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

SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

**[Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of
the Committee contained in their Eighth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on
'Demands for Grants (2015-16)']**

NINETEENTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December, 2015/Agrahayana, 1937 (Saka)

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



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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.) Bhartiben 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 (2015-16), having been authorised by the Committee, do present the Nineteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Eighth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2015-16)' of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

2. The Eighth Report was presented to Lok Sabha/laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 24th April, 2015. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting furnished their Action Taken Notes on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Eight Report on 20th July, 2015.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 18th 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 Eighth 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 Eighth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2015-16)' relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

2. The Eighth Report was presented to Lok Sabha/laid in Rajya Sabha on the 24th April, 2015. It contained 16 Observations/ Recommendations.

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

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

4. The Committee, in their Eighth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha), had undertaken a comprehensive examination of the Demands for Grants (2015-16) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. While undertaking a holistic Budget Analysis of the Ministry, the Committee, under the Broadcasting wing, had focused on issues concerning Prasar Bharati like diversion of IEBR for salary and salary related expenses, monetization/ utilization of land resources, implementation of

recommendations of expert Committee headed by Sam Pitroda, Roadmap for Revival of Prasar Bharati and amendment to various sections of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990. Initiatives and Schemes like Kisan Channel under Doordarshan and AIR, Scheme of DD International, expansion of FM Radio, Schemes for the Strengthening of the Electronic Media Monitoring Centre, and Scheme for supporting Community Radio Movement (CRS) in India were also examined thoroughly. Under the Information Wing, the Committee had examined the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) and under the Film Wing, the Committee had examined the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune, National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM), the Scheme for Production of Film and Documentaries and the Central Board of Film Certification. A majority of the Recommendations of the Committee have been accepted by the Government and are at different stages of implementation.

5. The Action Taken Notes furnished by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in respect of each of the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Eighth 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 Observations/Recommendations.

Prasar Bharati – Generation of Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR)
(Recommendation Sl. No. 2)

7. The Committee, in their Original Report, had recommended as under:-

“The Committee note that during the year 2014-15, the Government had allocated Rs. 436 crore under Plan funds and Rs. 2001.98 crore under Non-Plan funds for Prasar Bharati to meet salary and salary related expenses. Separately, Prasar Bharati allocates Rs. 200 crore annually from its IEBR for Content Development under Software Scheme as per the 12th Five Year Plan proposal. As against the projected revenue of Rs. 2195.00 crore, the revenue receipts of Prasar Bharati during the year 2014- 2015 stood at Rs. 1380 crore up to February, 2015 which was expected to rise to Rs. 1800 crore. The Committee have been informed that in addition to adopting aggressive marketing strategies, Prasar Bharati has also undertaken measures for better publicity of programmes to augment IEBR generation. One of the areas of concern expressed by Prasar Bharati relates to diversion of IEBR resources towards meeting Non-Plan expenditure because the Ministry have not fulfilled the obligation to pay 100% salary of Government servants recruited with Prasar Bharati for the past three years. The Committee find that an amount of Rs. 429 crore is due to Prasar Bharati from the year 2012-13 to 2014-15. Diversion of resources of Prasar Bharati meant for Content Development has reportedly affected revenue generation by Prasar Bharati, especially Doordarshan. In view of the Cabinet decision taken in September, 2012 wherein it was decided that all operating expenses would be met by Prasar Bharati through IEBR, except salary and salary related expenses, the Committee recommend the Ministry to take steps for early release of payment of Rs. 429 crore due to Prasar Bharati.”

8. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, in their Action Taken Note, have inter-alia stated as under:-

“During the discussions held for RE 2014-15 between M/o I&B, Prasar Bharati & M/o Finance in which CEO: PB was also present, M/o Finance raised the issues whether the Grants-in-Aid for salaries being released to Prasar Bharati were being utilized for the

intended purpose. Consequent to issues raised by Ministry of Finance, a pay-roll audit of Prasar Bharati was instituted by AS&FA of this Ministry vide letter dated 11.02.2015 to provide reasonable assurance to the Ministry of Finance

The Ministry in March, 2015 referred the recouping proposal of excess expenditure of Rs. 281.22 crore (Rs. 146.56 for 2012-13 & Rs. 134.66 for 2013-14) incurred by Prasar Bharati during 2012-13 & 2013-14 on salaries under Revenue Non-Plan to M/o Finance.

Budget Division, M/o Finance on this matter stated that **Autonomous Bodies/ grantee institutions should restrict their expenditure within the sanctioned amount and any excess expenditure over and above sanctioned amount may need to be borne by them. If any, excess expenditure is incurred by them out of their own resources, Government cannot reimburse/ recoup them.**

However, in view of the Cabinet decision dated 14.09.2012 *‘during the next five years from 2012-13 to 2016-17, Government Non-Plan support may be made available to Prasar Bharati for meeting 100% expenses towards salary and salary related expenses. All other operating expenses to be borne by Prasar Bharati out of internal revenue earnings’*, the proposal of recoupment of excess expenditure was again referred to Integrated Finance Division (IFD) of the Ministry in April, 2015.

IFD on this matter stated that the pay-roll audit of Prasar Bharati is in process. Once the audit is over, it would refer the matter to the Ministry of Finance for reconsideration of the issue in view the Cabinet decision in this regard.”

9. The Committee had recommended the Ministry to take steps for early release of payment of Rs. 429 crore (2012-13 to 2014-15) which was due to Prasar Bharati, in view of the Cabinet decision taken in September, 2012 wherein it was decided that during the next five years from 2012-13 to 2016-17, Government non-Plan support may be made available to Prasar Bharati for meeting 100% expenses towards salary and salary related expenses. The Committee have been informed that the matter was discussed in a meeting with the Ministry of Finance in the presence of CEO, Prasar Bharati. Based on the discussions in the meeting, a pay-roll audit of Prasar Bharati was instituted by the Ministry of I&B in February, 2015 to provide reasonable assurance to the Ministry of Finance whether the Grants-in-aid for salaries being released to Prasar Bharati were being utilized for the intended purpose. Pending pay-roll audit, the Ministry of I&B, in March, 2015, referred the recouping proposal of excess expenditure of Rs. 281.22 crore (Rs. 146.56 crore for 2012-13 and Rs. 134.66 crore for 2013-14) incurred by Prasar Bharati to the Ministry of Finance. However, the Ministry of Finance reiterated that any excess expenditure incurred by Prasar Bharati over and above the sanctioned amount need to be borne by the Autonomous Body from their own resources and that the Government cannot recoup/reimburse them. The Ministry of I&B have again referred the proposal for recouping of excess expenditure to their Integrated Finance Division (IFD) in April, 2015. According to the Ministry, once the audit is over, the proposal of Prasar Bharati would again be placed before the Ministry of Finance for reconsideration in view of the Cabinet decision dated 14th September, 2012. In the opinion of the Committee, the excess expenditure incurred by Prasar Bharati relate to salary and salary related expenses and need to be borne by the Government as per Cabinet decision of September, 2012. The viewpoint of the Budget Division in the Ministry of Finance on the excess expenditure in the salary segment of Prasar Bharati clearly dilutes the spirit of aforesaid Cabinet decision by way of linking the

matter with sanctioned amount at a given point of time. The outcome of pay-roll audit being conducted by IFD would give a clearer picture of the appropriate utilization of sanctioned amount meant for salaries of employees of Prasar Bharati. The Committee, therefore, desire that the IFD should complete the audit in a time-bound manner and the Administrative Ministry take up the proposal of Prasar Bharati with the Ministry of Finance for recouping the excess expenditure incurred by them for the period 2012-13 to 2014-15 in view of the Cabinet decision of September, 2012. The Committee are concerned over the diversion of IEBR of Prasar Bharati meant for Content Development, which has reportedly affected revenue generation of Prasar Bharati, especially Doordarshan. The Committee are of the considered view that recouping of excess expenditure incurred earlier would help Prasar Bharati with the much needed revenue which it can utilise for content generation. The Committee would like to be informed of the action taken in the matter within a period of three months.

Review of Prasar Bharati – Sam Pitroda Committee Recommendations

Recommendation (Sl. No. 4)

10. The Committee, in their Original Report, had recommended as under:-

“It is disquieting to note that there has not been much headway in the implementation of the recommendations of the Sam Pitroda Committee Report, which was presented to the Government in February, 2014. This Expert Committee was constituted to review the institutional framework of Prasar Bharati, including its relationship with the Government. There seems to be lack of coordination and cohesion between the Ministry of I&B and Prasar Bharati in so far as implementation of these recommendations are concerned, because Prasar Bharati claims to have taken several operational and policy initiatives separately, particularly in the absence of any clarity from the Government about the acceptance of the Sam Pitroda Committee’s entire range of recommendations. The

Committee take a serious view of this casual and lackadaisical approach of the Government on such an important matter. Considering that the overall action plan of Prasar Bharati is getting delayed, the Committee recommend that the Ministry should come out with a definite action plan for the implementation of the recommendations of the Expert Committee in a time-bound manner. The Committee should be apprised of the action taken in the matter within a period of three months.”

11. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, in their Action Taken Note, have inter-alia stated as under:-

“The Ministry had requested Prasar Bharati (PB) to prepare an action plan for undertaking suggestions/ review/ audits etc. on various issues recommended by the Sam Pitroda Committee. It was also brought to the notice of PB that these studies/ audits are critical to any action to be initiated as part of the Committee Report, by the Government. The desired action plan is awaited from Prasar Bharati.

The recommendations of the Sam Pitroda Committee shall be concretized after the studies on manpower, technology and funding are completed and a vision for Prasar Bharati is prepared on the basis of the outcome of the studies.”

12. The Committee, while observing that the overall action plan of Prasar Bharati is getting delayed, had recommended that the Ministry should come out with a definite action plan for implementation of the recommendations of the Expert Committee in a time-bound manner. The Ministry have stated that the recommendations of the Sam Pitroda Committee shall be concretized after the studies on manpower, technology and funding are completed by Prasar Bharati. Considering the fact that the implementation of the Pitroda Committee recommendations has been considerably delayed, the Committee reiterate their earlier recommendation and call upon the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Prasar Bharati to work in tandem in actualizing the recommendations of the Expert Committee with regard to reviewing the

institutional framework of Prasar Bharati, including its relationship with the Government.

Roadmap for Revival of Prasar Bharati

Recommendation (Sl. No.5)

13. The Committee, in their Original Report, had recommended as under:-

“The Committee recognize that the idea of providing Free Dish and progressive Fmization can play vital role in shaping future roadmap for revival of Prasar Bharati. As part of its Free Dish endeavour, Doordarshan has upgraded the technical infrastructure of DD Free Dish DTH Platform and is presently providing free to air 64 SDTV channels in MPEG-2DVB-S. The technical infrastructure of the remaining 48 SDTV channels has also been installed and tested. Once these channels are made Conditional Access System (CAS) enabled in free-to-view mode, subscribers can view these channels with a one-time annual registration. Doordarshan is planning to commission these 48 SDTV channels in Free Dish mode only after implementing the CAS Service, upgrading its platform to 112 channels. The Committee need hardly emphasize that popularization of Free Dish may indeed prove to be one of the major keys which can turn around Doordarshan in a big way, especially when it is competing with private TV channels who are providing hundreds of channels to its viewers. Therefore, the Ministry should make efforts to complete all the procedural formalities so as to facilitate the expeditious execution of the Free Dish Project. Further, to bring Prasar Bharati in the revival track, it needs to move swiftly with its FMization initiative. On the issue of Fmization, the Ministry have informed that it is for the Prasar Bharati to take a call on Fmization. It had conveyed to Prasar Bharati that the issue can be addressed at the time of revision in the 12th Plan which may be got approved by the Prasar Bharati Board and the final scheme proposal may be forwarded to the Ministry for approval by CCEA. The Committee recommend that Prasar Bharati

should accordingly go ahead and formulate a comprehensive proposal on Fmization at the earliest for seeking Cabinet approval.”

14. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, in their Action Taken Note, have inter-alia stated as under:-

“Prasar Bharati has informed that Up-gradation/Expansion of DD Free Dish platform from 59 channels to 112 channels has been partly completed by the Engineering Wing of DD. Up-gradation involves introduction of Conditional Access System (CAS) enabled MPEG-4 channels in addition to the existing “unscrambled” MPEG-2 channels available to current subscribers. Four upgraded and bandwidth efficient MPEG-2 streams have already been enabled with 64 channels. Two MPEG-4 streams capable of carrying 48 SD channels are also being uplinked, but cannot be received by viewers due to non-implementation of CAS. Implementation of CAS has been held up due to inordinate delay in firming up a CAS vendor due to concerns raised with regard to the process adopted to identify a CAS vendor and one of the shortlisted entities, it has been decided to issue a fresh tender to identify the CAS vendor.

Once implemented, the CAS enabled MPEG-4 streams will open new opportunities for offering Value Added Services (VAS) such as EPG, home channels, overlay of advertisements, and similar other consumer oriented and revenue-generating services. It will also enable DD arrive at a precise estimate of Free Dish subscriber base, on the basis of which it will be able to demand higher carriage fees on its platform. For DD to realize the benefits of Upgradation/Expansion, DD Free Dish has to be supported by an active publicity, sales and support wing, which will help expand the subscriber base and make it the most popular DTH platform. This has to be supported by a dedicated customer service division, along with a 24x7 call/help centre. Both these efforts have been initiated by Prasar Bharati.

Prasar Bharati has further informed that Radio listenership has moved over to FM Radio because of superior stereo quality and variety of

programming. In addition, availability of FM Radio on Mobile phones has further enhanced its popularity. AIR FM Radio presently covers only 45% of population. Cost of ensuring FM across entire nation is 3000 Crore (Approx). This would require enhanced Plan allocation, mid term 12th plan review and generation of new resources.

The Ministry have already communicated to Prasar Bharati that any revisions in the approved Plan Scheme will have to be taken up with CCEA after such proposals for revisions are furnished to the Ministry with due approval of Prasar Bharati Board.

The Ministry has noted recommendation of the Committee.”

15. The Committee had recommended the Ministry to expedite the Free Dish Project and make necessary efforts to complete all procedural formalities in this regard. The Committee are, however, concerned to note that the implementation of the CAS has been held up due to the inordinate delay in firming up a CAS vendor. For DD to realize the benefits of upgradation/expansion, Prasar Bharati has taken initiatives to enhance the subscriber base and publicity of DD Free Dish DTH platform along with providing a dedicated customer service division and a 24x7 call/help centre. The Committee, however, feel that all these initiatives will not yield the desired benefit unless the DD Free Dish initiative is expedited by fast tracking the implementation of CAS. Keeping in view the fact that providing Free Dish is crucial to enhance competitiveness of Doordarshan *vis-a-vis* the private TV channels, it is highly imperative that the procedural hurdles with regard to CAS need to be removed. The Committee, therefore, stress that Prasar Bharati need to complete all the procedural formalities for expeditious execution of the Free Dish project. Similarly, with regard to FMization, the Committee had recommended the Prasar Bharati to formulate a comprehensive plan on FMization at the earliest for seeking Cabinet approval. The Committee are however, perturbed to note that no action has been initiated so far by the Prasar Bharati to prepare a comprehensive proposal. As FMization needs

enhanced Plan allocation under the 12th Plan and the proposal can be approved at the time of revision of the 12th Plan before sending the final proposal for approval of CCEA, the Committee urge the Prasar Bharati to take urgent steps for preparation of a comprehensive proposal for FMization without any further delay. The Committee would like to be apprised of the steps taken in this regard.

CHAPTER-II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Budget Analysis

Recommendation (Sl. No. 1)

As per Demand No. 61 of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B), the budgetary allocation for 2015-16 is for a total amount of Rs. 3711.11 crore, which include Rs.914.53 crore for Plan and Rs.2796.58 crore for Non-Plan. The Committee note that there is an overall increase in the size of the Budget by Rs.395.11 crore for the year 2015-16 crore compared to the budgetary support for the year 2014-15 at BE stage. A look at the financial performance of the Ministry indicates that they have been able to achieve cent per cent utilization with respect to RE allocations in the year 2014-15, which is a healthy trend. Considering the fact that the expenditure registered a little above 50% at the BE stage, i.e. during the first two quarters of 2014-15, the Ministry need to have better planning for improving the benchmark of expenditure. Taking note of the fact that the outlay for the Plan schemes pertaining to Prasar Bharati constitutes a major chunk of the total Plan outlay of the Ministry, specific steps need to be taken to improve the planning and implementation of different schemes by Prasar Bharati. The Committee note that the Ministry have taken steps in this direction which include delegation of financial power up to Rs.300 crore to the Prasar Bharati Board, restoration of sanctioning power to DGs up to Rs.20 crore and rationalizing the procurement period in Prasar Bharati. The Committee feel that these measures would facilitate quick decision making in Prasar Bharati, paving the way for the smooth and speedy execution of approved projects. The Committee's attention has been drawn to the fact that despite the decent pace of utilization at the BE stage, substantial reduction of funds take place which is undoubtedly hampering the timely execution of 33 planned schemes. In the opinion of the Committee, this is an area which requires focused attention of the Ministry of Finance. The Committee suggest that the Ministry of I&B, in consultation with the Ministry of Finance, evolve a mechanism which should ensure that funds once allocated at the BE stage are not withdrawn, unless there is a major

shortfall in utilization, so that the execution of planned schemes does not suffer mid-way due to want of funds. The Committee desire that their suggestion may be brought to the notice of the Ministry of Finance for appropriate action at the Ministry's end. Besides, the Committee want the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to make earnest efforts to bring improvement in their overall financial performance, which will enable them to achieve the laid down physical targets.

Reply of the Government

As desired by the Committee, Ministry of I&B has brought the suggestion of the Committee to the notice of Ministry of Finance for appropriate action. Ministry of Finance vide their O.M. dated 1st June, 2015 has conveyed that while deciding RE for any programme, functional requirement and absorptive capacity are given due attention along with resources available. Further, apart from the extensive consultation with the Ministry while revising the estimates, Ministry of Finance has also assured that due care will be taken to ensure that adequate resources are available for programme implementation within the resource envelop available to the Govt.

In addition, the Ministry would make earnest efforts to ensure speedy and effective utilisation of allocated funds during 2015-16. In order to ensure the same, the Ministry has taken steps such as:

- (i) Streamlining the process of implementation of Plan schemes;
- (ii) Undertaking periodic review of Plan implementation and expenditure in Senior Officers' Meeting chaired by Secretary (I&B); and
- (iii) Regular monitoring of the implementation of various schemes by the respective bureau heads.

(Ministry of I&B O.M. No. G-20016/7/2015-B&A dated 10.06.2015)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 2)

Prasar Bharati – Generation of IEBR

The Committee note that during the year 2014-15, the Government had allocated Rs. 436 crore under Plan funds and Rs. 2001.98 crore under Non-

Plan funds for Prasar Bharati to meet salary and salary related expenses. Separately, Prasar Bharati allocates Rs. 200 crore annually from its IEBR for Content Development under Software Scheme as per the 12th Five Year Plan proposal. As against the projected revenue of Rs. 2195.00 crore, the revenue receipts of Prasar Bharati during the year 2014- 2015 stood at Rs. 1380 crore up to February, 2015 which was expected to rise to Rs. 1800 crore. The Committee have been informed that in addition to adopting aggressive marketing strategies, Prasar Bharati has also undertaken measures for better publicity of programmes to augment IEBR generation. One of the areas of concern expressed by Prasar Bharati relates to diversion of IEBR resources towards meeting Non-Plan expenditure because the Ministry have not fulfilled the obligation to pay 100% salary of Government servants recruited with Prasar Bharati for the past three years. The Committee find that an amount of Rs. 429 crore is due to Prasar Bharati from the year 2012-13 to 2014-15. Diversion of resources of Prasar Bharati meant for Content Development has reportedly affected revenue generation by Prasar Bharati, especially Doordarshan. In view of the Cabinet decision taken in September, 2012 wherein it was decided that all operating expenses would be met by Prasar Bharati through IEBR, except salary and salary related expenses, the Committee recommend the Ministry to take steps for early release of payment of Rs. 429 crore due to Prasar Bharati.

Reply of the Government

During the discussions held for RE 2014-15 between M/o I&B, Prasar Bharati & M/o Finance in which CEO: PB was also present, M/o Finance raised the issues whether the Grants-in-Aid for salaries being released to Prasar Bharati were being utilized for the intended purpose. Consequent to issues raised by Ministry of Finance, a pay-roll audit of Prasar Bharati was instituted by AS&FA of this Ministry vide letter dated 11.02.2015 to provide reasonable assurance to the Ministry of Finance

The Ministry in March, 2015 referred the recouping proposal of excess expenditure of Rs. 281.22 crore (Rs. 146.56 for 2012-13 & Rs. 134.66 for

2013-14) incurred by Prasar Bharati during 2012-13 & 2013-14 on salaries under Revenue Non-Plan to M/o Finance.

Budget Division, M/o Finance on this matter stated that **Autonomous Bodies/ grantee institutions should restrict their expenditure within the sanction amount and any excess expenditure over and above sanctioned amount may need to be borne by them. If any, excess expenditure is incurred by them out of their own resources, Government cannot reimburse/ recoup them.**

However, in view of the Cabinet decision dated 14.09.2012 '*during the next five years from 2012-13 to 2016-17, Government Non-Plan support may be made available to Prasar Bharati for meeting 100% expenses towards salary and salary related expenses. All other operating expenses to be borne by Prasar Bharati out of internal revenue earnings*', the proposal of recoupment of excess expenditure was again referred to Integrated Finance Division (IFD) of the Ministry in April, 2015.

IFD on this matter stated that the pay-roll audit of Prasar Bharati is in process. Once the audit is over, it would refer the matter to the Ministry of Finance for reconsideration of the issue in view the Cabinet decision in this regard.

(Ministry of I&B, B-Finance Section, O.M. No. G-20019/2/2015-B(Fin) dated 02.07.2015)

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

Recommendation (Sl. No.5)

Roadmap for Revival of Prasar Bharati

The Committee recognize that the idea of providing Free Dish and progressive Fmization can play vital role in shaping future roadmap for revival of Prasar Bharati. As part of its Free Dish endeavour, Doordarshan has upgraded the technical infrastructure of DD Free Dish DTH Platform and is presently providing free to air 64 SDTV channels in MPEG-2DVB-S. The

technical infrastructure of the remaining 48 SDTV channels has also been installed and tested. Once these channels are made Conditional Access System (CAS) enabled in free-to-view mode, subscribers can view these channels with a one-time annual registration. Doordarshan is planning to commission these 48 SDTV channels in Free Dish mode only after implementing the CAS Service, upgrading its platform to 112 channels. The Committee need hardly emphasize that popularization of Free Dish may indeed prove to be one of the major keys which can turn around Doordarshan in a big way, especially when it is competing with private TV channels who are providing hundreds of channels to its viewers. Therefore, the Ministry should make efforts to complete all the procedural formalities so as to facilitate the expeditious execution of the Free Dish Project. Further, to bring Prasar Bharati in the revival track, it needs to move swiftly with its FMization initiative. On the issue of Fmization, the Ministry have informed that it is for the Prasar Bharati to take a call on Fmization. It had conveyed to Prasar Bharati that the issue can be addressed at the time of revision in the 12th Plan which may be got approved by the Prasar Bharati Board and the final scheme proposal may be forwarded to the Ministry for approval by CCEA. The Committee recommend that Prasar Bharati should accordingly go ahead and formulate a comprehensive proposal on Fmization at the earliest for seeking Cabinet approval.

Reply of the Government

Prasar Bharati has informed that Up-gradation/Expansion of DD Free Dish platform from 59 channels to 112 channels has been partly completed by the Engineering Wing of DD. Up-gradation involves introduction of Conditional Access System (CAS) enabled MPEG-4 channels in addition to the existing “unscrambled” MPEG-2 channels available to current subscribers. Four upgraded and bandwidth efficient MPEG-2 streams have already been enabled with 64 channels. Two MPEG-4 streams capable of carrying 48 SD channels are also being uplinked, but cannot be received by viewers due to non-implementation of CAS. Implementation of CAS has been held up due to inordinate delay in firming up a CAS vendor due to concerns raised with regard to the process adopted to identify a CAS vendor and one of the shortlisted entities, it has been decided to issue a fresh tender to identify the CAS vendor.

Once implemented, the CAS enabled MPEG-4 streams will open new opportunities for offering Value Added Services (VAS) such as EPG, home channels, overlay of advertisements, and similar other consumer oriented and revenue-generating services. It will also enable DD arrive at a precise estimate of Free Dish subscriber base, on the basis of which it will be able to demand higher carriage fees on its platform. For DD to realize the benefits of Upgradation/Expansion, DD Free Dish has to be supported by an active publicity, sales and support wing, which will help expand the subscriber base and make it the most popular DTH platform. This has to be supported by a dedicated customer service division, along with a 24x7 call/help centre. Both these efforts have been initiated by Prasar Bharati.

Prasar Bharati has further informed that Radio Iistenership has moved over to FM Radio because of superior stereo quality and variety of programming. In addition, availability of FM Radio on Mobile phones has further enhanced its popularity. AIR FM Radio presently covers only 45% of population. Cost of ensuring FM across entire nation is 3000 Crore (Approx). This would require enhanced Plan allocation, mid term 12th plan review and generation of new resources.

The Ministry has already communicated to Prasar Bharati that any revisions in the approved Plan Scheme will have to be taken up with CCEA after such proposals for revisions are furnished to the Ministry with due approval of Prasar Bharati Board.

The Ministry has noted recommendation of the Committee.
(Ministry of I&B's O.M. No. 18013/6/2015-B(D) dated 25.06.2015)

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

Recommendation (Sl. No. 6)

Amendments to various Sections of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990

Another issue which has engaged the attention of the Committee relates to the functional autonomy of Prasar Bharati. The Committee have been given to understand that the sections in the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 which empower the Central Government to regulate the recruitment conditions in Prasar Bharati are impinging upon the autonomous character of the organization. According to the Ministry, the Group of Ministers (GoM) on Prasar Bharati had reviewed the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 and recommend certain amendments to the Act to improve the governance in Prasar Bharati. The Committee have, however, been informed that these contentious Sections were not recovered in the GoM recommendations. The Ministry are in the process of assessing and analyzing the proposals made in the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Amendment Bill. The Committee recommend that the Ministry may suitably amend the provisions of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 so that the functional autonomy of Prasar Bharati envisaged in the Act is not diluted and the much desired autonomy for the national broadcaster is secured.

Reply of the Government:

The Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990 empowers the Prasar Bharati with full functional autonomy. The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting had requested the Group of Ministers on Prasar Bharati to consider the issue of amendment, if any, of Prasar Bharati Act in the light of the working of the Act. The recommendations of Group of Ministers (GoM) on Prasar Bharati have been considered in the Ministry and a draft Cabinet Note towards making amendments to certain clauses of the Act was earlier circulated for inter-Ministerial consultation. The Ministry has withdrawn the said draft Cabinet Note on 10.11.2014 with the approval of the Competent Authority as it was felt that there is a requirement to further assess and analyse the issue. The recommendations made by the Committee have been noted for consideration.

(File No. H-11013/16/2015-BA(P) dated 10.06.2015)

Recommendation (Sl. No.7)

Kisan Channel under Doordarshan and AIR

The Committee note that the Scheme of Kisan Channel had been approved during the year 2014-15, with an initial allocation of Rs. 100 crore, i.e. Rs. 90 crore for Doordarshan and Rs. 10 crore for All India Radio. However, the BE allocation was reduced to Rs. 26 crore at RE stage which was, of course, utilized fully during the year 2014-15. The Ministry have informed that the BE allocation for the Scheme was reduced to Rs. 26 crore at RE stage owing to factors such as gestation period involved in carrying out research for writing script authenticated by Agricultural Scientists and experts preparing rich content. With regard to the targets, the Committee note that earmarking of a dedicated studio has been made; 51 professionals have joined the channel against 67 posts advertised; and efforts have been made to impart training and orientation of manpower working in Kisan Channel from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (JARI). Integrated automated play out system for the channel has been installed and apart from procurement of equipment, the DTH facility has been upgraded. During the year 2015-16, the Ministry propose to spend Rs. 10 crore on infrastructure development and Rs. 35 crore on generating rich content. The Committee would like to stress the significance of a channel like the Kisan channel in an agrarian country like India where issues, like dissemination of real time information to farmers on farming techniques, water conservation, organic farming, etc. hold crucial importance to the farmers. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to complete all the remaining infrastructural and studio up-gradation work for the scheme during the current fiscal itself and also spend Rs. 35 crore earmarked for content judiciously. The Committee urge the Ministry/ Prasar Bharati to focus on areas of advancement of the channel by generation of rich content and ensure active participation of experts in the field of agriculture and agronomy so that the dedicated Kisan Channel proves to be an advancement over the Krishi Darshan Programmes and that the farmers benefit out of it.

Reply of the Government

The Kisan Channel was formally launched by the Hon'ble. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on the 26th of May, 2015 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi and since then the channel has been running 24X7.

Prasar Bharati has informed that content for Kisan Channel is very important, as it is substantially different from a normal entertainment channel. The content of the channel ought to be scientific in nature carefully prepared with the help of agricultural scientists from ICAR-IARI, agricultural universities and such institutes. Ministry of Agriculture has been keenly involved from the very beginning with the channel and regular meetings including various consultative briefings have taken place on generating good & rich content.

Weather report is very important to the farmers. There has been a tie up with Agro-Met division of the IMD, Pune with the channel for disseminating weather inputs and its affect on the crops to the farmer including the requisite advisories through the Kisan Channel. Every possible step is being adopted to enrich the farmer/ artisans, the farm labourers and all others in rural India, with real time information on new and innovative farming techniques, water conservation, organic farming, Agro-Product market related informations etc. so as to strengthen the farmers in the rural population of the country.

This Ministry is fully aware of the importance of the Kisan Channel and therefore, Ministry's representative in Prasar Bharati Board meeting held on 17.06.2015 has urged that serious attention is paid to its content and focus group of Kisan Channel keeps on working on it.

Prasar Bharati has further informed that the engineering department of Doordarshan Directorate is taking steps to improve and refurbish the studio earmarked for Kisan channel at the CPC, Khel Gaon Marg. The studio upgradation work for the channel is expected to be accomplished by December 2015 by the Engineering division. NIT has been issued for majority of equipment including SITC of Multi Camera Studio Production facilities in

HDTV format. Specifications for Collaborative Post-production facility is under finalization.

The suggestions of the Committee on generation of rich content and ensuring active participations of experts in the field of agriculture and agronomy have been noted.

(Ministry of I&B's O.M. No. 18013/6/2015-B(D) dated 25.06.2015)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 8)

Scheme of DD International

The Committee find that for the Scheme of Global coverage for DD International, though a token amount of Rs. 50 lakh had been proposed during 2015-16, no fund has been allocated at the BE stage. On this issue, Prasar Bharati has stated that while countries like Japan, Germany, China, Russia, France, etc. invest heavily in their international channels, Doordarshan currently has a very low budget for production of programmes under the DD International Scheme. Further, the Committee have been informed that Prasar Bharati does not have any overseas TV presence though a few private TV channels have made some inroads into the international arena. These channels do not present the true picture of India to Indians and foreign viewers abroad. Regarding the initiatives taken for global coverage of DD, the Committee are given to understand that DD had signed an agreement with M/s Pan SAT for achieving global foot print but its viewership remained insignificant due to non-availability of the channel on the local distribution platform. Subsequently, even that contract got terminated. The Committee are further given to understand that even though Doordarshan made efforts to distribute the international channel, it could not make much progress due to policies not favourable for large scale spending on carriage fees. The efforts of Doordarshan through regular correspondence with the Ministry of External Affairs have also not been very successful, except with the Central Asia Division. The Committee note that after detailed discussion and deliberations, an MoU has been signed with Duestsche Welle on 5th August, 2014 for providing DD India Free-to-Air basic package through DTH Ku band platform which is available to viewers

across Europe, Central Asia, the Arab world of West Asia and North America, connecting around 120 million households abroad. Prasar Bharati needs further help and support from the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs as it has very limited financial resources to promote DD International. While appreciating the above initiative of the Ministry/Prasar Bharati, the Committee feel that they should both work more aggressively on tie-ups and ownership rights for the advancement of DD India programmes so that the channel gets international attention and acclaim, as the official voice of India. The Committee are of the considered view that adequate funds need to be allocated to the plan scheme of DD International and efforts be made to get financial and resource support from MEA, MOIA and other Ministries concerned.

Reply of the Government

The Cabinet Secretariat vide their OM No. 31/CM/2012(i) dated 18.09.2012 had conveyed Cabinet's decision that during the next five years from 2012-13 to 2016-17, Government non-Plan support may be made available to Prasar Bharati for meeting 100% expenses towards salary and salary related expenses.. All other operating expenses is to be borne by Prasar Bharati out of internal revenue earnings. Content creation is the basic function of Prasar Bharati and they are aware about the afore-mentioned cabinet decision. As a result, Prasar Bharati has committed an expenditure of Rupees 1000 crore (200 crore per year) to Planning Commission during entire 12th plan period out of Internal Extra Budgetary Resources (IBER).

As regards resource support to Prasar Bharati from MEA, MOIA and other Ministries, it is stated that two inter-ministerial meetings under the chairmanship of Secretary, Information & Broadcasting were held on 17.10.2014 & 08.12.2014 respectively for projection of India's viewpoint to the global audience through the international channel and also to finalize a content strategy. The meetings were attended by officers from concerned Ministries and they offered their suggestions regarding programming content, which were conveyed to Prasar Bharti. MEA had offered some excellent

documentary films (around 300 numbers) and a catalogue of documentaries to Doordarshan and they would provide budgetary support of Rs.50.00 lakh for sub-titling of the documentaries done through MEA's missions and authorized persons/ agencies in the desired language and format. Though MEA is supportive of the efforts made by DD to expand India's International T.V. footprint but would not drive the said expansion initiative as DD is the nodal agency and the expansion initiative should be done using established marketing channels/professional marketing agencies rather than dependence on Embassies or Missions. Prasar Bharati to consolidate its efforts in this regard. Similarly, Ministry of Culture had already provided programme content of 3849 hours to Prasar Bharati.

The driver of the channel is Prasar Bharati and other Ministries/ departments can play supportive role, which is being done.

(Ministry of I&B I.D. No. N-34025/1/2014-BC-IV dated 22.06.2015)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 9)

Expansion of FM Radio

The Committee find that the Government have approved the e-Auction of the 1st batch of 135 FM channels in 69 existing cities on 16th January, 2015. C1 India has been selected as the e-Auctioneer through global tender. The Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) have been issued on 2nd March, 2015. The Committee have been apprised that applications are being examined and a Committee has been constituted with Secretaries of the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Department of Telecommunications and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for indicating and approving the list of successful bidders. The auction is expected to be completed by the end of April or May 2015. The Ministry, during evidence, has stated that the procedure of auction for the existing vacant 69 channels will be very transparent and that the next phase of auctioning will follow after the completion of the first phase. The Committee feel that commissioning of additional FM radios will bring added revenue to the Government exchequer

and improve the programme content by providing a wider choice to the listeners through carriage of non-news items such as sports, cultural events, traffic and weather information, public announcements, etc. While welcoming the initiative of the Government, the Committee recommend to the Ministry to take all necessary steps to ensure that the auctioning takes place in a fair and transparent manner, and as per schedule.

Reply of the Government

The Government on 16.1.2015 approved the e-auction of 1st batch of 135 channels in 69 existing cities based on the reserve price formula approved by Cabinet in 2011.

An e-auctioneer, C1 India, has been selected through global tender and in a transparent manner to conduct e-auction of private FM channels.

The Information Memorandum (IM) was issued on 21st January, 2015 and was uploaded on the Ministry's website (www.mib.nic.in). Thereafter, a pre-bid conference took place on 28th January, 2015 with the representatives of the stakeholders and prospective bidders for clarifying their queries and to seek suggestions. In total 85 queries were received in pre-bid meeting after issuing IM. Replies to all such queries have been uploaded on the website of this Ministry on 17.2.2015. Subsequently, a Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) for bidding for the first batch was issued on 2nd March, 2015. Second pre-bid conference with the stakeholders regarding the NIA was held on 10.3.2015 in Sookna Bhawan, New Delhi. In total 76 queries/suggestions were received on NIA. Ministry considered all queries/suggestions and replied to them on 20.3.15. An addendum to NIA was issued on 20.3.15 after incorporating certain suggestions and last date of giving application was extended upto 5 pm on 27.3.15 from 5 pm on 23.3.15.

A total of 28 applications have been received till the last date i.e. 27.3.2015. The applications are being examined to short list pre-qualified bidders. Upon receipt of security clearance from Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) the list of pre-qualified bidders will be declared. All pre-qualified bidders will submit their software bids for channels of their choice on web

based ascending e-auction. To approve the list of successful bidders under FM Phase-III auctions, a Committee comprising of Secretaries of Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Department of Telecommunications and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has been constituted on 12.03.2015, with the senior most Secretary, to be its Chairperson.

On the recommendations of Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), Ministry has appointed an Independent External Monitor (IEM) for greater transparency in the auction process. Similarly, Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) and Application Review Committee (ARC) have been constituted under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, M/o I&B and concerned Joint Secretary (Broadcasting), M/o I&B, respectively, for conduct of e-auction for award of license of FM Channels under FM Radio (Phase-III) Expansion.

The Ministry has taken all requisite steps to ensure fair auction and Ministry is also emphatic on following the completing the auction process by schedule in coordination with other Ministries/Departments.

(Ministry of I&B O.M. No. N-38032/24/2015-FM dated 29.05.2015)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 10)

Scheme of Strengthening Electronic Media Monitoring Centre

The Committee note that the plan scheme of Strengthening of Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC) has been sanctioned with a total allocation of Rs 90 crore in the 12th Plan, with the objective of protecting citizens from broadcast of undesirable content. Under this plan Scheme, it is proposed to enhance the monitoring facility for content from the existing 300 TV channels to 1500 TV channels in a phased manner. During the year 2014-2015, out of the RE allocation of Rs25 crore, an amount of Rs 18.85 crore has been expended by the Ministry. The Committee are given to understand that at present there are 836 permitted TV channels which are under the surveillance of the Monitoring Centre. During the period from 1.1.2014 to 30.3.2015, a total number of 36 TV channels were found to be violating the content guidelines and the Ministry have issued advisory / warnings to them. The Committee note

that apart from enhancing the monitoring capacity of 600 TV channels to 900 channels, the Ministry propose to bring 60 Community Radios (from existing 30) an all 170 CRSs under the ambit of EMMC by July, 2015 and March 2016, respectively. Keeping in view the above said targets and the fact that FM radio monitoring is also envisaged to be brought under the fold of EMMC, the Committee recommend the Ministry to complete the technical and monitoring upgradation for the Centre without any delay and ensure deployment of adequate manpower needed for the purpose.

Reply of the Government

With reference to the above para of the report, BECIL has been entrusted to implement the plan scheme “Strengthening of EMMC” on turnkey basis. A Project Monitoring Committee (PMC) has been constituted to review the progress made in this respect. BECIL has been directed to execute the project within the timelines. All steps are being taken to fill up vacancies for the posts of monitors and logistic assistants being filled after following due process for engagement of suitable manpower at the earliest.

It is submitted that during the financial year 2014-2015, out of the allocated and released amount of Rs 25 crore, EMMC had spent Rs 2475.47 Lakhs.

(File No. N-18013/7/2015-BC-1 dated 15.07.2015)

Recommendations (Sl. No. 11)

Scheme for Supporting Community Radio Movement (CRS) in India

The Committee note that the Ministry have been implementing the Plan Scheme of Supporting Community Radio Movement in India which aims at providing financial assistance to new and existing Community Radios for acquisition of equipment, training, etc. Keeping in view the huge potential for establishing a large number of CRS in India, the Committee in their 4th Report on Demands for Grants (2014-15), had recommended the Ministry to take necessary steps to encourage the movement by simplifying the existing procedure and launching of awareness campaigns. The Committee are, however, concerned to note that the Budget Estimate of Rs. 13 crore for the scheme was reduced to Rs. 2.65 crore at the RE stage and full funds could not

be utilized due to non-finalisation of mode and content module of activities. The Committee further note that in total 209 applications for setting up of CRS are pending with various Ministries. Even though the number of applications pending in the Ministries concerned has come down substantially, 50 applications are still pending which have crossed the stipulated timeline beyond 3 months. The Committee are of the view that the matter of pendency of clearances should be taken up with the Ministries/agencies concerned for their early clearance. On the issue of engagement of a consulting agency for study of the effectiveness of CRS, the Committee have been informed that out of 16 proposals submitted by different agencies, one agency has been shortlisted and selected, which will assess the effectiveness of CRS. The study is likely to throw light on the training needs and capacity building of personnel. The Committee feel that the study will help in finalizing the content module which is partly coming in the way of the successful implementation of the scheme. Further, the Ministry need to identify areas which warrant specific attention so that funds crucial for the Scheme do not remain idle and unutilized. The Committee, therefore, recommend to the Ministry to expedite the study and apprise them of the progress made in this regard.

Reply of the Government

Ministry is continuously pursuing the matter regarding pendency of clearances with concerned Ministries/Departments to provide clearances within stipulated time period of 3 months. As on 15.06.2015 a total of 126 applications are awaiting clearances of concerned Ministries/Departments. Applications are referred parallel to concerned Ministries. Therefore, each application may be pending in multiple Ministries.

Total number of clearances awaited from each Ministry/Department and the cases pending for more than stipulated period of 3 months are detailed below:

Name of Ministry/ Department	MHA	WPC Wing	Ministry of Defence	MHRD	ICAR
Total Number of clearances	83	115	95	25	07

awaited out of 134					
Number of clearances awaited for more than stipulated period of 3 months.	20	49	38	15	02

With regular follow ups most of the clearances are being received within stipulated time frame and number of applications pending beyond specified period of 3 months has been substantially reduced.

With regard to engagement of a consulting agency for study of the effectiveness of CRS, a need was felt to look into the issues arising out of agencies like IRS/ABC/BARC/TAM etc. Such issues are being examined. (Ministry of I&B, CRS Cell, O.M. No. 503/102/2014-CRS dated 02.07.2015)

Recommendation (Sl. No.12)

Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP)

The Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) is the nodal organization for advertising and disseminating information on policies, programmes and achievements of Government of India. The Committee note with satisfaction that out of an allocation of Rs.160.20 crore, the Ministry have been able to spend Rs.147.01 crore (91.76%). There has been a cent percent achievement of physical targets under Scheme of DAVP during 2014-15. The Committee are given to understand that due to total exhaustion of funds allocated for the entire 12th Plan period, left over amount of Rs.23 crore only from original approved fund of Rs.470 crore has been allocated for the schemes of DAVP during 2015-16. The Committee have been informed that a Revised Cost Estimate (RCE) proposal for additional requirement of funds to the tune of Rs.350 crore has already been mooted and is in process. The Ministry have expressed apprehension that if adequate funds are not made available under the scheme, the multimedia campaign of flagship programmes of the Government of India such as Make in India, Digital India, Skill India, Jan

Dhan Yojna, etc. will get adversely affected. The Committee fully agree with this and are of the view that sustained campaign for people's participation in the flagship programmes of the Government of India should not suffer due to want of funds. As such, the Committee recommend that the Ministry should pursue with the Ministry of Finance for adequate allocation under the scheme.

Reply of the Government

The Standing Committee on Information Technology has recommended that the Ministry should pursue with Ministry of Finance for adequate allocation under the scheme.

Revised requirement of additional funds for the DAVP's sub-scheme "People's Empowerment through Development Communication" under the Development Communication and Information Dissemination (DCID) scheme of the Ministry is Rs.180 crore during 2015-16, out of which Rs.20 crore has already been made available in BE 2015-16 from the remaining balance of DAVP's sub-scheme. An amount of Rs.131 crore will be made available from National Film Heritage Mission (NHFM), subject to EFC approval of the Revised Cost Estimate (RCE) proposal of DCID.

Budgetary provision in respect of the above scheme of DAVP can be raised from Rs.20 crore to Rs.151 crore during 2015-16 once the EFC approval is obtained [BE 2015-16 Rs.20 crore + Rs.131 crore proposed to be transferred from NHFM]. The remaining balance of Rs.29 crore out of the proposed annual plan outlay of Rs.180 crore can be made available through normal budgetary mechanism during RE 2015-16 stage.

RCE proposal of the above scheme has been circulated to Ministry of Finance and NITI Aayog for consideration / approval of EFC. As recommended by the Standing Committee on Information Technology, this Ministry is making every effort to provide adequate allocation under the scheme.

(Ministry of I&B O.M. No.M-24014/2/2015-MUC dated 09.06.2015)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 13)

Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune

The Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune, is a premier institute under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting for imparting training in the art and technique of film making and television programming. The committee note that under the Plan Scheme of upgradation of infrastructure and procurement of equipment, Rs.19 crore and had been allocated to FTII during the year 2014-15 out of which FTII has released Rs.11.5 crore to the civil construction work for them. An amount of Rs.6.5 crore were utilized for procurement of machinery and equipment. The Committee also note that FTII offers various courses, viz. three-year Post Graduate Diploma in Film, two-year post Graduate Diploma in Acting, Art direction and Production Design, one-year Certificate Courses in Television, one-year Post Graduate Certification Courses in Feature Film, Screen Play writing, etc. Presently, as against the sanctioned strength of 252 students for the above courses, 342 students are on the roll of FTII. So far so the faculty strength concerned, the Institute has a sanctioned strength of 50 of which 24 are regular and 26 are being filled (through contract basis empanelled against vacancies). During the examination of the Demands for Grants (2014-15), the Ministry had informed that the institute is facing many difficulties such as non-recognition of major courses by higher educational institutes, low pay scale of faculty, etc., and to address these issues, the Ministry are in the process of introducing a Bill to declare both the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) and the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI), Kolkata, as Institute of national importance and draft Cabinet Note in this regard has been submitted for approval. The Committee are, however, concerned to note that not much progress has been made on in this matter. In the meantime, on the suggestion of PMO, the Ministry of Human Resource Development have requested the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to consider including these Institutes under the existing Central University Act. The Committee are also of the view that the problem of non-recognition of the Institutes will be addressed to a great extent by attracting the best of students and faculties if

these Institutes are included under the Central University Act. Therefore, the Ministry should consider the above proposal seriously and pursue its feasibility with the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The Committee may be apprised of the progress on both the proposals, i.e. introduction of the draft Bill and the proposal of MHRD on the inclusion of the Institutes in the Central University Act.

Reply of the Government

This Ministry is of the view that there may not be any impediments in bringing Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) and the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI), Kolkata under the Central University Act. However, it is pertinent to mention that the Committee of Government Assurance (Lok Sabha), in its meeting held on 06.05.2015 with representatives of Ministry on assurance given on Parliament, has strongly recommended for declaring FTII & SRFTI as “Institute of National Importance” through an Act of Parliament as both the Institutes are unique and have imparted high quality education in the art and craft of film and television and their functioning should not be restricted under the norms of a general University.

On the background of advice of PMO, a decision of CoS is being sought on the feasibility of a single legislation in place of a number of enactments as proposed by different ministries under the ambit of Ministry of HRD. (Ministry of I&B O.M. No.202/35/2012-F(PSU) dated 05.06.2015)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 14)

National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM)

The Ministry of I&B have been implementing the Plan Scheme of National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM). The Scheme aims at undertaking preservation and restoration of Indian film heritage in a mission mode, spreading over 2014-15 to 2020-21. The total allocation for the scheme is Rs. 597.41 crore (Rs. 291 crore for the 12th Plan and Rs. 306.41 crore for the 13th Plan. The activities of the Scheme include, *inter-alia*, restoration of 1050 feature films and 960 short films, dissemination of 1050 feature films and 1200 short films, construction of

vaults of international standards for preservation of restored material, etc. The RE allocation of Rs. 10.01 crore has been fully utilized and an allocation of Rs. 137 crore has been made for 2015-16 which includes the allocation meant for the DAVP scheme. As part of the preparatory exercise, the National Film Archives of India (NFAI), the organization responsible for the execution of the Scheme, has initiated the process of identification and appointment of manpower which is likely to be achieved within six months. The Committee have been informed that a high power Committee has been constituted with eminent experts of the film industry to monitor the various stages of implementation. Additionally, the Ministry propose to engage a project management team to review the progress of the Mission. The Committee may be apprised of the progress of the Scheme along with deliverables/targets achieved for the year 2015-16.

Reply of the Government

Administrative approval for implementation of the NFHM Scheme was issued on 24th November, 2014. The scheme is executed through National Film Archive of India (NFAI). NFAI has initiated preparatory work of the scheme which includes setting up of high level committee, identification of consultants for deployment of project management team and development of RFP for engaging a service provider for undertaking the job of restoration, conversion and digitization of archival material. Setting up of office for project management team and initial work regarding construction of vaults is also proposed during 2015-16. The process regarding identification and appointment of manpower for various Divisions of NFHM has been initiated and is being expedited.

Physical Targets for 2015-16.

- i. Setting up of High Level Committee.
- ii. Setting up of Project Management Team.
- iii. Preparatory phase which includes consultations with stake holders for preparing RFPs for various works including scoping exercise.
- iv. Stock taking of available archival material.

- v. Floating RFP & Identifying service provider for restoration work.
- vi. Preventive conservation.
- vii. Initiating restoration/digitization process.

(Ministry of I&B O.M. No.202/35/2012-F(PSU) dated 05.06.2015)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 15)

Scheme for Production of Films and Documentaries:

The Committee note that under the Plan Scheme of Production of Films and Documentaries in various Indian languages, the BE allocation for the year 2014-15 was reduced to Rs. 7.82 crore at RE stage and even the entire RE allocation could not be utilized. Non-receipt of worthy proposals from children's film makers, non-furnishing of new proposals by the Children's Film Society, non-finalization of guidelines regarding production of documentaries through NGOs, etc. have been cited as the main reasons by the Ministry for underutilization of funds. The Committee note with concern that apart from the above reasons, an Executive Directive issued on 07.06.2013 for reviewing the financial arrangement between the Ministry of I&B and the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) severely affected the utilization of funds under the Scheme. The Committee learn that as the financial arrangement between the Government and NFDC could not been finalized, funds could not be released to NFDC during 2014-15. A look at the total number of documentaries/ short films created during the year 2014-15 reveals that though the Films Division created 22 documentaries/short films, the Children's Film Society produced only 2 children's films and not a single feature film in regional languages could be produced with support of NFDC. The Committee feel that in a country like India, with a rich tradition of films in regional languages, there is an urgent need to promote more feature films in regional languages by way of providing more funds/ resources and nurturing and pooling the available talent. The Committee, therefore, recommends the Ministry to expedite finalization of financial arrangement with the NFDC by taking up the matter with the Ministry of Finance. Efforts need to be intensified

for production of more feature films in regional languages. The Committee may be apprised of the progress on the matter.

Reply of the Government

For examining financial arrangements between the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and NFDC for implementing plan scheme “Production of films in Various Indian languages”, the Ministry constituted a committee consisting of two members – Ms SomiTandon, former secretary, Defence Finance and Shri Bhaskar Ghose, former Secretary, M/o I&B and also ex-DG, Doordarshan and ex-CEO Lok Sabha TV channel. The committee has already submitted its report. After examination by the Internal Finance Division of the Ministry, it was found that certain recommendations were not entirely in accordance with the provisions of General Financial Rules.

Considering the unique nature of activities associated with film production and that it pertains to the creative space, the matter was referred to Ministry of Finance on 27.01.2015 for examination and accord relaxation of the provisions of GFR for implementing the plan scheme “Production of films in Various Indian languages” as per the recommendations of the Committee of ex-secretaries. Reminders were also sent on 20.04.2015 & 21.05.2015. The reply of Ministry of Finance is awaited.

(Ministry of I&B O.M. No.202/35/2012-F(PSU) dated 05.06.2015)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 16)

Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)

The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has been set up under Section 3 of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 for certifying films. The Plan Scheme of “Up-gradation, Modernization and Expansion of CBFC and Certification Process” envisages provision of digital projection at regional offices of CBFC, creation of additional space and putting in place online certification mechanism. The Committee are concerned to note that the online certification process in CBFC got delayed due to shortcomings in the RFP proposal which did not contain the technical details and functional requirement. The existing online process is partial in nature, limited to submission of application. It is understood that complete online process would provide an end-to-end solution

with high level of security. The enhanced allocation of Rs. 4 crore is proposed to be utilized for progressing with online project being implemented with the help of the National Informatics Centre. The Committee, while trusting that online certification will bring in more transparency and efficiency in the certification process, recommend the Government to complete the online certification process in a time bound manner. The Committee are also given to understand that based on the recommendations of Justice Mukul Mudgal Committee constituted to examine issues of certificate under the Cinematograph Act, 1952, the Ministry have prepared a draft Bill for amending the Cinematograph Act, 1952; the draft Bill has been forwarded to the Board of CBFC for their comments. The Committee, while hoping that all the concerns of the Mudgal Committee, viz. composition of advertisement panel, classification of certification of films, jurisdiction of Appellate Tribunal, etc. have suitably been addressed in the Bill, recommended the Government to expedite all the processes and formalities involved in the introduction of the Bill in Parliament.

Reply of the Government

CBFC is at present adopting partial online certification process and is in the process of upgrading to an online certification process by making it fully online. Necessary action is being taken with the help of NIC/NICSI for identification of a reliable service provider. A sizeable portion of online process would be completed in 2015-16. On completion of the project the complete end to end process from application to issue of certificate will be online. The recommendations of the Committee were examined in consultation with concerned stakeholders. The recommendations of the Mudgal Committee as well as the suggestions received have been examined and incorporated into the Cinematograph amendment Bill. The suggestion received alongwith the Draft Cinematograph Bill were forwarded to the Chairman of the newly constituted Board of CBFC. The Chairperson has now forwarded his comments on the proposed Bill. The Cabinet Note would then be circulated prior to the introduction of the Bill in Parliament.

(Ministry of I&B O.M. No.202/35/2012-F(PSU) dated 05.06.2015)

CHAPTER –III

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

Recommendation (Sl. No.3)

Monetization/Utilization of land Resources

The Committee have been given to understand that Prasar Bharati has submitted certain proposals to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for monetization of available land resources for garnering revenue which could be effectively utilized by them for development purposes. However, these proposals are yet to be approved by the Ministry pending fulfilment of procedural formalities required under provisions of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990. Under Section 16 of the Prasar Bharati Act, all property and assets shall stand transferred to (Prasar Bharati) on such terms and conditions as may be determined by the Central Government and the book value of all such property and assets shall be treated as the capital provided by the Central Government to the Corporation, on the terms and conditions to be determined by the Central Government. The Committee have also been given to understand that the proposal for financial restructuring of Prasar Bharati was approved by the Cabinet in September, 2012. According to the Ministry, the Cabinet decision/approval has to be effected on issue of formal transfer order spelling out the terms and conditions after completion of inventorisation of all assets under them. The Committee find it very hard to believe that even after a lapse of 17 years, the Central Government has not yet formulated the terms and conditions of such transfer. Since Prasar Bharati needs funds, and monetization of land can provide the much needed revenue, the Committee suggest that while complete inventorisation is undertaken, simultaneous efforts may be made to unlock the value of a few select identified properties as a 'pilot case'.

Reply of the Government

Section 16 (a) of Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 stipulates that all property and assets (including the Non-Lapsable Fund) which immediately before the appointed day vested in the Central Government for the purpose of Akashwani

or Doordarshan or both shall stand transferred to the Corporation **on such terms and conditions** as may be determined by the Central Government and the Book value of all such property and assets shall be treated as the **capital provided by the Central Government to the Corporation.**

As per Cabinet approval to the proposal for financial restructuring of Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) dated 14.09.2012:-

“Property and Assets will be transferred on book value to Prasar Bharati as per provisions of Section 16(a) of Prasar Bharati Act, 1990. Normal accounting principles will be followed to determine their future value”.

This Ministry vide its letter dated 19.03.2014 followed by reminders dated 29.04.2014, 21.07.2014 and 07.10.2014 requested Prasar Bharati to furnish the complete information in respect of movable and immovable properties in the uniform format as on 31.03.2014 within two months. Thereafter, the Ministry requested Prasar Bharati several times to furnish the requisite information. Prasar Bharati vide letter dated 14.10.2014, furnished partial data of immovable property of AIR and DD. Moreover, the information furnished by Prasar Bharati in respect of immovable property is incomplete in respect of book value, ownership status etc. Vide D.O.No.511/2/1/2010-OA III dated 21.03.2011, Cabinet Secretariat had instructed that a policy on the issue of sale or long-term lease is being framed by the Government. In the meanwhile, all the Ministries/ Departments have been directed to seek specific approval of the Cabinet in each case of sale or long-term lease of land belonging to the Government or Government controlled statutory authorities.

On 21.11.2011, Cabinet Secretariat conveyed approval of Prime Minister that the instructions issued on 21.03.2011 do not apply in case of transfer of land from Central Government/ Ministry to another. The Prime Minister further directed that all the concerned Ministries should bring policy proposals covering all other types of land transfer cases to Cabinet expeditiously, so as to

obviate the need for Ministries to come to Cabinet for each land transfer proposal on a case-by-case basis.

On 30.07.2012, instructions by Cabinet Secretariat stated that all cases of land transfers from Ministries to statutory authorities or PSUs be allowed, subject to the requirements of Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules. In terms of Transactions of Business Rules, approval of the Cabinet is required for transfer of property and assets to Prasar Bharati by treating the book value of the assets and property as capital to the Corporation, as envisaged in section 16(a) of the Prasar Bharati act, 1990.

In view of the above instructions of Cabinet Secretariat, it is evident that complete information on immovable property would help in taking Cabinet approval to implement Section 16 (a) of PB Act,1990. Moreover, inventorization of details of immovable property will help PB in preventing land etc. from being encroached upon. Any specific proposal from PB, duly approved by Prasar Bharati Board can be examined by this Ministry in consultation with Ministry of Finance before taking approval from the Cabinet.

The valuable suggestions of the Committee have been noted.
(Ministry of I&B's O.M. No. 18013/6/2015-B(D) dated 25.06.2015)

CHAPTER -IV

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

Recommendation (Sl. No. 4)

Review of Prasar Bharati – Sam Pitroda Committee Recommendations

It is disquieting to note that there has not been much headway in the implementation of the recommendations of the Sam Pitroda Committee Report, which was presented to the Government in February, 2014. This Expert Committee was constituted to review the institutional framework of Prasar Bharati, including its relationship with the Government. There seems to be lack of coordination and cohesion between the Ministry of I&B and Prasar Bharati in so far as implementation of these recommendations are concerned, because Prasar Bharati claims to have taken several operational and policy initiatives separately, particularly in the absence of any clarity from the Government about the acceptance of the Sam Pitroda Committee's entire range of recommendations. The Committee take a serious view of this casual and lackadaisical approach of the Government on such an important matter. Considering that the overall action plan of Prasar Bharati is getting delayed, the Committee recommend that the Ministry should come out with a definite action plan for the implementation of the recommendations of the Expert Committee in a time-bound manner. The Committee should be apprised of the action taken in the matter within a period of three months.

Reply of the Government:

The Ministry had requested Prasar Bharati (PB) to prepare an action plan for undertaking suggestions/ review/ audits etc. on various issues recommended by the Sam Pitroda Committee. It was also brought to the notice of PB that these studies/ audits are critical to any action to be initiated as part

of the Committee Report, by the Government. The desired action plan is awaited from Prasar Bharati.

The recommendations of the Sam Pitroda Committee shall be concretized after the studies on manpower, technology and funding are completed and a vision for Prasar Bharati is prepared on the basis of the outcome of the studies.

(File No. H-11013/16/2015-BA(P) dated 10.06.2015)

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

CHAPTER -V

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

Scheme for Supporting Community Radio Movement (CRS) in India

Recommendations (Sl. No. 11)

The Committee note that the Ministry have been implementing the Plan Scheme of Supporting Community Radio Movement in India which aims at providing financial assistance to new and existing Community Radios for acquisition of equipment, training, etc. Keeping in view the huge potential for establishing a large number of CRS in India, the Committee in their 4th Report on Demands for Grants (2014-15), had recommended the Ministry to take necessary steps to encourage the movement by simplifying the existing procedure and launching of awareness campaigns. The Committee are, however, concerned to note that the Budget Estimate of Rs. 13 crore for the scheme was reduced to Rs. 2.65 crore at the RE stage and full funds could not be utilized due to non-finalisation of mode and content module of activities. The Committee further note that in total 209 applications for setting up of CRS are pending with various Ministries. Even though the number of applications pending in the Ministries concerned has come down substantially, 50 applications are still pending which have crossed the stipulated timeline beyond 3 months. The Committee are of the view that the matter of pendency of clearances should be taken up with the Ministries/agencies concerned for their early clearance. On the issue of engagement of a consulting agency for study of the effectiveness of CRS, the Committee have been informed that out of 16 proposals submitted by different agencies, one agency has been shortlisted and selected, which will assess the effectiveness of CRS. The study is likely to throw light on the training needs and capacity building of personnel. The Committee feel that the study will help in finalizing the content module which is partly coming in the way of the successful implementation of the scheme. Further, the Ministry need to identify areas which warrant specific attention so that funds crucial for the Scheme do not remain idle and unutilized. The Committee, therefore, recommend to the Ministry to expedite the study and apprise them of the progress made in this regard.

Reply of the Government

Ministry is continuously pursuing the matter regarding pendency of clearances with concerned Ministries/Departments to provide clearances within stipulated time period of 3 months. As on 15.06.2015 a total of 126 applications are awaiting clearances of concerned Ministries/Departments. Applications are referred parallel to concerned Ministries. Therefore, each application may be pending in multiple Ministries.

Total number of clearances awaited from each Ministry/Department and the cases pending for more than stipulated period of 3 months are detailed below:

Name of Ministry/ Department	MHA	WPC Wing	Ministry of Defence	MHRD	ICAR
Total Number of clearances awaited out of 134	83	115	95	25	07
Number of clearances awaited for more than stipulated period of 3 months.	20	49	38	15	02

With regular follow ups most of the clearances are being received within stipulated time frame and number of applications pending beyond specified period of 3 months has been substantially reduced.

With regard to engagement of a consulting agency for study of the effectiveness of CRS, a need was felt to look into the issues arising out of agencies like IRS/ABC/BARC/TAM etc. Such issues are being examined.

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 18TH DECEMBER, 2015**

The Committee sat on Friday, the 18th 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.XXXXX.....XXXXX.....XXXXX.....XXXXX.....XXXXX.....XXXXX.....XXXXX.....XXXXX.....
- III. Action Taken Report on the Eighth Report on 'Demands for Grants (2015-16)' of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting;
- 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

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

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

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

[Vide Paragraph No. 5 of Introduction]

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

Rec. Sl. Nos.:- 1,2,5,6,7,8,9,10,12,13,14,15 and 16

Total	13
Percentage	81.25

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

Rec. Sl. No.: 3

Total	01
Percentage	6.25

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

Rec. Sl. No.: 4

Total	01
Percentage	6.25

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

Rec. Sl. No: 11

Total	01
Percentage	6.25