11 On being asked about continuous under-utilization of outlays during the years 2011-12 and 2012-13, the Ministry further stated as under:-

“An important reason for under utilization of Plan fund is the delay in approval of the schemes resulting in surrender of funds. Secondly, the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Finance restricting expenditure to 33% of the BE in the last quarter and not more than 15% of the BE in the last month, scheme wise, subject to RE ceiling, is another reason for under utilization of the funds. Normally, the tempo of implementation of schemes is built up in the second half of the year, and at that time, financial regulations/ guidelines restrict utilization of funds.

1.12 Asked as to what measures/steps have been taken to effectively utilize the allocation during the year 2013-14, the Ministry informed that following measures/steps have been initiated by the Ministry to ensure effective utilization of funds:-

1. Streamlining of the planning & approval of schemes to ensure quicker approval of schemes;
2. Evaluation, of all ongoing schemes and ongoing components of the new schemes.
3. Weekly review of plan implementation in Senior Officers’ meeting taken by Secretary;
4. Specific steps taken by the Ministry to improve the planning & implementation of the schemes by Prasar Bharati such as:
  - Delegation of financial power upto Rs. 300 crore to Prasar Bharati Board;

- Restoration of sanctioning power to DGs upto Rs. 20 crore; and
- Rationalizing the procurement period in Prasar Bharati.

1.13 On the issue of utilisation of funds, the Secretary, Information and Broadcasting during evidence submitted as under:

“xxxxx..... while in earlier years, the Ministry’s Plan performance was impacted because of non-utilisation of Plan funds by Prasar Bharati, I am happy to report that in the last two years, 2011-12 and 2012-13, practically 100 per cent Plan funds could be released to Prasar Bharati. I cannot say this with full certainty as far as 2011-12 is concerned, but in 2012-13, the pace of expenditure has significantly picked up in Prasar Bharati as opposed to previous years. “

**(i) New and On-going Schemes and status of Approvals**

1.14 As per the Ministry, the Twelfth Plan will have two sets of schemes – (i) On-going Schemes and (ii) New schemes. The Secretary during the evidence submitted as under:

“A very notable feature of the Twelfth Plan strategy of the Ministry has been a complete restructuring and rationalisation of Plan schemes. In 11th Plan, we had 65 schemes and we have reduced the number to 26 schemes in Twelfth Plan, which also includes seven ongoing schemes.”

1.15 A. While giving presentation before the Committee, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, *inter alia* stated that evaluation of ongoing schemes and ongoing component of new schemes of Twelfth Plan has been commissioned as per the Ministry of Finance guidelines. Out of 26 Schemes/subschemes, reports for 20 has already been received and remaining 6 were expected by end of April, 2013.

1.16. With regard to the status of approval for four ongoing schemes conceptualized during XI Plan, the Ministry in their Action Taken Note submitted on the observations/ recommendations contained in 32nd Report of the Committee had furnished the following information:-

“A great deal of work was done in respect of four schemes in “conceptualizing” and taking up of pre-implementation activities, like preparation of Detailed Project Report. In the case of scheme named “National Film Heritage Mission”, even the in-principle approval was obtained from Planning Commission. Pending approval of outlay for the Twelfth Plan by Planning Commission, the Ministry has drawn up a time bound action plan to get the schemes appraised and approved on the basis of outlay approved for Annual Plan 2012-13 in order to ensure that the

implementation of the schemes could start at the earliest. It is expected that the schemes will be implemented from the first year of the Twelfth Plan.”

1.17 In the above context, the Committee desired to know as to what was the current status of approval of the four schemes which were at different stages of approval during the last Eleventh Five Year Plan. The Ministry in the written reply stated as under:

“xxxxxxx.....(i) National Film heritage Mission (NFHM) - Allocation given to Films Wing for Twelfth Plan was only around Rs. 800cr. Hence, it was impossible to take up the project at original envisaged outlay (Rs. 660cr.) A discussion was held in Planning Commission wherein it was advised that instead of diluting the scope of the project, it may be spread over 12th and 13th Five Year Plans. Accordingly, the EFC Memo was revised with a total cost of Rs.597.41 crore and extending through the period 2012-13 to 2020-21. The outlay in 12th Five Year Plan is Rs. 291 cr. only. Comments on the revised EFC memo have been received from Planning Commission on 12.03.2013 and the Department of Expenditure on 30.01.2013. The Ministry is seeking time for meeting of EFC to be chaired by Secretary (Expenditure) in April, 2013.

(ii) National Center of Excellence (NCOE) - EFC for the project is likely to be held by May, 2013. Once approved by EFC, process for selection of a Financial Consultant and Transaction Adviser will be undertaken.

iii) Scheme International Channel: Twelfth Plan of DD, *interalia*, includes the scheme “Global Coverage of DD International Channel” at an estimated cost of Rs.100 Crore. The investment proposed is from Direct Budget Support of the 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan (Capital). An outlay of Rs.100 Crore has already been approved for this purpose by the Planning Commission. The EFC Memorandum for the above scheme (as part of Special Projects of DD) has been circulated by the Ministry on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2012 to appraisal agencies. Clarifications of Doordarshan on the comments of appraisal agencies have been forwarded to the respective departments. The expected date of completion of the project as indicated in the EFC Memo is March 2017.”

1.18 Asked as to whether the Ministry has chalked out any timeline for early approval of these schemes, the Ministry stated that for the scheme of (i) National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM): the Ministry is seeking time for meeting of EFC in April, 2013. Once approved by the EFC the Scheme will be implemented from the year 2013-14. (ii) In respect of National Center of Excellence (NCOE), EFC for the project is likely to be held by May, 2013. Once approved by EFC, process for selection of a Financial Consultant and Transaction Adviser will be undertaken. The implementation of the scheme will begin in 2013-14. (iii) For the scheme of International Channel, the appraisal and approval of the scheme will be carried out as per the Guidelines for formulation,

Appraisal and Approval of Government Plan Funded Projects/Schemes issued by the Ministry of Finance.

**(ii) Demands for Grants (2013-14)**

1.19 Demand No. 61 presented to Parliament on 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2012 by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has provision for expenditure of the Secretariat of the Ministry their media units and Grants-in-aid/Budgetary support to the autonomous/statutory bodies under the administrative control of the Ministry for the financial year 2013-14.

The Table below shows the Demands in brief:

**(Rs. in crore)**

Revenue	Plan	Non-Plan	Total
<b>Voted</b>	876.20	2130.65	3006.85
<b>Charged</b>	--	--	--
<b>Capital</b>			
<b>Voted</b>	28.80	--	28.80
<b>Charged</b>	--	--	
<b>Grand Total</b>	905.00	2130.65	3035.65

1.20 The overall position of proposed outlay BE, RE and Actual Expenditure for the year 2012-13 and BE for the year 2013-14 under Plan, non-Plan segment is as under:-

**Plan**

**(Rs. in crore)**

Year	2012-13	2013-14
Proposed	3280.30	2252.00
BE	905.00	905.00
RE	676.00	
Actual	571.41 (upto 28.02.2013)	

**Non-Plan****(Rs. in crore)**

Year	2012-13	2013-14
Proposed	2120.55	
BE	1832.39	2130.65
RE	2017.47	
Actual	1398.80 (upto 28.02.2013)	

1.21 For the Annual Plan 2013-14, an outlay of Rs. 1105 crore has been fixed which includes GBS Rs. 905 crore and IEBR Rs. 200 crore. The non-Plan allocation for the year 2013-14 stands at Rs. 2130.65 crore.

1.22 Sector wise proposed outlay BE, RE and Actual Expenditure for the year 2013-14 is as under:-

Sector	<b>(Rs. in crore)</b>				
	Proposed	BE	RE	Actual	%age of Utilization
Information	242.78	235.00	-	-	-
Film	222.22	126.00	-	-	-
Broadcasting	1787.00 <sup>^</sup>	744.00 <sup>*</sup>	-	-	-

\*Including Rs. 200 crore IEBR

<sup>^</sup>Including Rs.200crore IEBR

1.23 The detailed position of proposed outlay, BE, RE and actual expenditure during the year 2012-13 under Plan has been given at **Appendix I**.

**IV. BROADCASTING SECTOR**

1.24 The Broadcasting Sector of the Ministry constitutes the Prasar Bharati, an autonomous corporation established under the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 and a PSU, the Broadcasting Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL). The Prasar Bharati has two wings viz. All India Radio and Doordarshan.

**(i) Prasar Bharati - Budget Estimates (2013-14)**

1.25 The Annual Plan (2013-14) for Prasar Bharati has been fixed at Rs. 714 crore which includes Rs. 514 crore as GBS and Rs. 200 crore as IEBR.

1.26 The proposed outlay, BE, RE and Actual Expenditure in respect of Prasar Bharati for the years 2011-12, 2012-13 and BE for the year 2013-14 are as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
<b>Proposed outlay</b>	1186.85	1650.00	-
<b>BE</b>	531.77	585.00	714.00*
<b>RE</b>	461.35	412.52	-
<b>Actual</b>	461.33	399.50	-
<b>Percentage of utilization w.r.t. RE</b>	99.00	96.84	-

\*including Rs. 200 crore IEBR

1.27 The details of BE, RE and Actual Expenditure separately in respect of AIR/Doordarshan for the years 2011-12, 2012-13 and BE for the year 2013-14 is as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

AIR	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
<b>Proposed outlay</b>	632.46	687.00	-
<b>BE</b>	260.37	299.00	331.50
<b>RE</b>	188.95	200.00	-
<b>Actual</b>	109.37	196.75	-
<b>Percentage of expenditure wrt. RE</b>	56.88	98.38	-

(Rs. in crore)

Doordarshan	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
<b>Proposed outlay</b>	554.39	1963.00	-
<b>BE</b>	271.40	286.00	382.50
<b>RE</b>	272.40	212.52	-
<b>Actual</b>	270.00	202.75	-
<b>Percentage of expenditure wrt. RE</b>	99.00	95.40	-

1.28 Expressing happiness over utilization of funds in respect of AIR/Doordarshan, the Secretary submitted during the evidence as under:

“xxxxx.....I am happy to report that in the last two years, 2011-12 and 2012-13, practically 100 per cent Plan funds could be released to Prasar Bharati.”

1.29 Asked as to what efforts are being made for full utilization of funds during 2013-14, the Ministry enumerated the initiatives as under:

“Prasar Bharati has informed that the Monitoring mechanism has been strengthened considerably. Procurement procedures have been streamlined and the time involved in procurement process has been reduced to 26 weeks from 52 weeks. In view of these initiatives the budget allocated during 2012-13 will be fully

utilized. Doordarshan has proposed to utilize funds budgeted at BE level if funds are provided to them.”

**(ii) Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR)**

1.30 On the provision of Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources, the Committee were informed that the Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources proposed by Ministry for Twelfth Plan was Rs. 5000 crore from Prasar Bharati. The Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources approved by the Ministry of Finance/Planning Commission is Rs. 1000 crore for Twelfth Plan.

1.31 During the year 2012-13 for the first time, Rs. 400 crore had been earmarked under Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources component. For the year 2013-14, the Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources allocation for Prasar Bharati has been reduced to Rs. 200 crore.

1.32 When the Committee desired to know the reasons for reduction of Rs. 200 crore under Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources in the second year of Twelfth Five Year Plan, the Ministry stated that the revenue generated by Prasar Bharati is hardly sufficient to meet its normal requirement in the following items:

- To meet salary and wages of persons engaged on contractual and outsourcing basis to overcome acute shortage of manpower in Engg., Programme, Admn, Finance and Accounting Wings such as causal Artists, Advisors, Consultant, DEO, Office Attendant, etc. since no new recruitment took place since 1996.
- To meet all other Administrative expenditure in respect of more than 22 object heads defined under Rule 8 of DFPRs, 1978, such as Domestic Travel Expenses, Foreign Travel Expenses, Machinery and Equipment/Tools and Plants, Minor Work, Rents/Rates and Taxes, Payment for Professional and Special Services, Office Expenses, Power Supply Charges, etc;
- To meet Programme expenditure including software production and acquisition for Content Development and Dissemination of routine nature; and
- To meet expenditure on augmentation, modernization, replacement, up-gradation of existing infrastructure and repair and maintenance of capital assets, land and buildings spread all over the country.



1.33 Nonetheless, in view of the new financial package approved by the Government use of IEBR support of Rs. 200 crores per annum for content development and dissemination scheme was agreed to in the Twelfth Plan.

1.34 On being asked about the details of utilization of IEBR generated by Prasar Bharati, the Ministry furnished as under:-

(Rs in crore)

<b>Revenue (IEBR) generated in 2012-13 (upto Feb, 2013)</b>			
Commercial		Other Sources	Total
AIR	Doordarshan		
243.49	906.68	113.39	1263.56
<b>Utilization of IEBR generated upto Feb,2013</b>			
DBS	Funds Released by Govt.	Expenditure incurred under Non-Plan	Expenditure incurred from IEBR (upto Feb,2013)
1650.00	1056.45	2639.88	1583.43*
*The expenses out of IEBR includes Programme Expenses of Rs. 361.62 crore and Other Administrative Expenses (including Power Supply Charges, Payment to Armed Guard, payment of Contractual Staff, Augmentation & Maintenance of Capital assets, Satellite payment , etc. aggregating to Rs.1221.81core.			

1.35 On being enquired about the activities for which expenditure out of IEBR has been spent, the Ministry explained that the activities on which Prasar Bharati spends its expenditure from its IEBR includes meeting salary and wages of persons engaged on contractual and outsourcing basis to overcome acute shortage of manpower in Engg., Programme, Admn, Finance and Accounting Wings such as causal Artists, Advisors, Consultant, DEO, Office Attendant, etc. Since there are 15000 posts lying vacant and no new recruitment took place since 1996 while considerable amount of expansion of AIR & DD network have taken place, meeting all other Administrative expenditure in respect of more than 22 object heads defined under Rule 8 of DFPRs, 1978, such as Domestic Travel Expenses, Foreign Travel Expenses, Machinery and Equipment/Tools and Plants, Minor Work, Rents/Rates and Taxes, Payment for Professional and Special Services, Office Expenses, Power Supply Charges, etc. to meet Programme expenditure including software production and acquisition for Content Development and Dissemination of routine nature; and meeting expenditure on augmentation, modernization, replacement, up-gradation of existing infrastructure and repair and maintenance of capital assets, land and buildings spread all over the country.

**(iii) Financial Viability of Prasar Bharati**

1.36 On being asked about the gross revenue projections and net revenue earned during the last three years (2011-12 and 2012-13), the Ministry submitted as under:

<b>(Rs in crore)</b>		
Year	Revenue Projection	Revenue Receipts
2011-12*	1650.00	1409.54
2012-13**	1815.00	1263.56

\* Subject to reconciliation of account.

\*\* Earning shown upto Feb,2013"

1.37 Asked about the Revenue Receipts and expenditure by AIR and Doordarshan during the last three years (2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13), the Ministry submitted as under :-

Year	Revenue earned				Expenditure	
	AIR (Commercial)	Doordarshan (Commercial)	Other Resources	Total	Total	Out of IEBR
2011-12*	293.90	990.76	124.88	1409.54	3340.57	1444.36
2012-13* (upto Feb, 13)	243.49	906.68	113.39	1263.56	2639.88	1583.43

\* Subject to reconciliation

1.38 From the above statement, it is seen that there is a huge gap in the revenue earned and expenditure in respect of AIR, Doordarshan and Prasar Bharati as a whole. When the Committee desired to know as to what efforts are being made to bridge the gap between the revenue receipt and expenditure, the Ministry stated as under:-

“Prasar Bharati being a public service broadcaster, has to perform as per the mandate on broadcasting and in accordance with established norms. Its functioning cannot therefore be guided purely by commercial motives while the revenue generation is the by-product of Prasar Bharati.

Further, Section 17 of the Prasar Bharati Act provides that Government would make available financial support to Prasar Bharati for the purpose of enabling the Corporation to discharge its functions efficiently under the Act by way of equity, grant-in-aid or loan and Prasar Bharati is largely dependent on Government grants.

In order to increase the revenue, Prasar Bharati has been adopting aggressive marketing strategies to increase the revenue receipts besides putting into the best use its spare infrastructure available with the field formations across the country.

In addition an initiative is being taken to find spare land and building through a digital survey for exploring their commercial utility.

The other aspects that have been undertaken are : better publicity like – newspaper insertions, Media Plan, appointing Media Adviser, bill-boards, New Media campaign etc. and better professional handling of the Prasar Bharati Marketing Divisions.

Bifurcating revenue generating Units of DD such as Commercial & Revenue Division and Media Promotion Division delineating the nature of revenue for better administration and efficient management of revenue generation, establishing efficient recovery mechanism of outstanding dues, etc.

The above aspects are expected to increase the revenue, which would perceptibly bridge the gap between income and expenditure of Prasar Bharati.”

1.39 On being enquired as to whether the Ministry has done any evaluation of the spare infrastructure, the Ministry informed that Prasar Bharati has recently undertaken the work of Digital Survey of land and buildings posses by various field formations under AIR & Doordarshan across the country. This survey is expected to give total area of land, total area of building, total vacant space available for other AIR & DD development future and space area to be assessed for rental/ commercial purpose. Initially the digital survey is being carried out for Delhi region. Similar survey would be undertaken in respect of land & buildings located in other parts of the country. This would be permanent assets record in digital format will be very useful for future planning and asset management / commercial use of extra space.

1.40 On being enquired about the efforts being made to create alternate streams for revenue generation, the Ministry stated that Prasar Bharati has been exploring the possibility of revenue generation through the following streams:-

Commercial utilization of available extra space such as by installation of ATM machines. Installation of Electronic displays for advertisements of private parties. Launching of IVR/SMS based services to provide news headlines. Letting of FM Transmitters to private parties.

a) Presently, Prasar Bharati's commercial earnings are mainly coming through advertisement revenue. In addition, rentals from private FM Radio operators sharing Prasar Bharati infrastructure is also a source of revenue. Prasar Bharati is further exploring new sources of revenue through leasing of space at various field offices by installing ATMs of public sector banks.

b) Prasar Bharati is in the process of expanding its DTH platform from its present capacity of 59 channels to 97 channels. The expanded capacity will be used for e-auctioning to various private channels. It is likely to be a good source of revenue in future.

c) The Organization is in the process of modernizing and up-grading its archives to international standards. The archival material will be leveraged for earning revenue from national and international markets. It will be a source of substantial revenue in future.”

1.41 On the issue of ATM installation in Prasar Bharati offices, when the Committee asked as to whether any tie up / discussions have taken place in this regard, the Ministry in their post evidence reply stated as under:-

“Prasar Bharati has stated that Officers of all the field units of AIR have approached the local Banking Branches to open ATM at AIR premises on rental basis. So far only one proposal has been received from AIR Shimla in AIR Directorate. It is under consideration. The matter regarding installation of ATMs in AIR & Doordarshan buildings is being actively pursued in both agencies.”

1.42 Asked about the current status of expansion of DTH platform of Prasar Bharati from 59 to 97 channels, the Ministry stated as under:-

“Prasar Bharati has stated that Tenders for upgradation of Doordarshan’s DTH platform from 59 to 97 TV channels have been received & technically evaluated. Commercial bids have also been opened & further action for placement of order is in progress. As per present indications, Doordarshan’s DTH platform is expected to be upgraded to 97 channels by end of 2013-14.”

1.43 Expressing his concerns on utilisation of funds and problems faced by Prasar Bharati, CEO, Prasar Bharati during evidence stated as under:-

“It is a problem with an organisation that does not have a marketing attitude or a channel, marketing set up.xxxxx....We have to bear one cost that we never bore in the past, that is, spectrum and space travel, that is about Rs.200 crore a year. Xxxxxxxxxxxxxx...There is a mistake in our notion that Prasar Bharti does not contribute to planning. I think, there is a system’s error somewhere. Let me explain this. The plan consists of two parts. One is, capital plan which is, replacement of transmitters, studios, and other capital equipment including earth stations for satellite. There is a revenue plan. The revenue plan expenditure for software, for production programmes. Our revenue plan expenditure, I shall do the accounting and place it before the hon. Committee is at least Rs.400 crore. I was going through the amounts. Our revenue plan expenditure for software, I put it like this, our expenditure from Prasar Bharti for making software is about Rs.400 crore. Out of that, the Government has given Rs.79 crore against Rs.140 crore. I have bills of about at least Rs.100 crore pending from North East and from Jammu and Kashmir including Urdu also. This software expenditure of Rs.400 crore is the generated expenditure because of which we are getting the

revenue. This expenditure has been traditionally borne but for some odd reason I find that it was not booked as revenue. We would try to go back to the Comptroller General of Accounts and the Expenditure Department to see whether we can just book it against that head. In that case, it will not be a Rs.1000 crore contribution. Prasar Bharti will be spending about Rs.300 crore to Rs.400 crore every year. There itself, we can get Rs.1800 crore to Rs.1900 crore. These are the parameters within which we are functioning.

**(iv) Modernization of Prasar Bharati**

1.44 When the Committee enquired about modernization of the two constituents of Prasar Bharati viz. All India Radio (AIR) and Doordarshan, the Ministry informed that modernization of Doordarshan Network is a continuous process and schemes in this regard are formulated and implemented from time to time. DD has been allocated Rs.2932 crore in the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan. At present, following schemes are under implementation as part of the continuing schemes in the Twelfth Plan.

- (1) Digitalization of Transmitters and Studios in Doordarshan Network
- (2) High Definition Television (HDTV)
- (3). Modernization, Augmentation and Replacement of Transmitter and Studio equipment
- (4). Modernization, Augmentation and Replacement of Satellite Broadcast equipment

Additional schemes for modernization of Doordarshan Network viz. Digitalization of Studios and Transmitters, HDTV expansion, Modernization of Studio, Transmitter and satellite Broadcast equipment are included in Twelfth Plan. These are to be approved.

As regards modernization of AIR, AIR started the modernization of its infrastructure since the 10th Plan. AIR has set the target year 2017 for complete digitalization of its infrastructure. During 10th Plan, AIR has digitalized its studios. AIR had been allocated Rs.1718 crore in 11th Plan. Some of the schemes have been completed and rest are under implementation. These are as follows:-

- J&K Special Package phase –II
- Digitalization of Production Facilities
- Setting up HPT/LPT in border areas of J&K

As most of the scheme could not be completed during XI plan, It has been continued in the Twelfth Plan at the cost of Rs.1232 Cr. AIR has proposed Rs 1020 crore in the Twelfth Plan. Major thrust of Twelfth Plan is:

Full digitalization of existing studio and connectivity Network by 2017; FM Expansion to reach 65% population mostly backward, coastal areas, Naxal infected areas due to its acceptability in masses and availability of receiving

facility in mobile phone, strengthening of border coverage along Indo Nepal Border in preferred mode of FM transmission, to improve efficiency, effectiveness and quality of broadcast, replacement and improvement of existing facilities, to preserve the content for longer period without loss of quality, to facilitate online Programme exchange amongst AIR stations, to make available valuable content preserved with AIR archive for sale on line and automation of office activities by implementation of ERP system.

In order to rejuvenate and revitalize the DD News Channel, recently an initiative has been taken to give 'Look and Feel' by outsourcing a creative agency expertised in this field. This forms a part of ongoing activities of Modernization.

1.45 Asked as to what steps are being taken by the Ministry to improve the functioning of the National Broadcaster; the Ministry stated that based on recommendations of Group of Ministers on Prasar Bharati, Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2012 has approved the following in order to improve overall financial management of Prasar Bharati:-

- (i) During the next five years from 2012-13 to 2016-17, Government non plan support will be made available to PB for meeting 100% expenses towards Salary and Salary related expenses. All other operating expenses to be borne by PB out of its internal revenue earnings;
- (ii) Plan capital support by the Government to PB will be in the form of Grants-in-aid only and not in the form of loan;
- (iii) Accumulated interest on loan-in-perpetuity, interest on capital loan and penal interest thereon payable by PB to Government will be waived off.
- (iv) Loan-in-perpetuity and capital loans provided to PB will be converted into grants-in-aid;
- (v) Accumulated arrears of space segment and spectrum charges accrued to PB upto 31.3.2011 of Rs. 1349.54 crore, to be waive off; and
- (vi) Property and Assets will be transferred on book value to PB as per provisions of section 16(a) of Prasar Bharati Act, 1990. Normal accounting principles will be followed to determine their future value; and
- (vii) Director General of Audit, Central Revenues (DGACR) will continue to be the nodal auditor of PB and will be assisted by qualified commercial audit staff for the audit of the annual accounts."

**(v) Outstanding Dues from Doordarshan Kendras and National Channels**

1.46 As per the data furnished to the Committee, the total outstanding from the producers of various DDK and National Channels for the sponsored programme/serials

during 2010-11 and 2011-12 are Rs. 330.81 crore and Rs. 166.38 crore respectively, the details of which are as under:-

**2010-11****(Rs. in crore)**

Items	Principal	Interest	Total
Dues against Current Agencies	42.76	18.73	61.50
Dues against Old & Dead Agencies	19.56	30.11	49.67
Dues against Govt. Deptt./PSUs	36.88	1.9	38.80
Dues against Arbitration Cases to be involved	3.65	7.16	10.82
Under Arbitration	170.15	0.00	170.02
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>273.03</b>	<b>57.93</b>	<b>330.81</b>

**2011-12****(Rs. in crore)**

Items	Principal	Interest	Total
Dues against Current Agencies	50.23	20.27	70.50
Dues against Old & Dead Agencies	18.28	32.28	50.56
Dues against Govt. Deptt./PSUs	42.61	2.695	45.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>111.13</b>	<b>55.25</b>	<b>166.38</b>

\* the figures for 2012-13 are yet to be compiled by DCS.

1.47 When the Committee enquired about the action taken to recover the outstanding dues, the Ministry in their written reply informed that Prasar Bharati has been making concerted efforts in recovering the outstanding dues from defaulters which include:

- i. Regular monitoring of payments schedule of private Agencies concerned.
- ii. Aggressive persuasion with defaulters to clear the dues
- iii. Withdrawal of Credit facility beyond certain period
- iv. Encashment of bank guarantee
- v. Charging of advance payment before giving any fresh assignments
- vi. Entering into an agreement for sticking to payment plan
- vii. Initiating legal action on perpetual defaulters.

1.48 Asked as to in how many cases legal proceedings have been initiated against the defaulters, the Ministry stated that a total of 87 cases have been listed for which arbitration cases has been either in process or at different stages. The details are as under:-

Sl. No.	Description	Principal	Interest	Total (in crore)
1	Agencies against whom claim filed and arbitration proceedings are going on	2256600665	2219659754	447.63
2	Statement of account & documents are under reconciliation/checking.	34126343	49688458	8.38
3	Agencies against whom arbitrator appointed but running statement of account and bills are under preparation.	336408527	303167063	63.96
4	Agency against whom arbitration invoked but arbitrator is to be appointed.	9212761	151798704	16.10
5	Award passed by arbitrator in favour of Prasar Bharati. Appeal is pending in the Court.	210733050	145575525	35.63
6	Award passed by arbitrator in favour of Prasar Bharati. Where about of agency is being located.	15973760	12537106	2.85
	Total	2863055106	2882426610	574.55

**(vi) Filling up of Posts in Prasar Bharati**

1.49 In reply to a query on the current status of constitution of Recruitment Board for filling up of vacancies in Prasar Bharati, the Ministry stated that the Notification for setting up of Prasar Bharati Recruitment Board and proposal for creation of posts for the same are under consideration of the Government. With a view to minimise the time lag between the issue of the Notification for setting up of the Recruitment Board and its operationalisation, a High Power Committee has been constituted in Prasar Bharati to suggest infrastructural and logistic support to be provided to the Recruitment Board as also to finalise the Manual for Recruitment procedure to be adopted.

1.50 When the Committee desired to know the existing staff strength in Prasar Bharati, the Ministry stated that the sanctioned strength of All India Radio and Doordarshan is 48,022. As on 1.1.2012, 14222 posts were vacant. This figure is estimated to be about 15000 at present.



1.51 On the issue of filling up of essential posts, the Ministry in the Action Taken Replies to the recommendations contained in the Thirty-second Report on Demands for Grants 2012-13 informed as under:-

“Prasar Bharati has identified 3254 posts as essential category of posts requiring filling up on immediate basis. Based on the recommendation of Group of Ministers (GOM), the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting proposed to seek Cabinet approval for filling up these posts.”

1.52 To a query as to what is the current status of filling up of 3452 posts of essential category in Prasar Bharati, the Ministry stated that the Group of Ministers set up by the Government to go into the functioning of Prasar Bharati, had recommended filling up of 3452 posts as belonging to essential categories. Since these vacancies were more than one year old and were covered under ‘deemed abolition’ approval of Department of Expenditure was required to be obtained before their filling up. DOE had cleared 1150 of these posts and had indicated that proposal for the balance posts may be taken up in March, 2013. Such a proposal has already been referred to DOE. Staff Selection Commission has initiated process of filling up of Group B and C posts falling under these categories. Recruitment Regulations for these posts have also been finalised/notified. Recruitment for Group A posts falling under these categories can only be taken up after the Prasar Bharati Recruitment Board is operationalised.

1.53 When the Committee desired to know the gaps between the sanctioned and the existing staff strength in Prasar Bharati, the Ministry stated that 622 projects are being run sub-optimally due to shortage of staff. For filling up the vacant posts, Recruitment Regulations and Recruitment Board are to be in position. Proposals for both are in an advance stage of consideration/approval of the Government. Pending setting up of Prasar Bharati Recruitment Board, Staff Selection Commission has been authorised to undertake recruitment for certain Group B and C posts. The process has already been initiated. This would cover 3023 posts.”

1.54 Elaborating on the strategy to deal with the issue of filling up of vacancies, the CEO, Prasar Bharati during evidence stated as under:-

“xxxxxxxThen there is another development. As Secretary has put it, after 16 years after the body was formed, we are getting the first recruitment. So, the youngest person who would be entering next year, if the interviews and examinations are held this year, it should, there would be a 16 to 17 year age difference between the earlier batch, it is a complete new generation that is

coming in. The broadcast industry does not run on permanent staff. There are two parts. One is the transmitters and other capital properties of the nation. That has to be manned by, to a large extent, permanent people. They are very costly equipment. That has to be manned to the extent possible by permanent people. But on the programme related, we need to open up. Within us, there is a problem because we have almost a hundred unions out of which ten are recognised. They have their association issues. After this 3000 that the Government has been kind enough to offer us for new recruitment and around 5,500 for promotions, after that we should go in for industry practice.”

1.55 On being asked about the uncertainty regarding status/service conditions in the Prasar Bharati, the Ministry stated that the officers and staff working in All India Radio and Doordarshan including those who are drawn from the two organizations for working in Prasar Bharati Secretariat are Government servants on deemed deputation to Prasar Bharati as per the new Section 11 of Prasar Bharati Act as amended in January, 2012. As per this amendment, such employees who were recruited upto 5.10.2007 continue to be Government servants on deemed deputation to Prasar Bharati till their retirement and would continue to enjoy same pay and other benefits as are applicable to other Government servants of equivalent grades.

**(vii) Autonomy and Accountability of Prasar Bharati**

1.56 Taking note of the sorry state of affairs in the functioning of the public broadcaster Prasar Bharati, the Committee in their 18th Report of (15th Lok Sabha) had commented and recommended that there is a need to review the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990. While taking note of systemic problems, massive under utilization of funds, acute shortage of staff and the recent decision on the formation of High Powered Committee to review the organization, the Committee desired to know about the status of review of Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 along with the operational and financial autonomy of the organization. To this, the Ministry in the written reply submitted as under:-

“Prasar Bharati has not reviewed the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 in totality. However, Ministry has been making partial amendment in the Act based on the felt need as and when warranted.

The organization has been able to achieve the following operational and financial autonomy

i) As per Section 3 (4) of the Prasar Bharati Act, the general superintendence, direction and management of the affairs of Prasar Bharati shall vest in the Prasar Bharati Board, which may exercise all such powers and do all

such acts and things as may be exercised or done by the Corporation under the Act. However, the functional autonomy as envisaged in the Act gets diluted by various other Sections, especially Section 32 (Rule Making Powers of the Ministry) and Proviso to Section 33, which provides that Corporation, while making regulations on methods of recruitment and conditions of service of officers and other employees of the Corporation as well as remuneration and other conditions of service, including pension, leave and provident fund in relations to officers and other employees of the Corporation, would seek prior permission of the Government.

ii) The operational autonomy has been diluted because of shortage of staff. There has not been recruitments after coming into being of Prasar Bharati. As a result, there are around 15,000 vacancies out of the sanctioned strength of 48,000 in 1997 when Prasar Bharati had been constituted. In fact, after 1997, many new projects were sanctioned and implemented without any sanctioned staff strength. If these posts are also taken into account, total shortage of staff would go to approximately 23,000. In view of the shortage, many stations and Kendras are running without proper staff contingent and operational autonomy with regard to fulfilling the mandate of the Parliament is suffering dilution. In last year, steps were taken to fill the vacancies and Recruitment Rules as well as constitution of Recruitment Board are under process with the Government.

iii) So far as financial autonomy is concerned, Prasar Bharati does not have assured funding pattern like BBC. Funding of Prasar Bharati is governed by Section 17 of the Act, which provides that for the purposes of enabling Prasar Bharati to discharge its functions efficiently under the Act, the Central Government may, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, pay to the Corporation in each financial year such sums of money as the Government considers necessary. Evidently, the decision with regard to grants etc. by Central Government is at the discretion of the Government.”

1.57 On the financial health of the organization, the Ministry informed the Committee that Prasar Bharati has been exempted from payment of Income Tax with effect from 2012-13 (Assessment year 2013-14) under the Finance Act 2012 by inserting a new clause (23BBH) in section 10 of the Income Tax Act, 1961. Ministry in Dec. 2012 has taken up matter with Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance for grant of exemption to Prasar Bharati from payment of Service Tax by including the services provided in the negative list notified vide notification No. 25/2012-Service Tax dated 20th June, 2012. However any response in this regard is still awaited from Department of Revenue.”

1.58 During the study visit of the Committee to Mumbai and Goa from 24th to 28th January, 2013 the CEO, Prasar Bharati had raised certain issues concerning Prasar Bharati and sought advice of the Committee which inter alia included (i) ensuring grant of Service Tax exemption to Prasar Bharati (ii) Issuance of Directives to all the

Ministries/ Departments and their Autonomous Bodies/ PSUs for extensively using the Public Service Broadcaster i.e. All India Radio (AIR) and Doordarshan (DD) under Prasar Bharati for releasing all of their publicity campaigns in respect of their policies and programmes where other Broadcasters are chosen and ensuring complete waiver of Space Segment and Spectrum charges on actual basis every year for and uninterrupted allocation of frequency authorization/ space segment to AIR/DD.

1.59 On the issue of autonomy of the organization, the Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting during evidence submitted as under:-

“Now the perception is that whatever you may do to ensure the autonomy of Prasar Bharti, there will always be a charge that it is being used as the arm of the Government publicity. Now the moot question is, do we need to continue Prasar Bharati in its present form? Do we need in addition to 400 and plus new channels another independent new channel or irrespective of whichever political party is in power to really have a Government view point channel and be candid and honest about it. I hope part of this debate perhaps would also fall on the door step of Mr. Sam Pitroda who is looking at the functioning of Prasar Bharati. But I think collectively as a country we really need to take a decision as to how do we want to really see Prasar Bharati in ten years from now.”

1.60 He further added:

“Earlier Doordarshan and AIR were part of the Ministry. Making of the Corporation was a necessity out of those contexts. Now those contexts have completely changed and I think we really need to take a call as to what should be the shape of Prasar Bharati from now on.”

1.61 Taking cognisance of the fact that Sam Pitroda led panel will be examining issues related to Prasar Bharati. The Committee desired to know about the reference/mandate of the said panel. To this the Ministry, in their written reply stated as under:-

“An Expert Committee has been constituted for the purpose of reviewing the institutional frame work of Prasar Bharati including its relationship with Government, its continuing role as a public broadcaster and measures needed to ensure technical upgradation of the organization. The composition of the Expert Committee is as under:-

Sh. Sam Pitroda, Advisor to the Prime Minister of India on Public Information Infrastructure & Innovations - Chairman

Smt. Asha Swarup, IAS(Retd) and former Secretary to the Govt. of India - Member

Dr. B.K. Gairola, Mission Director (e-Governance) – Member

Sh. Shekhar Kapur, Member of the National Innovation Council – Member.

Prof. M.P. Gupta, IIT Delhi - Member

Shri Jawhar Sircar, Chief Executive, Prasar Bharati – Member (Convenor)

Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and nominated member on Prasar Bharati Board- Member Shri Vikram Kaushik, Business Strategist & Brand Advisor and Part-time Member on Prasar Bharati Board”

1.62 The committee may co-opt any member(s) as may be necessary for discharging its functions. With regard to the terms of reference of the Committee the Ministry further informed under:-

“To suggest measures to sustain, strengthen and amplify Prasar Bharati’s role as a Public Broadcaster with special reference to its relationship with Government in the emerging context.

To review the status of implementation of the recommendations made by various committees that have undertaken study of Prasar Bharati, namely, the Sengupta committee, the Bakshi Committee and the Narayanamurthy committee and suggest a road map ahead for enhancing the reach and potential of Prasar Bharati.

To suggest measures to digitize the archival material in the possession of Doordarshan (DD) and All India Radio (AIR) including material from Independence Movement era, and develop enabling infrastructure, in the form of data digitalization systems, data centers and networks etc.

To suggest ways of using the new media to deliver digital content – both in broadcast mode (DTH) and in a demand-based mode (Free on social media like You-Tube, and on payment through IPTV).

To suggest a strategy for creating a network of domestic and overseas business partners for ensuring wider reach to a worldwide audience including creating an exclusive overseas service.

Any other statutory issue that the committee may like to consider.”

1.63 It was further informed that the above Committee at their sitting held on 5.2.2013, has decided to constitute the following 11 working groups to undertake in depth study of various aspects of Prasar Bharati:

- (i) Group on the Prasar Bharati-Government Relationship
- (ii) Group on Technology
- (iii) Group on Business Development
- (iv) Group on Finance
- (v) Group on Human Resources and Organization
- (vi) Group on Programme & Content
- (vii) Group on Archiving
- (viii) Group on Global Initiatives
- (ix) Group on Social Media Delivery Platforms
- (x) Group on Regulatory Mechanism
- (xi) Group on a Comparative Analysis of Public Broadcasters

**(viii) Issues related to transmission in Border Areas**

1.64 When the Committee desired to know whether the Ministry has any scheme for expansion of the telecasting/ Broadcasting services of Doordarshan (DD)/ All India Radio (AIR) including hilly and inaccessible areas of the country, the Ministry informed that All India Radio is expanding the broadcasting services including in hilly and inaccessible areas of the country. At present AIR has terrestrial coverage (primary) of 91.90 % area and 99.20% population of the country, which includes hilly and inaccessible areas. Also 21 radio channels (Programmes) of AIR are available through DD Direct plus DTH platform ( Ku band) all over the country except Andaman and Nicobar Islands. These programmes can be received through a set top box on DTH Platform. In order to further augment the terrestrial coverage in the country including hilly and inaccessible areas, following steps taken during each of the last three years and the current year.

1.65 The schemes for up-gradation of power of 11 transmitters of AIR and installation of 132 additional FM Transmitters of various capacities have been undertaken during the last three years and the current year.

1.66 Scheme have been formulated for up-gradation of 58 existing FM / MW transmitters and setting up of 157 new FM Transmitters of various capacities in the Twelfth Plan proposals . However this scheme is yet to be approved / sanctioned by competent authority.

1.67 The Ministry further informed that in view of multichannel TV coverage having been provided in the entire country through Doordarshan's free-to-air DTH service, new transmitters for expansion of terrestrial coverage of Doordarshan are now not envisaged except a few in border areas. Doordarshan has proposed establishment of eight high power transmitters along Indo Nepal Border in Twelfth Plan. This scheme is yet to be approved.

1.68 Reacting to the concerns of the Committee with regard to lack of reach of the programmes of AIR and Doordarshan in the border and hilly areas, the Secretary of the Ministry during his evidence before the Committee stated as under:-

“A lot of work had been done on FM, MW and Doordarshan transmitters. In the Twelfth Plan, a far bigger amount has been kept of the tune of roughly Rs.1000 crore plus. On eastern side, western side, northern side and possibly southern side, transmission range of both AIR and Doordarshan is planned to be increased. Equally important would be content. Even though airwaves are there, if they do not carry relevant content, it becomes meaningless. That is another plan on which we are working.

We have commissioned a very high power AIR transmitter in Rajkot the signals of which can reach well within Pakistan to a very far distance. Another one on the eastern side at Chinsura should be commissioned very soon. I think these two transmitters would bring about a lot of difference.

There is a little bit of issue here because these new transmitters are digital transmitters and they require new type of receivers. Those receivers are available in the market abroad but they have not actually got very popular. So, I think we are constantly in discussion with AIR how to really make sure that they simulcast the digital as well as analogue signals. Otherwise if they shut down the analogue signal transmission, without the digital receivers people cannot listen to the programmes. But I think in the next six months to one year there will be a breakthrough which will make a lot of difference. In addition, in the 11<sup>th</sup> plan also there are several transmitters all across the country which will get updated to digital transmitters.”

**(ix) Issues related to digitization and Set top Boxes**

1.69 The President of India in his address to Parliament on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2013 had mentioned that the Government had successfully completed the first phase of Cable TV digitisation in three metro cities.

1.70 In the above backdrop when the Committee desired to know about the present status of the digitization process, the Ministry informed that Phase I of digitization has been completed in metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai & Kolkata .on 31st October 2012. Chennai is pending due to a court case in Madras High Court. Phase II of digitization in 38 cities across the country is in progress. The switch over date to digital in this phase is 31st March 2013. Target achievement as on 23rd March 2013 is 67%.

1.71 In reply to a query regarding digitization taken place so far, the Ministry informed the Committee as under:

“Digitisation would usher a new era in broadcasting as it would change the way television is being watched in India. It would certainly put India in the league of advanced countries which are already harvesting the benefits of digitization. xxxxx.....The biggest gain of Digitization is going to be the

transparency in the broadcasting sector which will increase investments including FDI, encourage cleaner and innovative business models and unleash huge expansion of this sector. This would also provide a good opportunity for local manufacturing of Set Top Boxes, thereby in the growth which would also lead to employment generation.”

1.72 As regards the constraints faced with respect to digitization, the Ministry stated as under:-

“Phase I of digitalization was a real challenge.

The smooth transition from non-addressable cable TV system to Digital Addressable system (DAS) involves various measures. Since it is a massive exercise, which requires all stakeholders, namely, Broadcasters, Multi System Operator (MSO) and Local Cable Operators (LCOs) to get prepared in the form of putting in place requisite technical infrastructure, the Ministry of I&B, has taken following initiatives to ensure that the stipulated timelines for the DAS are adhered to. A Task Force was constituted which was meeting regularly on a fortnightly basis to keep reviewing the progress and take stock of the progress made. In Phase I, the Task Force held 20 meeting. Ministry had constituted various sub-groups of MSOs and LCOs to have focused discussion and action plan towards implementation of DAS. Separate frequent meetings were held with LCOs and MSOs to take stock of the progress on DAS and to address their concerns. Considering that the role of the State Government is crucial to its implementation at the local level, discussions were held with State Governments. Nodal officers were nominated to have regular interaction with MSOs, LCOs and public in the field. With all these efforts, DAS has come into effect in Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata. In Chennai it is pending due to a court case.”

xxxxxx

xxxxxxx

xxxxxx

In phase II, progress of installation of STBs is observed to be poor mainly in Jabalpur, Coimbatore, Srinagar and Visakhapatnam as no national MSOs are operating in these cities. Cable network is mostly being operated by the independent MSOs in these cities who have not made arrangements for timely availability of STBs.

1.73 On the issue of switching over to DAS, the Ministry in their Action Taken Replies to the recommendations contained in the Thirty-second Report on Demands for Grants (2012-13) had informed that a conservative estimate of requirement of set top boxes is 68 million. The sheer volume of the requirement of STBs would make it imperative to import.

1.74 In reply to a query as to whether there is any shortage of set top boxes in various parts of the country to implement the Digital Cable TV Service across the country, the Ministry in its written replies stated that it has been reviewing the STB stock position



with the national MSOs in weekly meetings held with them in the Ministry every week. Against the total requirement of 160 lakhs, 105 lakh STBs have already been installed. As per the data furnished by the MSOs they together were having a stock of 20 lakh set top boxes on 22nd March 2013. In the remaining days of the month they are expecting delivery of 30 lakhs of set top boxes. Given the above stock position and the expected deliveries of set top boxes by the MSOs and also some seeding of set top boxes by the DTH operators also, there shall be no shortage of the set top boxes in this phase.

1.75 On the next phase of digitization, the Secretary submitted during evidence as under:-

“xxxxxx.....we are in the process of formulating a policy whereby in the third and fourth phase of digitization there could be a possible 40 per cent or around 40 per cent reservation of STBs from domestic manufacturers. We have roughly about 150 million TV homes in India. Out of that about 40-50 million are DTH, and about 80 million homes are cable TV homes. So, even if we have completed first phase, which meant roughly 10 million homes to become digitised and second phase, which implies roughly 16 million TV homes to become digitised, we still have close to 60 million TV homes that have to become digital. If we are really able to have some kind of reservation of 40 per cent or even more and if the domestic industries can come up and compete, then this will certainly ensure that the domestic STB manufacturers have their fair share in the digitization process. This path-breaking initiative will completely transform the broadcasting sector.

**(x) Expansion of FM Radio**

1.76 As per Annual Report (2012-13) of the Ministry, the Cabinet, in its meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2011 has approved “Policy Guidelines on Expansion of FM radio broadcasting service through private agencies (Phase-III). The policy guidelines have been notified on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2011. Under the Policy, permission for FM radio channels will be awarded through ascending e-auction, as followed by Department of Telecommunication for the auction of 3G and BWA spectrum, mutatis-mutandis, as recommended by the GoM on Licensing Methodology for FM Phase-III.

1.77 On being asked about the details regarding shortlisting of bidders for e-auction for award of license of FM Channels under FM Radio (Phase-III), the Ministry stated that with the approval of the competent authority, an Application

Review Committee (ARC) has been constituted in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for short listing of prospective bidders to participate in e-auction for award of License of FM channels under FM Radio (Phase-III). The Terms of Reference/activities of Committee are as under:-

- to scrutinize the applications submitted by the applicants and finalise pre-qualified bidders;
- to release the equity ownership and net worth details of pre-qualified Bidders, as submitted by them, through the website of the Ministry of I&B(MIB), as per the time line stipulated in the Notice for Inviting Applications (NIA);
- to put up the list of pre-qualified bidders along with the details on the MIB website, as per NIA;
- to seek further information/clarification from the application, if required;
- to issue each pre-qualified bidders the "Bidder Participation Notice, as provided by the Auction Administrator;
- to scrutinize the EMD Bank Guarantee of the applications, maintain the register of Bank Guarantees and release after the auctions/receipt of successful bid amount or in case of withdrawal of an application, as the case may be and Any other matter directly relevant to the above. The Committee may co-opt any member(s) as may be considered necessary from time to time. The Committee will report to Secretary (I&B) to seek guidance and instructions on the matters relating to processing of applications. No meeting of ARC has been held so far as Government is preparing to invite applications from the prospective bidders for participation in the e-auction. "

1.78 Elaborating further, the Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting during evidence stated as under:-

"The process of auctioning 839 new private FM radio stations in 294 cities is just about to begin. You may recall that the Cabinet had cleared it, but there were some issues that the Empowered Group of Ministers was considering. They have cleared those issues, and we are in the process of publishing the RFP for selecting the auctioneer within this month itself. We hope that we should be able to auction these 839 new channels by the end of this financial year."

1.79 On being asked current status of the bidders who have been shortlisted, the Ministry stated that e-auction for award of license of FM channels in FM radio Phase-III is yet to be started and Government is preparing to invite applications from the prospective bidders for participation in the e-auction. Hence, short-listing of bidders can only take place after the Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) is issued.

**(xi) Scheme of supporting Community Radio**

1.80 As per Annual Report (2012-13) of the Ministry, Community Radio (CR) is a crucial communication tool particularly in communities where most people can neither read nor write. It is also an extraordinary and invisible medium to give voice to the voiceless as it provides an opportunity to the community to speak about issues concerning their lives. CR stations are essentially low power radio stations which are meant to be set up and operated by the local community.

1.81 The Committee were informed that the Ministry proposed a Plan Scheme, namely "Supporting Community Radio Movement in India" in the Twelfth Plan to strengthen community radio movement in India. As per the scheme every year 100 new CRS and 30 existing CRS will be supported. The Scheme has two components namely Community Radio Support Scheme (CRSS) and IEC Activities for Community Radio. Under BE 2012-13 an amount of Rs.5 crore was allocated out of which Rs. 3 crore was for CRSS and Rs. 2 crore for IEC activities. The EFC Memo of the scheme is yet to be approved. However, the SFC for the annual plan 2012-13 was approved to continue ongoing IEC activities. Therefore, funds under CRSS could not be utilized.

1.82 The BE, RE and Actual expenditure and the physical and financial targets under the Scheme are as under:

<b>(Rs. In Lakhs)</b>			
<b>Name of Component</b>	<b>BE</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>Actual Expenditure</b>
<b>CRSS</b>	300	50	Nil
<b>IEC Activities</b>	200	200	1.29
<b>Total</b>	500	250	1.29

"For the annual plan 2012-13, physical target was to organise 9 awareness & capacity building workshops and National Sammelan for Operational CRS in the country under IEC Activities. xxxxxxxxxx.....The physical target was achieved 100%, while financial target achieved is 52% of RE. The funds under CRSS could not be utilized as EFC proposal is still under consideration."

1.83 On being asked as to why the EFC memo of the Scheme has not been approved, the Ministry in their reply stated that the first meeting of the EFC was held on 14.01.2013 to discuss the Scheme. Department of Expenditure and Planning

Commission had certain observations on Scheme and requested more time to examine and finalise their comments. The comments from the Department of Expenditure and Planning Commission have been received. Ministry has also prepared replies on these comments. The modalities for providing financial support, technical training etc. and detailed guidelines/application forms etc. are being finalized. The next meeting of EFC is being held in the month of April 2013 .

1.84 Details of total number of applications pending for grant of license are as under:-

<b>Total number of applications Under Consideration</b>	230
<b>Under consideration with concerned Ministries i.e MHA, MOD, WPC, MHRD &amp; ICAR</b>	95
<b>Pending with Applicants for want of requisite documents like Registration Certificate/details of governing body members/Geo-co-ordinates etc.</b>	105
Under Examination in the Ministry of I & B.	30

1.85 The details of number of applications pending with different Ministries are as under:

	MHA	MOD	WPC	MHRD	ICAR
Total number of pending applications	44	34	41	20	11
Number of applications pending for more than 3 months.	33	19	29	14	11

## V. INFORMATION SECTOR

1.86 The proposed outlay, BE, RE and actual expenditure in respect of Information Sector for the year 2012-13 and the proposed Outlay and BE for the year 2013-14 is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

	2012-13	2013-14
<b>Proposed Outlay</b>	229.30	242.78
<b>BE</b>	188.00	235.00
<b>RE</b>	168.03	-
<b>Actual</b>	147.76	-

(i) **Indian Institute of Mass Communication**

(Rs in crore)

<b>IIMC</b>	2012-13	2013-14
Proposed outlay	16	-
BE	11	7.00
RE	4.70	-
Actual	4.70*	-
Percentage of expenditure w.r.t. RE	100	-

\*(upto 28.02.2013)

1.87 On being asked as to how the BE allocated during the current financial year will be utilized by IIMC, the Ministry stated as under:-

“The BE allocated during 2013-14 under the ongoing scheme of 11<sup>th</sup> Plan will be utilized by IIMC for running the four regional centres at Amravati, Aizawl, Jammu and Kottayam. It is also proposed to utilize the funds by completing the construction already in progress at IIMC Dhenkanal and also starting construction at IIMC Delhi. Under the Twelfth Plan scheme, proposal is to complete the pre-investment activities at Aizawl, some construction work at Aizawl and also some pre-investment activities at other centres.

1.88 The Ministry in their Post evidence reply further submitted that Regional Centres of IIMC at Amravati, Aizawl, Jammu and Kottayam have already started functioning from temporary premises provided by the respective State Governments. The Regional Centres at Amravati and Aizawl became operational from August 2011 whereas Regional Centres at Jammu and Kottayam have become operational from August 2012. Under the Twelfth Plan Scheme, IIMC is to construct permanent campuses at the above-mentioned places on land to be provided, free of cost, to IIMC by the respective State Governments. The land at Aizawl for construction of a permanent campus has been transferred by the Central University Mizoram and the pre-investment activities are underway at the site. The plots of land for permanent campuses at Amravati, Kottayam and Jammu have already been identified, but the same are yet to be transferred to IIMC. The Ministry of I&B and IIMC are pursuing with the respective State

Governments, urging the necessity of expediting the transfer of land to IIMC at the earliest so that the construction of permanent campuses could be initiated.

1.89 Asked to explain the current status of the proposal for degree granting power to IIMC, the Ministry informed as under:-

“In order to provide IIMC, the Degree granting powers, a draft Bill/Act in this regard was prepared by this Ministry/IIMC and subsequently, a draft Note for the Cabinet was circulated along with the draft Bill/Act to the Ministry of HRD, Ministry of Law & Justice, Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission in August 2012 for their comments/approval on the proposal. After obtaining the comments of these Ministries/Departments, the file was referred to the Legislative Department in October 2012 for finalisation of draft Bill. After due deliberations between the Legislative Department and this Ministry/IIMC, a draft Bill was prepared by the Legislative Department and was sent to this Ministry for scrutiny and examination. After examination and scrutiny of the draft Bill by IIMC/this Ministry the file, along with the observations / comments / suggestions on the draft Bill, has again been referred to the Legislative Department on 27/02/2013. This Ministry is in regular consultation with the Legislative Department to arrive at a consensus on certain critical aspects of the draft Bill such as Governing and Academic Structure of the proposed institution. After finalisation of the draft Bill, the approval of the Cabinet will be sought for introduction of the Bill in the Parliament.

1.90 On being asked as to how far it will be justified to empower IIMC to grant degree through an Act of Parliament even though its courses are not updated as per UGC's observations, the Ministry stated that the modified syllabus for the proposed two years degree courses were sent to the Ministry of HRD, Department of Higher Education on 22.5.2012 by IIMC. The Ministry of HRD vide its OM No. No. 11-15-2011 (TS.II) dated 6.12.2012 has stated that the AICTE would now review the fresh proposals regarding grant of equivalence of Master's degree to the proposed two year courses by IIMC. The Ministry of HRD has informed that AICTE would henceforth be the authority for continuation of certification of equivalence of degree/diplomas. This means that IIMC would have to take up the matter with AICTE altogether in a fresh manner. In the meantime, since this Ministry has already taken initiatives for declaring IIMC as 'An Institution of National Importance' with degree granting powers through an Act of Parliament, the issue of transition from diploma to degree courses would be taken care of.

1.91 Elaborating further on the issue, the Ministry in their Post evidence reply stated as under:

“Once the Act of Parliament is passed and IIMC is empowered to grant degrees, its Academic Council shall have the authority to create and design new courses as well as to review the syllabi of existing courses.”

**(ii) Initiatives of the Ministry in Social Media**

1.92 The Information Wing of Ministry mainly handles policy matters of the print media and publicity requirements of the Government. This Wing also looks after the general administration of the Ministry and the cadre of Indian Information Service.

1.93 The Committee were informed that in order to disseminate information on the policy initiatives of the Government, through the social media platform, the Ministry launched its You Tube Channel in September 2012. The objective of launching the channel was to reach out to the young population of the country, sensitizing them of the Government’s policies and programmes. At the same time, the channel has provided a window to disseminate information on key issues and events regularly in an effective manner. This is now being tracked regularly by the stakeholders in view of the instant information being provided.

1.94 Since its launch the channel has successfully incorporated a bouquet of programmes on the platform catering to different cross sections. The uploaded programmes include Live streaming of events, news capsules of two to three minutes duration, campaign spots, short films and documentaries, classical music, inspirational speeches, etc. As part of the initiatives undertaken, the 43<sup>rd</sup> International Film Festival at Goa from 20<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2012 was publicized and promoted in a big way through the channel thereby giving it a better profile on the social media network. Till 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013, the channel received more than 90,000 video views and has approximately 1049 subscribers.

1.95 The Channel has a special section on Inspirational speeches of Stalwarts of Indian Freedom Struggle and founding fathers of Modern India. Excerpts from speeches by renowned personalities of two to three minutes are uploaded in this section. One can hear the original voice of leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawahar Lal

Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Dr. Zakir Hussain, Mualana Azad, Indira Gandhi. The channel has provided the Ministry the opportunity to integrate communication and content on a newly emerging platform. The content is regularly updated on a day to day basis through the social media cell set up for this purpose.

1.96 The Ministry also informed that it has operationalised its Face book page and Twitter account (Twitter@MIB\_India) in last week of December 2012. The facebook page has a weekly reach of 15000, 75000 post views and 361 followers. The digital volunteer programme of the Ministry aims at dissemination of development messages in the social media space.

1.97 Highlighting the above issues, the Secretary deposed during evidence as under:-

“we have ventured into a hitherto uncharted territory of social media. Our initiatives in the area of social media have been recognised. Our YouTube Channel has been well received and appreciated as a multi-content platform. As a Government initiative, it surpasses any other initiative taken by any other Ministry of the Government of India. We are on Facebook; we are on the blog; and most importantly, we are on Tweeter. We also organised the First Tweeter Conference by any Ministry on the issue of community radio. We are regularly posting messages on behalf of the Ministry and efforts to substantially upscale this initiative are at an advanced stage. We are in the process of framing a comprehensive social media policy and an appropriate infrastructure to harness and leverage the potential of social media.”

## VI. FILM SECTOR

1.98 The proposed outlay, BE, RE and actual expenditure in respect of Film Sector for the year 2012-13 and the proposed Outlay and BE for the year 2013-14 is as under:-

### Plan

(Rs. in Crore)

	2012-13	2013-14
Proposed Outlay	286.00	222.22
BE	109.00	126.00
RE	74.95	-
Actual	46.19(CCA figure upto 20.03.2013)	-



1.99 The Ministry has informed that the budgetary allocation for 2013-14 the film sector is Rs. 126.00 crore, which amounts to 13.92 % of the total budget allocation of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. The major heads schemewise are Films Division (Rs. 6 crore), NFAI (Rs. 5 crore), CBFC (Rs. 1.50 crore) and FTII, Pune (Rs. 15 crore), SRFTI, Kolkata (Rs. 15 crore).

**(i) Global Film School**

1.100 On the Scheme on Global Film School, the Ministry in their Action Taken Notes on Demands for Grants (2012-13) had mentioned that proposal for upgradation/modernization of FTII which was envisaged under Global Film School, have since been worked out and have been included as part of a comprehensive plan for development of infrastructure of the media units under Films Wing of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting during the Twelfth Plan.

1.101 When asked about the details of the above proposal, the Ministry informed that the proposal for improving the infrastructure of the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune to global standards is a part of Twelfth Plan Scheme 'Infrastructure Development Programme relating to Film Sector'. The components under infrastructure development of FTII reflected to Planning Commission in the Feasibility Report are as under:

(i) Augmentation of the resources and replacement of old/obsolete equipments to match the current trends and technological advancement, both in Film and TV industry.

(ii) Introduction of the new technologies such as High Definition TV, advanced computer Animation, Digital Film Recording etc.

(iii) Updating and upgrading the existing equipment, making available training facilities with proper infrastructure to bring about overall improvement in the standards of higher professional education in the field of film making and TV Production.

(iv) Provision of more equipment to meet the requirements of increased number of students and the educational curriculum.

(vi) Expansion of some parts of buildings of FTII wherever feasible to overcome shortage of space. An advanced resource and knowledge centre is also being

planned so as to integrate all resources such as Library e-library internet viewing students centre, discussion room for faculty and video conferencing.

(vii) The scheme also proposes construction of a new main theatre, Art Department Workshop, Repairs to Studios, Central Kitchen, Construction of Women's Hostel and residential facility for staff and faculty, etc.

1.102 On the current status of the proposal, the Ministry further informed that the Feasibility Report was submitted to Planning Commission for according in-principle approval for the scheme. Planning Commission has accorded in-principle approval for the scheme with a total proposed outlay of Rs. 167 crore. The proposed outlay for infrastructure development component of FTII is Rs. 80 crore. A detailed Memo for the consideration of Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) was prepared and circulated to Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission. Both Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission have given their comments on the proposal. Based on their comments, the EFC Memo has been revised and circulated. The EFC meeting will be held on 05.04.2013.

1.103 On being enquired as to what are the plans of the Ministry to implement the scheme in 2013-14, the Ministry submitted as under:-

“The assessment and approval of the scheme by the competent authorities would be completed. For the year 2013-14, an allocation of Rs. 32.50 crore has been made. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 15 crore has been allocated for FTII. On obtaining the approval of the Competent Financial Authority, the Institute would take necessary action to initiate the project.”

(ii) **Setting up of National Center of Excellence for Animation Gaming and Special Effects**

1.104 The proposed outlay, BE, RE and actual expenditure in respect of Film Sector for the year 2012-13 and the proposed Outlay and BE for the year 2013-14 is as under:-

(Rs in crore)

	2012-13	2013-14
Proposed Outlay	17.00	
BE	1.00	
RE	0.25	-
Actual	0.00	-
Percentage of expenditure w.r.t RE	0.00	-

\*(upto 28.02.2013)

1.105 On being asked as to why there is a considerable delay in the implementation of the scheme though the scheme had been conceptualized in 2007-08, the Ministry submitted as under:-

“The delay in implementation of the Scheme has been due to continued inter-ministry consultation. Comments of department of Expenditure have been received. Comments of Department of Economic Affairs are awaited, while Planning Commission has asked *vide* letter dated 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2013 for submission of the EFC in the format for PPP project to their PPAC and Advisor (Infrastructure) Division. Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law & Justice has sent comments on file regarding hiring of Consultant on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2013.”

1.106 On being enquired as to what are the timelines for completion of the project, the Ministry submitted as under:-

“EFC for the project is likely to be held by May, 2013. Once approved by EFC, process for selection of a Financial Consultant and Transaction Adviser will be undertaken. The Financial Consultant and Transaction Adviser will assist the Ministry in developing the techno-commercial aspects of the tendering process leading to the selection of the Private Partner for the implementation of National Centre of Excellence for Animation, Gaming and Visual Effects (NCoEAGV), drawing up a comprehensive framework for establishing the Society for running the NCoEAGV, selecting the most suitable and experienced private partner for implementing the NCoEAGV project and implementation monitoring of the NCoEAGV.

### (iii) Central Board of Film Certification

1.107 The production and exhibition of films occupies an important place in the field of culture as the most widely appreciated and democratic of the arts. Films play a significant role in shaping public opinion and in imparting knowledge and understanding of the culture and traditions of the people of various regions. Production of feature film in the country is mostly in the private sector.

1.108 Our Constitution guarantees freedom of speech and expression as a fundamental right but subjects it to reasonable restrictions. These restrictions are placed in the interest of the 'sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency and morality and in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to any offence."

1.109 The Ministry informed that keeping in view these provisions of the Constitution, the basic principles for the guidance of the Board in certifying films for public exhibition in India are laid down in the Cinematograph Act, 1952. Further, directions (guidelines) have been issued by the Central Government under section 5B(2) of the Act setting out the principles in further detail for determining the suitability of films for public exhibition. The Board of Film Censors, which has been re-named as the Central Board of Film Certification from 1-6-1983, has been set up by the Central Government under Section 3 of the Cinematograph Act 1952 for the purpose of sanctioning films for public exhibition.

1.110 The proposed outlay, BE, RE and actual expenditure in respect of Central Board of Film Certification for the year 2012-13 and the proposed Outlay and BE for the year 2013-14 is as under:-

(Rs in crore)

<b>CBFC</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2013-14</b>
Proposed Outlay	4.00	-
BE	3.00	1.50
RE	1.50	-
Actual	0.00	-

1.111 During the period April to December, 2012 the Board issued a total 11461 certificates; 1063 certificates were issued to celluloid films, 6172 certificates to video films and 4221 to Digital films. During the period under report, 635 Indian Feature Films, 60 Foreign Feature Films, 1 Indian film other than feature, 327 Indian short films and 35 Foreign short films in celluloid were certified.

1.112 The CBFC, under the proposed Scheme “Upgradation Modernization and Expansion of CBFC and Certification Process” under the Twelfth Plan period from 2012-2017, proposed to undertake the following activities for which Rs. 10 crores has been earmarked.

- (i) Software Development for online processing of film application and certification.
- (ii) Digital Projection System and Digital Theatres for all offices of CBFC.
- (iii) Requirement of additional office space for Regional Offices of CBFC and Headquarters.

**(iv) Cinematograph Act, 1952**

1.113 The Ministry during the examination of Demands for Grants (2012-13) had stated that the proposed Bill to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952 was circulated to all concerned Ministries including Ministry of Law & Justice for comments/views and the same were incorporated. The Ministry of Law & Justice recently recommended consultation with DOPT on some specific clauses, which were completed. The draft was further submitted to Ministry of Law and Justice for their final vetting before submission to the Cabinet for approval.

1.114 On being asked about the current status regarding review of the Act, the Ministry stated that the amendment of Cinematograph Act was initiated by Ministry of I&B in 2008. The proposed amendments were scrutinised and commented upon by Department of Personnel and Training and Ministry of Law & Justice. The comments related to tenure of appointment of Chief Executive Officer, Regional Officer, Chairperson and Members of the Board, grounds for dismissal of officials/ non-officials, bar on reappointment, etc. It was, however, realized that there are number of issues such as the process of certification, categories of certification, powers of Ministry to enact laws concerning certification of Cinematograph films for exhibition under Entry 60, List-1 of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. It was felt that the relevant provisions of the Act would need thorough re-examination with an eye on public sensibilities, rapid changes in mode of exhibition due to emerging technologies, also to strike a balance between the Fundamental Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression guaranteed by Article 19 (1)(a) of the Constitution of India vis-à-vis the restrictions imposed under Article 19(2).

1.115 Considering the importance of the issue and a need for advice from experts, a Committee of Experts drawn from the field of media and entertainment as well as law was set up in February, 2013. The terms of reference and mandate of the Committee as informed by the Ministry *inter alia* include

- Review the mandate and functioning of CBFC and recommend measures including statutory changes to enable CBFC to deal with contemporary requirements of certification and increased transparency/efficiency. Such issues, *inter alia*, may include:
- To review the mandate and functioning of Film Certification Appellate Tribunal (FCAT) in order to make it a more efficacious appellate body;
- Examine the role of Central Government regarding sanctioning of cinematograph films for exhibition under Entry 60, List I of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India vis-à-vis Entry 33, List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India.
- To suggest more effective legal remedies and penal provisions in the Act, particularly with reference to making unlawful copies, camcording in cinema halls, interpolation / insertion of clips after certification and such similar issues; and
- Any other issue that the Committee may deem fit to deliberate upon.

1.116 Asked as to whether the Committee has held any meetings, the Ministry through their post evidence replies has informed that the Committee has held two meetings. The first meeting was held on 27th February 2013 which was preliminary in nature. The second meeting was held on 4th and 5th April 2013 in Mumbai. This meeting was held to seek the views of the Film and Broadcasting industry. Representatives from different trade bodies and associations of film and broadcasting industry participated and submitted their representations.

1.117 To a related query as to by what time the Committee is likely to submit its Report, the Ministry informed that two more meetings covering the Eastern and Southern regions are proposed to be held in May and June. The Committee is likely to finalize its recommendations thereafter.

## **PART-II**

### **OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE**

#### **OVERVIEW**

2.1 The Committee note that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, through the mass communication media consisting of radio, television, films, press and print publications, advertising and traditional modes of communications such as dance and drama, plays an effective role in helping people to have access to free flow of information. The Ministry is also involved in catering to the entertainment needs of various age groups and focusing attention of the people on issues of national integrity, environmental protection, health care and family welfare, eradication of illiteracy and issues relating to women, children, minority and other disadvantaged sections of the society. The Demands for Grants No. 61 of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for the year 2013-14 have been placed at Rs. 3035.65 crore comprising Rs. 3006.85 crore under the Revenue section and Rs. 28.80 crore under the Capital section. The Committee have examined the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for the year 2013-14 in detail and endorse the same. The various aspects arising out of the examination of the Demands for Grants are dealt with in the succeeding paragraphs.

#### **BUDGETARY GRANTS FOR THE YEAR 2013-14**

2.2 The Committee note that as per Demand No. 61 the budgetary allocation to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is for a total amount of Rs. 3035.65 crore which include Rs. 905 crore as Plan outlay and Rs. 2130.65 crore as non-

plan outlay. For the Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17), the Ministry had proposed a total plan outlay of Rs. 21731 (including IEBR of Rs.5000 crore from Prasar Bharati) against which the approved outlay is Rs. 8583 crore (including IEBR of Rs.1000 crore from Prasar Bharati).

2.3 The Committee find that during the year 2012-13 as against the proposed sum of Rs.3280 crore, the Ministry was allocated an amount of Rs. 905 crore. This was further reduced to Rs. 676 crore at RE stage out of which the actual expenditure was to the tune of Rs. 611.38 crore. In terms of percentage this comes out to be 90.4 per cent of RE allocation. The position of utilisation of funds during 2011-12 was better as out of Rs. 786.82 crore allocated at RE stage, actual expenditure was Rs. 762.81 crore i.e. 96.96%. The Committee are unhappy to note that even after overall reduction in allocation of funds in 2012-13, the same were not utilized fully. The BE of Rs. 905 crore for 2012-13 were revised to Rs. 676 crore and the utilisation was Rs. 611.38 crore only. The Committee are not satisfied with the reasons advanced by the Ministry for under-utilisation of funds during 2012-13 which *inter alia* include (i) delay in approval of the schemes resulting in surrender of funds and (ii) the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Finance restricting expenditure to 33% of the BE in the last quarter and not more than 15% of the BE in the last month, scheme wise, subject to RE ceiling. The Committee feel that the Ministry did not take effective steps for approval of the schemes at the beginning of the financial year 2012-13 which led to surrender of funds due to restrictions imposed by the midway i.e October, 2012 Ministry of Finance.

2.4 The Committee note that Ministry has initiated some steps to effectively utilize the funds during the year 2013-14 which *inter alia* include streamlining of



the planning and approval of the schemes to ensure their quicker approval, evaluation of all ongoing schemes and ongoing components of the new schemes, weekly review at Secretary Level, Delegation of financial powers upto Rs. 300 crore to Prasar Bharati Board etc. To avoid repetitive trend of earlier years for under-utilisation of funds, the Committee recommend that all the above corrective measures should be implemented in right earnest so that the funds allocated for the year 2013-14 are fully utilized and there are no slippages in achieving the physical and financial targets.

(Para Nos. 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, Rec Sl. No. I)

#### On-going and New Schemes

2.5 The Committee have been informed by the Ministry that a very notable feature of the Twelfth Plan strategy include complete restructuring and rationalization of plan schemes wherein 65 schemes of Eleventh Plan have been reduced to 26 during Twelfth Plan which include seven ongoing schemes. The Committee are, however, unhappy to note that despite their recommendation in Thirty-second Report on Demands for Grants (2012-13) wherein the Committee had impressed upon the need to streamline the approval process for schemes, four ongoing schemes viz. National Film Heritage Mission, National Centre of Excellence Scheme, International Channel and Global Film School, which were conceptualized during 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan, are still at the stage of approval. While disapproving the way the schemes are being planned and approved by the Ministry, the Committee are of the considered opinion that there is an imperative need to speed up the examination and approval process of various schemes in the Ministry specially when delay in approval of schemes is leading to surrender of funds and under-utilisation of the outlay. The Committee, therefore, strongly

recommend that the Ministry should streamline the process of appraisal/approval of the schemes and obtain the clearances as per the revised/projected deadline during the year 2013-14 itself so that the targets set under various schemes are not shifted/deferred further. The Committee also urge the Ministry to vigorously pursue the matter with the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance for obtaining clearances for 26 schemes initiated during the year 2013-14. The concerns of the Committee, in this regard, should also be duly communicated to both the Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission and Committee be apprised of the action taken in the matter.

(Para No. 2.5, Rec. Sl. No. 2)

## **PRASAR BHARATI**

### **Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR)**

2.6 The Committee note that Broadcasting Sector of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting comprises of a PSU, the Broadcasting Engineering Consultants India (BECIL) and an autonomous Corporation-Prasar Bharati with two wings viz. All India Radio and Doordarshan. For the Twelfth Plan, the proposed IEBR was Rs. 5000 crore while the approved IEBR was Rs. 1000 crore. For the year 2012-13, Rs. 400 crore had been earmarked under IEBR component. The Committee further note that the initial IEBR projected at Rs. 400 crore, approved for financing Prasar Bharati's Plan for the year 2012-13 was reduced to Rs. 200 crore at Revised Estimate Stage. The Committee are dismayed to note that during the year 2012-13, the revenue generated by AIR and Doordarshan was Rs. 1263.56 crore and expenditure incurred from IEBR (upto February, 2013) was Rs. 1583.43 crore leading to a gap of Rs. 319.87 crore between the revenue earned and

expenditure met out of IEBR. It is astonishing to note that despite widening gap between revenue receipt and expenditure, the target for IEBR during Twelfth Plan have been reduced to mere Rs. 1000 crore. The Committee would like to know the rationale behind steep reduction in IEBR target and how it is proposed to meet the burgeoning expenditure without generating IEBR. They would like the Ministry to re-visit this vital aspect. The Committee would await necessary details in this regard.

(Para No. 2.6, Rec. Sl. No. 3)

### Revenue earnings of Prasar Bharati

2.7 The Committee note that the gap between the revenue projected and the revenue earned by Prasar Bharati has been increasing year after year. During the year 2011-12 and 2012-13, the revenue projection were Rs. 1650.00 crore and Rs. 1815.00 crore respectively and the revenue receipts for the years were Rs. 1409.54 and 1263.56 crore (upto February, 2013). The Committee are also concerned to note the increasing disparity between the revenue earned and expenditure year after year. The Committee find that during the year 2010-11, the gap between revenue earned and expenditure was Rs. 1633.73 crore which increased to Rs. 1931.03 crore in the year 2011-12 and further swelled to Rs. 1376.32 crore in 2012-13. The contention of the Ministry, for justifying the huge gap between the revenue earned and expenditure, that Prasar Bharati being a public service broadcaster is not principally guided by commercial consideration is not acceptable to the Committee. The Committee regret that despite apprehension expressed by the Ministry that if this trend continues it would result into wiping out the entire available reserve of Prasar Bharati and the

organization may find itself in immense financial distress, nothing concrete has been done to address to this malaise.

2.8 The Committee find that of late to increase their revenue, Prasar Bharati has been adopting aggressive marketing strategies. Other steps taken include better publicity like newspaper insertions, Media Plan, New media campaign and better professional handling of the Prasar Bharati marketing divisions. As per the submission of the Ministry, Prasar Bharati is also exploring the feasibility of revenue generation by utilizing the extra space commercially by installation of ATM machines, installation of electronic displays for advertisements of private parties, launching of IVR/SMS based services to provide news headlines and letting of FM transmitters to private parties. While these are good initiatives, the Committee are not satisfied with the pace of progress as so far only one office of Prasar Bharati has been identified for installation of ATM and the Ministry/Prasar Bharati are yet to make a survey of their total land and buildings to assess spare infrastructure. The Committee would like the Prasar Bharati to make more rigorous efforts in the asset management area and try to generate more revenues by adopting aggressive marketing strategy and better professional handling of Prasar Bharat Marketing Division which in turn will make it financially more viable and secured.

(Para Nos. 2.7 & 2.8, Rec. Sl. No. 4)

#### Modernization of Prasar Bharati

2.9 The Committee note that for the modernization of Doordarshan and All India Radio an amount of Rs. 2932 crore and Rs. 1718 crore had been allocated respectively during the Eleventh Plan. The Committee further note that some of

the schemes for modernization of Doordarshan viz. Digitization of Transmitters and Studios in Doordarshan Network, High Definition Television (HDTV), Modernization, Augmentation and Replacement of Transmitter and Studio equipment and Modernization, Augmentation and Replacement of Satellite Broadcast equipment are under implementation. However, additional schemes for modernization of Doordarshan Network viz. Digitalization Transmitter and satellite Broadcast equipment included in Twelfth Plan are yet to be approved. Further, with regard to modernization of All India Radio, the Ministry has informed that AIR started modernization of its structure during Tenth Plan and has set 2017 as the target year for complete digitization of its infrastructure. The Committee in this regard note that though some of the schemes have been completed, most of the schemes could not be completed during Eleventh Plan period and these are planned to be continued in Twelfth Plan. Considering the fact that major thrust for AIR and Doordarshan in Twelfth Plan is to improve efficiency, effectiveness and quality of broadcasting through complete digitization, expanding their reach in mostly backward, coastal and naxal affected areas and to rejuvenate and revitalize Prasar Bharati by giving a look and feel, the Committee are concerned to note the slow and tardy progress in the approval of schemes relating to modernization and augmentation of existing infrastructure of both AIR and DD. The Committee again emphasize that there is an imperative need to expedite the approval and implementation of all the schemes relating to modernization of AIR and Doordarshan so as to provide them much needed facelift and enable them to compete with private broadcaster.

(Para No. 2.9, Rec. Sl. No. 5)

**Outstanding dues from Doordarshan Kendras and National Channels**

2.10 The Committee observe that for the year 2010-11, funds to the tune of Rs. 330.81 crore are outstanding from producers of various Doordarshan Kendras and National channels for the sponsored programme/serials. Similarly, an amount of Rs. 166.38 crore is due from various agencies for the year 2011-12. In view of poor financial health of Prasar Bharati, the outstanding dues of such a huge amount is a matter of great concern to the Committee. The Committee also note that 87 cases are under arbitration. The Committee note that the Ministry has initiated certain steps viz. regular monitoring of payment schedule of private agencies, withdrawal of credit facility beyond certain period, encashment of bank guarantee, entering into an agreement for sticking to payment plan, etc. for realizing the outstanding dues. The Committee recommend that these steps should be implemented in right earnest so that the outstanding amount is recovered as early as possible. The Committee also desire that efforts should be made to expedite resolution of 87 cases which are under arbitration. The Ministry/Prasar Bharati should also review their policy of charging levy on producers for the sponsored programmes/serials in the wake of increases in cases of outstanding dues year after year.

(Para No. 2.10, Rec. Sl. No. 6)

**Filling up of posts in Prasar Bharati**

2.11 The Committee note that the existing staff strength in All India Radio and Doordarshan is 48,022 as on January 01, 2012 and 14222 posts are lying vacant. Out of these 3452 vacancies were more than one year old and were covered under 'deemed abolition'. The Committee have been informed that approval of

the Department of Expenditure was required to be obtained before these are filled. The Department of Expenditure had cleared 1150 of these posts and had indicated that proposal for the balance posts may be taken up in March, 2013. The Committee fail to understand as to how DD and AIR can work effectively without filling the essential vacancies. The Committee desire that adequate steps should be taken to fill up 1150 post cleared by the Department of Expenditure. The Committee would like to be apprised of the outcome in this regard.

2.12 The CEO, Prasar Bharati during his evidence also stated that the Government has been kind enough to offer 3000 new recruitment. In the light of the above, the Committee would like to emphasize that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting should co-ordinate with the Staff Selection Commission that all the vacant posts are filled up without further delay. The Committee also recommend that expeditious steps should be taken for constitution of Recruitment Board for filling up of vacancies in Prasar Bharati.

(Para No. 2.11 & 2.12, Rec. Sl. No. 7)

### Autonomy and Accountability of Prasar Bharati

2.13 The Committee have been consistently expressing their concern over the sorry state of affairs in functioning of the public broadcaster – Prasar Bharati and their operational and financial autonomy. In this regard, The Committee note various concerns of the Prasar Bharati which include:-

- (i) As per Section 3(4) of the Prasar Bharati Act, the general superintendence, direction and management of the affairs of Prasar Bharati shall vest in the Prasar Bharati Board. However, the functional autonomy as envisaged in the Act gets diluted by various other Sections, especially Section 32 and proviso to Section 33 thereby compelling Prasar Bharati to seek prior permission from the

- Government on matters of recruitment, remuneration and other conditions of service.**
- (ii) The operational autonomy of the organization has been diluted because of shortage of staff and**
  - (iii) Uncertainty of funding pattern.**

The Committee note that to address various issues related to financial and operational autonomy of the organization, several measures/initiatives have been taken which include Cabinet approval of proposal for providing Prasar Bharati non-plan support for meeting 100 per cent expenses towards salary and salary related expenses. However, all other operating expenses of Prasar Bharati are to be met out of its internal revenue earning which are decreasing year after year and Prasar Bharati have expressed its inability to fully meet the financial requirement of the organization. To improve the financial and functional autonomy of Prasar Bharati, CEO, Prasar Bharati submitted before the Committee that they require help in grant of service tax exemption to Prasar Bharati, issue of directives to all the Ministries/PSUs to extensively use the public service broadcaster viz. AIR and Doordarshan for releasing all of their publicity campaigns in respect of their policies and programmes and ensuring complete waiver of space segment and spectrum charges on actual basis every year for and uninterrupted allocation of frequency authorization/space segment to AIR/DD. The Committee feel that all these issues merit serious consideration to bring effectiveness in the functioning of Prasar Bharati and the Ministry should consider them for follow up action.

**(Para No. 2.13, Rec. Sl. No. 8)**

**2.14 The Committee note with satisfaction that a panel led by Shri Sam Pitroda with 11 Working Groups has now been constituted for the purpose of reviewing**



the institutional framework of Prasar Bharati including its relationship with Government, its continuing role as a public broadcaster and measures needed to ensure technical up-gradation of the organization. The Committee would like the Ministry to pursue the matter with the expert panel for early submission of the report. In the meanwhile, the Committee would emphasize that a balance should be struck between the Ministry and Prasar Bharati in such a way that Prasar Bharati enjoys fair amount of autonomy while the objective of the public service broadcaster is not lost sight of.

(Para No. 2.14, Rec. Sl. No. 9)

2.15 The Committee are also of the strong opinion that there is an imperative need to have a national broadcaster to spread nationalism, maintain cultural heritage of the country, protect and promote the language and dialects of people from across the country. The Committee would like the Ministry to take note of the concern of the Committee and apprise them of the action taken by the Government in this regard.

(Para No. 2.15, Rec. Sl. No. 10)

#### Issues related to transmission in Border Areas

2.16 The Committee note that AIR has been expanding their broadcasting services throughout the country including in hilly and inaccessible areas of the country. At present AIR has terrestrial coverage (primary) of 91.90 per cent area and 99.20 per cent population of the country. Also 21 radio channels (Programmes) of AIR are available through DD Direct plus DTH platform (Ku band) all over the country except Andaman and Nicobar Islands. These programmes can be received through a set top box on DTH platform. The Committee further note that during the last three years and current year, various

schemes for up-gradation of power/coverage of 11 transmitters of AIR and installation of 132 additional FM transmitters of various capacities have been undertaken. The Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, during the course of evidence also stated the commissioning of high power AIR transmitter in Rajkot, the signals of which can reach well within Pakistan and another one on the eastern side at Chinsura to be commissioned shortly. While appreciating these initiatives of the Ministry, the Committee feel that the AIR and Doordarshan still have not been able to reach out to the remotest corners of sensitive areas of North eastern States and North. This is evident from the fact that in these sensitive areas, people are not even aware of their country, their constitution, their rights and duties. The Committee are concerned to note that people of some parts of our country are being forced to listen/view, radio/TV of neighbouring countries. The Committee emphasize that the funds earmarked for north east region should be fully utilized and infrastructure in these areas be upgraded urgently so that the culture, national feelings of the people of these areas are not impacted adversely.

(Para No. 2.16, Rec. Sl. No. 11)

2.17 The Committee note that there is a proposal for up-gradation of 58 existing FM/MW transmitters, setting up of 157 new FM transmitters of various capacities and eight high power transmitters along Indo-Nepal Border. However, the scheme is yet to be approved/sanctioned by the competent authority. The Committee emphasize that Prasar Bharati should take up these projects/schemes in the right earnest, get approvals for them early and closely monitor their implementation.

(Para No. 2.17, Rec. Sl. No. 12)

### **Digitisation and the issue of Set top boxes**

**2.18 The Committee note that to usher a new era in broadcasting the Government has completed the first phase of digitization and digital addressable system has come into effect in three metro cities viz. Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata and phase-II of digitization in 38 cities across the country is in progress. The digitization process has been held up in Chennai due to a court case. The Committee learn that out of roughly 150 million TV homes in India, 40-50 million are DTH and about 80 million homes are cable TV homes. According to the Ministry against the total requirement of 160 lakhs STBs, 105 lakh have already been installed and as per data furnished by the MSOs by March, 2013 there would be sufficient STBs with no shortage. While taking note of the Ministry's submission that transition from non-addressable cable TV system to Digital Addressable System involved massive exercise and poor progress of installation of STBs in phase-II of digitization in some cities and also the resistance from the cable industry, the Committee feel that the progress in this regard should be in commensurate with the availability of equipments and infrastructure rather than blindly restricting the target upto December, 2014. Further, apprehending security issues associated with imported STBs and component of STBs, the Committee during the examination of Demands for Grants (2012-13) in their Thirty second Report had recommended the Ministry to coordinate with the Department of Electronics and Information Technology so as to have indigenous production of STBs. The Committee, in this regard, during the evidence of Department of Electronics and Information Technology on Demands for Grants (2013-14), have been informed that C-DAC under the Department of Electronics and Information Technology would be ready with CAS only after 12 months. Further, from the**

submission of the Secretary, Deity, the Committee understand that the domestic manufacturing of Electronic hardware would see a breakthrough during 2013-14. The Committee also note that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting are in the process of formulating a policy whereby in the third and fourth phase of digitization there could be a possible 40 per cent or around 40 per cent reservation of STBs for domestic manufacturers.

2.19 In view of the emerging scenario, the Committee feel that the process of 100% digitization will not be that smooth and there may be more problems in phase III and IV of digitization. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to move with caution and incorporate in-built safeguards in their digitization policy so as to tackle the anticipated apprehensions *viz.* monopoly of few selected STB manufacturers and service providers, price rise in the channels, security issues associated with the imported STBs, opposition and resistance from industry and state specific situations etc. While appreciating the Ministry's submission for providing 40% reservation of STBs for domestic manufacturers, the Committee impress upon the Ministry to create a congenial atmosphere for MSOs, Cable Operators and broadcasters and have an overall friendly policy for domestic manufacturers. In the meantime, considering the potential security threats involved with imported Set Top Boxes, the Committee recommend the Ministry to formulate a suitable policy and co-ordinate with the concerned Ministries/Departments for mandatory security clearance of imported STBs immediately.

(Para Nos. 2.18 & 2.19 Rec. Sl. No. 13)

## **Expansion of FM Radio**

**2.20** The Committee note that the Cabinet in its meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2011 had approved 'Policy Guidelines on Expansion of FM Radio broadcasting service through private agencies (Phase III). These were notified on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2011. The Committee have been informed that permission for FM radio channels will be awarded through ascending e-auction, as followed by Department of Telecommunications for the auction of 3G and BWA spectrum, *mutatis-mutandis*, as recommended by the GoM on licensing methodology for FM Phase-III. An Application Review Committee (ARC) has been constituted in the Ministry for short listing of prospective bidders to participate in e-auction for award of license of FM channels under FM Radio (Phase-III). The Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting also submitted during the course of evidence that the Ministry is in the process of auctioning 839 new private FM radio stations in 294 cities which is just about to begin. However, the post evidence reply of the Ministry wherein it has been stated that shortlisting of bidders can take place only when Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) is issued, gives an impression that the Ministry is yet to issue the NIA thereby delaying the subsequent stages involved in the process.

**2.21** Keeping in view the fact that expansion of FM Radio Phase-III is one of the thrust areas of the Ministry during the Twelfth Plan and more than one and a half years have elapsed since the notification of guidelines in July, 2011, the Committee feel that the efforts of the Ministry need to be intensified further so as to achieve the projected targets. Therefore, the Committee recommend the Ministry to expedite the execution of various stages of auctioning of 839 new Private FM Radio Stations so that the number of cities having private FM Radio

stations is significantly increased thereby helping in overall expansion of FM Radio stations.

(Para Nos. 2.20 & 2.21 Rec. Sl. No. 14)

### **Community Radio**

2.22 The Committee note that Community Radio is a crucial communication tool particularly in communities where most people can neither read nor write and it provides an opportunity to community to speak about issues concerning their lives. The Committee have been informed that at present, 148 CRS are operational in the country and 230 applications are pending for grant of licenses. The Committee note that in the Twelfth Plan, a small scheme viz. Strengthening Community Radio Movement in India has been proposed for strengthening Community Radio Movement in India. The Scheme aims at setting up 100 new Radio Stations and supporting 30 existing CRSs. The Committee are concerned to note that as many as 230 applications are pending for grant of licences for community Radio. In view of importance of CRS as a low cost communication medium that can be leveraged for broadcasting local issues/messages in vernacular languages on issues of social concern by community organizations as well as the Government, the Committee feel that there is an imperative need to find ways and means to make the scheme financially remunerative so as to attract more number of applicants for setting up of CRS. The Committee are also of the opinion that reputed universities/Government institutions can be provided financial and technical assistance to set up their own CRS on a pilot basis so as to popularize the concept which can be scaled up at a later stage.

(Para Nos. 2.22, Rec. Sl. No. 15)

## **INFORMATION SECTOR**

**2.23** The Committee find that out of total plan allocation of Rs. 905 crore for the year 2013-14, the information sector has been allocated Rs. 235 crore, which comes out to 25.96 per cent of the budgetary allocation. Against this the utilisation was to the tune of Rs. 147.27 crore (upto February, 2013). Considering the fact that budget for 2013-14 has been raised substantially as compared to previous years, the Committee would like to emphasize the Ministry to make sincere and concerted efforts for full utilisation of funds and achievement of objectives laid down under this sector.

(Para Nos. 2.23, Rec. Sl. No. 16)

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

**2.24** Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) is a 'Centre of Excellence' in the field of communication, teaching, training and research. The Committee note that during the year 2012-13, against the proposed outlay of Rs. 16.00 crore for IIMC, the allocation at BE stage was Rs. 11.00 crore, which was further reduced to Rs. 4.70 crore at RE stage and the same was utilized fully. The allocation at BE stage for the year 2013-14 under the scheme is Rs. 7.00 crore. The Committee note that Regional Centres of IIMC at Amratvati, Kottayam, Aizawl and Jammu are functioning from temporary premises and the plots of land for permanent campuses for their Regional Centres have already been identified, but the same are yet to be transferred to IIMC. The Ministry of I&B and IIMC are pursuing with the respective State Governments in this regard. Needless to emphasize that the Ministry/IIMC would be ready with their DPRs for construction of buildings once, the lands are registered in IIMC's name. The Committee, therefore, recommend

that the Ministry should vigorously pursue the matter with concerned State Governments for early transfer of land.

(Para No. 2.24, Rec. Sl. No. 17)

2.25 As regards the proposal for degree granting power to IIMC, the Committee note that after due deliberations between the legislative Department and the Ministry/IIMC, a Draft Bill was prepared by the Legislative Department and was sent to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for scrutiny and examination. After examination and scrutiny the draft Bill has again been referred to the Legislative Department. The Ministry has also informed that after finalization of the draft Bill, the approval of the Cabinet will be sought for introduction of Bill in Parliament. The Committee recommend that necessary steps should be taken for clearance of Bill from the Cabinet and its introduction in Parliament under intimation to the Committee.

(Para No. 2.25, Rec. Sl. No. 18)

### Initiatives of the Ministry in Social Media

2.26 The Committee find that in order to disseminate information on the policy initiatives of the Government through the social media platform and to reach out to the young population of the country and sensitizing them of the Government's policies and programmes, the Ministry launched its You Tube Channel, Facebook page and Twitter account in September, 2012 and last week of December, 2012. The Committee note that the channel has provided a window to disseminate information on key issues and events regularly in an effective manner. As part of the initiatives undertaken, the 43<sup>rd</sup> International Film Festival at Goa from 20<sup>th</sup> to



30<sup>th</sup> November, 2012 was publicized and promoted in a big way through the channel thereby giving it a better profile on the social media network. The Committee note that the response of the initiatives taken was good and till 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2013 the channel received 90,000 video views and got subscriber list of approximately 1049. The Committee also find that the Ministry's venture in the facebook has also been well received with weekly reach of 15,000, 75,000 post views and 361 followers. Further, a Digital Volunteer Programme which aims at dissemination of development message in the social media space has also been started. The Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, during the evidence informed about the initiatives and stated that as a Government initiative, it surpasses any other initiative taken by any other Ministry of the Government of India. The Committee have been informed that the Ministry will frame a comprehensive social media policy and place an appropriate infrastructure to harness and leverage the potential of social media. Taking note of the above initiatives, the Committee recommend the Ministry to take urgent steps to frame the social media policy in co-ordination with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. The details of appropriate infrastructure to harness and leverage the potential of social media should be worked out and put in place expeditiously.

(Para Nos. 2.26, Rec. Sl. No. 19)

## **FILM SECTOR**

### **Setting up National Center of Excellence for Animation Gaming and Special Effects**

2.27 The Committee are constrained to note that though the scheme of National Center of Excellence for Animation Gaming and Special Effects was

conceptualized in 2007-08, it has still not been formally approved. The Committee express their serious displeasure that continued inter-Ministerial consultation and the constant landing of the proposal at the doorsteps of the Department of Expenditure, Department of Economic Affairs, the Planning Commission, Legal Affairs and the Ministry of Law and Justice without any constructive outcome has caused inordinate delay in implementation of the Scheme. Considering the fact that the scheme was conceived and formulated at the beginning of the Eleventh Plan and even after six precious years approval/clearances are still awaited for the scheme, the Committee feel that the Ministry is not serious about implementation of this scheme. The Ministry has informed that the EFC for the project is likely to be approved by May, 2013. The Committee recommend the Ministry to streamline and fast track the approval for the scheme so that the center can be set up in the current financial year itself.

(Para No. 2.27, Rec. Sl. No. 20)

### **Global Film School**

2.28 The Committee note that as part of the Twelfth Plan Scheme 'Infrastructure Development Programme relating to Film Sector' there is a proposal for improving the infrastructure of the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune to match the global standards. The Committee further note that Planning Commission has accorded in-principle approval for the scheme with a total proposed outlay of Rs. 167 crore, out of which Rs. 80 crore is for FTII. The Committee also find that for the year 2013-14, an allocation of Rs. 32.50 crore has been made out of which an amount of Rs. 15 crore has been allocated for FTII. Some of the components under infrastructure development of FTII are

augmentation of the resources and replacement of old/obsolete equipments both in Film and TV industry; introduction of the new technologies such as High Definition TV, advanced computer Animation, Digital Film Recording etc; updating the existing equipment to bring about overall improvement in the standards of higher professional education in the field of film making and TV Production; expansion of some parts of buildings of FTII which also include advance resource and knowledge centre; construction of a new main theatre, etc. Considering the contribution made by Indian film industry nationally and internationally, the Committee are of the firm view that the setting up of a film institute of global standards is indeed the need of the hour. The Committee have been informed that based on the comments of Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance, the EFC Memo has been received and circulated and the meeting of EFC is scheduled for 05.04.2013. While taking a serious note of the callous attitude and inaction on the part of the Ministry due to which the scheme has been delayed, the Committee recommend the Ministry to fast track the scheme and take urgent necessary steps for the approval and implementation.

(Para No. 2.28, Rec. Sl. No. 21)

### Central Board of Film Certification and Cinematograph Act, 1952

2.29 The Committee note the Central Board of Film certification, has been set up by the Central Government under section 3 of the Cinematograph Act 1952 for the purpose of sanctioning films for public exhibition. An amendment to the Act was initiated by the Ministry way back in 2008 and a proposed Bill in this regard was circulated to all concerned Ministries including Ministry of Law & Justice for comments/views. After incorporating their views/comments, the draft was further

submitted to the Ministry of Law and Justice for their final vetting before submission to the Cabinet for approval. In due course, however, it was realized that there are number of issues such as the process of certification, categories of certification, powers of the Ministry to enact laws concerning certification of the Cinematograph films for exhibition under Entry 60, List-1 of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, etc. which needed to be looked into. The Government felt that relevant provisions of the Act should be re-examined thoroughly with an eye on public sensibilities, rapid changes in mode of exhibition due to emerging technologies and also to strike a balance between the Fundamental Right to freedom of speech and Expression guaranteed by Article 19(1) (a) of the Constitution of India *vis-a-vis* the restrictions imposed under Article 19(2). In this background, the Ministry have constituted a Committee of Experts i.e. Justice Mukul Mudgal Committee to look into issues related to functioning of CBFC and the certification process.

2.30 In view of growing number of controversies relating to certification for Films, the Committee also feel that there is an urgent need to have a relook at the six decade old Cinematograph Act so as to bring it in tune with present times. In fact, the amendments should have come much earlier. The Committee desire that Ministry should impress upon the Expert Committee to examine the issue within a specific timeframe.

The Committee also recommend that the Ministry should take all necessary steps so that an amount of Rs 10 crore earmarked for CBFC under Twelfth Plan for undertaking various activities under the scheme of 'Upgradation,

**Modernization and Expansion of CBFC and Certification Process' can be utilized meaningfully.**

**(Para No. 2.29 & 2.30, Rec. Sl. No. 22)**

**New Delhi  
23 April, 2013  
03 Vaisakha, 1935 (Saka)**

**RAO INDERJIT SINGH  
Chairman  
Standing Committee on  
Information Technology**

VIDE PARA NO: 1.23 OF THE REPORT

## MINISTRY OF INFORMATION &amp; BROADCASTING

APPEND

Statement showing Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actual Expenditure during Annual Plan 2012-13

S. No.	Name of the Media units	Annual Plan 2012-13				
		Proposed	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure (CCA figure) upto 20.03.2013	% of expenditure w.r.t. RE
[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]
	<b>Central Sector Scheme</b>					
						(Rs crore)
<b>1</b>	<b>INFORMATION SECTOR</b>					
1	FIB	34.00	28.00	29.45	10.50	56.33
2	Publications Division	3.50	2.00	0.80	0.00	0.00
3	DAVP	115.00	110.00	105.03	92.78	87.59
4	IIMC	16.00	11.00	4.70	4.70	100.00
5	Photo Division	1.20	0.50	0.65	0.16	24.62
6	DIP	20.30	10.00	4.17	0.45	10.79
7	Song & Drama Division	10.00	8.00	8.00	4.82	60.25
8	RR&TD	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	
9	RNI	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.10	33.33
	<b>Total (1 to 9)</b>	<b>200.80</b>	<b>167.80</b>	<b>154.00</b>	<b>119.60</b>	<b>77.66</b>
	<b>Main Sectt. Schemes</b>					
10	Construction of Sochna Bhawan (Phase V)	15.00	15.00	10.83	8.57	79.13
11	Economic Analysis of Growth Initiatives	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
12	Training for Human Resource Development	6.00	2.20	1.53	1.45	94.77
13	Development Support to NE / J&K and other Identified Areas	5.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	
14	Policy Related Studies, Seminar, Evaluation etc.	2.00	1.00	0.57	0.38	66.67
15	Payment for Professional Services	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.00	0.00
16	International Media Programme	0.50	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.00
17	HRD for Film Media Units	0.00	0.00	0.80	0.00	0.00
	<b>Total: Main Secretariat</b>	<b>28.50</b>	<b>20.20</b>	<b>14.03</b>	<b>10.40</b>	<b>74.13</b>
	<b>Total: Information Sector</b>	<b>229.30</b>	<b>188.00</b>	<b>168.03</b>	<b>130.00</b>	<b>77.37</b>

S. No.	Name of the Media units	Annual Plan 2012-13				
		Proposed	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure (CCA figure) upto 20.03.2013	% of expenditure w.r.t. RE
[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]
Central Sector Scheme		(Rs crore)				
II	<b>FILM SECTOR</b>					
1	Films Division	37.00	3.90	2.90	0.43	14.83
2	NFAI	13.00	5.00	2.50	0.89	35.60
3	DFF	5.00	1.00	0.50	0.00	0.00
4	CFSI	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5	CBFC	4.00	3.00	1.50	0.00	0.00
6	National Film Development Corporation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	FTII, Pune	16.00	7.00	3.50	0.00	0.00
8	SRFTI, Kolkata	26.00	15.00	11.50	8.00	69.57
	<b>Total (1 to 8)</b>	<b>101.00</b>	<b>34.90</b>	<b>22.40</b>	<b>9.32</b>	<b>41.61</b>
	<b>Main Sectt. Schemes</b>					
9	Participation in Film Market in India and Abroad	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
10	Setting up of National Centre of excellence for Animation, Gaming and Special Effects	17.00	1.00	0.25	0.00	0.00
11	National Film Heritage Mission	100.00	20.00	0.60	0.00	0.00
12	Promotion of Indian Cinema through Film Festivals and Film Markets in India and abroad	24.00	15.00	16.10	10.97	68.14
13	Production of films and documentaries in various Indian languages	27.00	35.00	32.50	23.68	72.80
14	Centenary Celebrations of Indian Cinema	15.00	3.00	3.00	2.24	74.87
15	Anti-Piracy initiatives	2.00	0.10	0.10	0.00	0.00
	<b>Total (Main Secretariat)</b>	<b>185.00</b>	<b>74.10</b>	<b>52.55</b>	<b>36.87</b>	<b>70.16</b>
	<b>Total : Film Sector</b>	<b>286.00</b>	<b>109.00</b>	<b>74.95</b>	<b>46.19</b>	<b>51.53</b>

S. No.	Name of the Media units	Annual Plan 2012-13				
		Proposed	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure (CCA figure) upto 20.03.2013	% of expenditure w.r.t. RE
[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]
	Central Sector Scheme					(Rs crore)
<b>III</b>	<b>BROADCASTING SECTOR</b>					
1	All India Radio	687.00	299.00	200.00	196.75	98.38
2	Doordarshan	963.00	286.00	212.52	202.75	95.40
	<b>Total: Prasar Bharati</b>	<b>1650.00</b>	<b>585.00</b>	<b>412.52</b>	<b>399.50</b>	<b>96.84</b>
	<b>Main Sectt Schemes</b>					
1	Strengthening of Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC)	56.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.00
2	Private FM Radio	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3	International Channel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
4	IEC activities for Community Radio	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5	Supporting Community Radio movement in India	34.00	5.00	2.50	0.97	38.80
6	IEC activities for promoting Digitalization	10.00	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00
7	Infrastructure Support Cell in the Ministry	6.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.00
8	Capacity building of Cable TV Industry in Digital wire line Broadcasting	7.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.00
9	Automation of Broadcasting Wing	2.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
	<b>Total: Main Secretariat</b>	<b>115.00</b>	<b>23.00</b>	<b>20.50</b>	<b>0.97</b>	<b>4.73</b>
	<b>Broadcasting Sector</b>	<b>1765.00</b>	<b>608.00</b>	<b>433.02</b>	<b>400.47</b>	<b>92.48</b>
	<b>TOTAL M/o I &amp; B (Gross Budgetary Support)</b>	<b>2280.30</b>	<b>905.00</b>	<b>676.00</b>	<b>576.66</b>	<b>85.30</b>
	<b>IEBR Support from Prasar Bharati</b>	<b>1000.00</b>	<b>400.00</b>	<b>200.00</b>	<b>—</b>	
	<b>Annual Plan 2012-13 for M/o I&amp;B</b>	<b>3280.30</b>	<b>1305.00</b>	<b>876.00</b>	<b>576.66</b>	

66



**STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(2012-2013)**

**MINUTES OF THE TENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE**

-----

The Committee sat on Wednesday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2013 from 1430 hours to 1630 hours in Committee Room 'D', Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

**Shri Rao Inderjit Singh - In the Chair**

**MEMBERS**

***Lok Sabha***

2. Shri Abdul Rahman
3. Shri Raj Babbar
4. Shri Nikhil Kumar Choudhary
5. Shri Ganeshamurthi
6. Dr. Thokcham Meinya
7. Dr. (Prof.) Prasanna Kumar Patasani
8. Shri Radhe Mohan Singh (Ghazipur)

***Rajya Sabha***

9. Shri Joy Abraham
10. Shri Salim Ansari
11. Shri Bharatsinh Prabhatsinh Parmar
12. Dr. C.P. Thakur

***SECRETARIAT***

- |                         |   |                     |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. Shri Brahm Dutt      | - | Joint Secretary     |
| 2. Shri N.C. Gupta      | - | Director            |
| 3. Shri Ajay Kumar Garg | - | Additional Director |
| 4. Dr. Sagarika Dash    | - | Deputy Secretary    |

**LIST OF WITNESSES**

**REPRESENTATIVES OF MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
1.	Shri Uday Kumar Varma	Secretary
2.	Shri J.S. Mathur	Addl. Secretary & Fin. Adviser
3.	Shri Nirmal Singh	Sr. Economic Adviser
4.	Shri Anurag Srivastava	Joint Secretary
5.	Shri Raghvendra Singh	Joint Secretary
6.	Shri P.K. Singh	Joint Secretary

**REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ORGANISATIONS/OFFICES UNDER THE  
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
1.	Shri Jawhar Sircar	C.E.O. Prasar Bharati
2.	Brig.(Retd) V.A.M. Hussain	Member (Fin.), PB
3.	Shri Tripurari Sharan	DG, Doordarshan
4.	Shri L.D. Mandloi	DG, AIR
5.	Shri G. Mohanty	DG, DAVP
6.	Shri Sunit Tandon	Director General, IIMC
7.	Shri K. Ganesan	Press Registrar, RNI

2. At the outset the Chairman welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee convened to take evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in connection with examination of the Demands for Grants (2013-14).

[The representatives of the Ministry and its organisations were then called in]

3. The Chairman welcomed the representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to the sitting of the Committee and drew their attention to the

provisions of Direction 55 (1) relating to confidentiality of the proceedings and Direction 58 regarding evidence liable to be treated as public.

4. The representatives of the Ministry then explained the salient features of the Demands for Grants (2013-14) with the help of power point presentation which *inter-alia* included major features and achievements for the year 2012-13, utilization of outlays, thrust areas in the Twelfth Plan, streamlining of approval process for schemes, improving the functioning of Prasar Bharati, Digital Addressable system for cable TV, initiatives of the Ministry with regard to social media and Digital Volunteers etc.

5. The CEO, Prasar Bharati also gave an overview on current status of Prasar Bharati including its revenue, expenditure, resources, setting up of Sam Pitroda Committee for restructuring of Prasar Bharati and the action plan of the organization for the succeeding years.

6. The Committee sought clarifications on various issues related to variations in BE, RE and Actual Expenditure in planned schemes, accountability and financial viability of Prasar Bharti, shortage of staff and finalization of recruitment rules in Prasar Bharati, status of FM Phase-III auction, implementation of Community Radio Scheme, issues related to digitization and broadcasting of programmes by AIR in regional languages etc. The representatives of the Ministry responded to the queries raised by the Committee.

A copy of verbatim proceedings of the sitting has been kept.

**The Committee, then, adjourned.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(2012-13)**

**MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE**

-----

The Committee sat on Wednesday, the 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2013 from 1100 hours to 1200 hours in Committee Room 'D', Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

**Shri Rao Inderjit Singh – Chairman**

**MEMBERS**

***Lok Sabha***

2. Shri Abdul Rahman
3. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
4. Shri Nikhil Kumar Choudhary
5. Shri Rajen Gohain
6. Smt. Darshana Jardosh
7. Dr. Thokchom Meinya

***Rajya Sabha***

8. Shri Joy Abraham
9. Shri Mohammed Adeb
10. Shri Salim Ansari
11. Shri Bharatsinh Prabhatsinh Parmar
12. Dr. C.P. Thakur

***SECRETARIAT***

- |                         |   |                     |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. Shri Brahm Dutt      | - | Joint Secretary     |
| 2. Shri N.C. Gupta      | - | Director            |
| 3. Shri Ajay Kumar Garg | - | Additional Director |
| 4. Dr. Sagarika Dash    | - | Deputy Secretary    |

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee convened to consider and adopt four draft Reports relating to Demands for Grants (2013-14) of the Ministries/Departments under their jurisdiction.

3. The Committee, then, took up the following draft Reports for consideration and adoption.

(i) xxxxx                      xxxxx                      xxxxx                      xxxxx;

(ii) xxxxx                      xxxxx                      xxxxx                      xxxxx;

(iii) xxxxx                      xxxxx                      xxxxx                      xxxxx; and

(iv) Draft Forty-sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2013-14) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

4. ..xxxxx.. However, Members suggested certain changes in the draft ..xxxxx.. Forty-sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2013-14) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting which were agreed to and the aforesaid draft Reports were also adopted with slight modifications.

4. The Committee, then, authorized the Chairman to finalize and present the reports to the House in the current session of Parliament.

5. The Committee also placed on record their appreciation for the valuable assistance provided by the officials of the Secretariat attached to the Committee.

**The Committee, then, adjourned.**