

FIRST REPORT

STANDING COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS
(1999-2000)

(THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
AND BROADCASTING

*[Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations
contained in the Third Report (Twelfth Lok Sabha) of Standing
Committee on Communications on Demands for Grants (1998-99)]*

Presented to Lok Sabha on.....

Laid in Rajya Sabha on



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

March, 2000/Phalguna, 1921 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS (1999-2000)

Shri Somnath Chatterjee—*Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Ambareesha
3. Shri Mahendra Baitha
4. Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal
5. Prof. Dukha Bhagat
6. Shri Tara Chand Bhagora
7. Shri Nikhil Kumar Chaudhary
8. Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhary
9. Shri T. Govindan
10. Adv. Uttamrao Dhikale
11. Shri Jawahar Lal Jaiswal
12. Shri K.K. Kaliappan
13. Shri Shreechand Kriplani
14. Dr. C. Krishnan
15. Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab
16. Shri Simranjit Singh Mann
17. Shri G. Ram Mohan
18. Shri A.K. Moorthy
19. Shri Karia Munda
20. Shri K. Balrama Krishna Murthy
21. Shri Sheeshram Singh Ravi
22. Shri K.A. Sangtam
23. Shri Saroj Tufani
24. Sardar Buta Singh

(iv)

25. Shri Chandra Vijay Singh
26. Rajkumari Ratna Singh
27. Shri Vinay Kumar Sorake
28. Shrimati D.M. Vijaya Kumari
29. Vacant
30. Vacant

Rajya Sabha

31. Dr. M.N. Das
32. Shrimati Veena Verma
33. Shri Balkavi Bairagi
34. Shri Shatrughan Sinha
35. Shri Narendra Mohan
36. Dr. Mahesh Chandra Sharma
37. Dr. Y. Radhakrishna Murthy
38. Shri Munavvar Hasan
39. Shri S. Agniraj
40. Shri Kartar Singh Duggal
41. Miss Lata Mangeshkar
42. Shri Cho. S. Ramaswamy
43. Shri R.N. Arya
44. Vacant
45. Vacant

SECRETARIAT

1. Dr. A.K. Pandey — *Additional Secretary*
2. Shri P.D.T. Achary — *Joint Secretary*
3. Shri S.K. Sharma — *Deputy Secretary*
4. Shri Bhupesh Kumar — *Assistant Director*

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman Standing Committee on Communications (1999-2000) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on its behalf, present this First Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in its Third Report (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (1998-99) relating to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

2. The Third Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 14 July, 1998, and also laid in Rajya Sabha on the same day. The Government furnished Action Taken Notes on the recommendations contained in the Report on 19 February, 1999.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at its sitting held on 27 January, 2000.

4. For facility of reference and convenience, the observations and recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the body of the Report.

5. An analysis of Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Third Report of Standing Committee on Communications (Twelfth Lok Sabha) is given in Appendix-II.

NEW DELHI;
11 February, 2000
22 Magha, 1921 (Saka)

SOMNATH CHATTERJEE,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Communications.

CHAPTER I

REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on Communications deals with the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in its Third Report (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (1998-99) relating to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

2. The Third Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 14 July, 1998 and also laid in Rajya Sabha the same day. It contained 40 observations/recommendations.

3. Action taken notes in respect of all the 40 observations/recommendations in the Report have been received from the Government. These have been categorised as under:

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

Para Nos. 11, 12, 17, 21, 23, 31, 44, 64, 72, 83, 84, 85, 90, 118, 119, 120, 121, 124, 125, 128 and 129

(Total 21)

Chapter II

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

Para Nos. 30, 35, 37, 41, 59, 60, 61, 63, 65, 69, 122 and 127.

(Total 12)

Chapter III

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

Para Nos. 62, 86, 87, 88 and 89

(Total 5)

Chapter IV

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

Para Nos. 123 and 126

(Total 2)

Chapter V

4. The Committee trusts that utmost importance would be given to the implementation of the recommendations accepted by the Government. In cases where it is difficult for the Government to implement the recommendations for any reason, the matter should be reported to the Committee with reasons for non-implementation. The Committee further desires that final action taken notes on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and the Action Taken Notes in respect of recommendations contained in Chapter V of this Report may be furnished to it urgently and in no case later than six months of the presentation of this Report.

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

Structural Modification in Media Units (Paragraph No. 23)

6. The Committee in its Third Report had observed that the initiative of the Ministry to conduct a study to analyse whether the Media Units have been fulfilling the objectives for which those were set up and whether any structural modification was required to make them more efficient, was a desirable step. The Committee had desired to be apprised of the findings of the study and also action taken thereon.

7. The Ministry in its action taken note has stated that a series of internal reviews of the Media Units under its control was taken up at the level of Secretary and Additional Secretary. As a result of the decisions taken/suggestions made, the following actions have been taken with a view to improve the functioning of the Media Units.

- (i) Photo Division has finalised a detailed proposal for setting up a digital photo archive. It also includes the latest digital system for photo printing.

- (ii) Decision making process in respect of Directorate of Publications Division has been organised on corporate lines on experimental basis by setting a shadow Board.
- (iii) Press Information Bureau has switched over to electronic mode of transmission of messages and an upto date data base of PIB daily releases in their web page is being developed.
- (iv) Indian Institute of Mass Communication has introduced a PG Diploma Course in Radio and TV Journalism to meet the increased requirement of the trained professionals in this field.
- (v) Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity has introduced an incentive scheme with a view to improve the quality of professional output by way of promoting healthy competition among the creative talents of the organisation.
- (vi) Registrar of Newspapers for India completed a massive exercise of de-blocking of about 2 lakh titles of newspapers/ periodicals which were blocked by various publishers but not used.

The Ministry has also stated that as regards changes in the organisational structure and objectives of these Media Units there is need to carry out further detailed study of each Media Unit.

8. The Committee appreciates the decisions taken to revamp and improve efficiency of various Media Units. The Committee hopes that the decisions arrived at will be implemented in their letter and spirit in a time bound framework. A further review/study in respect of changes in organisational structure and objectives of these Media Units will be conducted expeditiously and the decisions taken thereon implemented urgently. The Committee also desires to be apprised of the findings of the study and the action taken in relation to individual Media Units.

Opening of new PIB Offices (Paragraph No. 62)

9. The Committee in its Third Report has observed that there was an urgent need to open more PIB offices particularly in remote and

border areas to counter the propaganda of hostile neighbouring countries effectively. However, the Ministry did not have any proposal to open any new PIB office in addition to the existing 34 offices. The Committee had taken a serious note of the abandoning of the proposal to open a PIB office at Raipur due to non-sanction of staff and had strongly recommended to take up the matter with the Ministry of Finance at higher level.

10. The Ministry in its action taken note has stated that due to resource crunch, it could pursue opening of only one branch office at Itanagar. For that office too, the Ministry was waiting for sanction of staff. As regards opening of PIB office at Raipur, the Ministry has stated that the matter was taken up with the Ministry of Finance which has agreed to consider the proposal for creation of additional posts in PIB after having the staff strength rationalised on the basis of Staff Inspection Unit's study.

11. The Committee is of the view that the people in remote/hilly, border areas and also in backward/tribal areas remain cut off from the developments taking place in various fields in the country. The border areas are open to the onslaught of the anti national propaganda from across the border. The Committee reiterates that the Ministry should take urgent necessary measures to open adequate number of PIB offices and also to expand and strengthen the communication network in those areas to counter successfully the hostile propaganda. The Ministry should try to impress upon the Ministry of Finance about the crucial role of PIB offices in border areas particularly in view of current hostilities there, to ensure early sanction of necessary staff. The Committee expresses serious concern at the undue delay in opening of PIB office at Raipur and recommends that the issue should be given utmost priority and pursued vigorously. The Committee also desires to be apprised of the latest progress made in this regard.

Studio and Transmitter Projects

(Paragraph No. 86)

12. The Committee in its Third Report had expressed concern at the poor performance in execution of Studio and Transmitter projects. The Ministry was not able to meet the target of completion and commissioning of various Studio and Transmitter projects during 1997-98 and the same were carried over to 1998-99.

13. The Ministry in its action taken note has stated that various Studio and Transmitter projects were delayed due to various reasons like poor response to tenders, contractual problems, heavy rains, floods, law & order problem etc. The Ministry has further stated that the technically ready studio projects could not be completed due to non-sanctioning of staff.

14. The Committee regrets to note that the projects targeted to be completed during 1997-98 could not be completed/commissioned even till date. Such unusual delay reflects the tardy implementation process of the Ministry. The Committee desires that the Ministry should take a serious note of it and there should be regular monitoring of the functioning of its implementation wing and the Ministry take corrective measures to expedite early completion and commissioning of these vitally important projects. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the steps taken and the progress made in this regard.

Transmitter Projects (Paragraph No. 87)

15. In the Third Report the Committee had noted that in case of Transmitter projects, the anticipated expenditure was Rs. 2708.60 lakhs only against the SBG of Rs. 4676.00 lakhs, and various projects targeted to be completed in 1997-98 could not be completed and the projects which were technically ready could not be commissioned. The Committee had recommended the executive and monitoring machinery to be streamlined to expedite the completion of those projects.

16. The Ministry in its action taken note has stated that the projects were delayed due to various reasons like delay in civil works, poor response to tenders, contractual problems, heavy rains, law and order problem, and land disputes etc. The technically ready projects could not be commissioned due to non-sanctioning of staff.

17. The Committee expresses its serious concern at the fact that the vitally important infrastructural projects targeted to be completed during 1997-98 could not be completed in time. The Committee is of the view that the Ministry should take a strong view of it and responsibility for delay in completion of projects should be fixed. The Committee trusts that the projects would be completed without any further delay and it be apprised of the progress made in this regard.

Staff Quarters and Training Institutes

(Paragraph No. 88)

18. The Committee in its earlier Report had observed that even though the SBG (Rs. 548.95 lakhs) was increased to Rs. 598.40 lakhs (R.E.) for construction of staff quarters during 1997-98 yet the Ministry could construct only 128 staff quarters against the target of 189. The Committee had also expressed concern in noting that Training Institutes at Chennai and Mumbai which were planned to be commissioned during 8th Plan were abandoned and relegated to lowest priority during 9th Plan. The Committee had strongly recommended that these institutes should be accorded high priority with adequate budgetary provisions.

19. The Ministry in its action taken note has stated that the construction of staff quarters has been given due priority and financial provision enhanced to Rs. 967.80 lakhs during 1998-99. The Ministry has further stated that due to inadequate 9th Plan allocation, the scheme to set up Training Institutes at Chennai and Mumbai could not be accommodated.

20. The Committee expresses concern at the slow pace of construction of staff quarters. The Ministry has not explained the reasons for construction of only 128 staff quarters against the target of 189 in spite of enhanced budgetary allocations. The Committee takes a serious note of the fact that requisite importance is not being given to setting up of more training institutes in various regions. The Committee during Study Tours had observed that DD/AIR officials were facing difficulties in getting advanced training particularly in the North East. The officials had to go to far off places in other states for training where only limited seats were available. The Committee recommends that more Training Institutes should be set up in various regions as the existing institutes are inadequate in number and capacity.

21. The Committee is concerned to note that the staff Training Institute (Technical) Bhubaneswar has not been functioning due to non availability of staff and that the Training Institutes at Chennai

and Mumbai could not be set up due to inadequate allocation. The Committee is of the view that the role of Training Institutes is very crucial in maintaining the performance of the staff at the required level in view of faster advancement in transmission technology. The Committee strongly recommends that higher allocation of funds for the purpose be made at the mid term review of the plan proposals.

Shortage of Staff (Paragraph No. 89)

22. The Committee in its earlier Report had expressed serious concern over the fact that 18 projects which were technically ready could not be commissioned for want of staff. Besides, 10 operational projects were also facing shortage of staff and 123 posts were short at SIT (T) Bhubaneswar. Similarly commissioning of various projects in North East was held up for shortage of 69 (58+11) posts. The Committee had strongly recommended that the Ministry should give serious consideration to it and take up the matter with the Ministry of Finance at the highest level.

23. The Ministry in its action taken note has stated that the staff sanction was still awaited and being pursued consistently with the Ministry of Finance.

24. The Committee is not satisfied with the response of the Ministry. This is a matter of serious concern that a large number of important infrastructural projects have been held up due to shortage of staff. The Committee strongly recommends the Ministry to take up the matter with the Ministry of Finance at the highest level to get the requisite staff sanctioned expeditiously to commission the projects urgently. The Committee may be apprised of the progress made in this regard.

Shortfall in Expenditure (Paragraph No. 120)

25. The Committee in its Third Report had noted with concern that there was continuous decline in allocation of funds for various vital Doordarshan projects. During the 8th Plan, the original outlay was Rs. 2300.00 crores which was reduced to Rs. 1345.32 crores at approval stage. During 9th Plan, reduced outlay of Rs. 1648.34 crores was earmarked. The utilisation of funds during 8th Plan was only

Rs. 1262.56 crores. During 1997-98, the SBG for Studio Projects was Rs. 8145.00 lakhs (plan) which was revised (reduced) to Rs. 7955.18 lakhs. During 1998-99 the B.E. was further reduced to Rs. 6921.00 lakhs. The Committee had observed that budgetary constraints should have been overcome by arranging funds from its own generated non-lapsable funds. The Committee had also recommended that adequate and balanced budgetary provisions should be made for installation of transmitters.

26. The Ministry in its action taken note has stated that 8th Plan proposals of Doordarshan as originally approved involved an outlay of Rs. 2300 crores but the actual allocation was only Rs. 1372.95 crores and against that an expenditure of only Rs. 1262.34 crores was incurred. The Ministry has also stated that Doordarshan's 9th Plan proposals, originally involving an outlay of Rs. 3135 crores have been reduced to Rs. 1836 crores.

27. The Ministry has further stated that a proposal for expansion of TV coverage in N.E. region and J&K involving outlay of Rs. 225 crores and Rs. 68 crores respectively was considered by Core Group on Security in September, 1998 and the same is being revised as per decision taken in the Core Group meeting.

28. The Committee is concerned to note that during 8th Plan the Ministry was able to utilize only Rs. 1262.34 crores out of the reduced actual allocation of Rs. 1372.95 crores. The Committee desires that the Ministry should step up its execution and monitoring machineries to meet the wide gap between targets and achievements. It also expects that the special package for expansion of TV coverage in N.E. region and J&K would be implemented expeditiously and the Ministry would be able to prevail upon the Planning Commission to enhance the allocation of funds.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Para No. 11)

The Ministry has projected an expenditure of Rs. 2584.51 crore (BE 1998-99) against RE 1997-98 of Rs. 2234.38 crore. The increase has been mainly on the Non-Plan expenditure which is due to the implementation of the Fifth Pay Commission report. As regards the increase in Plan outlay in 1998-99 to Rs. 661.98 crore against RE 1997-98 of Rs. 518.77 crore, it is largely due to expansion of various activities on the three major areas *i.e.* Broadcasting, Doordarshan, Films and Information Media as has been brought out in the succeeding paragraphs. Keeping in view the priorities of the Ministry, important projects will be affected due to reduced allocation. The Committee feels that increase in the Plan allocation in RE (1997-98) against the original BE of Rs. 619.80 crore is not commensurate with the Plan priorities of the Ministry of I&B and requires to be substantially stepped up.

Action Taken by the Ministry

The Ministry agrees with the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Communications. The Ministry requires higher Plan Allocation for achieving its objectives.

Recommendation (Para No. 12)

The Committee notes with concern that proposed Plan Outlay for 1998-99 for different Media Units of the Ministry have been substantially curtailed by the Planning Commission. The Committee also note that major reduction has been made in respect of Doordarshan. Against the proposed outlay of Rs. 60551.50 lakh a sum of Rs. 44940.00 lakh only has been approved. Similarly, in the case of Photo Division outlay proposed was Rs. 95 lakh and approved outlay is Rs. 76.00 lakh. In the case of Films Division Rs. 525.00 lakh have been approved against the proposal of Rs. 924 lakh. The Annual Plan outlay proposed by the Ministry was Rs. 830.93 crore while the

Planning Commission has approved only Rs. 661.93 crore for the Ministry with a component of Gross Budget support of Rs. 127.6 crore which is at the last years' level. With the reduced allocation Ministry has been constrained to reduce provisions on most of the continuing schemes/new schemes and some new scheme could not at all be taken up. The Committee is of the view that the reduction of Plan outlay will adversely affect the progress and growth of the various media units particularly of Doordarshan. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends that more Budgetary allocation be made available to the Ministry to take up important schemes.

Action Taken by the Ministry

The Ministry agrees with the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Communications. The Planning Commission had also been apprised separately of the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Communications in this regard, para No. 10 in the 12th Report on Demands for Grants (1997-98), for appropriate consideration while finalising the Ninth Plan allocations of the Ministry.

Recommendation (Para No. 17)

The Committee notes with concern that Plan outlay of Rs. 182.00 lakh have been provided for 1998-99 against the proposed outlay of Rs. 232.50 lakh for Song and Drama Division. Provisions have been reduced on all the continuing schemes but for Sound and Light Units at Delhi under capital sub-head. The main reduction is for Tribal/Hilly areas Publicity Scheme (from Rs. 37.5 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh). The Committee is of the view that publicity should be encouraged so far as hilly/tribal areas are concerned. The Committee is unable to understand the rationale behind substantial reduction in the case of hilly and tribal areas which require the highest attention. The Committee, therefore, recommends that Ministry should encourage the schemes meant for hilly and tribal areas.

Action Taken by the Ministry

The recommendations made by the Standing Committee on Communications for giving encouragement to publicity schemes meant for hilly/tribal areas of the country have been noted and all out efforts will be made to provide sufficient funds in the next year's budget i.e. 1999-2000 for these schemes.

Recommendation (Para No. 21)

The Committee is concerned to note that allocation for N'CYP have been reduced to Rs. 560 lakh against the proposal of Rs. 685 lakh which is inadequate. As N'CYP is involved in the important activities of producing films for children and young people, the Committee desires that it should not be allowed to go down and efforts be made to increase the allocation at RE stage.

Action Taken by the Ministry

The recommendation is accepted. However, in the R.E. 1998-99 the N'CYP itself has proposed only Rs. 410 lakhs, against the SBG 1998-99 of Rs. 560 lakhs, as per its requirements. Efforts will be made to allocate necessary funds for the N'CYP in 1999-2000.

Recommendation (Para No. 23)

The Committee notes that Ministry has initiated a study to analyse whether various Media Units under its control have been fulfilling the objectives for which those were set up and to find out whether in the current situation any structural modification is required to make them more efficient. The Committee considers it to be a desirable initiative and would like to be apprised of the findings of the study and also action taken thereon.

Action Taken by the Ministry

A series of internal reviews of the Media Units under the Ministry was taken up at the level of Secretary and Additional Secretary. Issues relating to broader policy as also specific strategy for their restructuring and revamping were discussed in these reviews. Specific suggestions for improving the operational efficiency, need for re-working the charter, induction of modern information technologies were also discussed.

As a result of decisions taken/suggestions made in these meetings, following actions have been taken with a view to improve the functioning of the Media Units:

- (i) Photo Division has finalised a detailed proposal for setting up a digital photo archive. It also includes the latest digital system for photo printing.

- (ii) Decision making process in respect of DPD has been organised on corporate lines on experimental basis by setting a shadow Board.
- (iii) PIB has switched over to electronic mode of transmission of messages and an upto date data base of PIB daily releases in their web page is being developed.
- (iv) Indian Institute of Mass Communication has introduced a PG Diploma Course in Radio and TV Journalism to meet the increased requirement of the trained professionals in this field.
- (v) DAVP has introduced an incentive scheme with a view to improve the quality of professional output by way of promoting healthy competition among the creative talents of the organisation.
- (vi) RNI completed a massive exercise of de-blocking of about 2 lakh titles of newspapers/periodicals which were blocked by various publishers but not used.

A Reception cum Facilitation centre in each of the Media Units is proposed to be set up with the objective of imparting information to the visitors/clients as well as projecting the work being done by the respective organisations.

As regards changes in the organisational structure and objectives of these Media Units, it was felt during the reviews that there is need to carry out further detailed study of each Media Unit. One such study in respect of DAVP is proposed to be entrusted to National Productivity Council. A proposal to get the study of IIMC done through IIM, Ahmedabad is also under consideration. Other Media Units are in the process of finalising the approach paper on restructuring and revamping of their units.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 8 of Chapter I)

Recommendation (Para No. 31)

The Committee observes that 8th Five Year Plan outlay for Films Division was Rs. 32 crore and the utilisation was only Rs. 16.51 crore

and again allocation for Ninth Five Year Plan outlay is Rs. 25 crore. The reason that building plans could not be finalised and approved during the Plan period is hardly convincing. The fact remains that Films Division could only utilise less than 50 per cent of Plan allocation for 8th Plan. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends that the Films Division should take suitable steps to utilise the Plan allocation.

Action Taken by the Ministry

The recommendation is accepted. All possible efforts are being made by the Films Division to utilise the funds allocated under various Plan schemes during the Ninth Plan period.

Recommendation (Para No. 44)

The Committee notes that there are lot of complaints regarding depiction of sex, violence, vulgarity in our films inspite of that each and every film has been certified under the Cinematography Act by the Central Board of Film Certification. During the course of evidence the Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting agreed with the Committee that now-a-days the films enter even drawing rooms and bedrooms in almost all houses as these are shown on T.V. and are witnessed by all the members of the family, old and young. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is also aware that a large section of the people are showing concern over this matter. The Committee takes a serious note of it and consider that provisions of the Cinematograph Act are often not being applied meticulously by the Board. The Committee trusts that with strengthening of Central Board of Film Certification with the provision made in the Budget Estimates, the Board will be in a better position to check depiction of sex, violence and vulgarity in films, which are having very dangerous and deterious effect on young minds.

Action Taken by the Ministry

The observations of the Committee are noted. All Films intended for public exhibition in India are examined by the Central Board of Film Certification (Board) in accordance with the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and the guidelines issued thereunder. While examining films for certification, the Board shall ensure *inter alia* that anti-social activities such as violence are not glorified or justified; that pointless or avoidable scenes of violence, cruelty and horror, scenes as may have the effect of desensitising or dehumanising people are not

shown; and that human sensibilities are not offended by vulgarity, obscenity or depravity. The Board has been asked to strictly adhere to the guidelines issued by Government.

2. The following steps have also been taken by the Board/ Government.

- (a) Songs and trailer of films to be telecast on Doordarshan are scrutinised by the Board.
- (b) The Board is to ensure that at least 50% of members of all its committees are women. This is to bring greater gender awareness into the certification process.
- (c) Specific clarification is issued by the Board about interpretation of some of the frequently violated guidelines to ensure proper application of the guidelines.
- (d) The names of members of the Examining Committee/ Revising Committee/Film Certification Appellate Tribunal on whose recommendations a film is cleared for public exhibition are shown on the censor certificate issued to the film, thus introducing greater accountability.

3. As will be seen from the above, with the efforts being made, the Board will be in a better position to check depiction of excessive sex, violence and vulgarity in films.

Recommendation (Para No. 64)

The Committee learns that PIB has one Branch Office at Shillong, two office cum information centres at Kohima and Imphal and another information centre at Aizwal in the North East. These offices need to be upgraded in terms of building facilities as they are in hilly and backward areas. In border areas, PIB has offices in Jodhpur and in Sikkim. The Committee is concerned to note that as far as the border areas of Nagaland (there are two districts Mon and Tuensang) are concerned publicity is reported to be ineffective. People living in these areas are completely unaware of the latest happenings in Delhi as well as in other parts of the country. The Committee therefore strongly recommends that working in these offices be streamlined and machinery strengthened. Urgent steps should also be taken to upgrade PIB offices in North East as well as in other tribal areas to disseminate the information in an effective manner.

Action Taken by the Ministry

The North East Region has been given more importance in the IX Five Year Plan. There is a separate Plan scheme *viz.*, 'Opening of Branch office of PIB at Itanagar for catering to the North East Region' in the IX Five Year Plan also in all the schemes, funds have been earmarked for North East and tribal regions. During 9th Five Year Plan, in addition to opening of office at Itanagar, it is proposed to upgrade the facilities in the PIB offices in the North East. All the offices in the North East Region are likely to get Desktop Computers, laser printers, modems and UPS/CVT under computerisation Scheme. Also under the scheme 'Greater Mobility', it is proposed to purchase a car for PIB, Shillong during 1998-99. Under the Scheme 'Modernisation of the offices of PIB', it is proposed to provide amenities such as Press Conference Room, Public Address System, etc. during 1998-99 of PIB Shillong. Press tours under the scheme 'Coordinating & Organising of Press Parties' are mainly conducted to places in the North East and for taking Press parties from North East to other parts of the country. The recommendation of the Committee for upgradation of PIB offices in North East as well as in other tribal areas in terms of manpower, machinery and other facilities will be kept in mind while formulating future Plan Scheme.

Recommendation (Para No. 72)

The Committee note that FTII, Pune had proposed an Annual Plan outlay of Rs. 729.77 lakhs and only Rs. 700.00 lakhs has been approved for continuing scheme. In view of severe shortage of trained personnel to man Doordarshan Kendras and production of films, the Committee strongly recommends that more funds be provided to Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune so that it can increase intake of students for various courses.

Action Taken by the Ministry

The recommendation is noted. It will be kept in view while deciding the allocation of funds for the Annual Plan (1999-2000).

Recommendation (Para No. 83)

The Committee has noticed that Budget Provisions for Broadcasting Services for 1997-98 (Plan) was Rs. 558.80 crores (BE) which was

drastically reduced (Revised) to Rs. 466.42 crores (RE). In case of Sound Broadcasting (AIR) the actuals for 1996-97 was Rs. 142.24 crores. The BE for 1997-98 was Rs. 143.20 crores. It was also drastically reduced to Rs. 102.42 crores (RE). The Ministry had submitted proposal to the Planning Commission for approval of outlay of Rs. 156.00 crores for the Annual Plan 1998-99, however only Rs. 150.00 crores have been approved. The Committee is seriously concerned to note that the Budget Provisions for Broadcasting Services have been sharply reduced which in real terms turns out to be much less than what was provided in the previous year implying that there was hardly any growth.

Action Taken by the Ministry

This Ministry agrees with the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Communications. Broadcasting Services may not be in a position to achieve their targets for development and expansion unless Gross Budgetary Support provision is substantially augmented by Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance.

Recommendation (Para No. 84)

The Committee notes that the proposed VIII Plan outlay for All India Radio was Rs. 1134.95 crores which was drastically reduced to Rs. 835.32 crores at approval stage. The expenditure was much less at Rs. 655.57 crores. The overall percentage of achievement was only 78.48 percent, which is less than that anticipated. The achievement in case of Science and Technology (S&T) was 68.07 percent and in case of Software Science only 25.07 percent. Against the target of 19 Community Radio Centres, not even a single Community Radio Centre has been set up. Against the target of 93 Broadcasting Centres only 73 could be set up and only 167 transmitters were installed against the target of 204. The Committee is constrained to observe that this performance has been extremely unsatisfactory. It is imperative that the Ministry makes concerted and more serious efforts to improve the performance. The reasons given like change in priorities, delay in handing over sites by State Governments, lack of infrastructural facilities, difficult terrains, remoteness of area, insurgency, reinstitution

of tenders etc. are not convincing. The Ministry should set targets realistically after taking into account the difficulties and once the targets are laid, all out efforts should be made to realise them.

Action Taken by the Ministry

The observations of the Committee have been noted. All efforts are being made to complete the projects as per their scheduled targets. Monitoring has been strengthened by introduction of modern management techniques like Progress Evaluation and Review Technique & Critical Path Method. The Zonal Chief Engineers are taking monthly progress review meetings to identify the constraints and remedial measures are taken to remove them. At the Directorate level, the Engineer-in-chief is taking monthly meetings to review the overall implementation of projects. Matters requiring action by the State Government are also being pursued.

Recommendation (Para No. 85)

The Committee is concerned to note that during Annual Plan 1996-97, the achievement was discouraging as only 5 Broadcasting Centres were set up against the target of 11. Similarly 26 Radio Transmitters were installed against the target of 37. During 1997-98 though the proposed outlay of Rs. 143.20 crores was reduced to Rs. 102.42 crores at RE stage, yet the actual expenditure was only Rs. 98.72 crores. The Committee notes with concern that the performance in this respect also was disappointing indicating gross inefficiency as only 4 Broadcasting Centres against the target of 7 could be completed. Similarly, 2 Community Radio Centres against the target of 10 and 8 Radio Transmitters against the target of 9 could be installed. In the case of Stereo Channels, the performance was nil as not even a single Stereo Channel was provided against the target of 2. The slow progress in implementation of these projects is highly deplorable. The reasons advanced like change in priorities, delay in handing over of sites by State Governments, lack of infrastructural facilities, remoteness of area and insurgency etc. are not at all acceptable. The Committee is seriously concerned at the tardy implementation and urges expeditious completion of the projects.

Action Taken by the Ministry

The targets and achievements during the year 1997-98 are given below:—

S.No.	Scheme	Targets	Achievements
1.	Broadcasting Centres	7	4
2.	Community Radio Stations	5	2
3.	Transmitters	12	6
4.	Studios	1	1

The reasons for delay and the status of projects which were not achieved during 1997-98 is given below:—

Broadcasting Centres

1. Bhadarwah (J&K) — Premises occupied by security forces.
2. Churachandpur (Manipur) — Progress hampered due to law and order problems.
3. Dhubri (Assam) — Delay in civil works and erection of FM tower due to floods and law and order problem. Project is now nearing completion. Staff sanction is awaited.

Community Radio Stations

1. Nongstion (Meghalaya) — Delay in handing over of site free of cost by the State Govt. Installation is however now complete.
2. Saiha (Mizoram) — - do -
3. Tuensang (Nagaland) — - do -

Transmitters

1. Pondicherry — Land dispute and court case contributed to the delay in completion of civil works. The Transmitter has since been installed.
2. Jodhpur — Installation of equipment is complete. Arrangement for Studio Transmitter programme link is being made.
3. Jaipur — Building works delayed due to contractual problems. The installation work is now in progress and is likely to be completed by March, 1999.
4. Lucknow — - do -
5. Siliguri — Tower erection delayed by M/s. Richardson & Crudass due to flooding of the area. Transmitter equipment has been installed. Testing and measurements are in progress. The project will be ready by 3/99.
6. Coimbatore — Tower erection delayed by M/s. TSL which is a public sector undertaking. The matter is being pursued with the firm to get it expedited.

Recommendation (Para No. 90)

The Committee cannot but take serious note of the fact that there are extensive shortfalls in targets and that the Ministry is not at all serious about implementation of the projects. The Committee strongly

recommends that the progress of implementation of projects should be strictly monitored and responsibility fixed for not achieving the targets.

Action Taken by the Ministry

The observations of the Committee have been noted. The following steps have been taken to complete the projects as per their schedule:—

1. Monitoring has been further strengthened by introduction of modern management techniques like PERT and CPM.
2. The Zonal Chief Engineers are taking monthly progress review meetings to identify the constraints and remedial measures are taken to remove them.
3. At the Directorate level, the Engineer-in-chief is taking monthly meetings to review the overall implementation of projects.
4. Matters requiring action by the State Government are also being pursued.

Recommendation (Para No. 118)

The Committee is deeply concerned to note that during the 8th Plan, Doordarshan could not fulfil the target of installation of 58 HPTs. It could instal only 25 HPTs. The target for TV production centres was 20 but the achievement was 16 production centres only. The slackness in installation of HPTs is highly perturbing. The reasons advanced by the Ministry for slack performance are non-receipt of imported and other engineering equipments and slow progress of tower works. The Committee are not at all impressed by such excuses. It is of the view that with timely corrective steps, the pace of progress could have been accelerated. Mere 43 per cent achievement is highly deplorable. The Committee would like to be assured that the Ministry has devised corrective steps to overcome the bottlenecks so far as the implementation of the IX Plan targets are concerned.

Action Taken by the Ministry

Target of establishment of 58 HPTs was laid down in VIII Plan proposals involving an outlay of Rs. 2300 crores. But, the actual allocation of resources during the Five Year Plan period (1992-97) was

only Rs. 1372.95 crores and as a result, a number of HPT projects could not be processed for sanction. It was not feasible to take up all the HPT projects originally envisaged due to limitation of funds. Only 35 sanctioned HPT projects were under implementation during VIII Plan period and out of these, 25 projects were completed till March, 1997 (including 4 HPTs in interim set up). Delay in completion of HPT projects has been mainly due to delay in construction of towers and buildings.

All Doordarshan projects are being closely monitored by the Zonal Offices as well as Directorate to check time and cost overruns. Zonal CEs are holding monthly meetings with concerned CCW officers to review the progress of civil works. Regular meetings are being held with the agencies involved in construction of towers, at Directorate. Meetings at Engineers-in-Chief's level are being held regularly with CEs at Zonal Offices and CCW to review implementation of projects. Doordarshan is taking every possible measure to complete projects at the earliest and to check time and cost overruns.

There is an acute shortage of staff in Doordarshan network. At time, staff involved in execution of projects has to be deployed for operational and maintenance duties. This has also affected pace of projects to a certain extent.

Recommendation (Para No. 119)

The Committee further notes with concern that during 1996-97 the performance in relation to installation of HPTs, LPTs, VLPTs and Studios was very dismal. Against the target of 8 HPTs, 79 LPTs, 72 VLPTs and 5 studios, only 1 HPT, 27 LPTs, 22 VLPTs and 1 Studio could be installed. Similarly during 1997-98 also which happens to be the first year of the 9th Plan, the performance is not at all satisfactory. Against the targets of 11 HPTs, 64 VLPTs and 14 studios, only 6 HPTs, 43 VLPTs and 4 studios could be set up. Although the Ministry was able to instal 69 LPTs against the target of 59 LPTs, this is no consolation as LPTs are no substitute of HPTs which have wider area coverage, higher power and requires longer completion/gestation period. The Committee feels that serious efforts are required to be made for timely completion of HPT and Studio projects. HPTs should be further extended in other areas and the capacity of LPTs & VPTs upgraded.

Action Taken by the Ministry

Shortfall in achieving the physical targets set for 1996-97 and 1997-98 had been mainly due to delay in construction of buildings and towers for HPTs; non-availability of ready built accommodation for LPTs and VLPTs; delay in construction of studio buildings. Shortage of staff in Doordarshan network has also affected the pace of project to a certain extent as at times, staff involved in execution of projects has to be deployed for operational and maintenance duties.

All Doordarshan projects are being closely monitored by the Zonal Offices as well as Directorate to check time and cost overruns. Doordarshan is taking every possible measure to complete the projects at the earliest possible.

Schemes for upgradation of LPTs (in UHF Band) and VLPTs are envisaged to be taken up during the IXth Plan period, subject to availability of resources. As part of IXth Plan schemes, 42 HPT projects are envisaged to be implemented for expansion of primary coverage (DD1). In addition, 28 HPT projects for expansion of metro channel (DD2) service are envisaged to be implemented as part of IXth Plan schemes. A large number of new LPTs/VLPTs are also envisaged to be installed as part of IXth Plan schemes.

Recommendation (Para No. 120)

The Committee further notes with concern that there is continuous decline in allocation of funds for various Doordarshan Project particularly studios and transmitter projects. During Eighth Plan the original outlay was Rs. 2300.00 crores which was reduced to Rs. 1345.32 crores at approval stage. During Ninth Plan the original outlay has been reduced to Rs. 1648.34 crores. The utilisation of funds during Eighth Plan was Rs. 1262.56 crores only. The Committee trust that the Ministry will streamline the processes so that the financial outlay is fully utilised during 1998-99. During 1997-98, as per Performance Budget 1998-99, the SBG for Studio Projects was Rs. 8145.00 lakhs (Plan) which was revised to Rs. 7955.18 lakhs. During 1998-99 the BE has further been reduced to Rs. 6921.00 lakhs. Similarly, for Transmitter Projects, the SBG 1997-98 was Rs. 13831.75 lakhs which was reduced (revised) to Rs. 11783.21 lakhs (RE 1997-98). The BE 1998-99 has further been reduced to Rs. 10795.50 lakhs. No doubt budgetary constraints are there. Yet the Committee wants the Ministry to arrange for the

budgetary shortfall from its own generated non-lapsable funds. Planning Commission should also be prevailed upon for higher allocations keeping in view the importance of High-Power Transmitters and other infrastructural facilities in information sector. It is obvious that time over-runs will necessarily lead to cost over-runs. In physical terms, seven important projects like 300M Tower at Bhuj, HPTs at Fazilka, Churachandpur etc. which were planned to be completed during 1997-98 could not be completed on schedule and have been carried over to 1998-99, which is a matter of grave concern. The Committee is also of the view that setting up of VLPTs in certain areas in place of HPTs is not really serving the objectives as national programmes are hardly relayed with effective signals by the VLPTs. Thus, the objective of dissemination of information to far off difficult areas is defeated. The Committee also recommends that adequate and balanced budgetary provisions should be made for installation of transmitters.

Action Taken by the Ministry

VIIIth Plan proposals of Doordarshan as originally approved involved an outlay of Rs. 2300 crores. But the, the actual allocation during the VIIIth Plan period was Rs. 1372.95 crores only and against this an expenditure of Rs. 1262.34 crores was incurred.

Doordarshan's IXth Plan proposals, originally involved an outlay of Rs. 3135 crores. Due to reduction in Plan outlay, present IXth Plan proposals involve an outlay of Rs. 1836 crore. A proposal for expansion of TV coverage in NE region and J&K involving outlay of Rs. 225 crores and Rs. 68 crores respectively was considered by Core Group on Security in September, 1998 and is being revised as per decisions taken in the Core group meeting. The Ministry also proposes to approach Planning Commission for allocation of additional funds in view of difficulties faced by Doordarshan in carrying out its expansion plans.

Shortfall in achieving the target as regards HPT projects during 1997-98 was mainly due to delay in construction of towers and building

by the concerned agencies. Regular monitoring meetings are being held with the agencies involved in construction of towers to check the delay. Though HPTs are considered suitable for providing coverage to large segments of population. VLPTs have to be installed to provide coverage to small concentration of population specially in hilly and remote areas. LPTs are installed to provide coverage to particular cities/towns. Lead time involved in implementation of LPT and VLPT projects is about a year as compared to about 4 years in case of HPTs and therefore LPTs meet aspirations of the people in short time.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 28 of Chapter I)

Recommendation (Para No. 121)

The Committee also notes with concern that studios at various places *viz.* North East, Mumbai, Trivandrum, Chennai, Bangalore and Calcutta, have cameras and other equipments which have become obsolete and require urgent replacement with latest equipments, as they are badly affecting production quality of programmes. The Budget provisions made for the purpose are grossly inadequate though the actual expenditure was much more. The RE 1997-98 was 31.71 crores and the expenditure Rs. 44.72 crores. During 1998-99 only Rs. 56.20 crores have been allocated against the demand of Rs. 58.00 crores. Keeping in view the importance and magnitude of the problem, these funds are inadequate and required to be substantially enhanced.

Action Taken by the Ministry

Priority has been assigned to replacement of old equipment at DD Kendras by modern equipment and also to provision of additional modern equipment at Kendras. New cameras have been provided during 1998 to various DD stations including those at Trivandrum, Chennai, Bangalore, Calcutta and those in NE regions. Modernisation of DD Kendras is a continuous process and schemes in this regard are formulated and implemented from time to time, depending on availability of resources. Additional items of studio equipment are envisaged to be provided at various DD Kendras and orders for these items of equipment are expected to be placed during 1998-99. A large number of schemes relating to replacement of old transmitters at DD stations by new transmitter are also under implementation. An amount of Rs. 56.20 crores for renewal and replacement schemes is included in Doordarshan's SBG for 1998-99.

During 1997-98, an expenditure of Rs. 56.8 crores was incurred on renewal and replacement schemes.

Recommendation (Para No. 124)

The Committee is of the view that provision of basic amenities like staff quarters, transport services and facilities like advanced training institutes have a direct bearing on the performance/output of the staff and as such should be given due priority. Adequate number of Training Institutes should be set up in each region so that required number of trained personnel are available. Adequate funds are required to be allocated for this purpose and implementation should be streamlined and strictly monitored to adhere to the schedule. The Committee finds that there is shortage of staff quarters in various cities.

Action Taken by the Ministry

Schemes for construction of staff quarters are being formulated and executed from time to time, depending on availability of resources. At present, over 700 staff quarters are under construction at different places in the country.

Doordarshan's IXth Plan, *inter alia*, includes provision of 4 regional training institutes and an advanced level training institute. Establishment of training institutes would depend on actual availability of resources and the requisite manpower for their functioning. Transport facility is being provided to shift duty staff at various Doordarshan stations.

Recommendation (Para No. 125)

The Committee is also concerned to note that provision of adequate training facilities has not been made for DD personnel. In North-East, the staff have to go to Bangalore for training and there too seats are limited. At Lucknow, training Institute is not functioning for want of teaching staff. The controversy relating to old and new norms requires urgent solution as it is regarding the training process.

Action Taken by the Ministry

Staff has, so far, not been sanctioned for the training institute at Lucknow. However, the training institute has been made functional

and training courses are being conducted to the extent possible with the help of available staff in the network.

It has been Doordarshan's constant endeavour to provide adequate training to the staff working in North East region. A number of training courses/workshops have earlier been organised in North East region for the benefit of staff working there. More such training courses/workshops are proposed to be organised in future. Staff from Doordarshan stations in NE region is regularly being called for the training courses being conducted by STI(T), Delhi. While selecting candidates for foreign training programmes, priority is assigned to the staff of Doordarshan Kendras in NE region.

At Bangalore, certain training courses are conducted at the works of M/s. BEL. Also, management courses and certain other courses are conducted at Bangalore, at times, by outside agencies. Staff from various stations including those in NE region is deputed for the above courses.

The staffing norms for various Doordarshan installations which were recommended in 1993 required a fresh look in view of technological advancement and other changes that have taken place during the past 6 years. The Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) of the Ministry of Finance has been requested to undertake a quick study of the staffing norms for various HPTs/LPTs/VLPTs/Studios etc. and intimate the recommendation to the Ministry. On receipt of the recommendations further necessary action will be taken to ensure that all installation are suitably staffed and operationalised.

Recommendation (Para No. 128)

The Committee is deeply concerned with the quality and credibility of news, socially relevant programmes and sensitive matters which are of concern to the nation. The coverage of Jammu & Kashmir, North East, border areas, neighbouring countries and other foreign countries and Internet facilities all are equally important. The Committee considers them vital and as high priority areas. However, Broadcasting media is being starved of funds. It has been asked to raise funds of a magnitude which it cannot. Thus, this sector is seriously being neglected while it has assumed greater importance in the changed environment. There is need to effectively counter the unfriendly propaganda in and outside the country. The Committee strongly recommends that there should be rapid expansion of broadcasting

As per the details above, for every 60 minutes of transmission average time spent on commercial is about 2.5 minutes *i.e.* 4 percent of the telecast time.

The international conventions accept commercial advertisement upto 20 percent of the telecast time or in other words upto 12 minutes per hour. The average time of commercials telecast on Doordarshan is much less than this. However, the commercial advertisements are not evenly distributed all over the transmission time. They appear in clutters in popular programmes as the popularity of the programmes and the topicality of the event determines booking pattern of advertisements. In October, 1996, Doordarshan has taken a decision that commercial in any particular programmes should not exceed 25% of its telecast time and this limit is being enforced. Doordarshan constantly studies the advertisements clutters in various programmes and takes necessary steps to reduce the clutters. Most of the programmes telecast on Doordarshan are under 'Sponsored category' and in these programmes, Doordarshan provide certain Free Commercial Time (FCT) to the producers from which they can recover the production cost, the telcast fee and also make some profit. On the national network (DD-I), FCT allowed ranges between 90 to 150 seconds for a 30 minute slot and on metro (DD-2) it ranges between 90 to 210 seconds. Similarly in the feature film (Hindi), telecast on Doordarshan (of 2-1/2 hour duration), the FCT allowed is 1800 seconds for Friday Film and 1500 seconds for Saturday Film.

(v) Programmes are being reviewed and upgraded periodically. In other words, it is always the endeavour of Doordarshan to review its programme and bring about qualitative changes therein, whenever warranted.

(vi) As far as management and operation of FM channel is concerned, AIR is at present managing and operating all the FM channels through its own staff.

(vii) Wasteful expenditure: The observations of the Standing Committee have been noted for compliance.

(viii) Ministry of Home Affairs has allocated a sum of Rs. 8.00 crore (Rupees Eight crore) for production of programmes on North-East including North East Tribes for the year 1998-99.

media and adequate financial and physical resources should be provided for it without further loss of time.

Action Taken by the Ministry

Scheme for expansion of Doordarshan Network are formulated and implemented from time to time depending on availability of resources. During the current Five Year Plan (1997-2002), stress is being laid on replacement of old studio and transmitter equipment; modernisation of the network and consolidation of existing facilities. Besides, schemes for expansion of terrestrial coverage (DD1 & DD2 channels); MMDS service at select locations; remote monitoring of VLPTs; DTTB; additional satellite earth stations; uplinking facilities for news feeds; Direct to Home service; fly away Satellite News Gathering units; a few new studio centres digital; studios and augmentation of post production facilities and a number of ancillary schemes have been taken up/are proposed to be taken up.

Doordarshan's IXth Plan proposals, originally involved an outlay of Rs. 3135 crores. Due to reduction in Plan outlay, present IXth Plan proposals involve an outlay of Rs. 1836 crores. A proposal for expansion of TV coverage in NE region and J&K involving outlay of Rs. 225 crores and Rs. 68 crores respectively was considered by Core Group on Security in September, 1998 and is being revised as per decisions taken in the Core Group meeting. The Ministry also proposes to approach Planning Commission for allocation of additional funds in view of difficulties faced by Doordarshan in carrying out its expansion plans.

Recommendation (Para No. 129)

The Committee also recommends to the Ministry to take action in relation to the deficiencies in Electronic Media Programmes/Projects as stated below:

- (i) Introduction of more news bulletins in regional languages for border, hilly and remote areas.
- (ii) Strengthening of DD/AIR Kendras and make them better equipped for compilation and telecast of international news and allocate specific funds for that purpose.

- (iii) The timing of news should not be changed for telecasting of live matches/advertisements.
- (iv) Follow a proportionate relationship between programmes and advertisements.
- (v) Review and upgrade programmes periodically.
- (vi) Give chance to regular staff in managing and operating FM channel.
- (vii) Identify and check wasteful expenditure.
- (viii) Allocate specific funds for execution of tribal area schemes.

Action Taken by the Ministry

- (i) Efforts will be made for introduction of more news bulletins in regional language for border, hilly and remote areas. However, mounting of such bulletins has not been found possible because of shortage of resources, manpower and other infrastructural facilities. Once these things are 'inplace', it will be possible to mount more bulletins.
- (ii) Doordarshan has already been telecasting international news bulletins on the International Channel of Doordarshan. There are two bulletins one in Hindi and one in English, both are of 15 minutes duration. Efforts will be made for allocation of specific funds for further strengthening of resources for telecasting more international news.
- (iii) It is noted that timing of news should not be changed for telecasting of live matches/advertisement.
- (iv) The average commercial time spent per hour of telecast on Doordarshan are as under:

Channel	Commercial per hour of telecast (average)
National network (DD-I)	2.5 minutes
Metro Channel DD-II	2.6 minutes
Regional Channel	2.4 minutes

CHAPTER III

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

Recommendation (Para No. 30)

The Committee observes that the proposal for construction of library building for Films Division to store the materials was not approved for inclusion in the Annual Plan 1997-98 i.e. first year of the Ninth Plan. The Committee further notes that keeping in view the importance of the scheme, the matter is again being taken up with the Planning Commission. The Committee is of the view that Ministry should take up this matter with Planning Commission at the highest level. It is hoped that this scheme will be approved by the Planning Commission and included in the Ninth Plan proposal.

Action Taken by the Ministry

The observations of the Committee are noted. The Civil Construction Wing of the All India Radio has been asked to submit revised Plans and estimates for the proposed building. As soon as these are received, the matter will be taken up with Planning Commission.

Recommendation (Para No. 35)

The Committee finds that DAVP has incurred Plan outlay of Rs. 148 lakh even though it was asked to stop publicity activities due to general elections in 1997-98 though the allocations were Rs. 152 lakh. The reduced allocation of Rs. 144 lakh for 1998-99 appears to be inadequate and should suitably stepped up keeping in view the need for effective publicity.

The Committee notes that small newspapers are getting about three advertisements every year. The Committee would like DAVP to step up the same and also frame guidelines about the release of newsprint to medium and small newspapers.

Action Taken by the Ministry

1. The Committee has stated that the DAVP has incurred expenditure of Rs. 148 lakhs against the Plan allocation of Rs. 152 lakhs during 1997-98. In fact, DAVP has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 152.15 lakhs against the original outlay of Rs. 160.00 lakhs which was after exercising a cut of 5% as per orders of the Ministry of Finance No. F-4 (72)-B (SD)/97 dated 14.10.97.

2. The approved outlay of Ninth Plan pertaining to DAVP is Rs. 700 lakhs. The variations in the financial outlays for each year are as per the requirement of DAVP vis-a-vis total allocation of Rs. 700 lakhs for the entire plan period.

3. As far as the Committee's observation regarding advertisements to small newspapers, it is stated that three advertisements in a year are minimum that is released to them. Generally the efforts are to give 5 to 6 advertisements to the small newspapers.

4. As for the guidelines on release of advertisements to small newspapers, it is stated that most of them are periodicals (weeklies, monthlies, fortnightlies etc.) and as such their use becomes restrictive to motivational/publicity advertisements. Time bound and dated advertisements have to be released to dailies. It is within this broad frame work of policy guidelines that DAVP releases advertisements to various categories of newspapers.

Recommendation (Para No. 37)

The Committee notes that construction work of Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute, Calcutta ran into difficulties due to some litigation by the Contractor and the Ministry is contesting the stay order by the court which was made in October, 1997. The Committee trusts that the Ministry will make utmost efforts to get the stay vacated with a view to accelerating the pace of construction and its early completion.

Action Taken by the Ministry

The stay order by the Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta has been vacated on 30.07.1998 and the works are progressing satisfactorily since then.

Recommendation (Para No. 41)

The Committee notes that through film festivals, the film media can enter the export market. The Committee is unhappy with the fact that Budget allocation for Directorate of Film Festivals has been reduced. A provision of Rs. 326 lakh has been made for 1998-99 against Rs. 356 lakh (BE 1997-98).

The Committee notes that Planning Commission was not willing to increase the allocation for this activity as the Commission is of the view that Directorate should find more and more money from sponsorship. The Committee is of the opinion that no doubt Directorate is in a position to raise resources from sponsorship yet it should not be starved of funds in its endeavour to enter the export market.

Action Taken by the Ministry

The observations of the Committee are noted. Efforts will be made by this Ministry in this direction, in consultation with the concerned Ministries/Planning Commission, so that the budget allocation for the Directorate of Film Festivals is commensurate with the scope of its activities, particularly in the area of export of films.

Recommendation (Para No. 59)

The Committee is unhappy to note that Press Information Bureau could utilise only Rs. 194 lakh out of the approved outlay of Rs. 460 lakh during 1997-98. The reasons for under-utilisation are stated to be inter-alia late issue of sanctions, non-sanction of staff and other problems related to FAR which could not be settled even though matter was taken up at the highest level. This is a poor commentary on implementation of plan projects which are considered vital for efficient and effective functioning of Press Information Bureau.

Action Taken by the Ministry

During 1997-98, out of the unutilised Rs. 266.00 lakhs, the major portion viz., Rs. 220.00 lakhs pertains to the Plan Scheme 'Setting up the National Press Centre at New Delhi'. The problems relating to FAR, road alignment and developmental plan for the entire area involved decisions by the DDA, CPWD & Ministry of Urban Development. Hence, the final decision in this regard was outside the purview of PIB. AS such, the matter is being constantly pursued at

the highest level. Two other schemes viz. "Greater Mobility" and 'Setting up of Branch Offices' could not take off as the creation of required number of posts was not approved by the Ministry of Finance. However, the observation of the Committee will be kept in mind.

Recommendation (Para No. 60)

The Committee finds that there is utter lack of Co-ordination and also correct information in the matter of preparation of Budget Estimates and ground realities are altogether ignored. Outlay of Rs. 20 lakhs has been provided for purchase of six vehicles in 1996-97 and again in 1997-98 in spite of the fact that there was a ban on creation of new posts. The staff could not be sanctioned and therefore the funds lapsed. The Committee trusts that Ministry will take ground realities into consideration while preparing Budget Estimates.

Action Taken by the Ministry

With reference to the Scheme regarding Greater Mobility, it is stated that provision of vehicles for PIB offices is an absolute necessity for their effective functioning. The Ministry felt that necessary posts of Staff Car Drivers could be sanctioned by Ministry of Finance considering the special need of the PIB. Ministry of Finance, has agreed for the purchase of one car during 1997-98. With regard to creation of posts, Ministry of Finance have suggested to utilise the services of the Group 'D' employees as Staff Car Drivers by giving them honorarium. There is no total ban on creation of posts and purchase of new vehicles. The Finance Ministry's circulars provide for creation of posts and purchase of new vehicles with the approval of Ministry of Finance.

Recommendation (Para No. 61)

The Committee notes that computerisation scheme was a non-starter during the early years of the 8th Plan because the buildings where computer were to be installed were on rent. These had to be modernised first with substantial outlay. Scheme of Photo transmission has been dropped as it was no longer necessary. So far as setting up of the mini media centres is concerned the Government did not approve it. Greater mobility also could not be achieved as the staff was not sanctioned. National Council for Journalism Education scheme has not been approved. Similarly, the Press Clipping Division has not been approved. The Committee is, therefore, inclined to believe that many

of the schemes were included and provisions made without giving any serious thought to their implementation.

The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that Government should seriously look into the above problems with a view to removing the bottlenecks.

Action Taken by the Ministry

With regard to the Plan Scheme under the VIIIth Plan (1992-1997) it is stated as follows:

As far as the Scheme 'Computerisation of the Activities of PIB' is concerned, out of 40 offices of PIB, the Scheme could not be implemented only in 5 offices in North Eastern region due to reasons that these offices, being in hired buildings, were in the process of shifting/due to shift shortly.

Due to new developments in computer technology which enable transmission of photos in a much faster and economical manner than via Telephone Services, it was decided to drop the scheme of Telephoto Services. The same service is now provided through the computer network.

Even though in the initial years of VIIIth Five Year Plan, Government did not approve the setting up of MMCs, in the later years four MMCs were set up (Mumbai, Guwahati, Hyderabad and Patna) within the Plan period.

The scheme on Greater Mobility could not be implemented due to ban on creation of posts and purchase of vehicles. The Scheme has since been modified and is likely to be implemented. Ministry of Finance have already approved purchase of one vehicle during 1997-98. During 1998-99, it is proposed to purchase three more vehicles.

As regards the Scheme "Setting up of National Council for Journalism Education", the Government on reconsideration did not deem it necessary to set up the Council under Plan scheme. It was felt that Micro-filming of records of the PCU could be done more efficiently and economically on computer due to advancement of technology which was not anticipated while VIIIth Plan proposals were framed.

However, the recommendations of Committee have been noted for compliance in future.

Recommendation (Para No. 63)

The Committee notes that there is a inter-action between Ministry of External Affairs and Press Information Bureau in the matter of publicity in foreign countries. In the present context, publicity in foreign countries has assumed added importance to project the nation's view point correctly and effectively in our national interest. The Committee therefore, strongly recommends that Press Information Bureau should interact with M.E.A. for effective external publicity expeditiously.

Action Taken by the Ministry

The responsibility of publicity for the activities of Ministry of External Affairs and foreign publicity lies with External Publicity(XP) Division of Ministry of External Affairs. PIB looks after accreditation of correspondents of foreign newspapers and extension of Press facilities to them. There is already a close liaison with XP division & PIB.

Recommendation (Para No. 65)

The Committee is concerned to note that PIB has not taken matters with the Press Council of India even if its image is tarnished by some one. The Committee desires the PIB to valiantly protect its image and not to shy away from approaching Press Council if such a contingency arises. It is reported that sometimes media publishes comments in the form of so called news-items wrongly describing the source to be PIB. In such cases, it is the bounden duty of PIB to take effective and strict action to deny its connection, so that public are not at all misled.

Action Taken by the Ministry

Since PIB encourages the representatives of Press to interact freely with the Departmental Publicity officers to project the Government's views, it has been the practice to take steps informally to correct violation of such mutual trust.

PIB also issues formal denials of news items wherever necessary. These denials are invariably published.

Taking up the matter with Press Council formally perhaps may not be in accordance with the objectives of PIB, *i.e.* maintaining good public relations with Press.

Recommendation (Para No. 69)

The Committee takes a serious note of the fact that Directorate of Field Publicity could not achieve the targets during the year 1997-98. Against Plan outlay of Rs. 305.00 lakhs the Directorate could spend only Rs. 250.36 lakhs. The Committee also notes that out of the provision of Rs. 70 lakhs made for the scheme "Opening of New Field Units", the Directorate could spend only Rs. 22.89 lakhs. Provision of Rs. 43.00 lakhs made for the 1998-99 is substantially less than BE 1997-98. The Committee would like to be apprised of the reasons for under-utilisation of the financial outlay set for 1997-98 and low budgetary provisions made for 1998-99. The Committee hopes that Directorate will be able to utilise the funds allocated for the year 1998-99. In view of the spread of Doordarshan Kendras all over the country, the Committee also recommends that Directorate of Field Publicity should have better interaction with Doordarshan Kendras for effective publicity.

Action Taken by the Ministry

The Plan outlay of the DFP during the year 1997-98 was Rs. 300 lakhs. Actual expenditure during 1997-98 was Rs. 251.63 lakhs. The short-fall in expenditure was mainly due to the fact that out of the provision of Rs. 70 lakhs made for the scheme "Opening of New Field Units", the Directorate could spend only Rs. 22.89 lakhs. The under-utilisation of the outlay has taken place for the reason that the funds earmarked for meeting the cost of establishment of the new units and procurement of vehicles for these units could not be spent. Sanction for creation of 48 posts (comprising one FPO, one FPA, one driver, one LDC, one peon and one chowkidar of each of 8 units) and procurement of 8 vehicles for the new units, requiring the approval of the Ministry of Finance, could not be obtained during 1997-98 and hence the unutilised funds had to be surrendered.

During 1998-99, provision of Rs. 43 lakhs only has been made for the above Plan scheme as no new unit is to be opened during this year and only an expenditure on the maintenance of new units set up during the previous year has to be incurred. This is the main reason

for making low budgetary provision. Secondly, the scheme is to be implemented within the outlay earmarked for it in the 9th Five Year Plan. The total outlay earmarked for this scheme in the Ninth Plan is Rs. 340 lakhs and the funds are to be utilised in a phased manner spreading the expenditure over the five years of the Plan in such a way so that the maximum number of field units are set up, as well as, maintained within the outlay of the scheme during the Plan period before the expenditure on these units is transferred to the Non-Plan side on the expiry of the Plan period. Accordingly, in the next year of 9th Plan, the proposed outlay of the Annual Plan will be more in comparison to the actual expenditure during each of the first two years of the Plan. The outlay of Rs. 43 lakhs provided during 1998-99 for this scheme will be fully utilised provided sanction for purchase of eight vehicles for the new units is accorded by the Ministry of Finance.

The recommendations of the Committee to have better interaction with Doordarshan Kendras for effective publicity have been noted for compliance.

Recommendation (Para No. 122)

The Committee is further constrained to note that during 1997-98 the achievement in the sector of renewal and replacement was much less than the target. Renewal of transmitter equipments, replacement of window AC plant for HPTs & LPTs, replacement of diesel generators at HPTs etc. could not be taken up at the required pace. The Committee is at a loss to understand how such simple works as replacement of window AC plant, replacement of diesel generators etc. could not be carried out inspite of availability of funds and had to be carried over to the current year.

Action Taken by the Ministry

SBG of 1997-98, *inter-alia*, included an amount of Rs. 30.84 crores under Renewal, Replacement of Equipment (studios & transmitters). Priority had been assigned to renewal and replacement schemes during 1997-98 and a large number of schemes for renewal and replacement of equipment were taken up. An expenditure of Rs. 56.80 crores was incurred under Renewal, Replacement of Equipment during 1997-98.

Replacement schemes of window AC units have generally been implemented. Orders for new transmitter equipment for the purpose of replacing old transmitters at 13 HPT stations were placed during 1997-98. Supply and installation of transmitters is expected to be completed in about 2 years time. As part of replacement of HPT schemes, diesel generators are also envisaged to be replaced.

SBG of 1998-99, *inter-alia*, includes an amount of Rs. 56.20 crores under Renewal, Replacement of Equipment sub head.

Recommendation (Para No. 127)

The Committee takes note on the fact that considerable propaganda is made against the country by media and sources abroad as a result, the peace in our border areas is being affected. The Government media must be able to meet such propaganda effectively. Apart from the better quality of programmes, more resources should be made available. The Ministry should realistically plan for better transmitters, wider coverage, more advanced equipments and incorporation of latest technology. The Committee is distressed to note that even after 50 years of independence, certain parts of the country are not being properly and equally served by the Broadcasting Media. While metro cities are better served, other areas particularly the rural and remote areas are not adequately covered. The people of North-East and other border areas for example, feel that they are being neglected and the Government is not serious enough to bring them on par with other regions. Such a feeling should no longer be allowed to prevail. The Transmission power in border, hilly and remote areas should be enhanced considerably.

Action Taken by the Ministry

While formulating plans for expansion of Doordarshan coverage, priority is assigned to coverage of border, remote and hilly areas. Special plans have been formulated and implemented in the past for expansion of TV coverage in border, hilly, remote and sensitive areas.

At present, Doordarshan coverage is estimated to be available to about 87.6% population of the country. Rural population is covered to the extent of 85.2%. In NE region, TV coverage is available to about 81.5% population.

175 transmitters of varying power (including 19 HPTs) are presently functioning in border districts of the country. 52 transmitter projects are presently under implementation in border districts for further expansion of coverage.

While deciding about procurement of equipment, latest technological trends are kept in view.

CHAPTER IV

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

Recommendation (Para No. 62)

The Committee notes that PIB has 34 offices. There is no proposal for opening up of new offices this year. However, the Committee feels that in the present context, there is an urgent need to open more PIB offices particularly in remote and border areas, specially to counter propaganda by neighbouring countries effectively. There was a proposal to open an office at Raipur but this could not be implemented because Ministry of Finance did not sanction the staff. The Committee takes a serious view that proposal for opening up of PIB office at Raipur had to be abandoned due to non-sanction of staff. The Committee therefore strongly recommends that matter may be taken up with Ministry of Finance at the highest level.

Action Taken by the Ministry

The Ministry also recognises the need of opening PIB offices in remote and border areas to counter propaganda by neighbouring countries. Even though the Bureau wanted to propose opening of some more offices of PIB in the IX Five Year Plan, due to the resource crunch, it could pursue opening up of only one branch office at Itanagar which is a remote tribal area. Itanagar office can be opened as soon as the posts are sanctioned by the Ministry of Finance.

As regards opening of PIB office at Raipur, the matter was taken up with the Ministry of Finance who have entrusted the work of fixing the staff strength in a rational way for various offices of PIB to SIU, considering the development in Information and Communication Technology. On receipt of the SIU, report Finance Ministry has agreed to consider the proposal of this Ministry for creation of additional posts in PIB.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 11 of Chapter I.)

Recommendation (Para No. 86)

The Committee is also distressed to note of the non-performance in the sector of Studio and Transmitter Projects. The SBG for Studio Projects during 1997-98 was Rs. 3422.80 lakhs which was revised to Rs. 2387.00 lakhs. As regards performance, nearly 8 important Studio Projects which were targeted to be completed during 1997-98 could not be fully completed and have been carried over to 1998-99. Similarly, nearly 6 Studio Projects which are technically ready we still awaiting commissioning as there is shortage of staff.

Action Taken by the Ministry

The latest position regarding studio projects targeted during 1997-98 is as below:

(A) Civil Works

S.No.	Place	Remarks
1	2	3
1.	Shantiniketan	The Civil works in the technical area were delayed due to poor response to tenders. The building works in the technical area are now complete.
2.	Mandla	Progress of work was slowed due to contractual problems. The work had to be rescinded and re-awarded. The buildings work in the technical area is expected to be completed soon.
3.	Rajgarh	There was slight delay due to heavy rains. Buildings in the technical area have already been completed.

(B) Projects which were to be made technically ready during 1997-98

S.No.	Place	Remarks
1.	Delhi (Refb-phase II)	The work has to be carried out in parts in co-ordination with the working station. Now most of the refurbishing is over.
2.	Bhadarwah	Progress of work hampered due to law and order problem.
3.	Churachandpur	Progress of work hampered due to law and order problem.
4.	Siliguri	The tower work was delayed due to floods in the area. Tower work is now complete. Equipment installed. Measurements in progress.
5.	Mumbai	As it is a working station, the refurbishing is to be carried out in a phased manner in co-ordination with the station. Refurbishing is now completed.

As indicated, the technically ready studio projects could not be commissioned as the staff sanction is still awaited. The proposals for sanction of staff to get the projects operational are consistently being pursued with Ministry of Finance.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 14 of Chapter I.)

Recommendation (Para No. 87)

In case of Transmitter Projects also the anticipated expenditure is Rs. 2708.60 lakhs only against the SBG of Rs. 4676.00 lakhs. Nearly 13

Transmitter Projects could not be completed and have been carried over to 1998-99. Similarly 9 Transmitter Projects which are technically ready could not be commissioned during 1997-98. The Committee takes serious note of it. The Committee apprehends cost over-run in these cases of delayed execution of projects. The Ministry should streamline its executive and monitoring machinery and take other necessary measures to expedite the completion of these projects.

Action Taken by the Ministry

The latest position regarding transmitter projects targeted during 1997-98 is as below:-

(A) Civil Works

S.No.	Place	Remarks
1.	Jaipur FM	Civil Works delayed for want of local body clearance. Building works are now complete.
2.	Shantiniketan	The civil works in the technical area were delayed due to poor response to tenders. The building works in the technical area are now complete.
3.	Mandla	Progress of work was slow due to contractual problems. The work had to be rescinded and re-awarded. The buildings work in the technical area is expected to be completed soon.
4.	Rajgarh	There was slight delay due to heavy rains. Buildings in the technical area have already been completed.

(B) Projects which were to be made technically ready:—

S.No.	Place	Remarks
1.	Jodhpur (FM)	Delay in erection of TV tower shared by AIR with Doordarshan. Installation of equipment is complete. Arrangement for studio-transmitter programme link is being made.
2.	Lucknow (FM)	Building works delayed due to contractual problems. The installation work is now in progress and is likely to be completed by March, 1999.
3.	Jaipur (FM)	Building works delayed due to contractual problems. The installation work is now in progress and is likely to be completed by March, 1999.
4.	Bhadarwah (FM)	Progress hampered due to law and order problem.
5.	Churachandpur	Progress hampered due to law and order problem.
6.	Dhubri (FM)	Delay in civil works and erection of FM tower due to floods and law & order problem. Project is now nearing completion. Staff sanction is awaited.
7.	Siliguri (CBS)	Tower erection delayed by M/s. Richardson & Crudass due to hilly terrain and flooding of the area. Transmitter equipment has been installed. Testing and measurements are in progress. The project will be ready by March, 1999.

1	2	3
8.	Coimbatore CBS	Tower erection delayed by M/s. TSL which is a public sector undertaking. The tower work is nearing completion. Matter is being pursued with the Firm to get it expedited.
9.	Pondicherry (MW)	Land dispute and court case contributed to the delay in completion of civil works. The transmitter has since been installed.

As indicated, the technically ready transmitter projects could not be commissioned as the staff sanction is still awaited which is being pursued with Ministry of Finance.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 17 of Chapter I.)

Recommendation (Para No. 88)

The Committee is constrained to note that for Staff Quarters the SBG was Rs. 548.95 lakhs in 1997-98 which was enhanced to Rs. 598.30 lakhs (RE) but only 128 staff quarters were constructed against a target of 189. Training Institutes at Chennai and Mumbai which were planned to be commissioned during 8th Plan have been abandoned. The committee also notes with serious concern that the Ministry has relegated these schemes to lowest priority during 9th Plan and no provision has been made for training institutes during 1998-99. The committee considers that provisions for amenities like advanced training institutes are basic ingredients for development of human resources and the same are vital to improve the performance of staff. As such the committee strongly recommends that these facilities should be accorded high priority and adequate Budget provisions be made for

the same. Committee is of the view that staff should be kept abreast with the latest developments in the field of technology and requisite training imparted to them at frequent intervals. Their knowledge and technological efficiency should be kept updated.

Action Taken by the Ministry

The construction of staff quarters has been given due priority. Enhanced provision of Rs. 967.80 lakhs has been provided in the SBG 1998-99.

At present, the Staff Training Institute (Technical), Delhi is catering to the raining needs of the technical personnel in All India Radio and Doordarshan. Another Staff Training Institute (Technical) has been set up at Bhubaneswar. This could not be made functional as the staff sanction for the Institute is awaited.

Due to inadequate 9th Plan allocation, the scheme to set up Training Institutes at Chennai and Mumbai could not be accommodated.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 20 and 21 of Chapter I.)

Recommendation (Para No. 89)

The Committee is also seriously concerned that though 18 projects (11 FM projects and 7 transmitter and other projects) are technically ready, they could not be commissioned for want of staff. Besides, 10 operational projects are also facing shortage of staff, 123 posts are short at STI(T) Bhubaneshwar. Commissioning of projects in North East Zone is held up for want of sanction of 58 posts and 5 Community Radio stations are pending commissioning for shortage of 11 posts. it is a matter of grave concern that costly assets are allowed to rust for want of requisite staff. The assets created at huge cost have not at all benefited the society. Therefore, the Committee strongly recommends that the Ministry of I&B should give serious consideration to it and take up the matter with the Ministry of Finance at the highest level to get additional staff sanctioned.

Action Taken by the Ministry

The staff sanctions for the completed projects are still awaited. Sanction of staff proposals are being pursued consistently with the Ministry of Finance.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 24 of Chapter I.)

The Committee is seriously worried to note that there is shortage of 5892 posts of staff in various categories in Doordarshan resulting in non-commissioning of various projects which have already been completed and retarding performance of various operational projects. The Committee strongly desires that the matter may be taken up with the Ministry of Finance at the highest level to sort out the problems in this regard.

Action Taken by the Ministry

Action Taken by the Ministry

The staff sanctions for the completed projects are still awaited.
Sanction of staff proposals used consistently with the
Ministry of Finance

CHAPTER V

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

Recommendation (Para No. 123)

The Committee is seriously worried to note that there is shortage of 5892 posts of staff in various categories in Doordarshan resulting in non-commissioning of various projects which have already been completed and retarding performance of various operational projects. The Committee strongly desires that the matter may be taken up with the Ministry of Finance at the highest level to sort out the problems in this regard.

Action Taken by the Ministry

The staffing norms for various Doordarshan installations which were recommended in 1993 required a fresh look in view of technological advancement and other changes that have taken place during the past 6 years. The Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) of the Ministry of Finance has been requested to undertake a quick study of the staffing norms for various HPTs/LPTs/VLPTs/Studios etc. and intimate the recommendation to the Ministry. On receipt of the recommendations further necessary action will be taken to ensure that all installations are suitably staffed and operationalised.

Recommendation (Para No. 126)

The Committee observes that there are conflicting view points held by the staff and the Government. While the Government considers that because of technological upgradation staff requirement should be reassessed and reduced, the staff side insist on old norms for manning transmitters and studios. While not going into the merits of old and new norms which has to be decided by experts, the Committee emphatically points out that in this tug of war costly machinery and equipments have been allowed to be damaged and the country has not at all gained by the costly investments made in transmitters, studios & cameras. This is a sad commentary on the functioning of important services like studios and transmitters of Doordarshan Kendras.

Action Taken by the Ministry

The staffing norms for various Doordarshan installations which were recommended in 1993 required a fresh look in view of technological advancement and other changes that have taken place during the past 6 years. The Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) of the Ministry of Finance has been requested to undertake a quick study of the staffing norms for various HPTs/LPTs/VLPTs/Studios etc. and intimate the recommendation to the Ministry. On receipt of the recommendations further necessary action will be taken to ensure that all installations are suitably staffed and operationalised.

NEW DELHI;
11 February, 2000
 22 Magha, 1921 (Saka)

SOMNATH CHATTERJEE,
 Chairman,
 Standing Committee on Communications.

Lok Sabha

1. Shri Ambawade
2. Shri Mahendra Baidya
3. Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal
4. Shri Nikhil Kumar Chaudhary

APPENDIX I

MINUTES OF THE SECOND SITTING OF THE STANDING
COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS (1999-2000)

The Committee sat on Thursday, the 27th January, 2000 from 15000 hours to 1700 hours in Committee Room No. 53, Parliament House, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri R.N. Arya — *In the Chair*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Ambareesha
3. Shri Mahendra Baitha
4. Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal
5. Shri Nikhil Kumar Chaudhary
6. Shri T. Govindan
7. Shri Jawahar Lal Jaiswal
8. Shri K.K. Kaliappan
9. Dr. C. Krishnan
10. Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab
11. Shri Simranjit Singh Mann
12. Shri G. Ram Mohan
13. Shri A.K. Moorthy
14. Shri K. Balrama Krishna Murthy
15. Shri K.A. Sangtam
16. Shri Saroj Tufani
17. Shri Chandra Vijay Singh
18. Rajkumari Ratna Singh
19. Shri Vinay Kumar Sorake
20. Shrimati D.M. Vijaya Kumari

Rajya Sabha

21. Shrimati Veena Verma
22. Shri Balkavi Bairagi
23. Shri Shatrughan Sinha
24. Shri Narendra Mohan
25. Dr. Mahesh Chandra Sharma
26. Dr. Y. Radhakrishna Murthy
27. Shri S. Agniraj
28. Shri Kartar Singh Duggal

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri P.D.T. Achary — *Joint Secretary*
2. Shri S.K. Sharma — *Deputy Secretary*
3. Shri A.S. Chera — *Under Secretary*
4. Shri Bhupesh Kumar — *Assistant Director*

2. As the Chairman was not present, the Committee authorised Shri R.N. Arya, to preside over the sitting of the Committee under Rule 258 (3). The Chairperson then, on behalf of the Chairman, welcomed the Members who could not attend the First Sitting of the Committee which was held on 12 January, 2000.

3. The Committee then took up for consideration the following Draft Reports and adopted the same with some amendments/modifications as shown below:—

- (i) Draft First Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations of the Committee contained in its Third Report on Demands for Grants (1998-99) relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, (Annexure 'A')

- | | | | | | |
|-------|---|---|---|---|---|
| (ii) | * | * | * | * | * |
| (iii) | * | * | * | * | * |
| (iv) | * | * | * | * | * |
| 4. | * | * | * | * | * |

5. The Committee then authorised the Chairman to finalise and present the above mentioned Reports to the House.

6. Some of the Members of the Committee suggested that a Sub-Committee may be constituted to consider action taken by Government on those recommendations of the Committee made in its earlier Reports which have been accepted by the Government.

The Committee then adjourned.

SECRETARIAT

I. Shri P.D.T. Achary — Joint Secretary

ANNEXURE 'A'

AMENDMENTS/MODIFICATIONS MADE BY THE
COMMITTEE IN THE DRAFT FIRST REPORT

Page No.	Para. No.	Line No.	For	Read
3	11	2	"main-stream of"	"developments taking place in various fields in"
4	11	3	"of the hostile neighbours"	"from across the border"
4	11		After last line add:— "The Committee expresses serious concern at the undue delay in opening of PIB office at Raipur and recommends that the issue should be given utmost priority and pursued vigorously. The Committee also desires to be apprised of the latest progress made in this regard."	
5	20	2	Delete "slow progress in"	
6	24	1 to 4	"The Committee in this regard	"The Committee is not satisfied with the response of the Ministry. This is a matter of serious concern that a large number of important infrastructural projects have been held up due to shortage of staff. The Committee strongly recommends the Ministry to take up the matter with the Ministry of Finance at the highest level to get the requisite staff sanctioned expeditiously to commission the projects urgently. The Committee may be apprised of the progress made in this regard."

ANNEXURE A

APPENDIX II

[Vide Para 5 of Introduction of Report]

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON
THE THIRD REPORT ON STANDING COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS (TWELFTH LOK SABHA)

(i) Recommendations/observations which have accepted by the Government:

Para Nos. 11, 12, 17, 21, 23, 31, 44, 64, 72, 83, 84, 85, 90, 118, 119, 120, 121, 124, 125, 128 and 129

Total 21

Percentage 52.5%

(ii) Recommendations/observations which the Committee does not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government:

Para Nos. 30, 35, 37, 41, 59, 60, 61, 63, 65, 69, 122 and 127

Total 12

Percentage 30%

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

Para Nos. 62, 86, 87, 88, and 89

Total 05

Percentage 12.5%

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

Para Nos. 123 & 126

Total 02

Percentage 5%