

**18**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(2015-16)**

**SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA**

**MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY)**

**[Action Taken by the Government on the Observations /Recommendations of  
the Committee contained in their Second Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on  
'Demands for Grants (2014-15)']**

**EIGHTEENTH REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

***December, 2015/Agrahayana, 1937 (Saka)***

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the Committee contained in their Second Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on  
'Demands for Grants (2014-15)']**

**Presented to Lok Sabha on 21.12.2015  
Laid in Rajya Sabha on 21.12.2015**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

***December, 2015/Agrahayana, 1937 (Saka)***

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**  
**(2015-16)**

**Shri Anurag Singh Thakur - Chairperson**

**Lok Sabha**

2. Shri L. K. Advani
3. Shri Prasun Banerjee
4. Dr. Sunil Baliram Gaikwad
5. Shri Hemant Tukaram Godse
6. Dr. Anupam Hazra
7. Dr. Jayakumar Jayavardhan
8. Shri P. Karunakaran
9. Shri Virendra Kashyap
10. Shri Harinder Singh Khalsa
11. Shrimati Hema Malini
12. Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya
13. Ms. Mehbooba Mufti
14. Dr. K.C. Patel
15. Shri Raosaheb Danve Patil
16. Shri Paresh Rawal
17. Dr. (Smt.) Bharatiben Dhirubhai Shiyal
18. Shri Abhishek Singh
19. Shri D.K. Suresh
20. Shri Ramdas C. Tadas
21. Shrimati R. Vanaroja

**Rajya Sabha**

22. Shri Javed Akhtar
23. Shri Salim Ansari
24. Shrimati Jaya Bachchan
25. Shri Vijay Jawaharlal Darda
26. Shri Meghraj Jain
27. Shri Santiuse Kujur
28. Shri Derek O'Brien
29. Dr. K.V.P. Ramachandra Rao
30. Shri Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar
31. Mahant Shambhuprasadji Tundiya

**Secretariat**

- |    |                        |   |                      |
|----|------------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. | Shri K. Vijayakrishnan | - | Additional Secretary |
| 2. | Shri J.M. Baisakh      | - | Director             |
| 3. | Dr. Sagarika Dash      | - | Deputy Secretary     |

## **INTRODUCTION**

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Information Technology (2015-2016), having been authorised by the Committee, do present the Eighteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Second Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2014-15)' of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Electronics and Information Technology).

2. The Second Report was presented to Lok Sabha/laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2014. The Department of Electronics and Information Technology furnished their Action Taken Notes on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Second Report on 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2015.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2015.

4. For facility of reference and convenience, Observations/Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold in Chapter-I of the Report.

5. An analysis of Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Second Report of the Committee is given at Appendix-II.

**New Delhi;  
18 December, 2015  
27 Agrahayana, 1937 (Saka)**

**ANURAG SINGH THAKUR,  
Chairperson,  
Standing Committee on  
Information Technology.**

## CHAPTER I

### REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on Information Technology deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Second Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2014-15)' relating to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Electronics and Information Technology).

2. The Second Report was presented to Lok Sabha/laid in Rajya Sabha on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2014. It contained 20 Observations/ Recommendations.

3. Action Taken Notes in respect of all the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Report have been received from the Department of Electronics and Information Technology and are categorized as under:-

- (i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government  
Rec. Sl. Nos.:- 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,13,15,16,17,18 and 19
- (ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government  
Rec. Sl. No.: NIL
- (iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration  
Rec. Sl. No.: 12 and 20
- (iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which the reply of the Government are of interim in nature  
Rec. Sl. No.: 14

4. **The Committee, in their Second Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha), had undertaken a comprehensive examination of the Demands for Grants (2014-15) of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Electronics and Information Technology). While reviewing the budget of the Department, the Committee had recommended that sustained and consolidated steps be taken to ensure that performance indicators set for the current fiscal are achieved. Having examined the implementation of the schemes of DeitY in the North Eastern Region, the Committee had also**

recommended inclusive growth of NER for holistic e-development. The Committee had further commented upon the Digital India Programme and various components of e-Governance such as State Wide Area Network (SWAN), State Data Centres (SDCs), Common Service Centres (CSCs) and desired the Ministry to implement these schemes in specific timeframe so as to achieve the targets. Besides, the Committee reviewed the status of fund utilization, manpower and infrastructure requirements in National Informatics Centre (NIC), financial and physical achievements under the National Knowledge Network (NKN), Cyber Security, schemes relating to Promotion of Electronic IT Hardware Manufacturing, C-DAC, super computing and indigenous tablets/PCs.

5. The Action Taken Notes furnished by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Electronics and Information Technology) on each of the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Second Report have been reproduced in the relevant chapters of this Report. The Committee trust that utmost importance will be given on implementing the Observations/Recommendations accepted by the Government. In cases where it is not possible for the Department to implement the Recommendations in letter and spirit for any reason, the matter should be reported to the Committee with reasons for non-implementation. The Committee further desire that Action Taken Notes on the Observations/Recommendations contained in Chapter-I and Final Action Taken Replies to the Observations/Recommendations contained in Chapter-V of this Report should be furnished to them at an early date.

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

**A. E-Governance**

**Recommendation (Sl. No. 5)**

7. The Committee had recommended as under:-

“The National e-Governance plan was conceived in May, 2006 with a vision to make all Government Services accessible to the common citizen

in his/her locality, through an efficient, transparent and reliable mechanism. Under the programme, a robust e-infrastructure is being created to facilitate deployment of ICT solutions by various Departments and State Governments. The Committee note that for e-Governance, the Plan allocation is Rs. 1230 crore for the year 2014-15 which include Rs. 475 crore for Electronic Governance and Rs. 755 crore for National e-Governance Action Plan (NeGAP). The Committee take note of the fact that the Department have been able to achieve decent utilization of funds under the Electronic Governance Programme during the years 2012-13 and 2013-14. The Department have referred to implementation hazards like lack of interest by domain owners, non-readiness of industry for new standards and resistance by industry. The Department have been continuously organizing workshops, trainings, seminars and meetings with various stakeholders like Ministries/ Departments of Central and State/UT Governments and industry to overcome the difficulties and these measures have been found successful. While appreciating the initiatives taken by the Department to overcome the hindrances, the Committee desire that they should continue this trend of optimal utilization of funds for fruitful implementation of such a significant scheme. The Committee may be apprised of the outcome of the study of the independent third party assessment of projects for the year 2014-15 in terms of their impact, utility, sustainability, scalability and replicability.”

### **State Wide Area Network (SWAN)**

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

“The Committee note that the scheme for establishment of State Wide Area Networks (SWANs) is one of the components under e-Governance which had been approved for implementation across the country in March 2005 with a total outlay of Rs. 3,334 crore. In the year 2014-15, Rs. 196.02 crore has been allocated for this programme. The Committee find that during the first two years of the Plan period, the Department have almost fully utilized the funds and in the current year, there is a steady progress of utilization. As on date, SWAN proposals from 34 States/UTs have been approved and in 33 States/UTs, SWANs have

been made operational and 29 States/UTs have been integrated using the National Knowledge Network (NKN). However, out of the 29 States/UTs only 25 States/UTs are utilizing more than 60 percent of bandwidth of the existing link capacity. The Committee note that the delay in the entire bid process management, delay in engaging consultant, State elections, non-availability of lease line connectivity in remotely located blocks, etc. continue to act as stumbling blocks for implementation of the SWAN scheme in all the States/UTs. Additionally, Third Party Auditors (TPAs) engaged by the Department to review the scheme have identified low bandwidth utilization by the States/UTs, non-adherence to the SLAs by the Network Operators, poor presence of connectivity by Broadband Service Provider, poor quality and low availability of power and improper configuration of some of the monitoring devices etc. to be some of the factors contributing to the delay in the implementation of the scheme. The Committee are constrained to point out that even after more than a decade, issues confronting the establishment of SWANs are yet to be fully resolved. Taking note of shortfall in capacity utilisation of SWANs, the Committee recommend that concerted efforts should be made by the Department to complete the establishment of SWANs as per the new deadline and ensure that the established SWANs function properly, with full broadband utilization.”

8. The Department of Electronics and Information Technology, in their action taken note, have stated as under:-

The DeitY would monitor more vigorously and regularly the performance of each SWAN in the State/UT especially w.r.t. uptime of PoPs during prime business hours and bandwidth utilisation. In some states, there is an acute shortage of power which at times renders SWAN PoPs non functional.

The States are also being impressed upon from time to time for e-enablement of their offices and provide them with horizontal connectivity under SWAN so that digitization efforts of various departments/offices can further push delivery of online services. The department is holding meetings regularly with State Governments through Video Conferencing to address various challenges in the operation and utilisation of SWAN scheme.

It is relevant to mention here that, at present, 30 States/UTs are utilizing more than 60% of bandwidth by connecting horizontal offices under the

SWANs. Network Operators have also been instructed to strictly meet the contractual obligations such as SLA compliance etc.

9. In their original Report, the Committee had observed that in spite of hazards such as lack of interest by domain owner, non-readiness of industry for new standards and resistance by the industry, the Department had been able to achieve decent utilization of funds under the e-Governance Programme during 2012-13 and 2013-14. While appreciating this trend, the Committee had recommended that the Department should continue with the momentum of optimal utilization of funds. The Committee had also desired to be apprised of the steps taken/outcome of the study of third party assessment of projects for the year 2014-15 under the e-Governance Programme in terms of their impact, utility, sustainability, etc. However, the Action Taken Note of the Department is silent on this aspect. The Committee call upon the Department to inform the Committee about the outcome of the Study of the third party assessment of projects undertaken in 2014-15 and corrective action taken thereon which would throw light on their performance parameters. Regarding challenges identified by the third party auditors which blocked successful operation of the SWAN scheme across the country, the Department have not taken any concrete steps to address those issues. The Committee stress that the Department should take long term measures to improve bandwidth utilization, enforce contractual obligation of Network Operators towards SLA compliance, desired connectivity improvement by Broadband Service Providers, etc. Keeping in view the fact that issues confronting the establishment of SWANs continue to hamper the performance of the scheme, the Department need to take urgent necessary steps to address each of the above challenges and complete the establishment of SWANs as per the new deadline. The Committee may be apprised of the progress made in this regard.

**B. E-Security**

**Cyber Security**

**Recommendation (Sl. No. 12)**

10. The Committee had recommended as under:-

“Cyber security programme aims at building a secure and resilient cyberspace for citizens, business and Government. In order to address

the issues of cyber security in a holistic manner, the Government announced 'National Cyber Security Policy' on 2 July, 2013. It is a matter of concern that the programme remain under-funded year after year. In the year 2014-15, as against the proposed GBS of Rs. 510 crore, the Department have received only Rs. 128 crore for Cyber Security. Similarly, in the years 2012-13 and 2013-14, against the proposed allocation of Rs. 206 crore and Rs. 400 crore, allocations at BE stage remained at Rs. 51.20 crore and Rs. 60.37 crore, respectively; besides, there were further cuts at the RE stage. The reduced allocation has obviously caused delay in implementation of the key initiatives. What is further disquieting to note is the fact that the Department have failed to utilize even the fund allocated at RE stage. It is imperative on the part of the Department to improve the utilization of funds with better planning so as to secure enhanced allocation under such an important programme. Though the Committee have been assured that funds are reallocated to ensure that this programme does not suffer, they desire the Department to be focused and see that the two key initiatives taken in 2014-15 for implementation - National Cyber Coordination Centre and Botnet cleaning malware - are implemented, as envisaged."

11. The Department of Electronics and Information Technology, in their action taken note, have stated as under:-

"Establishment of National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC) and Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre are the two key initiatives envisaged by the Department for priority implementation. Efforts have been made for implementation of these initiatives as envisaged.

The National Cyber Coordination Centre project required extensive consultation with all the stake holder entities as well as evaluation of all the technological aspects of the project. This initiative has completed the consultation and evaluation process and the project has been approved for implementation. Action is initiated with regard to preliminary work for implementation of the project.

The Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre also involves close coordination with the stake holders such as ISPs and technology infrastructure. Following the approval of the project, the project implementation has already started. Procurement of equipment and site preparation are in progress."

12. The Committee had expressed their concern over the issue of underfunding of the Cyber Security Programme and significant variations in the proposed allocation and allocations at BE and RE stage. While taking a serious note of the underutilization of the funds allocated even at RE stage, the Committee had recommended the Department to ensure better planning and proper fund utilization so that key initiatives like the National Cyber Coordination Centre and Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis are implemented as envisaged. The Committee take note of the steps taken for implementation of NCCC and Botnet Cleaning Malware initiatives. However, the Department have not mentioned anything to address the concern of the Committee about repeated underutilization of funds allocated for these Programmes. The Committee would like the Department to apprise them how they plan to deal with underfunding and underutilization of funds in future for such an important area as cyber security.

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

13. The Committee had recommended as under:-

“The Committee note with concern that though the number of cyber fraud cases during the last three years has come down, yet financial loss due to e-fraud has increased from Rs. 38 crore in 2011-12 to Rs. 67 crore in 2012-13. In fact, the data maintained by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) also reflects that the number of cyber crime cases registered has increased over the years. Cases registered under the IT Act have increased almost four times from 1791 in 2011 to 4356 in 2013. Despite several initiatives taken by the Department to tackle online financial fraud/loss, the Department have identified deficiencies, viz. mis-configuration of web server, irregular and improper updation of digital certificate leading to poor authentication of online banking website, non-following of secure coding practices while developing the web applications, hosting environment of web applications not hardened properly, web applications not securely connected with databases leading to information disclosure vulnerability, etc. which caused increase in cyber crime/fraud. Herein lies the significance role of cyber security experts. However, against the growing demand for cyber security experts in the country which is estimated to be 5 lakh by 2016, the Committee find that India

has at present only 44,000 information security professionals out of which around 600 are in the Government. Moreover, the cyber security related activities are handled by generalist IT professionals and the country lacks specialists in the field of cyber security. Though the Department have taken key initiatives for capacity building through formal and informal methods and launching of the ISEA project, these measures have not been adequate enough to address the cyber security needs of the country. The Committee while taking cognizance of the Department's initiative with regard to the non-formal sector wherein they are working closely with the Ministry of HRD to increase the number of cyber security professionals through the ISEA programme, emphasize that more efforts need to be made to create a vast pool of resource/ IT/cyber security experts to provide a secure cyber space to its users."

14. The Department of Electronics and Information Technology, in their action taken note, have stated as under:-

"In the direction of creating a vast pool of Cyber Security experts, it is recognized that although various activities and programs initiated by the Government have made positive contribution in creation of work force of cyber security professionals, yet the entire demand of cyber security professionals in the country may not be met by the Government initiatives alone. Keeping this in view, Government has initiated a public-private partnership program with the active involvement of private sector in the form of a Joint Working Group. The Working Group produced its report and recommendations outlining the means of engagement with the private sector. The report of Working Group has laid a road map for capacity building to meet the demands of cyber security professionals in a mission mode through PPP arrangements. With these initiatives, Govt. intends to expand its reach and increase the scale for meeting the demand for cyber security professional work force in the country."

**15. Taking note of the wide gap in demand and supply of Cyber Security experts, more so in the Government sector, the Committee had emphasized the urgent need for creating a vast pool of Cyber Security experts. The Department have submitted that the entire demand of Cyber Security professionals may not be met by Government initiatives alone and hence they have engaged private sector in the form of a Joint Working Group. The Committee are given to understand that the Joint Working Group constituted for this purpose has submitted its Report with recommendations outlining the**

means of engagement of the private sector. The Working Group has also laid out a roadmap for capacity building to meet the demands of cyber security professionals in a mission mode through PPP arrangements. While taking cognizance of the above initiative, the Committee desire that the Department should take steps for early implementation of the PPP Project to achieve the desired objectives.

**C. Indigenous tablets/PCs**

**Recommendation (Sl. No. 20)**

16. The Committee had recommended as under:-

“The Committee note that the indigenous low cost Tablet ‘Aakash’, now named as ‘Aakash-IV’, was sanctioned in January, 2009 and was initially a project of the Ministry of Human Resource Development initiated under the National Mission on Education through ICT (MNEICT) and then transferred to IIT Bombay in April 2012. The Committee also note that C-DAC was involved in testing of ‘Aakash’ Tablet after it was transferred to IIT Bombay. In mid-2013, it was decided that DeitY would take forward the ‘Aakash’ project. The Committee also learnt that the vendor neutral technical specifications for ‘Aakash-IV’ were finalized by a technical Sub-Committee in August 2013, after placing it for public comments. Thereafter, the tender for ‘Aakash-IV’ Tablets was put out by DGS&D on 28.01.2014. However, the DGS&D rate contract process could not be completed because of inability expressed by the vendors to meet certain technical requirements. The Committee have been informed that the technical specifications of Aakash-IV tablet are therefore proposed to be reviewed and after a decision taken in the matter fresh tender process will be taken up with DGS&D. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress made in this regard.”

17. The Department of Electronics and Information Technology, in their action taken note, have stated as under:-

“Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has been developing low cost access device namely “Aakash” under National Mission on Education through ICT (NMEICT) since September 2010 and Aakash was first launched by the then Minister of Human Resource Development in October 2011.

Several issues were raised in media about the quality and performance of Aakash and also regarding the vendor M/s. Datawind who was supposed to supply Aakash. Reportedly, under the initial project assigned by MHRD to IIT Jodhpur, a contract was signed by IIT Jodhpur with M/s. Datawind to supply 2 lakh units of Aakash devices. But this supply could not be completed due to certain issues. An Inter-Ministerial Committee was constituted for continuous R&D and timely delivery of Aakash in December, 2011 under the Chairmanship of Secretary, DeitY.

Meanwhile, MHRD transferred the project to IIT Bombay in April 2012. Reportedly, IIT Bombay worked with the vendor and had an upgraded version of Aakash delivered for the contracted devices. These devices were distributed among faculty and students across approx. 300 colleges and universities across the country. Several applications were developed for extensive testing of the upgraded version of Aakash. Meanwhile a technical sub-committee was setup to recommend functional and technical specifications for the low cost access device. The specifications proposed by this committee have been called "Aakash-IV". These specifications were finalised after extensive consultation with industry, academia and other Stakeholders. These specifications were formally published in August 2013. These specifications have been developed with a view to have a device at a low cost. These broad-based and generalized specifications were made available to DGS&D for competitive bidding from all eligible bidders to bring Aakash tablets on their Rate Contract. Thereafter, DGS&D initiated the rate contract process. C-DAC was assigned the responsibility of testing and certification of the Aakash-IV Tablet. The tender for making available Aakash-IV tablet on DGS&D Rate Contract was issued in January 2014. Despite best efforts, no vendor has been able to meet the technical specifications. The new technical specifications have not yet been finalized."

**18. The Committee had observed that the contract process for which the tender for Aakash IV was put out by DG S&D on 28.01.2014 could not be completed because of the inability expressed by the vendors to meet certain technical requirements. In this background, the technical specifications were proposed to be reviewed. However, the status as entailed in the action taken notes furnished by the Department reveals that there has been no progress in the matter as new technical specifications have still not been finalized. The Committee, while reiterating the importance of low cost devices like Aakash IV which has huge utility and potential for digital inclusion, especially in the context of flagship programmes like Digital India, desire the Department to follow it up proactively and inform the Committee of the progress made in this regard.**

**CHAPTER-II**  
**OBSERVATIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY**  
**THE GOVERNMENT**

**(Recommendation No. 1)**

**Budgetary Analysis**

The Committee note that the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) had proposed an allocation of Rs. 81,378.45 crore in order to achieve the overall targets for the Twelfth Five Year Plan. For the first two years of the Plan period (2012-13 and 2013-14), as against the proposed amount of Rs. 17,418.17 crore, the amount allocated at BE and RE stage were Rs. 6,000 crore and Rs. 4,140 crore, respectively. The Department, however, could utilize only Rs. 3,976.56 crore during these two years, which accounts for only 66% of the Budget Estimates. The shortfall in utilization led to cut in allocation at RE stage against which the Department, of course, have been able to spend 96% of allocation. The matter of concern is that persistent under utilization in the first half of the Plan years had led to further fund crunch at RE stage, affecting implementation of planned schemes. The Committee, therefore, emphasize that the Department should focus on achieving optimal utilization of funds at BE stage, so that no issue of funds arises at the RE stage. The Committee find that due to reduced allocation against the proposal, the Department are forced to rationalize fund release giving priority to major ongoing projects to avoid the adverse effects on scheme implementation. The Committee, however, take note of utilization of allocated funds during the first two years of the Twelfth Plan and stress that efforts should continue in the direction of better utilization of outlay in the year 2014-15. The Committee observe that realistic projections, coupled with apt utilization of funds, would place the Department on a sound platform to claim enhanced allocation to meet the objective of fulfilling the Plan targets through effective implementation of schemes. The Committee desire that the momentum gained in the first two years of the Plan period be sustained and consolidated steps be taken to ensure that performance indicators set for the current fiscal are achieved.

**Reply of the Government**

The observations of the Committee have been noted for compliance. DeitY has been prioritizing release of funds for major ongoing projects to avoid any adverse effect on scheme implementation as well as to sustain the momentum

gained in the first two years of the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan period. It is noteworthy that the expenditure incurred by DeitY during FY 2014-15 is ₹ 3471.71 crore which is 96% of RE allocation (₹ 3600 crore) and 91% of BE allocation (₹ 3815 crore).

**(Recommendation No. 2)**

**Budgetary Provision for the North-East Region (NER) and Sikkim**

The Committee note that Rs. 300 crore allocated at BE stage for the year 2013-14 for the North-East Region has been reduced to Rs. 214 crore at the RE stage. The actual expenditure of the Department in NER and Sikkim has been more than the amount allocated at RE Stage, i.e. Rs. 220.59 crore. Though there has been full utilization of funds during the year 2013-14, yet some of the major impediments being encountered in NER, viz. difficult geographical terrain, issues of connectivity, participation of bidders, irregular availability of network (both internet and telecommunication), etc., continue to hamper the implementation of various schemes/projects of the Department. The Committee take note of the corrective measures taken by DeitY like providing connectivity to remote locations through technologies like VSAT, initiatives to provide solar back-up to address the power shortage problem at CSCs, etc. to facilitate implementation of the schemes. The Department have reportedly established 11 centres of the NIELIT, the body responsible for training, starting from base level to IT for jobs standard. Further, the Department are planning to open a BPO with the objective of providing jobs and address the problem of migration from the region. Based on the success and usability of Mobile Based Agro Advisory System in Meghalaya, Media Lab Asia is also contemplating expansion of the system in other States, viz., Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Tripura. While taking note of the initiatives taken to address the impediments encountered in NER, the Committee stress the need for sustained efforts by the Department for inclusive growth of NER so as to have holistic e-development spread across the country. The Committee would like to be informed about the outcome of the fresh initiatives taken by the Department in NER.

**Reply of the Government**

The initiatives taken by the Department for the benefit of North Eastern Region and Sikkim include the following:

- It was decided in the 7th Empowered Committee Meeting that connectivity through VSATs would be provided for CSCs in North-Eastern states and

difficult areas where connectivity through BSNL is unavailable. The project was approved with a total cost of Rs. 49.88 Crore, to be implemented by National Informatics Centre Service Inc. (NICSI) and CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd. (CSC-SPV). CSC-SPV is providing and managing roll out of VSATs and bandwidth & transponder / hub infrastructure is being provided by NICSI.

**Status of the project as on February 2015:**

<i>State/UT</i>	<i>VSATs Planned</i>	<i>WPC Cleared</i>	<i>Installed VSATs</i>
Arunachal Pradesh	90	90	79
Assam	354	347	272
HP	361	334	235
J&K	37	34	25
Jharkhand	326	325	245
Manipur	355	349	263
Meghalaya	147	147	140
Mizoram	136	135	116
Nagaland	127	96	36
Rajasthan	167	167	146
Tripura	145	144	118
Uttarakhand	207	206	194
<b>Total</b>	<b>2452</b>	<b>2374</b>	<b>1869</b>

- To address the power shortage problem at CSCs, it has been proposed that the State Designated Agencies (SDAs) in the North-East & difficult States may provide solar power backup to CSCs facing acute power problems including non-availability of power for less than 4 hours in a day or bad quality of power. Under the scheme, while Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Gol (MNRE) would provide 90% subsidy on the actual capital expenditure of complete solar power systems required including comprehensive maintenance for a period of 5 years, the remaining 10% of the subsidy would be funded by the State Government. The status of proposals submitted & approved by MNRE is as below:
  1. MNRE has approved Solar Power back-up proposal of Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland till date.
  2. 351 and 217 solar power back-up units have been installed and commissioned at CSCs in Manipur and Mizoram respectively.
  3. Himachal Pradesh, Assam and J&K have submitted their proposals to MNRE for enabling Solar power back-up at CSCs and are under consideration of MNRE.
  4. Arunachal Pradesh has to re-submit the proposal as per the revised benchmark set by MNRE.
  5. Uttarakhand and Tripura are expected to submit their proposals in this financial year 2015-16.

- Due to initiatives taken by the department, now 1869 CSCs have been provided with connectivity through VSATs and are providing services to the citizens. Similarly, 568 CSCs got Solar power backup in the region.
- Under Cyber Security Programme, efforts are being made to promote R&D activities and Cyber Security awareness and training at various North East institutions. The budget allocated during 2013-14 (Rs.1crore) for the Cyber Security activities under North East head has been fully utilized.
- Six new NIELIT Extension Centers have been made operational in the North-Eastern States, viz. Assam: Silchar, Jorhat and Kokrajhar, Manipur: Churachandpur, Senapati, and Mizoram: Lunglei.
- At present 16 NIELIT Centres/Extn Centers are providing training in the IECT domain in all North-Eastern States.

**(Recommendation No. 3)**

**NEW SCHEMES/PROJECTS**

**Digital India Programme**

The Committee note that the 'Digital India Programme' is one of the three new schemes conceived by the Department for implementation during the current Financial Year 2014-15, with an allocation of Rs. 500 crore. This is a flagship programme of the Government of India, with a vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy, the basic idea being to have ICT infrastructure and deliver all Government services electronically so that citizens are empowered in real terms in today's digital space. Its vision areas are centered on 'Digital Infrastructure as a utility to 'Every Citizen', 'Governance & Services on Demand' and 'Digital Empowerment of Citizens'. The programme aims to provide the much needed thrust to the nine pillars of growth areas, namely, Broadband Highways, Universal Access to Mobile Connectivity, Public Internet Access Programme, e-Governance—Reforming Governance through Technology, e-Kranti—Electronic Delivery of Services, Information for All, Electronic Manufacturing, IT for jobs and Early Harvest Programmes. The Committee further note that the proposal for various components of the 'Digital India Programme', including their financial and physical targets are to be moved separately for getting due approvals. Some of the components of the 'Digital India Programme' for the year 2014-15, viz. 'IT platform for messages' and 'Government greetings to be e-Greetings', securing email within Government, comprising 10 lakh Government employees, have been completed. Targets have been set for implementing other components such as Biometric attendance, upgrading of Government Websites, standardising Government email design, making school Books to be eBooks, SMS based weather

information/disaster alerts, National Portal for Lost and Found Children, Wi-Fi enablement of universities, tourist places (Goa), Central Government Offices and Trains. The Committee also note that for various other components under the 'Digital India Programme', projects/ proposals have already been initiated. The Committee compliment the Government for initiating the 'Digital India Programme' which would go a long way in transforming the country into a digitally empowered society. While appreciating the achievements made so far in the current year, the Committee desire that steps be taken to implement the other components of the scheme within the stipulated time frame. The scheme being an all canvassing scheme taking into its fold both the Central and State Governments, DeitY have to perform the onerous task of diligent coordination. The scheme is presently at its early stages of execution and the Committee would review its progress in due course. The Committee would like to be informed of further progress made in the direction of achieving other milestones, including those earmarked for the current fiscal.

### **Reply of the Government**

The details of progress/status of the schemes under Digital India Programme being dealt with by the e-Governance Division of DeitY are as given below:

- i. National Information Infrastructure (NII): The EFC note on NII has been moved for providing connectivity to Government Departments and institutions at state, district, block and village panchayat levels.
- ii. CSC 2.0: EFC note on CSC 2.0 has been moved. The objective of CSC 2.0 is to establish one CSC in every Gram Panchayat.
- iii. e-Kranti: The Cabinet has approved e-Kranti (NeGP 2.0) in March, 2015. e-Kranti provides a new framework for e-Governance initiatives in the country.
- iv. Government Process Re-engineering: GPR guidelines have been shared with DARPG on 22.10.2014 for finalization. DARPG has circulated the same to all Central Depts for obtaining inputs. In addition, data digitization and Aadhaar seeding have been initiated in various departments.

The details of progress of the schemes under Digital India Programme being dealt with by the HRD Division of DeitY are as given below:

<b>Action points under various Pillars</b>	<b>Allocation of work to the Groups/ Attached Offices and officers in DeitY</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>eKranti-Electronic delivery of services</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digital Literacy Program</li> </ul>	Action: HRD Division	A scheme to cover 42.5 lakh persons throughout the country with a total budget outlay of Rs. 380 crore has been approved. It has been decided to include Anganwadi Workers, Accredited Social

		Health Activists (ASHAs) and Authorised Ration Dealers as the beneficiaries in the Scheme.
<b>IT for Jobs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Train people in smaller towns &amp; villages for IT sector jobs</li> </ul>	Action: HRD Division	A proposal prepared by NIELIT to create a pool of trained 55 Lakh Citizens including candidates from SC/ST/ BPL Section and Women candidates in the area of ICT over a period of 4 years (Phase-I) is under process.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Train Service Delivery Agents to run viable business delivering IT services</li> </ul>	Action: NIELIT Co-ordination: HRD Division	<b>Inputs from NIELIT are as under:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NIELIT has designed a three level course for Digital Marketing using e-Commerce Website. The levels are as under: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Digital Marketing for Beginners – 60 Hours basic course with 26 hours of theory and 34 hours of practical</li> <li>Digital Marketing for Intermediate users – 90 hours course with 38 hours of theory and 52 hours of practical.</li> <li>Digital Marketing course for Advance users – 120 hours with 49 hours of theory and 71 hours of practical.</li> </ol> </li> <li>Course has been designed by an internal committee and based on inputs taken from industry players.</li> <li>An advertisement announcing the launch of the Course is going to be published shortly.</li> </ol>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Telecom service providers to train rural workforce to cater to their own needs</li> </ul>	Action: DOT Coordination: HRD Division	<b>Inputs from DoT are as under:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The item was discussed in the inter-ministerial Advisory Groups on Skill Development in Telecom Sector on 19th Sep 2014. Based on the inputs from Advisory Groups, a meeting with the HR-Heads of Telecom Service providers was held on 20th Nov 2014, and a follow-up meeting held up on 4th Dec 2014. Efforts are being taken to rope in ITI for providing telecom training in rural areas.</li> <li>ITIs being under the control of State Governments, a DO letter dated 19th Dec 2014 was addressed by Secretary (T) to all the Chief Secretaries offering the training infrastructure of Telecom PSUs for hand-holding of ITIs for Telecom courses. The details of PSU infrastructure have been made available on DoT website for easy access and wider dissemination.</li> </ol>
<b>Electronics Manufacturing – Target NET ZERO imports</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'Scheme for financial assistance to States/UTs for Skill Development in ESDM Sector'</li> </ul>	Action: HRD Division	A Scheme for <b>"Skill Development in ESDM for Digital India"</b> has been approved to cover 30 States/UTs for facilitating skill development for 3,28,000 persons in ESDM sector at an outlay of Rs. 411 crore (approx.) in a period of 4 years.

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

- (i) Programme on enabling all Schools with Virtual Class Rooms**
- (ii) Good Governance and Best Practices**

The Committee note that two other new schemes, i.e. (i) Programme on enabling all schools with virtual classrooms and (ii) Good Governance and Best Practices have also been contemplated, with a corpus of Rs. 100 crore each, for implementation during the year 2014-15, with the objectives to enable schools which will be ICT enabled and which will have connectivity with virtual classrooms and to promote and fund the projects which encourage good governance and best practices in Ministries/States, respectively. According to the Department, under the good governance and best practices scheme, projects from States/UTs having completion period of 2-3 years are being funded. Under the Programme for enabling all schools with virtual class rooms, in the first phase, 300 schools having ICT infrastructure are being targeted to enable virtual class rooms. Considering that both these schemes are at their nascent stages of implementation, the Committee observe that coordinated efforts supported by meticulous planning are absolutely essential. The Committee would evaluate the efficacy of measures taken for the effective implementation of these schemes. The Department, however, should apprise the Committee the progress made in this regard.

#### **Reply of the Government**

Under “Good Governance and Best Practices”, 8 proposals have been approved and funds amounting to Rs. 70.87 crores have been released.

Under “Enabling all Schools with Virtual Class Rooms”, one project has been approved with an outlay of Rs. 94.07 crores. Funds amounting to Rs. 55 crores have been released. The project aims to implement virtual classrooms in 3500 schools and 50 DIET centres across 7 states.

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

##### **ONGOING SCHEMES**

##### **E-Governance**

The National e-Governance plan was conceived in May, 2006 with a vision to make all Government Services accessible to the common citizen in his/her locality, through an efficient, transparent and reliable mechanism. Under

the programme, a robust e-infrastructure is being created to facilitate deployment of ICT solutions by various Departments and State Governments. The Committee note that for e-Governance, the Plan allocation is Rs. 1230 crore for the year 2014-15 which include Rs. 475 crore for Electronic Governance and Rs. 755 crore for National e-Governance Action Plan (NeGAP). The Committee take note of the fact that the Department have been able to achieve decent utilization of funds under the Electronic Governance Programme during the years 2012-13 and 2013-14. The Department have referred to implementation hazards like lack of interest by domain owners, non-readiness of industry for new standards and resistance by industry. The Department have been continuously organizing workshops, trainings, seminars and meetings with various stakeholders like Ministries/ Departments of Central and State/UT Governments and industry to overcome the difficulties and these measures have been found successful. While appreciating the initiatives taken by the Department to overcome the hindrances, the Committee desire that they should continue this trend of optimal utilization of funds for fruitful implementation of such a significant scheme. The Committee may be apprised of the outcome of the study of the independent third party assessment of projects for the year 2014-15 in terms of their impact, utility, sustainability, scalability and replicability.”

### **State Wide Area Network (SWAN)**

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

The Committee note that the scheme for establishment of State Wide Area Networks (SWANs) is one of the components under e-Governance which had been approved for implementation across the country in March 2005 with a total outlay of Rs. 3,334 crore. In the year 2014-15, Rs. 196.02 crore has been allocated for this programme. The Committee find that during the first two years of the Plan period, the Department have almost fully utilized the funds and in the current year, there is a steady progress of utilization. As on date, SWAN proposals from 34 States/UTs have been approved and in 33 States/UTs, SWANs have been made operational and 29 States/UTs have been integrated using the National Knowledge Network (NKN). However, out of the 29 States/UTs only 25 States/UTs are utilizing more than 60 percent of bandwidth

of the existing link capacity. The Committee note that the delay in the entire bid process management, delay in engaging consultant, State elections, non-availability of lease line connectivity in remotely located blocks, etc. continue to act as stumbling blocks for implementation of the SWAN scheme in all the States/UTs. Additionally, Third Party Auditors (TPAs) engaged by the Department to review the scheme have identified low bandwidth utilization by the States/UTs, non-adherence to the SLAs by the Network Operators, poor presence of connectivity by Broadband Service Provider, poor quality and low availability of power and improper configuration of some of the monitoring devices etc. to be some of the factors contributing to the delay in the implementation of the scheme. The Committee are constrained to point out that even after more than a decade, issues confronting the establishment of SWANs are yet to be fully resolved. Taking note of shortfall in capacity utilisation of SWANs, the Committee recommend that concerted efforts should be made by the Department to complete the establishment of SWANs as per the new deadline and ensure that the established SWANs function properly, with full broadband utilization.

### **Reply of the Government**

The DeitY would monitor more vigorously and regularly the performance of each SWAN in the State/UT especially w.r.t. uptime of PoPs during prime business hours and bandwidth utilisation. In some states, there is an acute shortage of power which at times renders SWAN PoPs non functional.

The States are also being impressed upon from time to time for e-enablement of their offices and provide them with horizontal connectivity under SWAN so that digitization efforts of various departments/offices can further push delivery of online services. The department is holding meetings regularly with State Governments through Video Conferencing to address various challenges in the operation and utilisation of SWAN scheme.

It is relevant to mention here that, at present, 30 States/UTs are utilizing more than 60% of bandwidth by connecting horizontal offices under the SWANs. Network Operators have also been instructed to strictly meet the contractual obligations such as SLA compliance etc.

### **Comments of the Committee (Please see Para No. 9 of Chapter I)**

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

### **State Data Centres (SDCs)**

The Scheme of State Data Centres (SDCs) approved in January, 2008 was identified as one of the important elements of the core infrastructure for supporting e-Governance initiatives. The Committee are concerned to note that even after a lapse of 6 years, the scheme of State Data Centres (SDCs) is yet to be operationalised in all the States/UTs. As on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2014, 23 SDCs have been made operational and it is yet to be completed in States/UTs like Bihar, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand and Goa. Some of the reasons attributed to non-operationalisation of SDCs in the States are the delay in identifying/change in the site/handing over the site to the selected bidder, delay in provisioning of raw power for the SDC, delay in awarding Lol and contract to the selected bidder, delay in the completion of the Final Acceptance Test, etc. The Committee note that DeitY are engaged in conducting review meetings with States/UTs concerned to resolve the problems. They, however, urge the Department to closely monitor the implementation and find early solutions to the identified problems and ensure setting up of SDCs in the remaining States/UTs in the current fiscal.

### **Reply of the Government**

As per the note of the suggestions made by the Committee, DeitY assures to monitor the implementation more vigorously and regularly. It may be noted that to resolve the issues, DeitY is taking up the matter at various levels including sending letters from Hon'ble MCIT to Chief Ministers of states, from Secretary, DeitY to Chief Secretary of the states and continuous monitoring through Project Implementation Committee (PIC) meetings, Video conferencing (VC) and emails.

Deity has been vigorously following up with the various stakeholders to resolve the issues of non/slow implementation of SDCs.

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

### **Common Service Centres (CSCs)**

The Committee note that under the Common Service Centres (CSC) Scheme, approved in 2006, as of now 1,36,851 CSCs have been made operational covering

Thirty-three States/ UTs. However, out of the 1,36,851 CSCs, 1,22,651 CSCs have connectivity, of which 51,305 CSCs have BSNL connectivity with reported transactions of 74,047. As many as 14,200 CSCs still lack any kind of connectivity. The Committee further observe that there are major shortfalls in achievement of target for operationalization of CSCs in most of the States/UTs particularly in States like Goa, Haryana, Karnataka, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, etc., so much so that out of the targeted 60 CSCs for Goa and 45 for Sikkim, not a single CSC had been operationalised till 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014, for Haryana out of 1159 CSCs only 1 had been operationalised; for Karnataka out of 4913 planned, only 904 had been operationalised; and for Tamil Nadu out of 5440 planned, only 1130 CSCs had been operationalised. Non-availability of broadband connectivity, lack of power, left wing extremism in some States, termination of contracts with private Service Center Agencies, lack of e-services, etc., have been cited as the reasons impacting the sustainability and functioning of CSCs. The Committee observe that the CSCs scheme had been conceived with an objective to develop a platform that can enable the Government, private and social sector organizations to align their social and commercial goals for the benefit of the rural population in the remotest corners of the country through a combination of IT based as well as non-IT based services. However, even after so many years of its operation, the scheme is yet to achieve the desired results. Expressing displeasure over the significant delay in roll-out of the CSCs, the Committee recommend to the Department to take requisite steps to remove the bottlenecks and ensure that the revised timeline for establishment/ operationalisation/roll-out of all CSCs is achieved. The Department should also make sure that all the CSCs are made functional and are connected within this Plan period. The Committee may be apprised about the progress made in this regard.

### **Reply of the Government**

The following are actions taken for CSCs:

- i. The Empowered Committee in its 10th meeting had recommended for extension of the CSC scheme till March 2017 without any additional financial implication. The reason behind such extension was that in most of the states adequate G2C services are still not available. Various departments of these states delivering Citizen Centric Services have not yet completely digitized their records / data and therefore the services have not been e-enabled. This has adversely impacted the financial viability of CSCs in most of the states. In this regard, DeitY has issued the necessary advisory vide letter no. 8(31)/2010-EGPMU dated 03-Aug-2012.

- ii. The Empowered Committee in its 10th meeting had also recommended that existing Gram Panchayat(GP) Bhavan may be leveraged for setting up of CSCs. DeitY had issued a guideline to this effect on 03-Aug-2012, according to which, the states may take an appropriate decision to relocate CSCs from private premises to Panchyat Bhavans etc. with concurrence of the Service Centre Agency (SCA) and the concerned departments. This would enable continuity in CSC operations and synergy with development schemes at the Panchayat level as well as better recognition and convenience to the location population. Also, connectivity is being provided to Gram Panchayats under National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project. In this way, CSCs in GPs will get benefit of the uninterrupted and high bandwidth connectivity.
- iii. In order to expedite the completion of implementation of pending CSCs, DeitY has issued an advisory to the states/ UTs vide letter no. 2(76)/2006-EGPMU (Vol. III) dated 27-Jan-2015 requesting to involve District e-Governance Society (DeGS) for supervising, managing and monitoring of the CSC scheme in states/UTs, in case the contract of the state with SCA has expired and rollout of CSCs is pending.
- iv. DeitY has also instructed all states/UTs to improve the uptime of CSCs for having better transactions by ensuring more and more digitization of the Government services deliverable to the citizens vide letter no. 8(2)/2013-CSC dated 28-Apr-2014.
- v. DeitY has already advised to integrate CSC Connect with all Government portals and other Service Access Providers' portal for seamless delivery of services to the citizens vide letter no. N-22014/9/2012-eGov2 dated 17-Sep-2014, letter no. 8(2)/2013-CSC dated 28-Apr-2014 and letter no. 2(76)/2006-EGPMU (Vol-II) dated 01-Oct-2012.

The current status of CSCs in states of Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Haryana and Karnataka as on 28-Feb-2015 is following:

- i. 32 CSCs were operational in Sikkim.
- ii. In Tamil Nadu, 1130 CSCs have been made operational out of 2720 planned CSCs.
- iii. In Haryana, 247 CSCs have been made operational out of 1159 planned CSCs.
- iv. In Karnataka, state government has informed on 09-Mar-2015 that tenders for selection of SCAs are now in process.

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

#### **Mobile Governance**

The Committee note that DeitY had initiated a massive countrywide initiative on mobile governance to provide Government services to the people through mobile phones and tablets and had notified a framework for mobile Governance in February, 2012. DeitY are operationalizing Mobile Seva through two projects, viz.

'National Rollout for the Mobile Services Gateway' at an estimated outlay of Rs. 21.5 crore over 36 months and 'm-Enablement of Government Departments through Mobile Seva' at an estimated outlay of Rs. 96.89 crore over 36 months, to be implemented by DeitY's agency, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) Mumbai. As of now, funds to the tune of Rs. 11.93 crore have been released to C-DAC Mumbai against which an amount of Rs 8.75 crore has been utilized. Keeping in view the fact that mere Rs 8.75 crore has been utilized out of the estimated outlay of Rs. 118.39 crore which is just 7.39 percent, the Committee view that the projects for operationalising Mobile Seva will not be completed as scheduled. The Committee would like to be apprised of the timeline by which these two projects are planned to be rolled out.

According to the Department, the Mobile Seva platform has undergone security audit by CERT-empanelled agency, STQC and the NIC Cyber Security division. The Committee are given to understand that considering the vulnerability of the Android system – a platform largely used in mobile these day-the Department are planning to host the scanning facility on their website and for everyone in the country to log on and test and clean their system if there is a virus and this facility was expected to be operational by November, 2014. While lauding the initiatives taken by the Department for securing mobile Governance/delivery of services, the Committee desire that the Department should now focus on the final roll out of the 'Mobile Services Gateway' and 'm-Enablement of Government Departments through Mobile Seva' within the scheduled time frame. The Committee may be apprised of the status in this regard within three months of presentation of this Report.

#### **Reply of the Government**

DeitY is already implementing Mobile Seva through two projects by DeitY's agency Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Mumbai:

- a) "National Rollout for the Mobile Services Delivery Gateway", through administrative approval dated 24-Jan-2013, over 36 months.
- b) "m-Enablement of Government Departments through Mobile Seva", through administrative approval dated 20-Jun-2014, over 36 months.

#### **Key achievements so far are as follows:**

- i. DeitY has notified the Framework for Mobile Governance in February 2012, which now acts as the prime driver for Government Departments and Agencies across the nation towards adoption of mobile governance.

- ii. A centralized Mobile Services Delivery Gateway (MSDG) has been operationalized in July 2011 and has now become the core infrastructure of choice for enabling the availability of public services through mobile devices.
- iii. MSDG offers the following channels:
  - "Push SMS" has seen massive adoption by Government Departments/ Agencies at the centre, states and UTs. Over 1678 Departments/ agencies are already on board and over 333 crore SMS notifications have already been sent to citizens/ businesses by the integrated departments.
  - "Pull SMS" is operational on two short codes – 51969 (all telcos) and 166 (major telcos), and also on one long code 9223166166 (all telcos), offering 406 services.
  - Mobile Apps – A government mobile appstore has been made operational in year 2012 (<https://apps.mgov.gov.in/index.jsp>) and currently it hosts over 455 fully functional mobile apps that are free to download, most of which have been developed in-house by the CDAC's development team in collaboration with the concerned Government Departments or Agencies.
  - Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) – Currently operational with over 3.79 lakh transactions.
  - Unstructured Supplementary Services Data (USSD) is a session based interactive service. USSD is operational with 6782 transactions.
- iv. The Mobile Seva portal [www.mgov.gov.in](http://www.mgov.gov.in) was launched in January 2012 and is available round-the-clock for both departments and citizens with live up-to-date information on all features and solutions. From the "Department Services" tab on the portal, interested departments/ agencies can quickly register themselves online for availing Mobile Seva services.
- v. Information and interaction is also provided through regular posts on the Mobile Seva social page [www.facebook.com/DIT.MGOV](http://www.facebook.com/DIT.MGOV).
- vi. Mobile-based payments can be offered through the integration of Mobile Seva with PayGov.
- vii. The Mobile Seva project won the United Nations Public Service Awards (2014) under the category "Promoting Whole-of-Government Approaches in the Information Age".

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

Since its inception in 1976, NIC has emerged as the prime builder of e-Government/e-Governance application in Government Ministries/ Departments at the Centre/States, Districts and Blocks. NIC, through its ICT network – 'NICNET', has institutional linkages with Ministries/Departments of the Central Government, State Governments/UTs and District administrations of India. The Committee are happy to note that the NIC has maintained a healthy trend in utilizing allocated funds over the years. The Committee further note that NIC at present has 3796 Scientific and Technical manpower to support ICT requirements. An estimated additional strength of around 4000 temporary staff are working with NIC across the country. The Committee have been informed that based on a professional study, a proposal was

marked for creation of 1407 posts across different levels of scientific and administrative officers to meet the e-Governance requirement of NIC. However, the Committee do not find any follow-up action on the part of the Department to take the proposal forward. Considering that NIC's activities have expanded manifold and it is the only Government body engaged in end-to-end ICT-needs of 60 Lakh Government employees and providing e-Governance and citizen charter services to the citizens of India and it has an organizational presence across 648 districts, across the States, and more than 75 Central Government Ministries/Departments, there is an urgent need for augmenting the staff strength of NIC. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department should take expeditious steps to pilot the proposal for creating posts so as to strengthen the technical arm of NIC. Organizing regular training programmes for the employees of NIC to keep them up-to-date with state-of-the-art technologies is an important area which requires constant attention of the Department. At the same time, the Department should initiate action for upgradation of basic infrastructure at NIC centres across the country to match with its massive expansion of activities. The Committee would like to be informed of the specific steps taken in this regard.

#### **Reply of the Government**

NIC on the recommendations of 'Expert Committee on HR Policy for e Governance' for creating 1407 post has already been submitted to Finance Division of DeitY for Inter-Ministerial approval. Further, NIC has already created Virtual classrooms at NIC-Bhubneshwar, Pune and Hyderabad for organizing various technical training facilities programmes on technology areas. It has been proposed to create State of the art training infrastructure at NIC Hqrs to launch both classroom as well as e-learning programmes.

The upgradation of NIC infrastructure is an ongoing exercise. The need for such upgradation arises due to continuous change in technology. Some of the recent steps taken to upgrade NIC include setting up of new NIC Cloud at Delhi, approval of new Data Centre at Bubneshwar, upgrading NICNET by linking it with NKN, State Informatics Offices and District Informatics Offices in new States and new districts created across the country, support for new Ministries/Departments and Central Government organizations across the country, e-office and e-procurement infrastructure for whole of Government etc. The demands of NIC have increased significantly as technology becomes an integral part of larger number of activities of

various e-Governance initiatives. There is increasing demands for expanding NIC infrastructure, including need for additional manpower.

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

#### **National Knowledge Network (NKN)**

The Committee note that since inception of the project, there has been a gross variation and persistent mismatch in the proposed and allocated GBS under NKN. The Committee in their previous Reports on Demands for Grants have been disapproving the adhocism of fund allocation to such an important programme and stressed the need for adequate allocation of funds. The Committee are constrained to find that the shortfall in allocation have resulted in reduced outcome and delayed the implementation of NKN. The Committee note that for the years 2012-13 and 2013-14, the allocations at BE stage was Rs. 360 crore for each year whereas at RE stage it was reduced to Rs. 152.19 crore and Rs. 352.23 crore, respectively, as against the proposed allocation of Rs. 2406 crore and Rs. 1240 crore, respectively. The Committee note a similar trend of allocation during the year 2014-15 wherein Rs. 300 crore has been allocated as against the proposed allocation of Rs. 1500 crore. This situation becomes a matter of serious concern in the light of the fact that various schemes of DeitY are being connected through network of NKN and the very objective of NKN is to inter-connect all knowledge institutions across the country through high speed data communication network covering 1500 institutions comprising all universities, institutions of higher learning and research. The Committee recommend that the Department should take up the matter at the higher levels with the Ministry of Finance and bring to their notice the serious concerns of the Committee in the matter.

#### **Reply of the Government**

Time to time requests from the higher level have been made to Ministry Finance to take steps for allocation of adequate funds for NKN. Some of the references are given below :

- i) D.O. letter dated 18.04.2013 from MCIT to Finance Minister for allocation of Rs. 1240 Cr. for FY 2013-14
- ii) D.O. letter dated 10.04.2013 from Dr. R. Chidambaram, PSA to GOI and Chairman, HLC(NKN) to Finance Minister for Rs. 1270 cr. for FY 2013-14..
- iii) D.O. letter dated 10.02.2014 from Dr. R. Chidambaram, PSA to GOI and Chairman, HLC(NKN) to Secretary, Department of Expenditure for allocation of additional budget of Rs. 400 Cr. in the FY 2013-14 and Rs. 1100 Cr. for FY 2014-15..

It is noteworthy that no budgetary cut was imposed on the allocations made for NKN in BE 2014-15. Further, keeping in view the serious concerns expressed by the Standing Committee on the allocation of inadequate funds for NKN, Ministry of Finance was requested for an allocation of Rs. 855 Cr. for NKN in the Budget Estimates for the FY 2015-16. However, a provision of Rs. 150 cr. has been made for NKN. With the present allocation of funds, the number of Districts connected through NKN would be reduced.

**(Recommendation No. 13)**

The Committee note with concern that though the number of cyber fraud cases during the last three years has come down, yet financial loss due to e-fraud has increased from Rs. 38 crore in 2011-12 to Rs. 67 crore in 2012-13. In fact, the data maintained by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) also reflects that the number of cyber crime cases registered has increased over the years. Cases registered under the IT Act have increased almost four times from 1791 in 2011 to 4356 in 2013. Despite several initiatives taken by the Department to tackle online financial fraud/loss, the Department have identified deficiencies, viz. mis-configuration of web server, irregular and improper updation of digital certificate leading to poor authentication of online banking website, non-following of secure coding practices while developing the web applications, hosting environment of web applications not hardened properly, web applications not securely connected with databases leading to information disclosure vulnerability, etc. which caused increase in cyber crime/fraud. Herein lies the significance role of cyber security experts. However, against the growing demand for cyber security experts in the country which is estimated to be 5 lakh by 2016, the Committee find that India has at present only 44,000 information security professionals out of which around 600 are in the Government. Moreover, the cyber security related activities are handled by generalist IT professionals and the country lacks specialists in the field of cyber security. Though the Department have taken key initiatives for capacity building through formal and informal methods and launching of the ISEA project, these measures have not been adequate enough to address the cyber security needs of the country. The Committee while taking cognizance of the Department's initiative with regard to the non-formal sector wherein they are working closely with the Ministry of HRD to increase the number of cyber security professionals through the

ISEA programme, emphasize that more efforts need to be made to create a vast pool of resource/ IT/cyber security experts to provide a secure cyber space to its users.

### **Reply of the Government**

In the direction of creating a vast pool of Cyber Security experts, it is recognized that although various activities and programs initiated by the Government have made positive contribution in creation of work force of cyber security professionals, yet the entire demand of cyber security professionals in the country may not be met by the Government initiatives alone. Keeping this in view, Government has initiated a public-private partnership program with the active involvement of private sector in the form of a Joint Working Group. The Working Group produced its report and recommendations outlining the means of engagement with the private sector. The report of Working Group has laid a road map for capacity building to meet the demands of cyber security professionals in a mission mode through PPP arrangements. With these initiatives, Govt. intends to expand its reach and increase the scale for meeting the demand for cyber security professional work force in the country.

### **Comments of the Committee (Please see Para No. 15 of Chapter I)**

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

#### **e-Industry (Electronic Hardware)**

#### **Promotion of Electronics/IT Hardware Manufacturing (Productivity and Employment)**

It is distressing to find that allocations made under the Electronics/IT Hardware manufacturing sector are insignificant. In the year 2012-13, an amount of Rs. 5 crore was allocated against the proposed GBS of Rs. 1434.50 crore. In the year 2013-14, allocation was increased to Rs. 100 crore which was reduced to Rs. 10 crore at the RE stage. The allocation in 2014-15 is again Rs. 85 crore as against the proposed GBS of Rs. 4713.71 crore. The expenditure over the years has also fallen below the RE allocation. The funding and extent of utilization under this sector speak poorly of the pace of electronics hardware manufacturing in the country.

## Reply of the Government

The expenditure on electronics manufacturing is growing at significant pace for few years.

2009-10 (Rs. in crore)	2010-11 (Rs. in crore)	2011-12 (Rs. in crore)	2012-13 (Rs. in crore)	2013-14 (Rs. in crore)	2014-15 (Rs. in crore)
0.49	1.56	0.61	4.89	7.89	67.3*

\* As on March 2015

In addition, an amount of Rs. 77.07 crore released as grant in aid to schemes for development of skill in Electronics System Design and Manufacturing 2014-15.

It is also correct that amount of expenditure is yet inadequate. The most of the policies for electronics manufacturing have been approved in 2012-13 and thereafter. These policies viz. M-SIPS; EMC, Skill Development Schemes etc. are largely formulated in the manner that it leads to expenditure after the implementation is done by corresponding players.

As a result of new policy initiatives, there has been significant change in the investment in this sector and expenditure since 2012-13. In the last one and the half year or so, 61 investment proposals involving investment of Rs. 20,282 crore have been received under M-SIPS. This includes 11 proposals from Multinational companies. It is relevant to mention that when a Multinational company takes decision to invest, they make choice after evaluation of other countries. Since electronics products are importable on zero duty, each of these investments reflects a new trend of multinationals choosing India over other destination. Apart from the proposals received, after the launch of 'Make-in-India' campaign, the level of interest has increased significantly. Several other companies have evinced interest and are contemplating investment in this sector. These investments should fructify within next 6-12 months.

The current trend clearly indicates that electronics manufacturing sector is the new and emerging investment opportunity in the country.

During 2015-16 an allocation of Rs. 74 crore has been provided for electronics hardware and IT/ITes industry. There are existing commitments of about Rs. 280 crore apart from new commitment under M-SIPS/Incubator/EMC etc. Therefore, the budget allotment is inadequate. The Standing Committee may recommend additional allocations of funds for promotion of electronics sector in the country.

### (Recommendation No. 16)

The Committee note that as per the data furnished by the Department during the year 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14, the country imported for USD \$ 12,645.76 million, USD \$ 11,487.64 million and USD \$ 12,696.82 million, respectively, which included items such as telephones for cellular networks or for other wireless networks; Personal computer (laptop, palmtop, etc.), Videophone; Monolithic

integrated circuits–digital, Digital processing units, Solar cells/photovoltaic cells; Solid-state non-volatile storage devices; Printed circuits and Machines, etc. The Committee also note that as per the information provided by the Indian Cellular Association, the quantum of handsets imported in the country has increased from 143 million in 2011-12 to 187 million in 2013-14. The India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA) – Frost and Sullivan Report on ‘Indian Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) Market’, released in January 2014 (provided by DeitY) shows that during the year 2014, an estimated 66% of the total demand of electronic products in India would be met from imports while 34% would be met from domestic production. Out of the total domestic production, 20% is estimated to be high value added, while 80% is estimated to be low/ medium value-added production. The aforesaid data furnished by the Department substantiate the country’s increased dependency on imports. The Committee, therefore, have been impressing upon the Department to give focused attention to this sector and make the country self-reliant in hardware manufacturing. The Committee are happy to note that the promotion of electronics manufacturing is included as a key component of the recently launched ‘Digital India Programme’ of the Government. Some of the steps taken to boost indigenous production of electronic hardware are the enunciation of the National Policy on Electronics 2012, Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SIPS), setting up of two Semiconductor Wafer Fabrication (FAB) Manufacturing facilities, Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC) Scheme, Electronic Development Fund (EDF), 100% FDI in electronic hardware manufacturing sector through automatic route, etc. The Committee recognize that one of the major hindrances on the path of domestic manufacturing is that at present import is cheaper than manufacturing. To address this, the inverted duty structure has been rationalized by the Government so that domestic manufacturing get certain benefits that offset initial disadvantages. Further, import duty has been increased on these items and incentives are extended for export of these goods. The Committee believe that these fiscal incentives would certainly give a boost to the indigenous manufacturing sector in electronic hardware. Indigenous manufacture policy allows global players to manufacture in the country which will further give fillip to the upcoming electronic market in the country. The Committee hope that all these measures will be taken to their logical end, facilitating transformation to a self-reliant India in the manufacturing sector.

## **Reply of the Government**

The Department expresses gratitude for the observations of Standing Committee and note for guidance.

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

#### **e-Innovation/R&D**

##### **Center for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)**

The Committee note that C-DAC is the premier R&D agency of DeitY carrying out R&D and innovation activities ranging from conceptualization to field deployment in the area of Electronics, Information and Communication Technology. Feeling the need to develop indigenous CAS for boosting the development and manufacturing of STBs in the country and based on the recommendations of a Committee of Experts, the Department have finalized the specifications and released an Expression of Interest (EoI) for the Development of Indian CAS. The Committee have been informed that M/s ByDesign India Pvt. Ltd, Bangalore, has been shortlisted for development and implementation of the India CAS in association with C-DAC. The tripartite agreement is expected to be signed shortly and Indian CAS is expected to be built and tested and would be ready for integration and deployment by November 2015. In view of the huge requirement of millions of STBs in the country, the Department should seize the opportunity and expedite the process of manufacturing of Set Top Boxes in a systematic and phased manner and take measures to stay ahead in competition with established players in the market.

## **Reply of the Government**

A Conditional Access System (CAS) is a system used to limit the access of TV signals to only authorized viewers and forms an integral part of Set Top Boxes (STBs). Conditional Access systems are highly proprietary and dominated by few global companies, which is a major impediment in design and development of domestic STBs. Based on the recommendations of a Committee of Experts; the specifications of the proposed Indian CAS were finalized. After following due tendering processes, M/s. ByDesign India Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore has been shortlisted for the development and implementation of the Indian CAS in association with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC). C-DAC will be primarily responsible for design review, code review, monitoring, testing and validation of the

entire project. Out of the total project cost of Rs.29.99 crore, Rs.19.79 crore is the DeitY's support amount and remaining amount will be contributed by M/s. By Design India Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore. Letter of Award was issued to M/s. ByDesign India Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore on 05.11.2014. Tripartite Agreement has been executed between DeitY, C-DAC and M/s. ByDesign India Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore for development and Implementation of Indian CAS on 18.11.2014. CAS system is expected to be built, tested and be ready for integration and deployment within 12 months from the date of issuance of Letter of Award (By November 2015). The DeitY support amount (advance-1st stage) is also being released in this regard. 1<sup>st</sup> installment of Rs. 5.93 crore has been released as grant to M/s. ByDesign India Pvt. Ltd.

Further, the Government has taken the following initiatives:

- (i). BCD of 10% imposed on import of Set Top Boxes.
- (ii). The domestic STB manufacturers had to pay CST equivalent to VAT rate (typically 12.5%). It has been resolved by extending the facility of form 'C' to STBs vide Department of Revenue's O.M dated 13th August, 2014.
- (iii). Export incentive of 5% has been provided to STBs under Foreign Trade Policy.
- (iv). To curb inflow of sub-standard STBs, especially from China mandatory compliance to safety standards notified.

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

#### **e-Inclusion**

#### **Vikaspedia**

The Committee note that the project 'Vikaspedia', approved in March, 2013, was planned to be developed in all the 22 Indian official languages and English. So far, it has been developed in 10 languages viz. Hindi, Telugu, Assamese, Marathi, English, Tamil, Gujarati, Kannada, Bangla and Malayalam and the remaining languages are planned to be added in phases by June 2015. The Committee further note that for the year 2013-14, an amount of Rs. 331.33 lakh was allocated which was fully utilized and for the year 2014-15, an amount of Rs. 450.31 lakh has been allocated for the project. Considering the fact that it is more than one year since the site was launched and since it includes important domains such as Agriculture, Health, Education, Social Welfare, Energy and e-Governance, the Committee observe that the Department should assess the site's efficacy in terms of dissemination of information, content, accessibility, and also the need for expanding the domains/subjects based on need and relevance. The Committee also

recommend to the Department to complete the development of the site in the remaining 12 languages as per the scheduled timeline so as to deliver maximum benefits to the targeted groups. The Committee may be apprised about the action taken in this regard.

### **Reply of the Government**

DeitY is vigorously pursuing the issue of making the Vikaspedia portal available in all 22 languages and 6 selected domains as these impact the socio-economic life of people, especially the rural masses. In a recently organised workshop in December, 2014 by DeitY wherein officers from other line ministries, NGOs and UN organisations were invited for their suggestions to improve the reach and utility of the portal, it was decided that more domains may be considered based on their utility only after making the portal live in all 22 languages and 6 selected domains.

Presently, the portal has been made ready in 4 more languages namely Sanskrit, Urdu, Punjabi and Oriya and this would be launched in May, 2015. The development of the portal in all remaining 8 languages will be completed by August 2015.

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

#### **Supercomputing**

The Committee note that India possesses a wealth of High Performance Computing (HPC) related experience and expertise. However, in recent years India has under-invested in HPC and is falling behind other major HPC players of the world. The Committee also note that in this direction a meeting of the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) was held under the Chairmanship of the Secretary (Expenditure) on 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2014. The EFC have favorably recommended the 'National Supercomputing Mission (NSM): Building Capacity & Capability' proposal with an outlay of Rs. 4,500 crore over a period of seven years, to be jointly steered and implemented by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and DeitY. The Committee further note that requisite approvals and the minutes of the meeting are under approval and therefore no funds have been utilized out of the proposed Rs. 4,500 crore. The Committee strongly feel that in the era of shifting paradigm towards Information Technology for e-Development of India and increased usage of Cloud computing for mass storage, India should continue with their endeavour in

Supercomputers. The Committee stress that the Department should be futuristic in their approach and should work in coordination with DST for clearance of all the necessary approvals at the earliest so as to reap the benefits of supercomputing.

### **Reply of the Government**

A proposal on National Supercomputing Mission with joint implementation by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) and the Department of Electronics & Information Technology (DeitY) was submitted to the Department of Expenditure and also circulated to the all concerned in July 2014. The Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC), Chaired by Secretary (Expenditure), in its meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2014 considered the joint proposal on the “National Supercomputing Mission (NSM): Building Capacity & Capability” having an outlay of ` 4500 Crores over a period of seven (7) years, and recommended to the Government for requisite approvals.

Subsequently, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by the Honourable Prime Minister held on 25th March, 2015 approved the “National Supercomputing Mission” (NSM). This will enable India to leapfrog to the league of world class computing power nations.

Status: The Administrative approval for the Mission has been issued by Department of Electronics and Information Technology on 9th April 2015. The Mission would be implemented and steered jointly by the DST and DeitY through Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore.

An Action plan for pre-operative activities has being prepared. The setting-up of Steering and Monitoring mechanisms for the mission in the form of the Governing Board (GB), the Executive Board (EB), Expert Groups/ Technical committees and Mission Directorate is presently under process.

**CHAPTER –III**

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

**-NIL-**

## CHAPTER –IV

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

#### (Recommendation No. 12)

#### E-Security

#### Cyber Security

Cyber security programme aims at building a secure and resilient cyberspace for citizens, business and Government. In order to address the issues of cyber security in a holistic manner, the Government announced 'National Cyber Security Policy' on 2 July, 2013. It is a matter of concern that the programme remain under funded year after year. In the year 2014-15, as against the proposed GBS of Rs. 510 crore, the Department have received only Rs. 128 crore for Cyber Security. Similarly, in the years 2012-13 and 2013-14, against the proposed allocation of Rs. 206 crore and Rs. 400 crore, allocations at BE stage remained at Rs. 51.20 crore and Rs. 60.37 crore, respectively; besides, there were further cuts at the RE stage. The reduced allocation has obviously caused delay in implementation of the key initiatives. What is further disquieting to note is the fact that the Department have failed to utilize even the fund allocated at RE stage. It is imperative on the part of the Department to improve the utilization of funds with better planning so as to secure enhanced allocation under such an important programme. Though the Committee have been assured that funds are reallocated to ensure that this programme does not suffer, they desire the Department to be focused and see that the two key initiatives taken in 2014-15 for implementation - National Cyber Coordination Centre and Botnet cleaning malware - are implemented, as envisaged.

#### **Reply of the Government**

Establishment of National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC) and Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre are the two key initiatives envisaged by the Department for priority implementation. Efforts have been made for implementation of these initiatives as envisaged.

The National Cyber Coordination Centre project required extensive consultation with all the stake holder entities as well as evaluation of all the

technological aspects of the project. This initiative has completed the consultation and evaluation process and the project has been approved for implementation. Action is initiated with regard to preliminary work for implementation of the project.

The Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre also involves close coordination with the stake holders such as ISPs and technology infrastructure. Following the approval of the project, the project implementation has already started. Procurement of equipment and site preparation are in progress.

**Comments of the Committee  
(Please see Para No. 12 of Chapter I)**

**(Recommendation No.20)**

**Indigenous tablets/PCs**

The Committee note that the indigenous low cost Tablet 'Aakash', now named as 'Aakash-IV', was sanctioned in January, 2009 and was initially a project of the Ministry of Human Resource Development initiated under the National Mission on Education through ICT (MNEICT) and then transferred to IIT Bombay in April 2012. The Committee also note that C-DAC was involved in testing of 'Aakash' Tablet after it was transferred to IIT Bombay. In mid-2013, it was decided that DeitY would take forward the 'Aakash' project. The Committee also learnt that the vendor neutral technical specifications for 'Aakash-IV' were finalized by a technical Sub-Committee in August 2013, after placing it for public comments. Thereafter, the tender for 'Aakash-IV' Tablets was put out by DGS&D on 28.01.2014. However, the DGS&D rate contract process could not be completed because of inability expressed by the vendors to meet certain technical requirements. The Committee have been informed that the technical specifications of Aakash-IV tablet are therefore proposed to be reviewed and after a decision taken in the matter fresh tender process will be taken up with DGS&D. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress made in this regard.

**Reply of the Government**

Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has been developing low cost access device namely "Aakash" under National Mission on Education through ICT (NMEICT) since September 2010 and Aakash was first launched by the then Minister of Human Resource Development in October 2011.

Several issues were raised in media about the quality and performance of Aakash and also regarding the vendor M/s. Datawind who was supposed to supply Aakash. Reportedly, under the initial project assigned by MHRD to IIT Jodhpur, a contract was signed by IIT Jodhpur with M/s. Datawind to supply 2 lakh units of Aakash devices. But this supply could not be completed due to certain issues. An Inter-Ministerial Committee was constituted for continuous R&D and timely delivery of Aakash in December, 2011 under the Chairmanship of Secretary, DeitY.

Meanwhile, MHRD transferred the project to IIT Bombay in April 2012. Reportedly, IIT Bombay worked with the vendor and had an upgraded version of Aakash delivered for the contracted devices. These devices were distributed among faculty and students across approx. 300 colleges and universities across the country. Several applications were developed for extensive testing of the upgraded version of Aakash. Meanwhile a technical sub-committee was setup to recommend functional and technical specifications for the low cost access device. The specifications proposed by this committee have been called "Aakash-IV". These specifications were finalised after extensive consultation with industry, academia and other Stakeholders. These specifications were formally published in August 2013. These specifications have been developed with a view to have a device at a low cost. These broad-based and generalized specifications were made available to DGS&D for competitive bidding from all eligible bidders to bring Aakash tablets on their Rate Contract. Thereafter, DGS&D initiated the rate contract process. C-DAC was assigned the responsibility of testing and certification of the Aakash-IV Tablet. The tender for making available Aakash-IV tablet on DGS&D Rate Contract was issued in January 2014. Despite best efforts, no vendor has been able to meet the technical specifications. The new technical specifications have not yet been finalized.

**Comments of the Committee  
(Please see Para No. 18 of Chapter I)**

**CHAPTER –V**  
**OBSERVATIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES ARE**  
**OF INTERIM IN NATURE**

**(Recommendation No. 14)**

**'Right to be forgotten online'**

The Committee note that the 'Right to be forgotten online' is a new concept that has been discussed and tried in the European Union (EU) in recent years and this issue has arisen from the desire of some individuals to determine the development of his/her life in an autonomous way, without being perpetually or periodically stigmatized as a consequence of a specific action performed in the past. There are also concerns about its impact on the right to freedom of expression, its interaction with the right to privacy, and whether creating the 'right to be forgotten' would decrease the quality of the Internet while dealing with this issue. The Committee understand that the cyber space is quite dynamic in nature and the actions of the Government are tailored to be in line with the same and a Cyber Regulation Advisory Committee (CRAC) has been set up by the Department to advise the Union Government. The Committee may be apprised of any development made in this regard.

**Reply of the Government**

The developments in this area are being followed to enable Cyber Regulatory Advisory Committee (CRAC) to deal with these issues and advise the Government as appropriate.

**New Delhi;**  
**18 December, 2015**  
**27 Agrahayana, 1937 (Saka)**

**ANURAG SINGH THAKUR,**  
**Chairperson,**  
**Standing Committee on**  
**Information Technology.**

**MINUTES OF THE THIRD SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (2015-16) HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2015**

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The Committee sat on Friday, the 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2015, from 1000 hours to 1040 hours in Committee Room '139', First Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

**Shri Anurag Singh Thakur- Chairperson**

**MEMBERS**

***Lok Sabha***

2. Shri L. K. Advani
3. Shri Prasun Banerjee
4. Dr. Sunil Baliram Gaikwad
5. Shri Hemant Tukaram Godse
6. Shri Virender Kashyap
7. Shri Harinder Singh Khalsa
8. Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya
9. Shri Paresh Rawal
10. Shri Abhishek Singh
11. Smt. R. Vanaroja

***Rajya Sabha***

12. Shri Salim Ansari
13. Shri Vijay Jawaharlal Darda
14. Shri Meghraj Jain

**SECRETARIAT**

- |    |                       |   |                      |
|----|-----------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. | Shri K. Vijaykrishnan | - | Additional Secretary |
| 2. | Shri J.M. Baisakh     | - | Director             |
| 3. | Dr. Sagarika Dash     | - | Deputy Secretary     |
| 4. | Shri Shangreiso Zimik | - | Under Secretary      |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee convened to consider and adopt the following six Draft Action Taken Reports:-

- I. ....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....
- II. Action Taken Report on the Second Report on 'Demands for Grants (2014-15)' of the Department of Electronics and Information Technology;
- III. ....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx....
- IV. ....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....
- V. ....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx...;and
- VI. ....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....

3. The Committee, thereafter, took up for consideration the above Report and after due deliberation adopted the same without any modification.

4. The Committee, then, authorised the Chairperson to present the Action Taken Reports to the House during the current session of Parliament.

**The Committee, then, adjourned**

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....xxxxx Matter not related to the Report.

**ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE OBSERVATIONS/  
RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THEIR SECOND REPORT**

**(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

**[Vide Paragraph No. 5 of Introduction]**

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

Rec. Sl. Nos.:- 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,13,15,16,17,18 and 19

Total 17

Percentage 85

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

Rec. Sl. No.: Nil

Total Nil

Percentage Nil

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

Rec. Sl. No.: 12 and 20

Total 02

Percentage 10

- (iv) Observations/ Recommendations in respect of the reply which is of interim nature

Rec. Sl. No.: 14

Total 01

Percentage 5