

TWENTY-THIRD REPORT

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(2001)**

(THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA)

**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 17.4.2001
Laid in Rajya Sabha on 18.4.2001



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

April, 2001/Chaitra, 1923 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(2001)

Shri Somnath Chatterjee — *Chairman*

MEMBERS
Lok Sabha

2. Shri Ambareesha
3. Shri Mahendra Baitha
4. Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal
5. Prof. Dukha Bhagat
6. Shri Tara Chand Bhagora
7. Shri Nikhil Kumar Chaudhary
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9. Shri T. Govindan
10. Adv. Uttamrao Dhikale
11. Shri Jawahar Lal Jaiswal
12. Shri K. K. Kaliappan
13. Dr. C. Krishnan
14. Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab
15. Sardar Simranjit Singh Mann
16. Shri G. Ram Mohan
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25. Rajkumari Ratna Singh
26. Shri Vinay Kumar Sorake
27. Shrimati D.M. Vijaya Kumari
28. Shri Vinay Katiyar
29. Shri A. Krishnaswamy
30. Shri G. Ganga Reddy

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32. Shri Balkavi Bairagi
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34. Shri Narendra Mohan
35. Shri Balbir K. Purj
36. Dr. Y. Radhakrishna Murthy
37. Shri Munavvar Hasan
38. Shri P. N. Siva
39. Shri Kartar Singh Duggal
40. Miss Lata Mangeshkar
41. Shri R. N. Arya
42. Shri K. Rama Mohana Rao
43. Shrimati Kum Kum Rai
44. Dr. Dasari Narayana Rao
45. Shri Rajiv Shukla

SECRETARIAT

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

INTRODUCTION

1. I, the Chairman, Standing Committee on Information Technology (2001) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on its behalf, present this Twenty-Third Report on 'Demands for Grants (2001-2002)' relating to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

2. The Standing Committee on Information Technology (2001) was constituted on January 1, 2001. One of the functions of the Standing Committee, as laid down in Rule 331E of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, is to consider the Demands for Grants of the concerned Ministry/Department and make a Report on the same to the Houses.

3. The Committee considered the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting for the current year *i.e.* 2001-2002 which were laid on the Table of the House on March 15, 2001. The representatives of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting briefed the Committee on March 15, 2001 on the Demands for Grants (2001-2002) pertaining to their Ministry. Then, the Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry on March 20, 27 and April 3 and 12, 2001.

4. The Committee wishes to express its thanks to the Officers of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting for appearing and placing before it detailed written notes on the subject and for furnishing the information, that the Committee desired in connection with the examination of the subject.

5. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at its sitting held on April 12, 2001.

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

NEW DELHI;
12 April, 2001
22 Chaitra, 1923 (Saka)

SOMNATH CHATTERJEE,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on
Information Technology.

REPORT

Introductory

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has presented to Parliament Demand No. 51 which covers expenditure of the Secretariat of the Ministry, the Media units in the Information and Publicity sectors including Grants-in-aid to Prasar Bharati—All India Radio and Doordarshan and other bodies.

Budgetary Grants: Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

2. Budgetary provisions for the year 2001-2002 are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

2001-2002		
Budget Estimates		
Plan	Non-Plan	Total
811.40	1132.11	1943.51

Out of Rs. 811.40 crore, DBS component is Rs. 340.00 crore balance of Rs. 471.40 crore being IEBR.

The proposed Plan Revenue expenditure is Rs. 158.19 crore and Plan capital expenditure, Rs. 181.81 crore, out of DBS of Rs. 340.00 crore.

The Plan outlay for 2000-2001 for various sectors of the Ministry were as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

Sector	Actuals 1999-2000	Outlay 2000-2001	Revised Estimates 2000-2001
Doordarshan	394.83	500.44	483.18
Sound Broadcasting	90.04	140.00	145.62
Films Media	29.10	49.19	39.47
Information	17.45	19.72	15.12
Total	531.42	709.35	683.39

Broadcasting Sector

All India Radio

5. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in reply to a query by the Committee has stated that the outlay projected by the Ministry for All India Radio for 2000-2001 was Rs. 281.79 crore. However, the Planning Commission has approved only Rs. 140.00 crore. The reduction of Rs. 141.79 crore in the outlay has affected implementation of a large number of developmental projects like transmitters at Khampur, Aligarh, Jodhpur, Nagpur, Najibabad and Indore etc. New Broadcasting House Delhi, CRS Changlang, Khonsa, Phek, Nutan Bazar, J&K Special Plan (Phase-I) etc. Similarly, the Ministry had projected Rs. 255.44 crore capital outlay for 2001-2002 which has been reduced to Rs. 190.93 crore by the Planning Commission at approval stage. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has stated that it would affect the implementation of various projects like transmitters at Khampur, Indore, Bhuj, Najibabad and CES Kolkata etc.

Performance of All India Radio during 2000-2001

6. Prasar Bharati targetted to complete 13 continuing schemes, 24 Modernisation and Replacement schemes and 7 New schemes during 2000-2001. However, the achievement was 5 Continuing schemes, 11 Modernisation and replacement and 3 new schemes. The physical targets during the year were completion of 10 Broadcasting centres, 5 Community Radio Stations, 13 MW Transmitters, 1 SW Transmitters, 15 FM Transmitters and 9 Earth Stations for digital uplinking during 2000-2001 while the anticipated achievement was 4 Broadcasting centres, 6 MW Transmitters, 9 FM Transmitters and 4 Earth Stations. The reasons given by the Ministry for non-completion of Saraipalli-1 KW, Mandla-1 KW, Machrela-3 KW and Dharampuri-3 KW FM Radio stations and studios are law and order problem, contractors problems delay in procurement of equipment, absence of approach road, delay in getting appropriate sites and delay in ordering transmitter etc.

7. Some of these projects (Broadcasting centres) like Bhadarwah, Saraipalli, Mandla and Manjeri were approved in 1986, 1994, 1995 and 1994 respectively. The same could not be completed so far due to the reasons stated above.

8. The CEO, Prasar Bharati admitted during evidence that the physical achievement in case of All India Radio has been far from satisfactory. He further stated that one major problem faced in the implementation of projects during 2000-2001 was the procurement procedure as the import of transmitters took a long time.

Doordarshan

9. During 9th Plan the outlay of Rs. 1836.00 crore was proposed for Doordarshan which was reduced to Rs. 1761.65 crore at the approval stage. The physical targets fixed were 23 studio projects, 40 HPT projects (DD-I), 40 HPT projects (DD-II) and 422 LPTs/VLPTs. The achievement as on January, 2001 is stated to be 17 studio projects, 13 HPT projects (DD-I), 30 HPT Projects (DD-II) and 300 LPTs/VLPTs. The allocation of funds proposed during 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 was Rs. 415.00 crore, Rs. 449.40 crore, Rs. 391.52 crore and Rs. 500.44 crore which was curtailed to Rs. 364.00 crore, Rs. 327.90 crore, Rs. 359.07 crore and Rs. 483.18 crore respectively at the Revised Estimate Stage.

10. The targets fixed for completion during 1999-2000, were 4 studio projects, 9 DD-I HPT projects, 13 DD-II HPT projects and 90 LPT/VLPT projects. The actual achievement is stated to be 1 studio, 2 HPT DD-I, 4 HPT DD-II and 70 LPT/VLPT. The reasons for delay in completion of the remaining projects have been stated to be delay in construction of buildings by contractors, delay in construction of towers by concerned agencies, non-availability of sites/buildings for LPT/VLPT projects and law and order problem at some places.

11. The targets fixed for completion during 2000-2001 were 5 studio projects, 40 HPT projects (DD-I 15 and DD-II 25) and 72 LPT/VLPT. The achievement till January, 2001 was 3 studio projects, 29 HPT projects (DD-I 6 and DD-II 23) and 24 LPT/VLPT projects.

12. The physical targets fixed for 2001-2002 are 2 Studio projects, 22 HPT projects (DD-I 18 and DD-II 4) and 65 LPT/VLPT. In addition, 48 transmitters projects are planned to be installed in J&K under the special package.

13. In response to a query during evidence the CEO, Prasar Bharati submitted that against their original request of Rs. 767.79 crore for 2001-2002 for Doordarshan, the allocation received was Rs. 562 crore. He further submitted that Prasar Bharati would soon work out schematic plan outlay. The IX Plan target is 23 studio projects and they would be able to achieve 21. Two would have to be deferred to the next plan. The HPT target for the 9th Plan for DD-I and DD-II was 80 and by the end of the next year they would complete 71 and carry over 9 HPT projects to X plan. The LPT and VLPT target was 422 and by the end of this year they would achieve 320. In respect of J&K there is a special package. They would have 9 HPT, 36 LPT and VLPT in the State during next year's budget.

Prasar Bharati Board

14. The Committee enquired about the appointment of the Chairman and Members of the Prasar Bharati Board and of DG-All India Radio and DG-Doordarshan. The Secretary, Information and Broadcasting stated that High Powered Committee headed by the Vice-President of India has been requested for the same. The Ministry was also framing the rules for DG-Doordarshan and DG-All India Radio. The Department of Personnel has agreed and the Ministry would be able to notify the rules very shortly. He further stated that he would speak to and if necessary meet the Secretary to Vice-President in this connection. During evidence on 20 March, 2001, the Committee further enquired whether the Minister of Information and Broadcasting has approached the Vice-President to inform him about the necessity and urgency of the matter. There upon the Secretary, stated that he would place the matter before the Minister so that she could seek an appointment.

15. In a subsequent meeting the Secretary, Information and Broadcasting submitted that he had brought the views of the Committee to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister of Information and Broadcasting. The Secretary, Information and Broadcasting further submitted that he had received the rules for Doordarshan and All India Radio. Those were in the last stage of legal vetting after which they would issue the same.

Production of Programmes

16. In response to a query by the Committee on production of in house programmes and also by outside producers, the CEO, Prasar Bharati submitted in evidence that Doordarshan channel took about 30 to 35 percent of commissioned programmes from outside as news and current affairs. On DD-I they got five percent commissioned programmes, in case of regional services three percent programmes were commissioned programmes. In case of Kashir Channel, North East Channel and News Channels, Prasar Bharati has about 25 to 30 percent of the programmes as commissioned programmes.

17. In response to a further query by the Committee on commissioned programmes, the CEO Prasar Bharati submitted that news based current affairs programmes were commissioned programmes. Kashir and North East Channels had all types of programmes which are taken from local producers. On Metro Channel there are mainly outsource programmes and in-house programmes are very few. The in-house programmes on national service are about 25 percent, on regional service it is 50 percent and on local channel also it is 50 percent.

18. The Committee asked about very low in-house production of programmes particularly at national level, expenditure incurred on studios and production facilities and their optimum utilization in terms of production of programmes, encouragement and full exploitation of the talent of staff and availability of equipment etc. The CEO Prasar Bharati stated that in the last two-three weeks he had discussed the issues with the officers in Prasar Bharati and mentioned to them that they must encourage production of in-house programmes, if necessary, by giving incentives for in-house production and asking DD producers to come up with programmes.

19. The Committee enquired about the facilities developed for production of programmes at Kanpur studio and the efforts made to produce programmes locally there. The CEO Prasar Bharati Stated Kanpur was not included in the current plan. However he assured the Committee that he would look into the reception quality of programmes and the upgradation/setting up production facilities in Kanpur.

Marketing of In-House Programmes

20. The Committee enquired whether Prasar Bharati got sponsors for its in-house programmes and if so what percentage of in-house programmes was being marketed and what was the response. In reply, the CEO has submitted that marketing of in-house programmes had just started in an organised manner. Prasar Bharati needed to produce good quality programmes for that purpose. At this stage the percentage of in-house marketing is less than 10 percent. It needed organizational strengthening, support and also augmentation of marketing infrastructure as the private channels have.

Viewership and Coverage of Doordarshan and All India Radio

21. The Committee has been informed in a written reply that Doordarshan covers the whole of the country through its satellite network. Through terrestrial network, it has reached 88 percent of the population and 75 percent of the area. The broadcast coverage of All India Radio is stated to be 90 percent by area and 99 percent by population. The aim of AIR is to provide options to the listeners for variety of broadcast such as entertainment, education news etc.,

22. In response to a query on viewership of Doordarshan *vis-a-vis* private TV Channels, the CEO Prasar Bharati stated that it was necessary to improve the content part of the programmes and carriage over the satellite and the cable mode. He admitted that in metropolitan towns their viewership was lower and that their programmes are rejected due to content quality also, besides private channels' programmes are being carried through satellite and cable operators. In the terrestrial network, their viewership is stated to be very high. He further added that with upgradation of facilities, at least the quality of transmission and coverage would improve.

23. In response to another query, the Secretary, Information & Broadcasting submitted that the lowest coverage is of Arunachal Pradesh which is about 55-56 percent.

Coverage of Doordarshan

24. The Ministry has informed the Committee in a written reply that the Prasar Bharati has given the job of the study to ascertain the signal strength of Radio and TV alongside Western international border in the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Punjab to a Research Foundation in November, 2000 under an agreement. The Foundation has to give its report within one month. Since the study started only in February 2001, the report was expected soon.

25. The Ministry has stated that 222 transmitters (HPTs-29, LPTs-88, VLPTs-99 and Transposers-6) were functioning in border areas of the country. In addition 32 Transmitters are under implementation and a special package approved with an outlay of Rs. 218 crore is under implementation in J&K. Under this plan, 14 HPTs, 12 LPTs (mobile) and 51 VLPTs are under execution. The power of DD HPTs varies from 1KW to 30 KW as also in case of most transmitters of the neighbouring countries reaching Indian territories.

Coverage of All India Radio

26. The Prasar Bharati has submitted that AIR transmission in border areas is not satisfactory and the same was below national average particularly in the North-East and Jammu & Kashmir. Special J&K plan, to enhance the coverage is under implementation. Special package for North-Eastern region is under active consideration and a plan for Western borders has been formulated and submitted to the

30. The Committee further enquired about the shortage of staff and equipment at Kohima station pointing out that complaints about the faulty functioning of the station and low coverage of remote areas which has been stated in official documents to be as 80 percent was in fact 40 percent. In response the CEO, Prasar Bharati submitted that he has taken a note of shortage of staff and equipment at Kohima station and necessity of studio facilities there. He added that Prasar Bharati was in the process of preparing a special package and to submit the same for approval by the Government which would take care of requirements of North-East in a big way and they would be able to take up a lot of projects over the three years' time-frame. The Secretary, Information & Broadcasting added that cost of coverage of the remaining ten percent area would be as much as the cost of 90 percent because they have already covered the populated area. The North-East package would require huge funds for strengthening the coverage in the remote areas of the region. At that point of time the outlay earmarked for the region was Rs. 55 crore. As soon as more funds would be made available, more projects would be executed.

31. The witness further added that the signals must be of a reasonably good quality so that people would love to watch TV. Mainly the quality work must be done in each of the North-Eastern States. He added that to achieve effective signals and production of DD programmes locally, Prasar Bharati would need about Rs. 268 crore for hardware and about Rs. 50 crore per annum for software. Similarly, for AIR they would require about Rs. 200 crore.

32. The Committee drew the attention of the representatives of the Ministry to reports that Rupees Twenty lakhs per Kendra, Rs. 60 lakhs for Guwahati DDK and Rs. 40 lakhs for PPC Guwahati were sanctioned only a few days before the close of the financial year to complete an in-house production and the money might be surrendered as there was no time left to produce the programme within the financial year. The Director incharge of NE region admitted that it was a fact that money was released at a very late stage. It was so for all the kendras. The money released was only 40 percent advance to be given to the producer. The programme was expected to be completed only to the extent of 40 percent. He assured that the money would not be surrendered.

Telecast of Programmes

33. The Committee drew attention of the officers to the fact that on 15 March, 2001, normal telecast of programmes on DD-I Channel were stopped all of a sudden to make time available to Defence Minister for a personal statement in the context of 'Tehelka.com' episode in which minister announced his resignation. The Committee enquired how an ex-minister was allowed to use DD facilities for his address to the nation. In reply, the CEO, Prasar Bharati submitted that it was the professional editorial staff who decided what was to go on air, depending on the merit and news worthiness of the item. Secondly the day that news (statement) was telecast he was the Defence Minister and Doordarshan did not know that he was going to announce his resignation. It was a statement recorded by Doordarshan which was played.

34. In response to further query on the issue the ADG (News) submitted that a message was received in the news room that the Defence Minister would like to record a statement. By that time, the news time had began at 8 O' clock. In English they could edit a little bit. By the time the Hindi had to be done, the studio had become live. Since it was newsworthy for Hindi bulletin also, Minister was requested to give a statement in Hindi. In response to another query, ADG (News) submitted that the news item pertaining to 'Tehelka.com' was used by Doordarshan as a lead item and it was announced in the headlines of all the major bulletins in details. She further added that they took a slightly conservative view in regard to the clippings because Doordarshan is a public broadcaster and they were not very sure about the veracity of that and thus chose not to use them immediately.

35. In response to a further query the Secretary, Information & Broadcasting quoted sections 3 (4), 12 (1) and 23 (1) of Prasar Bharati Act relating to directions to be issued by the Government to Prasar Bharati. He further submitted that Government does not have any control over the content except in cases where the security of the State or Public order was involved.

36. In response to a query that when the Ex-MoD was allowed to utilise the official media to criticise the opposition then why Leader of Opposition should be invited to reply, the CEO, Prasar Bharati submitted that it was the first instance of its kind to his knowledge. He further stated that the Prasar Bharati would have to frame some conventions/guidelines for such cases.

37. The Committee notes that the Ministry had projected an outlay of Rs. 6134.95 crore for its developmental and other requirements during IX Plan. However, this outlay was finally reduced to Rs. 2843.05 crore by Planning Commission. For annual plan 2000-2001, the Ministry had projected plan outlay to be Rs. 1180.59 crore which was initially reduced to Rs. 767.79 crore and further revised to Rs. 562 crore. The projected outlay for 2001-2002 of Rs. 1080.97 crore has been reduced to Rs. 811.40 crore by the Planning Commission. In case of All India Radio the projected Annual Plan outlay Rs. 281.79 crore (2000-2001) and Rs. 255.44 crore (2001-2002) has been drastically slashed to Rs. 140.00 crore and Rs. 190.93 crore respectively. This substantial reduction in the plan outlay, which was assessed by the Ministry as necessary to ensure required pace of development, resulted in delays and stretching the schemes for implementation and postponement of some other projects thus slowed down the pace of development. The Committee expresses its serious concern at frequently downsizing the Plan outlay which is nothing but negation of Planning. The Committee is of the opinion that sanctity of Plan should be maintained at all cost as these are the goals set by the nation for its development and assurances given by Government to make services available to the people. Downward revision of Plan targets of Information and Broadcasting Ministry may result in the public broadcasting media lagging far behind in the competition with private broadcasters.

38. The Committee finds that some of the important schemes of All India Radio like setting up of MW transmitters at Bhadrawah, Saraipalli, Mandla and Manjeri which were approved as long back as 1986, 1994, 1995 and 1994 are still hanging in the limbo and lying incomplete. The reduced outlay has adversely affected 13 continuing schemes, 24 Modernisation and Replacement schemes and 7 new project schemes. Only 5 continuing schemes, 11 Modernisation and Replacement schemes and 3 new schemes could be taken up. Similarly, in case of other infrastructural projects like Broadcasting centres, Community Radio centres, MW Transmitters and Earth Station digital uplinking the achievement for 2000-2001 is far from satisfactory since the Ministry during the 10 months of time of the year 2000-2001 is likely to complete only 4 Broadcasting centres against the target of 10. Not a single Community Radio station is likely to be completed against the target of 5. In case of Medium Wave and Frequent Module Transmitters the achievement is likely to be 6 and 9 respectively against the target of 13 and 15. On the financial side too, the performance appears dismal. On studio/FM project at Soro Prasar Bharati could utilise only Rs. 11.10 lakhs against the target of Rs. 84.50 lakhs, while for Shantiniketan FM project it could spend only Rs. 41.81 lakhs against the target of Rs. 118.00 lakhs.

Similarly, in case of Doordarshan also the achievement in IX Plan so far is 17 Studio, 13 HPT DD-I, 30 HPT DD-II and 300 LPT/VLPTs against the target of 23 studios, 40 HPT DD-I, 40 HPT DD-II and 422 LPT/VLPTs respectively. The achievement for 1999-2000 was also very poor as Doordarshan could complete only 1 Studio, 5 HPTs and 70 LPT/VLPTs against the target of 4 studios, 22 HPTs and 90 LPTs/VLPTs respectively. During 2000-2001 the achievement is 3 studios, 29 HPTs, 24 LPT/VLPTs which is much less than the projected target of 5 studios, 40 HPTs and 72 LPT/VLPTs respectively.

The Committee is not at all impressed by the explanation given in terms of oft repeated excuses like law and order problem, contractual problem, delay in procurement, non-availability of sites etc. for delay in execution of these projects. The Committee views that these infrastructural projects are instrumental in ensuring the progress of the public electronic media and enabling it to fulfill its obligations to the nation. The Ministry should give serious consideration to their implementation. People of those areas should not be deprived of the benefits of broadcasting/telecasting services for reason of non-performance of Prasar Bharati. The public broadcaster must realise the seriousness and complete these projects on priority basis.

39. The Committee is dismayed at the *inertia* in the functioning of the Ministry so far as the constitution of Prasar Bharati Board is concerned. The constitution of Board which is mandatory and instrumental for the functioning of the Prasar Bharati as contemplated by the Prasar Bharati Act is being pursued by the Committee vigorously for long but there is no progress at all in the matter. The Committee is constrained to observe that in the absence of a full fledged Board, Prasar Bharati could not and can not act effectively. The Committee regrets to note that the provisions of Prasar Bharati Act are not being implemented with all the seriousness it deserves. The matter requires vigorous and urgent action at the highest level in the Ministry.

40. The Committee notes with concern that production of in-house programmes has been declining year after year. 30 to 35% of programmes on Doordarshan Channel are being taken from outside producers in the form of Commissioned programmes. Even the programmes on news and current affairs are produced by outside producers. On DD-I and regional channels, commissioned programmes are five percent and three percent respectively. On

43. The Committee notes that Prasar Bharati has decided to conduct a study with a view to strengthen Radio and TV signals in border areas and a Research Foundation has been engaged for this purpose. The Committee trusts that measures recommended by the Foundation to strengthen radio and TV signals will be taken up in the right earnest. The Committee will like to be apprised of the recommendations made by the Foundation and the steps initiated to implement them.

44. The Committee notes that 222 TV transmitters are in service in border areas and almost all of them are low power transmitters as their power varies from 1 KW to 30 KW. The Committee is of the opinion that transmitters of adequate power should be set up in sensitive border areas so that anti-India propoganda by neighbours is effectively countered and people in those areas are given factual information. The Committee regrets to note that in the sensitive border areas, quality and coverage of All India Radio transmitters is not satisfactory and the same is much below the national average. In North-Eastern States it is in the range of 31 percent in Arunachal Pradesh to 57 percent in Mizoram. In J&K it is only 31 percent. It is thus clear that area wise coverage in these states is very low and requires to be strengthened. Population-wise coverage is 72% for Arunachal Pradesh, 80% for Manipur, 67.9% for Mizoram, 82.5% for Nagaland and 75.2% for Uttaranchal which is much below the national average of 98.81%. The Committee also notes with serious concern that the power of All India Radio transmitters is much lower than that of neighbouring countries. At Srinagar, Jammu, Jalandhar and Suratgarh the power of transmitters installed there is 200 KW, 300 KW, 300 KW and again 300 KW respectively. At Barmer and Jaisalmer it is 1 KW and 10 KW respectively whereas the transmitter power of Transmitters used by Pakistan is 300 KW at Peshawar, 300 KW at Khujdar and 1000 KW at Islamabad. Even at the border with China, only one transmitter of 100 KW has been installed at Itanagar as compared with that in China *i.e.* 300 KW at Lhasa and 100 KW at Xizang.

45. This is not at all a satisfactory position. The Committee also notes with concern that due to weak signals of Indian transmitters and much better quality of reception of foreign transmitters, the people living in the border areas particularly in the sensitive border areas are tempted to watch foreign channels and thus fall prey to foreign propoganda. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends that the special plan for J&K area should be implemented expeditiously. The Government should also take note of other border areas in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttaranchal and North-East and prepare special packages for those areas also for boosting the broadcasting services in those areas.

46. The Committee regrets to note that, North-Eastern region is not being provided adequate broadcasting services/facilities in terms of broadcasting and telecasting services. The Committee, therefore, urges Prasar Bharati to accord priority to the region and take required measures to strengthen North-East channel with a view to extend its area of coverage in the region. Moreover, it will be appreciated by the people of the region if more and more programmes are produced and telecast in major dialects of the region.

47. The Committee finds that the problem lies in the fact that the number of transmitters installed is grossly insufficient and transmitters are of low power considering the topography of the region. A number of transmitters at Sangram, Deomali, Italin, Longtolai, Churhandpur, Amarpur, Jolaibari and Ambasa and Transposer at Barabasti are under installation. The Committee calls upon Prasar Bharati to expedite the same in a given time frame.

48. There are stated to be a number of problems relating to shortage of staff, inadequate studio facilities and other problems in functioning of DDK Kohima. The coverage of actual areas is reported to be 40 percent against the official claim of 80 percent. The CEO, Prasar Bharati has stated that a special package for North-East is being formulated which would take care of entire requirements of the region. In this context, the Committee would like to recall that last year also in the course of examination of Demands 2000-2001, it was stated that special package was on the way. But even after a year it is no where in sight. The Committee had then recommended at para 79 of the Eleventh Report to finalise the special package at the earliest. The Committee regrets to note that no attention has been paid to its recommendation. The Committee expresses its serious concern at the delay in formulation of special package for North-East and reiterates that the same be expedited.

49. The Committee is perturbed to note that in certain cases funds sanctioned for specific projects were released just a few days before the close of financial year as in the case of Kohima Doordarshan Kendra where rupees two lakhs were released for production of in-house programmes just one week before the end of the financial year. Since there has been no time left the funds are likely to be surrendered. The statement of the official witness in this regard is more disturbing as he stated that it was so far all the Kendras. The Committee recommends that such instances should be avoided. Allotted funds should be released well in time so that it could be utilised fully.

52. The Committee enquired about the steps taken by the Society to encourage children to see its films. In reply, the CEO, CFSI submitted in evidence that Society was trying to popularise their films through various schools and by holding workshops about how the films are made. The Geetakrishnan Committee in its report has recommended winding up of the CFSI. In this context, the Committee enquired whether there was any justification to retain the Society. In reply, the CEO, CFSI submitted that the Society was taking commercial theaters and earning revenue by exhibiting films. The Secretary, Information & Broadcasting added that despite the recommendation of the Geetakrishnan Committee Report that there was no need for the Society and that it should be made mandatory for private TV channels to show Children's programmes, there was no reduction made in the allocation of funds to CFSI and the Society could utilise funds to the extent they could to improve quality.

53. The Committee enquired whether Doordarshan was telecasting their films and paying royalty. The CEO, CFSI submitted that last time Doordarshan had given an assurance that at least the films that got awards would be telecast but they did not telecast their films and so the question of royalty did not arise. Thereupon the CEO, Prasar Bharati clarified that Doordarshan had found a slot to telecast CFSI films on National Channel and royalty would also be paid to them. Subsequently, the Secretary, Information & Broadcasting also reiterated that they had decided to allot slots on national channel to telecast award winning films of the Society. The detailed modalities in that regard were being worked out.

54. In response to another query about the construction of CFSI complex at Hyderabad and the allotment of alternative plot for it the Government representative submitted that the alternative plot has been taken over. The Secretary, Information & Broadcasting added that in regard to implementation of that project it has been decided to review it because of recommendation of Geetakrishnan Committee Report. Besides, the alternative plot was also ridden with local problems. The Society had expected that the complex would be ready by 14 November, 2001. The State Government has recently given its clearance. The State Government was expected to take up the construction work. The Society was waiting for appropriate action taken by the State Government and also by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

61. The Committee enquired whether the proposed outlay had been sufficient for its activities, the Director, DAVP submitted that the budget of the unit was not adequate. It needed more funds for advertisement side. He Further submitted that the rate structure of DAVP were fixed for a three years period. The existing rate structure had come into existence on 1 January, 1999. The Committee wanted to know whether three years period was not too long and why the Ministry did not revise the rate structure more frequently. In reply, the Director, DAVP submitted that this rate structure was supposed to remain for three years, however, there was a provision that if there was demand on certain counts like when the index price have gone up or the newsprint prices have gone up, the rate could be increased on that consideration. He further added that DAVP had not received any proposal in that regard.

62. The Committee pointed out that there was 50 percent increase in newsprint prices during last one year and asked whether there was any demand made by INS to revise the rates and on the assurance given by the former Minister of Information and Broadcasting to look into that issue. The Secretary, Information & Broadcasting assured the Committee that he would look into the issue.

63. In response to another query of the Committee whether any newspaper has opted out of DAVP empanelment because of disagreement with DAVP policy, the Director DAVP submitted that none of the newspapers had opted out. In fact, some newspapers had not applied for empanelment.

64. In response to a query relating to generation of resources by DAVP and charging extra amount from other departments in lieu of issuing their advertisement, the Secretary, Information & Broadcasting submitted that the real advantage to other Departments was that the rates they got were far lower than those in the open market. So they saved money.

65. The Committee wanted the views of the Ministry on the recommendations of Geeta Krishnan Committee Report on DAVP. The Director, DAVP submitted that Geeta Krishnan Committee Report was hanging like a Damocles' sword over the DAVP and many other

divisions. The Committee has basically recommended that so far advertising was concerned the registration of newspapers should be left with DAVP and the release of the advertisements given to Ministries concerned. The Committee also wanted reduction in the number of DAVP staff and also in expenditure being incurred by DAVP. The Committee also held the view that efficiency of advertising would go up if DAVP was not there and the services of other agencies were taken for the purpose. The witness further submitted to establish the relevance of his organisation that the DAVP rates of advertisement were almost 40 percent of the market rate which newspapers were charging. So on an advertisement budget of Rs. 85 crore if the benefit to Government is worked out it, would come to about Rs. 128 crore which DAVP saved.

66. The Committee wanted to know how the veracity of circulation figures of newspapers were checked for the purpose of releasing advertisements and deciding rates. In response the DG-DAVP submitted that this year DAVP had carried out a very strict scrutiny. In the list of empaneled newspapers last year there was more than 5000 newspapers listed. This time DAVP had rejected a large number of newspapers and only 2520 newspapers have been left in the revised panel and 50 percent of newspapers which were found below standard or indulging in exaggeration of circulation or lifting the material from other newspapers were removed from the panel.

67. The Committee wanted to know whether the Government had fixed any guidelines for fixation of advertisement rates, selection of newspapers and periodicals and for supporting small newspapers, the witness submitted that on the basis of guidelines the DAVP was able to remove from its panel almost 2500 newspapers as submitted above, which were found deficient. He added that rates were fixed by the Rate Structure Committee on 1 January, 1999. The Secretary, Information & Broadcasting supplemented that new guidelines did not specifically provide for financial support of small newspapers according to which Government was awarding advertisements to them. He further added that for removal of grievances there was an Appellate Tribunal consisting mainly of people from the Media, who look into the decision of DAVP pertaining to empanment of newspapers irrespective of size.

Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF)

68. The approved plan outlay for Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF) for the year 2001-2002 is Rs. 480 lakh. In 2000-2001 the outlay was Rs. 920 lakh. The major reduction has been on Film Festival Complex/ Additions and alterations which has been reduced from Rs. 500 lakh to Rs. 50 lakh. The Committee desired to know the reaction of the Directorate to the recommendations made by Geeta Krishnan Committee. In reply, the Director, Directorate of Film Festivals in evidence submitted that in her view Geeta Krishnan Committee leaned heavily towards looking the cinema as entertainment whereas the Directorate was promoting it as the seventh art which was still developing. The Geeta Krishnan Committee Report has also recommended that the Film Festivals could be handed over to the film industry or to the private sector. In response to a query about the organisation of Film Festivals in other countries, DG-DFF submitted that she was not aware of any country where it was organised by film industry. She further added that Film Festival was a platform, treating cinema as an art. The Secretary, Information & Broadcasting clarified that film industry in our country was more individualistic and not an organised one. Besides, it was a business of the Government to promote culture.

69. The Committee drew attention to the Press reports alleging unfair practices in the award of annual prizes and desired to know the facts. In reply, Director, DFF submitted that during the jury deliberations, three members of the 17 members jury walked out. Regarding the selection procedure of jury the witness submitted that it was set up as per the regulations.

70. The regulations for National Film Awards *inter-alia* states that:

- (i) The Jury is to be constituted by the Directorate of Film Festivals with the approval of the Government of India.
- (ii) Feature Film Jury is comprised of a Chairman and not more than 16 members distinguished in the field of cinema, other allied arts and humanities.
- (iii) Any person directly or indirectly associated with the film entered for competition is not eligible to serve on any of the panels.
- (iv) Any person who is related either by blood or marriage to any of the persons whose work is to be adjudged is not eligible to serve on the Jury Panels.

71. The Committee enquired about the allegations made regarding Film Awards. The witness submitted that the three members of the Jury voiced dissent and walked out as they were not agreeable. Other allegation made in press statements was that all the films were not viewed and that members of the Jury had voted on films that they had not viewed. Reacting to it, the witness explained that such reports were not correct. All the members had signed that they had viewed the films that have been awarded or that they had voted on. As regard to the complaint relating to screening of a rejected film the witness explained the Jury had to see 128 films in a two tier process. The Jury was divided into four panels of four members each. They saw about 25 films each before the final sitting of the entire Jury to see the films nominated by panels in the review meeting. The Jury collectively has the right to recall any film that might have been withheld by one of the panels because only four members had seen it. Explaining to the allegation that how could a film win an award when it was initially rejected by a four members panel the witness explained that if the majority of the Jury liked the film at the recall screening it could win an award.

72. The Committee sought clarification about the press reports that two or three persons had refused to accept the awards. In response the witness submitted that it was reported in the press, however, the Directorate had not received anything in writing in that regard.

73. In response to a query regarding one of the guidelines that any person whose work was being judged shall not be eligible to serve on the Jury, and that whether any such person was nominated to the Jury, the Director, DFF explained that they were not aware at that time as to which members may be associated with the films to be judged.

74. In response to a query about the criteria or basis on which initial selection of members of Jury was made, the witness explained that the criteria are to select people from the fields of cinema, allied arts and humanities. She further added that some members of the Jury in the past had recommended that it should not be totally of cinema people but include people from other areas of humanity. The Secretary, Information & Broadcasting added that the definition of the regulation was a broad one and that practically anybody could be included in the Jury. The question was how to narrow the definition since films touched every part of life. He further stated that he himself could not immediately see how they could narrow that definition.

75. In response to a query of the Committee that what were the views of the Ministry about establishing an independent authority for selection of the Jury, the Secretary, Information & Broadcasting submitted that if the Jury was purely a nominated body then it could not be an autonomous one, due to the involvement of Government control and guidance. To ensure autonomy to it, its members should be constitutional appointees who could not be removed without authority of law.

Directorate of Field Publicity (DFP)

76. Directorate of Field Publicity with 22 Regional offices and 268 Field Publicity Units is responsible to carry out extensive public coverage in rural areas. The reach of the Directorate is stated to be quite extensive in far flung and inaccessible areas of the country, which are not covered even by Doordarshan transmission, are covered by it. It has been screening *inter-alia* children's films produced by CFSI, NFDC and Doordarshan, with the help of mobile video projectors and film projection systems. Besides, the organisation was taking such people on tours who had no chance of traveling on their own. Teachers, opinion leaders, social workers or NGOs were included among them.

77. A provision of Rs. 158 lakhs has been made under Plan schemes and Rs. 1965 lakhs for Non-Plan schemes of the Directorate for the year 2001-2002. In 1999-2000, the Directorate is stated to have organised 32771 tour days, 58118 film shows and 14004 special programmes. It will thus be seen that each of its field publicity unit on an average organised 230 film shows in a year besides undertaking other activities.

78. In this context, the Committee enquired about the monitoring system evolved to ensure that the task assigned was actually performed by them. The Director (FP) submitted that they have evolved a system in which they give instructions to take photographs of audience in the film shows, group discussions and interactive publicity programmes etc. They also collect feedback from public.

79. The Committee pointed out that it had received complaints from public that films were not screened particularly in Jharkhand and in Ranchi areas where their machines were not in order and vehicles of the Directorate were not fit for plying and that people had to hire generator to see their films. However, the witness disagreed with the observations of the Committee and insisted that they were doing their job well.

80. The Committee drew attention to the press reports alleging that there were malpractices in purchase of portable video-projectors and that this Committee was misled by the Directorate by furnishing false information about purchase and utilisation of portable video projectors and asked the action taken by the Ministry on those reports. In reply the Secretary, Information & Broadcasting submitted that he had summoned the files of the Directorate to study the allegations.

Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC)

81. The Ministry has informed the Committee in a written reply that Rs. 462.00 lakhs were earmarked to Indian Institute of Mass Communication for 2000-2001 which has been reduced to Rs. 262 lakhs at RE stage due to following reasons:

1. The project cost in respect of Kottayam, Dimapur and Jhabua branches is yet to be approved by SFC/EFC.
2. Now new posts have been created for implementing the training, teaching and research programmes in these branches.
3. The Executive Council of Indian Institute of Mass Communication has decided to down size the construction activities in these branches.
4. The heavy expenditure of infrastructural nature has been eliminated and it has been decided to consolidate more on Head Quarter in Delhi.

82. The funds earmarked for Kottayam, Dimapur and Jhabua branches during IX Plan is Rs. 125 lakhs, Rs. 70 lakhs and Rs. 10 lakhs respectively. However, the expenditure incurred so far is Rs. 20.27 lakhs (16.21%), Rs. 14.75 lakhs (21%) and Rs. 0.00 lakhs (0%). The funds earmarked for 2001-2002 are Kottayam Rs. 5.00 lakhs, Dimapur Rs. 30.00 lakhs and Dhenkanal Rs. 144.00 lakhs.

83. The Committee enquired in evidence about the reasons for reduction in allocation of funds on these schemes in 2000-2001 and 2001-2002. In reply the Secretary, Information & Broadcasting submitted that the Ministry propose to collaborate, to have some facility going there at Kottayam to offer expertise on how to run the course. In response to another query about posting a Director in Delhi he submitted that no Director has been posted.

84. In response to another query about developing Indian Institute of Mass Communication centre in Delhi and expanding Indian Institute of Mass Communication activities in Jhabua, Dimapur and Kottayam, Secretary, Information & Broadcasting submitted that first priority was to consolidate the course and faculty. He replied in negative when asked whether any detailed review of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication has ever been taken. However, he was of the opinion that the Institute should first spend a year's time concentrating on stabilising the faculty development, course content and requirement of personnel.

85. The Committee enquired about the number of vacancies at Delhi as well as in various branches of the Institute. In reply the witness stated that of the 25 posts sanctioned for Delhi Institute there were ten vacancy on the faculty. In Dhenkanal, out of three posts one vacancy was there. It was further explained that they were in the process of filling up these posts. The Secretary, Information & Broadcasting further added that for the faculty to have credibility the faculty members must have a lot of experience. In the open market the salaries were much higher than in the Institute, therefore, they had to depend on guest faculty. That was partially one of the reasons to keep the vacancies. They have to devise a new system to improve the situation.

86. The Committee notes that the Plan outlay of Rs. 650.00 lakhs for 2000-2001 earmarked for CFSI was drastically reduced to Rs. 378.00 lakhs. The Committee recommends that projected funds should not be curtailed. The Committee appreciates the role played by the society to advance education and culture among children and adolescents through films. The Committee takes a serious note of the fact that Doordarshan did not telecast CFSI films on DD channels, inspite of assurance given by it last year. However, the Committee notes the assurance given by CEO Prasar Bharati that Doordarshan has found a slot to telecast CFSI films on National Channel and that it will pay royalty to the society. The Committee desires that the necessary details be worked out expeditiously and Prasar Bharati do start screening at least the award winning films of the society at the earliest.

87. The Committee regrets to note that the scheme of construction of CFSI complex at Hyderabad is pending since long. The funds are provided for it every year without any physical achievement. The Committee desires that necessary steps be taken up urgently to overcome the bottlenecks so that the complex comes to existence at the earliest.

88. The Committee appreciates the proposal of the society for exhibiting children's films in theatres and trusts that necessary support will be provided by Government to this venture and the scheme will be implemented in all regions of the country. The Committee also recommends that the Government should provide platform to the society to telecast its films on Doordarshan.

89. The Committee is concerned to note that marketing system of the society to sell its cassettes is poor. It urges that necessary steps be taken urgently to revamp the same.

90. The Committee notes that for 2001-2002 the outlay for DAVP has been reduced to Rs. 0.44 crore from Rs. 1.35 crore earmarked during 2000-2001. The Committee recommends that adequate funds be earmarked for DAVP since the outlay for 2001-2002 is too meager as mentioned by Director DAVP.

91. The Committee notes the fact that the rate structure of DAVP was fixed long back in January, 1999. The Committee feels that because of cost escalation and rise in the price of newsprint during the period, rate structure should be revised annually so that newspaper industry does not suffer.

92. The Committee appreciates that DAVP has made strict scrutiny of circulation of newspapers and removed from its panel all those which had been reporting exaggerated circulation and lifting material from other newspapers. The panel list has been brought down from 5000 to 2520 newspapers. The Committee trust that DAVP will continue to scrutinize the panel from time to time in future also.

93. The Committee notes that the Geetakrishnan Committee Report has recommended handing over the activities of the Directorate of Film Festival to the private film industry. However, it come to its notice that nowhere the activities similar of CFSI are attended by private institutions, specially because film industry is individualistic in nature.

94. The Committee notes with concern the unfortunate happening in conducting and awarding the National Film Awards this year in which three members of the 17 members Jury walked out from its deliberation/function protesting over selection of some Jury members, their credentials and the procedure about selection of films for awards. These members completely disassociated themselves from the process. The Committee takes a note of the allegations made regarding inclusion of some members in the Jury stated to be in violation of the guidelines. The Committee is also not convinced at all with the explanation given by the Director DFF in this regard that they had read out the guidelines to the Jury when they had invited the Jury Members at the very first meeting. The Committee is of the view that the duty of the Directorate is not limited to merely reading out the regulation to the Jury but to ensure that the guidelines are scrupulously followed in letter and spirit and in case of infringement in this regard the Directorate/Ministry of Information & Broadcasting must initiate appropriate action.

95. The statement of the Directorate that DFF had submitted a list to the Ministry containing a large number of names and they were not aware at that time as to which member may, in any way be associated with the films, is very casual and devoid of logic. When Directorate drew the list, it ought to be done on the basis of some well laid criteria and the Directorate has to ensure the credibility of the names proposed. The Committee recommends that the Ministry should take effective steps in this regard to check recurrence of such unfortunate happenings since national awards are given in the name of President of India.

96. The Committee notes with concern that the projectors, vehicles and other machinery of Directorate of Field Publicity meant for Field Publicity through films in rural and remote areas remained out of order many a times depriving rural people of the services of the Directorate of Field Publicity. The Committee strongly recommends that the Ministry should take urgent corrective measures in this regard and should maintain its infrastructure well in position.

97. The Committee takes a serious note of the reports that there were malpractices in the purchase of portable video projectors and that this Committee was misled by the Directorate by furnishing incorrect information in that regard. Since the matter is already under investigation in the Ministry at the highest level, the Committee would like to be informed expeditiously of the finding of investigation. However, in view of the various complaints received by the Committee, it will examine working of the Directorate of Field Publicity and procurement of equipment by it in greater details at a later date.

98. The Committee notes with concern that outlay of Rs. 462.00 lakhs earmarked for IIMC for 2000-2001 was sharply curtailed to Rs. 262 lakhs at RE stage. The Committee views the role of IIMC as very important in imparting training on Mass Communications. As such the delay made in approval of project cost of Kottayam, Dimapur and Jhabua branches, in filling up of vacant positions, down sizing of construction activities in those branches and elimination of heavy expenditure of infrastructural nature are highly disturbing. The Committee expresses its concern for the same and urges the Government to review the functioning of IIMC.

99. The Committee takes a serious note of the fact that utilisation of allocations had been very low even though allocation itself was not adequate for various units of IIMC. The utilisation was Rs. 20.27 lakh out of Rs. 125 lakh in case of Kottayam unit, Rs. 14.75 lakh out of Rs. 70 lakh in case of Dimapur unit and in the case of Jhabua project no expenditure was incurred out of the allocation of Rs. 10 lakh. The Committee desires that timely steps should be taken to remove bottlenecks to ensure optimum utilisation of funds so that benefits reach to the society in a given timeframe.

100. The Committee is concerned to note that a large number of posts are lying vacant at various units of IIMC. The Committee urges the Ministry to fill up the same urgently to give a boost to the functioning of the organization.

NEW DELHI;
12 April, 2001
22 Chaitra, 1923 (Saka)

SOMNATH CHATTERJEE,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on
Information Technology.

MINUTES OF THE FIFTEENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING
COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (2001)

The Committee sat on Thursday, March 15, 2001 from 15.00 hours to 17.30 hours in Committee Room 'D', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Somnath Chatterjee— *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal
3. Shri Nikhil Kumar Chaudhary
4. Adv. Uttamrao Dhikale
5. Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab
6. Sardar Simranjit Singh Mann
7. Shri Sheeshram Singh Ravi
8. Shri K.A. Sangtam
9. Shrimati D.M. Vijaya Kumari

Rajya Sabha

10. Shri Balkavi Bairagi
11. Shri Narendra Mohan
12. Shri Kartar Singh Duggal
13. Shri R.N. Arya
14. Shri K. Rama Mohana Rao
15. Shrimati Kum Kum Rai

SECRETARIAT

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

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

- | | | | |
|-----|----------------------|-----|---|
| 1. | Shri Pawan Chopra | — | Secretary (I&B) |
| 2. | Shri Anil Baijal | — | Addl. Secretary, and CEO,
Prasar Bharati |
| 3. | Smt. Aruna Makhan | — | Add. Secretary & Financial
Adviser (I&B) |
| 4. | Shri Sudhir Sharma | — | Joint Secretary (P&A) |
| 5. | Shri Rakesh Mohan | — | Joint Secretary (B), (I&B) |
| 6. | Shri Sudhir Bhandari | — | Chief Controller of Accounts |
| 7. | Smt. Mona Sharma | — | Director (PP&A) |
| 8. | Ms. Esther Kar | — | Director (IP) |
| 9. | Shri S.C. Tewary | — | Director (BP&L) |
| 10. | Shri R.C. Mishra | — | Executive Director (SP) DDN |
| 11. | Shri B.K. De | — | E-in-Chief (DDN) |
| 12. | Shri K.M. Paul | — | E-in-Chief |
| 13. | Shri T.R. Malakar | — | DDG:DDN |
| 14. | Smt. N.J. Krishna | — | PIO |
| 15. | Shri Vivekanand Ray | — | PR, RNI |
| 16. | Shri Sahab Singh | — | DG, DAVP |
| 17. | Smt. Surinder Kaur | — | Dir. Publications Division |
| 18. | Shri Prem Matiani | — | Dir. S & DD |
| 19. | Shri O.P. Jora | — | Dir. Photo Division |
| 20. | Smt. Malati Sahai | — | Dir. DFF |
| 21. | Shri Suresh Chopra | — | Dir. DFP |
| 2. | *** | *** | *** |

3. Then the Chairman welcomed the representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to the sitting of the Committee. The representatives of the Ministry briefed the Members and attended to their queries on Demands for Grants (2001-2002) relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

4. The Chairman thanked the representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for appearing before the Committee and providing valuable information that the Committee desired in connection with examination of the subject.

5. A verbatim record of the sitting has been kept separately.

6. The witnesses then withdrew.

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8.	***	***	***	***	***	***
9.	***	***	***	***	***	***
10.	***	***	***	***	***	***

The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES OF THE SIXTEENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING
COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (2001)

The Committee sat on Tuesday, 20 March, 2001 from 1500 hours to 1700 hours in Committee Room 'D', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Somnath Chatterjee— *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Mahendra Baitha
3. Shri Pawan Kumar Barsal
4. Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab
5. Sardar Simranjit Singh Mann
6. Shri K.A. Sangtam
7. Shri Vinay Kumar Sorake
8. Shri G. Ganga Reddy

Rajya Sabha

9. Dr. M.N. Das
10. Shri Balkavi Bairagi
11. Shri Narendra Mohan
12. Shri P.N. Siva
13. Shri Kartar Singh Duggal
14. Shri K. Rama Mohana Rao
15. Shrimati Kum Kum Rai
16. Shri Rajiv Shukla

SECRETARIAT

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

Representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

1. Shri Pawan Chopra — Secretary (I&B)
2. Shri Anil Bajjal — Addl. Secretary and CEO, Prasar Bharati
3. Smt. Aruna Makhan — Addl. Secretary & Financial Adviser (I&B)
4. Shri Sudhir Sharma — Joint Secretary (P&A)
5. Shri Rakesh Mohan — Joint Secretary (B), (I&B)
6. Shri Sudhir Bhandari — Chief Controller of Accounts
7. Smt. Mona Sharma — Director (PP&A)
8. Ms. Esther Kar — Director (IP)
9. Shri S.C. Tewary — Director (BP&L)
10. Shri S. Kumaraswamy — Deputy Secretary
11. Ms. Nina Lath Gupta — Deputy Secretary (Films)
12. Ms. Mahua Pal — Deputy Secretary (V&IIS)
13. Ms. Meera R. Tshering — Deputy Secretary (C&T)
14. Shri M.R. Thapliyal — Deputy Secretary (B&A)
15. Smt. Seema Jere Bisht — Deputy Secretary (IP)
16. Shri R.C. Mishra — Executive Director (SP) DDN
17. Shri B.K. De — E-in-Chief (DDN)
18. Shri K.M. Paul — E-in-Chief
19. Shri T.R. Malakar — DDG:DDN
20. Shri R.K. Gupta — Chief Engineer (DDN)
21. Shri A.V. Swaminathan — CE, AIR
22. Shri M.K. Gaikwad — DDN
23. Shri K. Lanthanga — DDG, Doordarshan
24. Shri K. Kunhikrishan — DDG, Doordarshan
25. Mrs. Deepak Sandhu — ADG (News), Doordarshan
26. Shri Harish Awasthi — DG (NSD), AIR
27. Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Sinha — DDG (C), AIR
28. Smt. N.J. Krishna — PIO
29. Shri Vivekanand Ray — PR, RNI
30. Shri Sahab Singh — DG, DAVP
31. Smt. Surinder Kaur — Dir., Publications Division

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|----------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 32. Shri Prem Matiani | — | Dir., S & DD |
| 33. Shri O.P. Jora | — | Dir., Photo Division |
| 34. Smt. Malati Sahai | — | Dir., DFF |
| 35. Shri Suresh Chopra | — | Dir., DFP |
| 36. Smt. Sujata Chaturvedi | — | Registrar, IIMC |
| 37. Shri G.D. Beliya | — | Director, RR&TD |
| 38. Ms. Reva Khatrapal | — | Secretary, PCI |
| 39. Shri K.R.P. Verma | — | Director, (O&M) BECIL |
| 40. Shri L.K. Upadhyaya | — | Director, NFAL, Pune |
| 41. Smt. Mukhopadhyaya | — | MD, NFDC |
| 42. Shri Bankim | — | CP. Films Division |
| 43. Shri Jatin Sarkar | — | Director, SRFTI, Kolkata |
| 44. Shri Mohan Agashe | — | Director, FTIL, Pune |
| 45. Shri Yashpal Chaudhary | — | Acting CEO, CFSI |
| 46. Shri S. Gopalaratnam | — | Senior AO, CBFC |

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the officers accompanying him.

3. The Committee sought certain clarifications from the Representatives of the Ministry and Prasar Bharati on various issues relating to the Demands for Grants 2001-2002 (Demand No. 51) like outlay earmarked for IX Five Year Plan and Annual Plan 2001-2002, impact of reduction in projected plan outlay on implementation of projects, performance during IX Five Year Plan and year 2000-2001, viewership, production of programmes, constitution of Prasar Bharati Board, procedure for allotment of time on Doordarshan, Recommendations of Geeta Krishnan Committee Report, Children's Film Society of India and National Film Awards.

4. The representatives of the Ministry and Prasar Bharati replied to the queries of the Members.

5. A verbatim record of the sitting has been kept.

The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES OF THE NINETEENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING
COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (2001)

The Committee sat on Tuesday, 27 March, 2001 from 1500 hours to 1810 hours in Committee Room 'C', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Somnath Chatterjee — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Mahendra Baitha
3. Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal
4. Shri Tara Chand Bhagora
5. Shri Nikhil Kumar Chaudhary
6. Shri K.K. Kaliappan
7. Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab
8. Shri G. Ram Mohan
9. Shri Karia Munda
10. Shri K.A. Sangtam
11. Shri Saroj Tufani
12. Sardar Buta Singh
13. Rajkumari Ratna Singh
14. Shri Vinay Kumar Sorake
15. Shrimati D.M. Vijay Kumari

Rajya Sabha

16. Shri Balkavi Bairagi
17. Shri Shatrughan Sinha
18. Dr. Y. Radhakrishna Murthy
19. Shri Kartar Singh Duggal
20. Shri K. Rama Mohana Rao
21. Shrimati Kum Kum Rai
22. Shri Rajiv Shukla

SECRETARIAT

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

**Representatives of the Ministry of
Information and Broadcasting**

1. Shri Pawan Chopra — Secretary (I&B)
2. Shri Anil Bajjal — Addl. Secretary and CEO,
Prasar Bharati
3. Smt. Aruna Makhan — Addl. Secretary & Financial
Adviser (I&B)
4. Shri Sudhir Sharma — Joint Secretary (P&A)
5. Shri Rakesh Mohan — Joint Secretary (B), (I&B)
6. Shri Sudhir Bhandari — Chief Controller of
Accounts
7. Smt. Mona Sharma — Director (PP&A)
8. Ms. Esther Kar — Director (IP)
9. Shri S.C. Tewary — Director (BP&L)
10. Shri S. Kumaraswamy — Deputy Secretary
11. Ms. Nina Lath Gupta — Deputy Secretary (Films)
12. Ms. Mahua Pal — Deputy Secretary (V&IIS)
13. Ms. Meera R. Tshering — Deputy Secretary (C&T)
14. Shri M.R. Thapliyal — Deputy Secretary (B&A)
15. Smt. Seema Jere Bisht — Deputy Secretary (IP)
16. Shri R.C. Mishra — Executive Director (SP)
DDN
17. Shri B.K. De — E-in-Chief (DDN)
18. Shri K.M. Paul — E-in-Chief
19. Shri T.R. Malakar — DDG:DDN
20. Shri R.K. Gupta — Chief Engineer (DDN)
21. Shri A.V. Swaminathan — CE, AIR
22. Shri M.K. Gaikwad — DDN
23. Shri K. Lanthanga — DDG, Doordarshan
24. Shri K. Kunhikrishan — DDG, Doordarshan
25. Mrs. Deepak Sandhu — ADG (News), Doordarshan
26. Shri Harish Awasthi — DG (NSD), AIR

27. Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Sinha	—	DDG (C), AIR
28. Smt. N.J. Krishna	—	PIO
29. Shri Vivekanand Ray	—	PR, RNI
30. Shri Sahab Singh	—	DG, DAVP
31. Smt. Surinder Kaur	—	Dir., Publications Division
32. Shri Prem Matiani	—	Dir., S & DD
33. Shri O.P. Jora	—	Dir., Photo Division
34. Smt. Malati Sahai	—	Dir., DFF
35. Shri Suresh Chopra	—	Dir., DFP
36. Smt. Sujata Chaturvedi	—	Registrar, IIMC
37. Shri G.D. Beliya	—	Director, RR&TD
38. Ms. Reva Khatrapal	—	Secretary, PCI
39. Shri K.R.P. Verma	—	Director (O&M) BECIL
40. Shri L.K. Upadhyaya	—	Director, NFAL, Pune
41. Smt. Mukhopadhyaya	—	MD, NFDC
42. Shri Bankim	—	CP. Films Division
43. Shri Jatin Sarkar	—	Director, SRFTI, Kokata
44. Shri Mohan Agashe	—	Director, FTII, Pune
45. Shri Yashpal Chaudhary	—	Acting CEO, CFSI
46. Shri S. Gopalaratnam	—	Senior AO, CBFC

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the officers accompanying him.

3. The Committee sought clarification from the Representatives of the Ministry on various issues relating to the Demand for Grants 2001-2002 (Demand No. 51) as well as points arising out of the replies to advance Questionnaire furnished by the Ministry like Entry of Foreign Print Media, Direct to Home Telecast, Prasar Bharati Board, procedure for allotting time on Doordarshan, Children's Film Society of India, Films Division, Revenue earning, FTII Pune, SRFTI Kolkata, DAVP and National Film Awards etc.

4. The Representatives of the Ministry replied to the queries of the Members.

5. A verbatim record of the proceeding has been kept.

The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-SECOND SITTING OF THE STANDING
COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (2001)

The Committee sat on Tuesday, 3 April, 2001 from 1500 hours to
1725 hours in Committee Room No. 63, Parliament House, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Somnath Chatterjee — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Mahendra Baitha
3. Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal
4. Prof. Dukha Bhagat
5. Shri Tara Chand Bhagora
6. Shri Nikhil Kumar Chaudhary
7. Shri T. Govindan
8. Shri K.K. Kaliappan
9. Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab
10. Shri Karia Munda
11. Shri Sheeshram Singh Ravi
12. Shri K.A. Sangtam
13. Rajkumari Ratna Singh
14. Shri Vinay Kumar Sarake

Rajya Sabha

15. Shri Balkavi Bairagi
16. Shri Shatrughan Sinha
17. Shri Kartar Singh Duggal
18. Shri K. Rama Mohana Rao
19. Shrimati Kum Kum Rai
20. Shri Rajiv Shukla

SECRETARIAT

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2. Shri S.K. Sharma — *Deputy Secretary*
3. Shri Bhupesh Kumar — *Assistant Director*

**Representatives of the Ministry of
Information and Broadcasting**

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3. Smt. Aruna Makhan — Addl. Secretary & Financial Adviser (I&B)
4. Shri Sudhir Sharma — Joint Secretary (P&A)
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8. Ms. Esther Kar — Director (IP)
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10. Shri S. Kumaraswamy — Deputy Secretary
11. Ms. Nina Lath Gupta — Deputy Secretary (Films)
12. Ms. Mahua Pal — Deputy Secretary (V&IIS)
13. Ms. Meena R. Tshering — Deputy Secretary (C&T)
14. Shri M.R. Thapliyal — Deputy Secretary (B&A)
15. Smt. Seema Jere Bisht — Deputy Secretary (IP)
16. Shri R.C. Mishra — Executive Director (SP) DDN
17. Shri B.K. De — E-in-Chief (DDN)
18. Shri K.M. Paul — E-in-Chief
19. Shri T.R. Malakar — DDG:DDN
20. Shri R.K. Gupta — Chief Engineer (DDN)
21. Shri A.V. Swaminathan — CE, AIR
22. Shri M.K. Gaikwad — DDN
23. Shri K. Lanthanga — DDG, Doordarshan
24. Shri K. Kunhikrishan — DDG, Doordarshan
25. Mrs. Deepak Sandhu — ADG (News), Doordarshan
26. Shri Harish Awasthi — DG (NSD), AIR
27. Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Sinha — DDG (C), AIR

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-THIRD SITTING OF THE STANDING
COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(2001)

The Committee sat on Thursday, 12 April, 2001 from 1100 hours to 1300 hours in Committee Room '53', Parliament House, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Somnath Chatterjee — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Mahendra Baitha
3. Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal
4. Shri Nikhil Kumar Chaudhary
5. Shri T. Govindan
6. Shri K.K. Kaliappan
7. Shri G. Ram Mohan
8. Shri K.A. Sangtam
9. Sardar Buta Singh
10. Rajkumari Ratna Singh

Rajya Sabha

11. Shri Shatrughan Sinha
12. Shri Narendra Mohan
13. Shri Balbir K. Punj
14. Dr. Y. Radhakrishna Murthy
15. Shri P.N. Siva
16. Shri Kartar Singh Duggal
17. Shri K. Rama Mohana Rao
18. Shrimati Kum Kum Rai
19. Shri Rajiv Shukla

SECRETARIAT

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

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH SITTING OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(2001)

The Committee sat on Thursday, 12 April, 2001 from 15.00 hours to 16.00 hours in Committee Room No. 53, Parliament House, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Somnath Chatterjee — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Mahendra Baitha
3. Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal
4. Shri Nikhil Kumar Chaudhary
5. Shri T. Govindan
6. Shri K.K. Kaliappan
7. Shri G. Ram Mohan
8. Shri K.A. Sangtam
9. Sardar Buta Singh
10. Rajkumari Ratna Singh

Rajya Sabha

11. Shri Shatrughan Sinha
12. Shri Narendra Mohan
13. Shri Balbir K. Punj
14. Dr. Y. Radhakrishna Murthy
15. Shri P.N. Siva
16. Shri Kartar Singh Duggal
17. Shri K. Rama Mohana Rao
18. Shrimati Kum Kum Rai
19. Shri Rajiv Shukla

SECRETARIAT

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

2. The Committee took up for consideration the Draft Twenty Third Report of the Standing Committee on Information Technology (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2001-2002) relating to Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and adopted the same with some amendments/modifications as shown in Annexure 'A'.

3. The Committee then authorised the Chairman to finalise and present/lay the Report in both the Houses of Parliament in light of the factual verifications received from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

The Committee then adjourned.

ANNEXURE 'A'

AMENDMENTS/MODIFICATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE
IN THE DRAFT TWENTY-THIRD REPORT

Page No.	Para No.	Line No.	For	Read
1	2	3	4	5
13	37	16	"recession"	"revision"
13	38	3	Delete 'hanging in the limbo and'	
-do-	-do-	9	After 'is' Add "for"	
14	38	14	After 'on' Delete 'Soso' After 'project' Add 'at Soso'	
-do-	-do-	15	After 'lakhs' Add 'while'	
-do-	-do-	31	Delete 'and its incompetence'	
15	40	2	'Charnel'	'Channels'
-do-	-do-	9	Delete 'also from'	
-do-	-do-	10	'out source'	'outsourced'
-do-	-do-	-do-	Before 'sponsored'	Add 'are'
-do-	-do-	13	After 'such' Delete 'a'	
-do-	-do-	15	'little'	'few'
-do-	-do-	-do-	Delete 'being'	
16	40	20	After 'and'	Add 'does not'
-do-	-do-	-do-	'reflects poorly'	'reflect well'
-do-	41	2	'marketing'	'marketing'

1	2	3	4	5
-do-	-do-	7	After 'in'	Add 'an'
-do-	42	3 & 4	delete 'so far as area-wise coverage is concerned, it has not been distributed evenly'	
-do-	-do-	4	'official electronic media has a significant role'	'electronic media and particularly Doordarshan has a very crucial and significant role'
17	44	4	Delete 'hostile'	
-do-	-do-	7	Delete 'at all'	
-do-	-do-	10	'required'	'requires'
-do-	-do-	17	After 'power of	Add 'Transmitters used by'
-do-	-do-	-do-	After 'Khujdar'	Add 'and'
-do-	-do-	18	Delete 'and so on'	
18	46	1 & 2	'segregated in terms of broadcasting and telecasting services'	not being provided adequate services in terms of broadcast and telecast facilities/services
-do-	-do-	2	'urges'	'calls upon'
19	48	11	After 'concern at'	Add 'the delay in'
-do-	49	3	'Kendra'	'Kendra'
-do-	-do-	6	'witness is more perturbing'	'witness in this regard is more disturbing'
-do-	50	2	'an Ex-Minister'	'a Minister'
-do-	-do-	2&3	'explanation to the nation and his resignation'	'explanation about his resignation from the Council of Ministers, to the nation and'
19	50	7	After 'statement'	Add 'Full of controversies'
-do-	-do-	8	'when'	'by which time'
20	-do-	12	'it'	'those'
-do-	-do-	13 & 14	Delete 'Obviously Prasar Bharti..... impartial manner'	

1	2	3	4	5
-do-	-do-	24	After 'such'	Add 'a'
32	91	3 & 4	'is required to be revised..... for the same'	'should be revised annually, so that newspaper industry does not suffer'
-do-	93	2	After 'Directorate'	Add 'of Film Festivals'
-do-	-do-	3	'as these of'	'similar'
-do-	-do-	-do-	Before 'private'	Add 'by'
-do-	-do-	4	'specials'	'specially'
-do-	94	1	'is seriously perturbed at'	'notes with concern'
-do-	-do-	2	After 'Award'	Add 'this year'
-do-	-do-	3	Delete 'have'	
32 & 33	-do-	5 & 6	Delete 'Two of the awardees.....the same'	
-do-	-do-	6	Delete 'a serious'	
-do-	-do-	7	After 'jury'	Add 'stated to be'