

## REPORT

### Introductory

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has presented to Parliament Demand No.55 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 & Broadcasting**

2. Budgetary provisions for the year 2002-2003 are as under:

#### 2002-2003

#### **Budget Estimates**

*(Rs. in crore)*

<b>Plan</b>	<b>Non-Plan</b>	<b>Total</b>
878.00 * *	1118.58	1996.58

Out of Rs.878.00 crore, DBS component is Rs. 415 crore balance of Rs. 463 crore being IEBR.

3. The Plan outlay for 2001-2002 for various sectors of the Ministry was as under:

*(Rs. in crore)*

<b>Sector</b>	<b>Actual 2000-2001</b>	<b>Outlay 2001-2002</b>	<b>Revised Estimates 2001-2002</b>
Doordarshan	428.55 * *	562.00	519.81
Sound Broadcasting	107.70 * *	190.93	177.52
Film Media	33.24 *	41.39	28.43

Information Media	14.31 *	17.08	15.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>583.80</b>	<b>811.40</b>	<b>741.06</b>

\* includes IEBR generated by NFDC/BECIL/Prasar Bharati.

\*\* includes IEBR generated by Prasar Bharati.

**Annual Plan 2002-2003**

*(Rs. in crore)*

<b>Sector</b>	<b>DBS</b>	<b>IEBR</b>	<b>Total outlay 2002-2003</b>
Prasar Bharati Corporation	360.00	463.00	823.00
Films Media	26.00	---	26.00
Information Media	29.00	---	29.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>415.00</b>	<b>463.00</b>	<b>878.00</b>

4. Out of the outlay of Rs.55.00 crores for the year 2002-2003 in respect of Information and Films Sectors, a provision of Rs.2.30 crores has been earmarked for projects/schemes for the benefit of North-Eastern Region and Sikkim.

Out of the total Plan outlay of Rs.823.00 crores for the year 2002-2003 in respect of Prasar Bharati, the Plan support will be Rs.360.00 crores including a component of Rs.82.70 crores for J&K

Special Package and Rs.77.50 crores for North-Eastern region and Sikkim. The remaining amount will be met by Prasar Bharati out of its own resources.

5. The 10<sup>th</sup> Plan allocations in respect of this Ministry are yet to be approved and finalised by the Planning Commission.

6. **The Committee is disturbed to note that the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan outlay of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has not been finalised by the Planning Commission even though ad-hoc allocation of Rs.878.00 crore (Rs.415 DBS and 463 crore IEBR) has been made for the Annual Plan 2002-03. The Committee feels that delay in the finalisation of the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan outlay will adversely affect implementation of major schemes in various sectors as it is not clear what the priorities of the Government will be. With the loss of precious time, it will not be possible to achieve the physical and financial targets when plan size is actually finalised. In fact this exercise should have been completed much in advance so that the new schemes are initiated well in time. The Committee desires that Plan allocations and targets be finalised expeditiously.**

**BROADCASTING SECTOR**

***(I) ALL INDIA RADIO***

7. All India Radio informs, educates and entertains people through its programmes broadcast from various stations. It keeps the people all over the country informed about Government policies, plans, programmes and achievements through the medium of sound broadcasting by a variety of programmes on cultural, educational, scientific, health and hygiene, social and economic aspects. It also keeps the people in all parts of the country informed of the important events of topical interest. It also runs a commercial service (Vividh Bharati) which helps in promoting sale of goods and services through advertisements. It has external services programmes for overseas listeners.

8. The Demands for Grants for the Financial Year 2001-2002 include the following:

*(Rs. in crore)*

<i>Media</i>	<i>SBG</i>	<i>RE</i>	<i>% increase/decrease in RE over SBG</i>

<b><u>All India Radio</u></b>			
Plan Revenue	26.00	26.50	1.92
Plan Capital	164.93	151.02	(-) 8.43
<b>Plan Total</b>	<b>190.93</b>	<b>177.52</b>	<b>(-) 7.02</b>
<b>Non-Plan Revenue</b>	<b>527.81</b>	<b>506.53</b>	<b>(-) 4.03</b>

*(Rs. in crore)*

<i>Media</i>	<i>SBG</i>	<i>RE</i>	<i>% increase/decrease in RE over SBG</i>
<b><u>Prasar Bharati</u></b>			
Plan Revenue	263.00	256.42	(-) 2.50
Plan Capital	489.93	440.91	(-) 10.00
<b>Plan Total</b>	<b>752.93</b>	<b>697.33</b>	<b>(-) 7.38</b>
<b>Non-Plan Revenue</b>	<b>930.00</b>	<b>895.00</b>	<b>(-) 3.76</b>

**Revenue-Plan:** The SBG 2001-02 was Rs.26.00 crore. The RE is fixed at Rs.26.50 crore. This includes a sum of Rs.0.50 crore towards North-East component and Rs.1.00 crore towards J&K package. The additionality to the tune of Rs.0.50 crore has been kept for the development of software.

**CAPITAL PLAN:** The SBG was Rs.164.93 crore and included Rs.27.00 crore for the J&K Special Package and Rs.16.75 crore for NE component. The RE has been fixed at Rs.151.02 crore (including Rs.23.50 crore towards the J&K Special Package and Rs. 23.17 crore towards the NE component. The Capital (Plan) has been reduced by Rs. 13.91 crore due to less requirement of funds under J&K package and less IEBR support by Prasar Bharati.

**Non-Plan Revenue:** The SBG 01-02 was Rs. 527.81 crore. The RE has been fixed at Rs. 506.53 crore. There is a saving of Rs. 21.28 crore. As directed by Ministry of Finance, the economy instructions have been followed while finalising the Revised Estimates.

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2002-03 PLAN**

9. The Plan outlay for Prasar Bharati has been fixed at Rs.823.00 crore. Out of this, Government will provide financial support in the form of Grant-in-aid and Loan to the tune of Rs.360.00 crore only and the balance i.e. Rs.463.00 crore will be met by Prasar Bharati out of its own earnings. Break-up of the Plan Outlay of All India Radio for 2002-03 is as under:

*(Rs.in crore)*

	<b><u>AIR</u></b>
<b><u>Revenue</u></b>	
Normal	30.85
J&K Special Package	2.50
North-East & Sikkim	2.00
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b>35.35</b>
<b><u>Capital Outlay</u></b>	
Normal	141.15
J&K Special Package	10.00
North-East & Sikkim	10.50
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b>161.65</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>197.00</b>

### **NON-PLAN**

10. Financial support to the Prasar Bharati in respect of All India Radio under Revenue Non-Plan will be in the form of GRANT-IN-AID. For the year 2002-03, the Grant-in-aid to All India Radio is proposed at Rs.515.64 crore.

## **Ninth Plan**

11. The details of outlays projected for AIR, approved outlays, and actual expenditure, during each of the five years of the 9<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan are as below (Rupees in crore):

Year	Proposed Outlay	Approved Outlay	Actual Expenditure
1997-98	135.00	143.20	88.25
1998-99	156.00	150.00	81.25
1999-2000	188.00	122.00	90.36
2000-2001	281.15	140.00	107.70
2001-2002	252.34	190.93	177.52
Total	1012.49	746.13	545.08

### **Reasons for shortfall**

- (i) Delay in execution of tower work due to the initial problems of agencies like M/s Richardson & Cruddas Limited, Telecommunication Consultants India Limited etc.
- (ii) Law and order problems in Jammu and Kashmir and some states of the North Eastern Region.
- (iii) Delay in civil works in some places, due to contractual problems, non-availability of infrastructural facilities, delay in land acquisition etc. - --Examples: New Broadcasting House, Kohima etc.
- (iv) Delay in placing of orders for transmitters due to litigation. Example: Khampur 250 KW SW transmitter.
- (v) Delay in finalisation of 9<sup>th</sup> Plan.

During the IXth Plan outlay of Rs.1012.49 crore were projected by the Ministry, however this outlay was finally reduced to 746.13 crore by the Planning Commission.

12. Details of physical targets and achievements made thereon in respect of All India Radio – Sound Broadcasting during the 9<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan including as on 31.1.2002 are as under:

Scheme	Physical target 9 <sup>th</sup> plan	Schemes deferred		Revised Physical Target 9 <sup>th</sup> Plan	Physical achievement as on 31.3.2001	Physical achievement as on 31.1.2002	Anticipated achievement during 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan, 02 to March, 02	Achievement during 9 <sup>th</sup> plan
		Proposed under ZBB	Due to non-availability of sufficient funds					
<b>I. BROADCASTING CENTRES</b>	24	6	2	16	10	10	5	15
a) Full Fledged	22	5 (Rairangpur, Junagarh, Oras, Amaravati, Kakinada)	2 (Dharamanagar, Longtherai)	15	9	9	5	14
b) Relay centres	2	1 (Darjeeling)		1	1	1		1
<b>II. COMMUNITY RADIO STATIONS</b>	10		5 (Changlang, Khonsa, Champhai, Nutan, Bazar, Phek)	5	5	5		5
<b>III. RADIO TRANSMITTERS (MR SCHEMES)</b>								
a) Medium Wave	28	1 (Kota)	3 (Najibabad, Rajkot, Bhuj)	24	8	17	7	24
b) Short Wave	9		3 (3x250 Khampur)	6	3	3	3	6
c) VHF/FM	28		4 (Kanpur, Varanasi, Aurangabad, Vijayawada)	24	17	17	7	24
<b>IV. STUDIO</b>	7		1 (Delhi-Pmt. Archives)	6	5	5		5
	106	7	18	81	48	57	22	79
<b>J&amp;K Special Plan</b>				11	1	1	8	9

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in reply to a query by the Committee has stated that out of 106 schemes targetted by the Ministry for AIR which were reduced to 81 at revised stage, Ministry could make physical achievements of 57 schemes only during the 9<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan. Performance of All India Radio during 9<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan and for the year 2001-2002 are given as below:

**I. (a) Broadcasting Centres**

The Ministry originally targetted to complete 24 Broadcasting Centres scheme for All India Radio during the 9<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan which was reduced to 15 schemes at revised stage. However, achievements during the year 2001-2002 was 9 schemes only. Out of 24 originally targetted schemes, 5 schemes were deferred due to being proposed under ZBB and 2 schemes i.e. Dharamanagar and Longtheral due to no availability of sufficient funds.

**(b) Relay Centre**

The Ministry originally targetted to complete 2 relay centres for All India Radio during the 9<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan. However, out of 2 only 1 relay centre could be completed by 2001-2002 and one Relay centre scheme i.e. for Darjeeling was deferred due to being proposed under ZBB.

**II. Community Radio Stations**

The Ministry originally targetted to complete 10 CRSs for All India Radio during the 9<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan. However, out of 10 only 5 CRSs could be completed by 2001-2002 under a revised targets of 5 fixed therefor. 5 remaining CRSs schemes were deferred due to non-availability of funds.

**III. Radio Transmitters (MR Schemes)**

**(a) Medium Wave**

The Ministry originally targetted to complete 28 Medium wave scheme for All India Radio during 9<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan. However, out of 28 only 17 MW could be completed during 2001-2002 under revised targets of 24 already fixed therefor. Out of remaining 4 schemes 1 (kota) was deferred due to proposed ZBB and 3 - Najibabad, Rajkot, Bhuj due to non-availability of funds.

**(b) Short Wave**

The Ministry originally targetted to complete the 9 Short wave scheme for All India Radio during the 9<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan. However, out of 9 schemes only 3 could be completed during 2001-2002 under a reduced revised targets of 6 schemes fixed therefor. Out of remaining 6 schemes 3 were deferred due to non-availability of sufficient funds.

**(c) VHM/FM**

The Ministry originally targetted to complete the 28 VHM/Finance Ministry schemes for All India Radio during the 9<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan. However, out of 28 schemes only 17 could be completed during the year 2001-2002 under a revised reduced targets of 24 fixed therefor. Out of remaining 11 schemes 4 (Kanpur, Varanasi, Aurangabad, Vijayawada) were deferred due to non-availability of sufficient funds.

**IV. STUDIOS**

The Ministry originally targetted to complete 7 studios for All India Radio during 9<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan. However out of 7 studios, 5 were completed during the year 2001-2002 under revised targets of 6 fixed therefor. Remaining 1 (Delhi Pmt. Archieves) could not completed due to non-availability of sufficient funds.

**The Ministry has furnished following reasons for shortfall:**

- i) Award of foundation work got delayed due to court case for foundation tender.
- ii) Foundation drawings had to be revised due to rock below the site.
- iii) Shifting of CPWD water pipe.
- iv) Complication in the structural tender. Matter had to be referred to CVC.
- v) Type and design of architectural columns-decision thereof.

**13. J&K SPECIAL PLAN**

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<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Projections</b>	<b>Achievements</b>
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FM	RAJOURI -10 kW FM	RAJOURI -10 kW FM (Anticipated)	
<b>Transmitters –</b>	9	1	
<b>MW</b>	SRINAGAR - 300 kW MW	SRINAGAR -300 kW MW (Anticipated)	
	NAUSHERA - 20 kW MW	NAUSHERA- 20 kW MW	„
	KUPWARA - 20 kW MW	KUPWARA - 20 kW MW	„
	NYOMARAP- 1 kW MW	NYOMARAP- 1 kW MW	„
	TIESURA - „	TIESURA - „	„
	DRASS - „	DRASS - „	„
	KHALSI - „	KHALSI - „	„
	DISKIT - „		** DISKIT – 1 kW MW
			** PADUM -- „
			KARGIL -- 200 kW MW

**\*\* Carried over from 2001-02**

The Ministry targetted to complete 1 transmitter (Rajouri 10 kW FM) and 9 Transmitters MW, however, except 1, none of the transmitters has been commissioned so far under the J&K Special Plan.

The Ministry has given following reasons for shortfall in regard to J&K Special Plan:

(i) Building work for all J&K special plan projects except the projects at Srinagar and Kargil has been awarded to JKPCC a state government undertaking. They had assured to complete the building work in the technical area by October, 2001. But it has been delayed. Present position is as follows:

(a) For projects at Naushera, Kupwara and Rajouri technical area is likely to be handed over by the end of January, 2002. Efforts are on to complete these projects within the current financial year.

(b) For the projects at Khalsi, Diskit and Nyomarap in Leh region and Drass, Tiesuru and Padum in Kargil region work has been hampered due to on set of extreme weather conditions earlier than normal time and closure of roads. JKPCC is being pursued to complete the technical area at the earliest. All efforts are, however, being made to

commission interim set ups installed in Porta Cabines at Khalsi, Nyomarap, Drass and Tiesuru within the current financial year.

**Diskit and Padum**:- Installation work at these places shall be completed after improvement in the weather conditions/accessibility to these places.

14. The Committee notes that the Ministry had projected an outlay of Rs. 1012.49 crore for developmental and other requirements of All India Radio during IX Plan. However, out of the reduced outlay of Rs.746.13 crore, the Ministry could utilise only Rs.545.08 crore. For Annual Plan 2001-2002, the Ministry had projected an outlay of Rs. 252.34 crore for All India Radio while the amount sanctioned was Rs.190.93 crore (Rs. 164.93 crore Capital and Rs.26 crore Revenue). It was reduced at the RE stage to Rs.177.52 crore. For 2002-2003 Plan Budget Estimates are for Rs.197 crore as against the projection of Rs.228.18 crore by the Ministry. The reduction in the plan outlay was stated to be primarily due to reduction in the Hardware requirement towards J&K Special Package and less IEBR (Internal and External Budgetary Resources). The Committee in its 23<sup>rd</sup> Report on Demands for Grants 2001-2002 had expressed serious concern over the frequent downsizing of plan outlay which was nothing but negation of planning. The Committee was also of the opinion that the sanctity of plan should be maintained at all cost as these were the goals set by the nation for its development and as per the assurance given by Government to make services available to the people. Rather than implementing this very important recommendation which would have helped in improving its lagging performance the plan outlay has been reduced from Rs.252.34 crore at RE to Rs.190.93 crore at SBG during the year 2001-2002. For 2002-2003 also there is an insufficient increase of Rs.7 crore over the Rs.190.93 crore in last years sanctioned grant Budget. The Committee observes that there has been a tendency for the past many years to make higher budgetary estimates and reduce them at the revised stage and ultimately ending up by spending only a small amount. The reasons for it could partly be slow and tardy progress in the execution of projects taken in hand as well as non-availability of funds due to shifting priorities. The Committee, therefore, strongly reiterates that while preparing budgetary estimate, original targets should be kept in view so that frequent downsizing of the plan outlay could be avoided.

15. The Committee is constrained to find that out of 106 important projects targetted by the Ministry for All India Radio, 18 were abandoned due to non-availability of sufficient resources. Of the 81 projects targetted at the revised stage, the Ministry could complete only 57

as on 31.01.2002. The reduced outlay has adversely affected the continuing or proposed schemes. In the case of other infrastructure sector projects like Broadcasting Centres, Community Radio Stations, Radio Transmitters (MR schemes) and Stations, achievements *vis-à-vis* targets fixed during the 9th Five Year Plan (1997-2002) are far from satisfactory since the Ministry for last four and a half years could complete only 57 projects against 81.

16. The Committee notes with concern that the Ministry had targetted to complete one 10 KW FM transmitter at Rajouri and 9 MW Transmitters at Srinagar, Drass and other places in J&K. However, except 1, none has been commissioned so far under the J&K Special Plan for the year 2001-2002. The Committee is not satisfied with the explanation given by the Ministry that in the case of Khalsi, Diskit and Nyomarap in Leh Region and Drass Tiesuru and Padum in Kargil region, work had been hampered due to extreme weather conditions and in the case of Naushera Kubwara and Rajouri Technical area, the contracting State Government agency could not execute the building works on time. None of the reasons adduced by the Ministry are convincing. Bad weather is not such which could not have been foreseen in advance in the case of J&K. It speaks of lack of planning and foresight on the part of the Ministry. The Committee, therefore, likes to be apprised of the progress of work/steps taken by the Ministry in regard to prudent and realistic planning and concrete measures taken in this regard.

17. In view of the foregoing, the Committee concludes that no concerted efforts were made by the Ministry for completion of targetted schemes in the given time frame. Nor the projections appeared to be realistic *vis-à-vis* achievements. The Committee, therefore, desires that the projects taken up for execution must be completed in the given time frame as the delay in their completion adversely affects the targets, physical as well as financial, of the next year.

**(II) DOORDARSHAN**

18. The sanctioned/Budget for Doordarshan for 2001-2002 was Rs.562 crore which was reduced to Rs.519.81 crore at RE stage. This year Rs.626 crore has been provided in Budget Estimates for 2002-2003.

19. The physical achievements *vis-à-vis* targets fixed for 2001-2002 are as under:-

Item	Targets	Achievements (by 31.03.02)
Studios	03	03

HPTs DD-1	18	11
HPTs DD-2	08	08
LPTs/VLPTs	65	50
<b>J&amp;K Plan</b>		
HPTs DD-1	04	03
HPTs DD-2	05	04
LPTs	09	07
VLPTs	49 (inclusive of upgr.)	38

20. Ministry in their reply has stated that expenditure of Rs.157.86 crore has been made till February, 2002 and further expenditure of Rs.124.03 crore is likely to be incurred during the month of March, 2002. Hence, the total expenditure under Capital during 2001-02 is likely to be Rs. 281.89 crore as per final Estimates.

21. During 9<sup>th</sup> Plan the outlay of Rs.1761.65 crore was proposed for Doordarshan which has been increased to Rs.2318.96 crore at the approval stage. The year wise sanctioned Budget Grants, RE and actual expenditure is as below:

Sl.No.	Year	SBG	RE/FE	Expenditure
1.	1997-98	415.60	364.00	346.39
2.	1998-99	449.40	327.90	309.09
3.	1999-2000	391.52	359.07	392.55
4.	2000-2001	500.44	483.18	428.55
5.	2001-2002	562.00	519.81	267.25
	Total	2318.96	2053.96	1742.83

The physical targets fixed for the year 2001-2002 were 3 studios, 18 HPTs DD1, 8 HPTs DD2, 65 LPT/VLPTs and for J&K special Plan: 4 HPTs DD1, 5 HPTs DD2, 9 LPTs 49 VLPTs. The achievement as stated to be as on 31 March, 2002 3 studios, 11 HPTs DD1, 8 HPTs DD2, 50 LPT/VLPTs and for J&K special Plan, 3 HPTs DD1, 4 HPTs DD2, 7 LPTs, 38 VLPTs. Out of total

outlay of Rs.519 crore provided to Ministry for Doordarshan for the year 2001-2002 (RE) only Rs.281.89 crore could be utilised till 31 March, 2002.

22. The Ministry has given following reasons for underutilisation of funds:

(i) **Less Utilisation of funds for software under J&K special package:**

Against the sanctioned budget grant of Rs.82 crore, an amount of Rs.41 crore only was projected at RE stage, as the programmes could not be commissioned in time due to the CBI raid on Kashir Cell of Doordarshan. As the files remained in the custody of CBI and Vigilance Cell of the Directorate for a long time, the proposals for commissioned programmes could not be processed and finalised.

(ii) **Closing of News Channel:**

As against the sanctioned budget grant of Rs.66.41 crore for commissioning of programmes, Doordarshan projected an amount of Rs.41 crore only at RE stage. The savings of Rs.25 crore are mainly attributable to closure of DD News channel due to which there was less expenditure on commissioning of programmes.

(iii) **Supplies & Materials:**

Against the sanctioned budget grant of Rs.10 crore for purchase of supplies and materials an amount of Rs1 crore was projected RE stage because of non-sanction of spares for various projects during last 2 years.

Total SBG: (Rs325+Rs.237)=Rs.562 crore

Total RE: (Rs.289.89+ Rs.229.92)=Rs.519.81 crore

Projected FE: (Rs.281.89+ Rs.154.44)=Rs.436.33 crore.

23. When asked about the effective measures taken by the Ministry for optimum utilisation of Plan & funds meant for the schemes, the representatives of the Ministry replied as under:-

Doordarshan is making every possible effort to complete the projects at the earliest and to ensure utilisation of allocated funds. For this purpose, monitoring mechanism has been strengthened at the Zonal level as well as at the Headquarters. Review meetings are held regularly at the level of Zonal Chief Engineers, Engineer-in-Chief and Director General/CEO, Prasar Bharati. Senior

officers also visit the project sites to assess the progress and take corrective measures wherever necessary.

24. When asked about the steps taken by the Ministry to extend reach of Prasar Bharati from 88 to 100 percent of the population of the country. The Ministry has stated that to extend the population reach of Prasar Bharati (TV coverage) the following strategies are proposed under 10<sup>th</sup> Plan:-

- (a) Installation works of the terrestrial transmitters (135 numbers) under continuing schemes, that had been initiated during 9<sup>th</sup> Plan period would be completed and the existing terrestrial coverage augmented for better reception in the fringe areas of the existing terrestrial transmitters and in the borders areas.
- (b) Multi-channel digital satellite distribution in Ku-band/C-Band to cover the uncovered TV households, either directly through individual dish antenna & set top box or through cable head ends depending on the concentration of TV households in these uncovered areas.

### **North-East Channel**

25. In a major thrust towards reaching more viewers and for better coverage in the hilly and difficult terrain of North-East Region of India. So far Doordarshan was able to provide only 53.2% area coverage and 81.5% population coverage in the North Eastern Region. This was primarily due to the difficult terrain and shadow area in this region. The coverage was also not uniform in all the States and was quite low in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland. Also the quality of signal within the coverage zone was not uniform due to the hilly terrain of the region.

26. For expanding and strengthening the reach of DD in the **North-Eastern Region**. Doordarshan is stated to have commissioned the following 54 projects in North-East region during the 9th Five Year Plan period:

- (a) DD-I transmitters - 39 (HPT-1, LPT-6, VLPT-29 & Transposers-3)
- (b) DD-2 transmitters - 9 (HPT-4, LPT-4, VLPT-1)
- (c) Satellite uplinks - 6

Three additional projects (1 studio and 2 transmitters) have also been completed but are yet to be commissioned. In addition to the above projects, studio centres at Guwahati, Silchar, Dibrugarh, Shillong, Tura, Imphal, Aizawl, Kohima, Itanagar and Agartala have been modernised by providing new cameras and other allied equipment. Also, the HPTs (DD-1) at Guwahati, Silchar and Agartala have been replaced by new transmitters. Round the clock North-East channel has been started during 9th Five Year Plan period. For further expansion of DD coverage 6 HPTs for DD-2 coverage and 5 LPTs and 4 VLPT/Transposers are under implementation. All these transmitters are expected to be commissioned during 2002-03.

There was no separate plan allocation for North-East during the 9<sup>th</sup> Plan. However, 10% of the total plan expenditure was to be incurred on North-Eastern States (including Sikkim). As may be seen from the following table, both All India Radio and Doordarshan utilised more than 10 percent of total expenditure of the North-East.

*(Rs. in lakhs)*

	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>Expenditure on North-East</b>
All India Radio	545.08	60.98
Doordarshan	1,654.39 *	161.71
Total	2,199.47	222.69

*\* excluding J&K package*

27. During the evidence, when asked whether the Ministry has ever conducted an in-house audit of Doordarshan programmes, the representatives of the Ministry stated as under:

“I do not hesitate in saying that there is a level and category which is not fully utilised, but there is a category which is under shortage also. As I mentioned last time, we did galvanise our in-house production activity last year. We produced both half an hour programmes as

well as spots for Ministry of Rural Development completely in-house. There were near about 1000 plus half-an-hour programmes, plus about 800 spots of 30 seconds-20 seconds duration”.

As regards the future scope in this regard, the Ministry agreed that there is still scope for its improvement.

### **Prasar Bharati Board**

28. In reply to a query by the Committee about constitution of Prasar Bharati Board, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in a note has stated that the positions of the Chairman, Executive Member, Member (Finance), four Part-time Members, DG, Doordarshan and the representative of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting on the Prasar Bharati Board have been filled up. There were six vacancies on the Board; that of Member (Personnel), two vacancies of Part-time Members, arising out of the resignation of Shri Abid Hussain on 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2001 and the vacancy of Shri Kasipandian, the vacancy of DG Akashvani after the retirement of the then DG, AIR on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2002 and two other vacancies-one elected representative of Engineering staff and one elected representative of other employees of Prasar Bharati. The request to fill up the vacancy of Member (Personnel) and two Part-time Members has been referred for the consideration of the Selection Committee.”

**29. The Committee notes that the Ministry had projected an outlay of Rs.562 crore for its developmental schemes and other requirements during 2001-2002. However, it was reduced to Rs.519.81. Out of this, the Ministry could actually utilise capital plan outlay of Rs.289.89 crore. The Committee finds that during the 9<sup>th</sup> Plan, sanctioned Budget Grants for DD for five years on an yearly basis was Rs.2318.96 crore. However, at RE stage it was reduced to Rs.2053.96 crore. The actual expenditure was Rs. 1742.83. This is not a satisfactory position.**

**30. The Committee is constrained to find that some of the important Doordarshan schemes relating to Studios, Transmitters, Satellite Services misc. and software which were to be completed during 2001-2002 could not be completed. The Ministry could complete 3 Studios, 11 HPTs DD1, 8 HPTs DD2, 50 LPT/VLPT projects and for J&K Plan, 3 HPT DD1, 4 HPT**

DD2, 7 LPTs, 38 VLPTs as against the target of 3 Studios, 18 HPTs DD1, 8 HPTs DD2, 65 LPT/VLPTs and for J&K Plan 4 HPTs DD1, 5 HPTs DD2, 9LPTs, 49 VLPTs respectively.

31. The Committee notes that the Ministry has adduced reasons for shortfall and delay in terms of less utilisation of funds under J&K Special Plan, closing of news channels, non-sanction of spares for various projects. The Committee is not convinced of the reasons adduced by the Ministry in regard to shortfall in achieving the targets and gross underutilisation of the plan funds allocated for the purpose. The Committee strongly disapproves of the delay of months on a trivial pretext and desires that responsibilities be fixed for the delay in the execution of projects under the scheme particularly in regard to J&K Plan, without any further loss of time.

32. The Committee notes with concern that out of the outlay of Rs.325 crore provided to the Ministry for Doordarshan schemes, which was reduced to Rs.289.89 crore at RE stage, the Ministry could utilised only Rs.157.86 crore till February, 2002. The Ministry has also stated that an additional expenditure of Rs.124.03 crore is likely to be incurred during March, 2002. The Committee is given to understand that the Ministry projected a final expenditure of Rs.436.33 crore out of Rs.562 crore during the year. The Committee does not approve of the manner in which the Ministry has been frequently making use of budgetary allocations at the fag end of the financial year. The Committee desires that the Ministry should explore all ways and means to ensure timely completion of the ongoing and new projects so that people are not deprived of the benefits of broadcasting/telecasting services.

33. The Committee is distressed to note that under the J&K Special Plan against the sanctioned budget grant of Rs. 82 crore, an amount of Rs. 41 crore only was projected at RE stage as the programme could not be commissioned in time due to CBI raid on Kashir cell of Doordarshan. The Committee desires that the J&K Special Package for Software be revived and funds provided therefor may be utilised properly for execution of the said scheme without further delay and person responsible for delay, be held accountable. The Committee hopes that the Ministry would be able to complete the ongoing and proposed schemes under the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan so that the reach of Prasar Bharati (TV coverage) may be availed of by 100 percent of the population of the country. The Committee also expects from the Prasar Bharati Board to explore ways and means to improve in-house production in various categories where it has not

fully utilised the funds. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress made by the Ministry, from time to time in this regard.

34. As regards the North East Region, the Committee notes that so far Doordarshan was able to provide only 53.2% area coverage and 81.5% population coverage. This was primarily due to the difficult terrain and shadow area in this region. The coverage was also not uniform in all the States and was quite low in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland. Also, the quality of signal within the coverage zone was poor due to the hilly terrain of the region and low powered transmitters. The Committee, therefore, desires that Doordarshan should explore all ways and means to extend coverage, both area and population-wise, in a phased manner. The Committee also wishes to emphasise on the need to maintain uniformity and increased coverage of Doordarshan channel in the North-East Region. The Committee further desires that for proper implementation of the Planned Schemes and Outlay for the year 2002-2003, some senior officers of the Prasar Bharati Board may visit the concerned areas for proper assessment of the schemes of the North-East Region and suggest corrective measures in this regard.

35. The Committee notes that there are still six vacancies on the Prasar Bharati Board and desires that the Board should take up the matter for filling up of these vacancies without further delay.

36. The Committee would also like to reiterate its earlier recommendation regarding the long awaited Report of the Research Foundation in respect of the study which was started in February, 2001 to ascertain the signal strength of Radio and TV alongwith Western International border in the states of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Punjab so that a comprehensive proposal for the strengthening of Radio/TV coverage on the Western Border Areas could be formulated and considered.

#### MEDIA UNITS

(I) CHILDREN'S FILM SOCIETY, INDIA (CFSI)

37. During the IX Five Year Plan, the outlay of Rs.800 lakh was proposed by CFSI for Children Film Society Complex, which was reduced to Rs.605 lakhs at the approved stage.

38. The Society was sanctioned plan outlay of Rs. 650 lakhs for the year 2000-2001 which was reduced to Rs.378.00 lakhs at RE stage. The actual expenditure, however was Rs. 327.61 lakhs. During 2001-2002 Rs. 455.00 lakhs (plan) was provided to the society at BE stage which was reduced to Rs.328.55 lakhs at RE stage. During the year 2002-2003 the Budget Estimates (Plan) has been kept at Rs.600.00 lakhs.

39. In regard to the construction of CFSI complex at Hyderabad and allotment of alternative plot for it the representatives of the Ministry in their reply have stated as under:

40. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh offered to the CFSI land for a permanent complex in 1995 during the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Children's Film Festival held in November, 1995 in Hyderabad. Three plots of land were initially offered by the State Government in the vicinity of Hussain Sagar Lake for consideration of CFSI. However, at the time of allotment of land, none of the three sites originally offered by the State Government were given and instead the State Government allotted 10 acres of land in the Jubilee Hills area to CFSI.

41. The possession of the land was taken over by CFSI in September, 1997. However, due to various problems confronting the project, the matter was considered by CFSI and since it was not possible to construct the complex on the allotted land, the plot was surrendered in July, 1999. Subsequently, alternate plot of land measuring 10 acres was allotted to the society in November, 2000.

42. Meanwhile, the Government received the report of the Expenditure Reforms Commission on the working of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. One of the recommendations of the Commission pertained to the Children's Film Society of India which inter-alia recommended that *"there is no need for the Government to get involved through one of the organizations under it in production of films for children. Reputed non-government institutions engaged in child welfare activities could be given Grants-in-aid for production of films for children and young persons"*. Keeping in view the above recommendation of the E.R.C., the matter relating to construction of a permanent complex for CFSI at Hyderabad at such a substantial investment has been reconsidered and the scheme has not been included in the 10<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan of CFSI with the approval of the Planning Commission.

43. Asked in this context the representatives of the Ministry stated in evidence that they continued to support CISF but in view of the Geethakrishnan Committee's Report, it has been decided not to build a new infrastructure in Hyderabad. The Ministry would rather be prepared to spend money on exhibition of children's films in municipal schools. For the purpose, society would like to have tie up with municipal schools. Representatives of the society during oral evidence further

clarified that Children's Film society being a very small society had been making and procuring films from private producers which are feature films and animation films.

44. When asked about the number of production of the film and their exhibition the representatives of the society informed that about 10 feature Films are produced in a year and are shown on DD Bharati, Zee and Sony channels on negotiated price rate.

45. When Committee asked about the proposal/prospects to be taken up by the society in 2002-2003 and its requirements, the representative of the society submitted that society wanted to reach out to every city, every place to advance education and culture through the medium of films, specially amongst children and adolescents even by paying charges to theatre for the purpose. The society further expressing its constraints stated that they did not have sufficient manpower. Even important posts were lying vacant. In this regard, representatives of the Ministry stated as under:

“I just wanted to add something. They have a report of about 200 films, 10 or 12 films they make every year. But when it comes to distribution, you can have all sorts of problem. For instance, we have a small Siri Fort auditorium, which is under utilised. We did try this year to have a scheme of inviting municipal schools from Delhi to use that auditorium even on a working day. Now they turned around to me and said: “We don not have money to bring the children in bus”. That is why, we have put this scheme. Of course, one can use the Directorate of Films for publicity to send video cassettes to be shown in villages, etc. But I think, that is even more important now than producing films. But since the production is basically out-sourced, that can be done but we need to provide more limbs and arms”.

**46. The Committee notes with concern that the Children's Film Society of India could not utilise the funds provided in the IX Plan to construct their permanent complex building at Hyderabad as the piece of land allotted had to be surrendered and when alternative plot was allotted, the Expenditure Reforms Commission put down the proposal saying that the Government need not involve itself in production of films. The Committee is not convinced of this reasoning. The Committee is of the view that production of Children's Films is not a lucrative proposition and for that reason only a few worthwhile children films are produced in the country through private Institutions. The Committee therefore, urges the Ministry to look into the activities of the Children's Film Society in the right perspective, as one of the important functions of the Government is to look into the welfare and genuine needs of Children and young people. It is not prudent to save money on such welfare schemes.**

47. On the other hand, the Committee feels that infrastructure and manpower of the society should be strengthened to undertake productions and distribution of children's films on a wider scale for healthy entertainment of younger generations. The other media units of the Ministry could help the society in their noble cause of providing education and entertainment to children.

(II) Directorate of Advertising & Visual Publicity (DAVP)

48. The Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity is responsible for organising publicity on various socio-economic schemes, different Programmes and policies and achievement of the Government. It also caters to the publicity requirements of the Central Ministries and Departments including Autonomous Bodies and Public Sector Undertakings. It is also instrumental in creating awareness among the masses seeking their participation on developmental activities and eradication of poverty and social evils.

49. Target and achievements for the year 2001-2002 of the DAVP had been as follows:

Budget allocation

(In lakhs)

Plan	Non-Plan	Total	Plan	Non-Plan	Total
44.00*	5605.60	5649.60	44.00*	5526.35	5570.35

50. The DAVP has during the year undertaken the following activities:

Sl.No.	Particulars	Targets	Anticipated Achievement
1.	Exhibition	450	315
2.	Display/Classified Advtg	21500	12489
3.	Advertising on Radio/TV	5600	5614
4.	Printed Publicity	209	190
5.	Outdoor Publicity	300	333

51. There was again shortfall under sub heads Exhibition, Display/classified Advertising and the reasons forwarded by the Ministry was due to declaration of Assembly Elections, Dislocation of units and condemnation of vans and publishing of the advertisements directly by the client Ministries/Departments.

52. For the 1<sup>st</sup> year of 2002-2003 of the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan DAVP has been provided a sum of Rs.300.00 lakh under the given three plan schemes:-

(Rs.in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme	Approved outlay (lakh) Physical targets	300.00 Amount of Allocation (Revenue)
1.	Developmental Publicity Programme : Conception & Dissemination	a) Out door Publicity b) Dissemination of information on Electronic Media c) Display & Classified Advertising d) Printed Publicity	75.00 102.00 75.00 16.00
		Total	268.00
2.	Incentive to small and medium newspapers for ABC Membership/circulation & verification	a) Incentive for ABC Membership b) Incentive for Circulation/verification through C&AG & empanelled CAs	20.00 10.00
		Total	30.00
3.	Setting up of a museum on Print Media		2.00
		Grand Total	300.00

Under the scheme (i) Development Publicity Programme- Conception & Dissemination for Display/Classified Advg. Rs.75 lakh has been kept out of Rs.300 lakh addition and Rs.30 lakh has also been approved to give incentive to small and medium news papers for ABC Membership/Circulation & verification.

53. The Committee notes that for Display/Classified Advertising a target of 21500 was fixed as against the achievement of 12489 for the year 2001-2002. The target could not be achieved due to issuance of the advertisements directly by the client Ministries/Departments. During the year 2002-2003 Rs. 75 lakh has been provided in the Plan and a target of 16450 for Display/Classified Advertising has been fixed. The Committee is of the view that the Committee is not satisfied with the reasons for underutilisation under the head Display/Classified Advertising furnished by the Ministry due to publishing advertisements directly by the Client Ministries/Departments. The Committee is of the opinion that the DAVP being a nodal and Centralised Agency, caters to the publicity requirements of the Central Ministries and Departments at competitive rates. The Ministries publishing advertisement directly by ignoring the DAVP should not normally be allowed to do so as it may entail extra expenditure. The Committee would like to be apprised of the guidelines framed in this regard and whether the Central Ministries/Departments are following the same in letter and spirit.

***(III) DIRECTORATE OF FIELD PUBLICITY (DFP)***

54. DFP plays an important role in accelerating the pace of development by informing, educating and motivating the rural public on national programmes and policies of the government. Since this is a grass root level organisation, people have the opportunity to seek clarification and pose further question on the various schemes affecting them. Village opinion leaders, teachers, youth leaders, social workers, intellectuals, etc. are also taken on conducted tours so as to expose them to the ongoing developmental activities on different parts of the country and to the cultural diversities so as to broaden their outlook and strengthen the spirit of nation cohesion and solidarity.

55. In the Ninth Five Year Plan, Ministry has approved an outlay of Rs.1,100.00 lakhs for the Directorate of Field Publicity for the following Plan schemes:

(Rs. in lakhs)

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the Schemes</i>		<i>Approved Outlay</i>
	<b><u>REVENUE</u></b>		
1.	Purchahse of Films/Cassettes	314.00	→ 744.00
2.	Conducted Tours	50.00	
3.	Opening of new Field Units and Maintenance	340.00	
4.	Computerisation of Regional Offices	40.00	
	<b><u>CAPITAL</u></b>		
5.	Purchase of Video projectors and Generators		356.00
<b><i>Grand Total</i></b>			1,100.00

56. **PLAN SCHEMES 2001-2002**

(Rs.in lakhs)

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the Scheme</i>	<i>S.B.G 2001-02</i>	<i>R.E. 2001-02</i>	<i>Final Grant</i>	<i>Expenditure Upto Feb.,2002</i>	<i>Physical Target upto 2001-2002</i>	<i>Physical Achievements</i>	<i>Reason for shortfall (if any)</i>
<b>I.</b>	<b>Revenue</b>							
1.	Purchase of Films/Cassettes	61.17	61.17	61.17(prop)	60.92	As many films/cassettes as possible within the approved outlay	8118 cassettes were procured from Films Division, and order has already been placed to DAVP for supply of 2412 VHS cassettes of DD Serial.	---
2.	Conducted tours	11.83	11.59	11.75(Prop)	10.35	7 conducted tours to be organised	7 conducted tours have already been organised. 10% bills are yet to be cleared by the Region Heads.	----
3.	Setting up of new Field Publicity Units & Maintenance	75.00	45.74	42.24(Prop)	36.38	Maintenance of 8 Field Publicity units and opening of new 5 units	An expenditure of Rs.36.38 lakhs has already been incurred for maintenance of 8 Field Publicity Units.	Saving is due to non-creation of 5 New Field Units.
4.	Modernisation/ Computerisation of Regional Offices	10.00	10.00	10.00(Prop)	8.38	Purchase of Software/Hardware for computers	An expenditure of Rs.8.38 lakh has already been incurred for purchase of software of computers and training to staff.	Action is being taken to procure software/hardware for computers.
	<b>Total</b>	158.00	128.50	125.16(Prop)	116.03			

57. When asked about the details of Films purchased through commissioning, sponsorship, royalty, imported from other organisation alongwith reasons therefor, the Ministry in their reply has stated that no film was purchased from this Ministry's funds through commissioning, sponsorship etc. Films required by the Field Publicity Units were procured from Government agencies like Films

Division, NFDC, Doordarshan etc. The Committee drew attention to the reports that there had been some alleged misappropriation of funds in the Directorate, the Ministry in their reply stated that the matter of Films purchases by the Directorate of Field Publicity is under examination of Vigilance Section in the Ministry.

58. When asked about the details of Rs.314.00 lakh for purchasing of Films/Cassettes during the 9th Five Year Plan, the Ministry in their reply stated that a total of 92 films were purchased from Films Division during the 9<sup>th</sup> Plan under this Scheme.

59. When asked how many new field units were opened out of Rs. 314.00 lakhs provided during the 9th Five Year Plan, the Ministry in their reply stated as under:

60. During the 9th Five Year Plan there was a proposal of opening up of 18 new Field Publicity Units with special emphasis on North-Eastern Region. During 1997-98, 8 new Field Publicity Units were opened at following places:

1. Dhemaji (Assam)
2. Senapati (Manipur)
3. Yingkiong (Arunachal Pradesh)
4. Nongstoin (Meghalaya)
5. Mandla (Madhya Pradesh)
6. Chaibasa (Bihar)
7. Sirohi (Rajasthan) and
8. Chamba (Himachal Pradesh)

48 posts for these units were created and 8 vehicles were procured. However the remaining 10 units could not be opened as it has been decided to reorganise and rightsize Directorate of Field Publicity and explore the possibilities to relocate DFP's offices in remote/backward areas before opening further new units.

61. The Year-wise allocation of funds and actual expenditure incurred on this scheme during IX Plan is as under:

*(Rs. in lakhs)*

<i>Year</i>	<i>SBG</i>	<i>Actual Expenditure</i>
1997-1998	70.00	22.89
1998-1999	43.00	49.83
1999-2000	66.00	34.41
2000-2001	70.00	39.62
2001-2002	75.00	36.38 (upto Feb., 2002)
<b>Total</b>	<b>324.00</b>	<b>183.13 (upto Feb., 2002)</b>

Opening of 10 new Units involved creation of 60 posts and procurement of 10 new vehicles and other infrastructure to set up the new offices, etc. Since the units could not be opened, there has been saving in the 9th Five Year Plan under this Scheme.

62. As regard the purchasing films/cassettes, it has been stated that all the films purchased from this Ministry's funds by the Directorate of Field Publicity were procured from Government agencies such as Films Division, NFDC, Doordarshan, etc. under the plan scheme "Purchase of Films/Cassettes" during the 9th Five Year Plan except for 5 documentaries which were purchased from a private producer during 1997-98. The purchase was made through the Films Purchase Committee of Directorate of Field Publicity at DAVP rate.

63. **The Committee notes that in the 9th Five Year Plan, the Ministry had approved an outlay of Rs. 1,100.00 lakh for the Directorate of Field Publicity for purchasing of Film/Cassettes, conducted tours, opening of new Field units and maintenance and computerisation of Regional offices.**

**The Committee notes with concern that during the 9th Five Year Plan, out of Rs. 314.00 lakhs provided to the Ministry for opening of 18 new Field Publicity Units with special emphasis on North-East, only 12 units were opened and the remaining 5 could not be opened as on 31 March, 2002. Even during 2001-2002, out of Rs.75 lakhs provided to the Ministry for opening of new Field Publicity Units/maintenance, the Ministry could utilise only Rs.45.74 lakhs as on 31 March, 2002.**

**64. The Committee is deeply anguished over the underutilisation of funds on a large number of plan schemes and wants corrective measures to be taken by the Ministry without any further delay.**

**65. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the progress made in cases being investigated from vigilance point of view since it is almost a year when the matter was dealt with by the Committee in its 23<sup>rd</sup> Report on Demands for Grants 2001-2002 on the basis of Press reports.**

***(IV) Film and Television Institute of India, Pune (FTII)***

66. The Committee finds that Rs.29.5 crore has been made available to FTII, Pune under Annual Plan schemes during the IX Plan. For the year 2002-2003, Rs.242 lakh has been provided as grants-in-aid for civil construction works, computerisation, purchase of machines and equipments etc. The Institute had admitted 54 students to Film & TV certificate course for the year 2001 and 39 students to first year Diploma Course.

67. When asked about the reasons of underutilisation of funds for Films and Television Institute during the year 2001-2002, Ministry has stated that in view of the discussions of the Building Committee recommendations in which Rs.50 lakhs was again surrendered at the Final Grant Stage and with regards to computerisation out of Rs.50 lakhs Rs. 15 lakhs was utilised. In respect of civil works, instead of Rs.3 crore only Rs.25 lakh was utilised.

68. The Ministry has informed the Committee in a written reply that Rs.500.00 lakhs were earmarked to the institute for the year 2001-2002 which was reduced to Rs.175 lakhs at RE stage because of reduction in the scope of construction work proposed to be under taken in view of the decision and recommendations of the Building Committee. Further it was stated that as a result of further review of the activities undertaken by the FTII under three schemes i.e., Machinery and equipment, Civil Construction Work, Computerisation and Modernisation, fund to the tune of Rs.50 lakhs was surrendered at final Grant stage & accordingly, Rs.125 lakhs need released and utilised

which is Rs.85 lakh under Machinery & Equipment, Rs.25 lakhs under Civil Construction Work & Rs.15 lakhs under Computerisation and Modernisation.

69. When asked about the proposals as to how Ministry is going to deal with the repetitive problems like, lack of discipline and proper mind set and having a proper approach, Secretary I & B replied that they are emphasising on optimum utilisation of resources, running of three year courses for fresh students and to get people from the industry so that there is more contact between the industry the students and the faculty.

70. When asked about the interaction between the Ministry and the Institute Secretary I & B stated that two joint Secretaries were on the Board of the Institute. Further, it was supplemented by JS (Films) that the Governing Council of the Film and Television Institute had three meetings last year and there has been an effort to work out the policy and a medium term strategy without getting into the policy of the institute.

71. It was further asked by the Committee that in the year 2000, there were 54 students admitted which went down to 39 in 2001 and the expenditure was above 7 crore, which indicates substantial investment per student in addition to the facilities of having a huge campus & Studios. When asked about the possible solution, the Director FTII stated that there was a need of clear vision, consistent policy, a different action Plan, and emphasised on faculty development. Further Director FTII stated that there has been no development plan for the institute which was needed desperately. The strikes are too frequent, i.e., in 1997 it lasted for 4 months, in 2000 it was for 2 ½ months. So the course slated for three years goes up to five years.

72. Secretary, I & B in reply to a query by the Committee clarified that there is a clear decision that FTII will not be privatised. It needs restructuring specially in terms of faculty development in order to deal with the problems of indiscipline.

**73. The Committee takes a serious note of the fact that utilisation of allocations had been very low in Civil Construction as well as other infra-structural development activities at FTII, Pune. The institute has been facing crisis for the last many years like strikes, lack of discipline low intake of students, lack of faculty development etc. No serious attempt appears to have**

been made to resolve the problems. The Director, FTII admitted that there is a need for clear vision, consistent policy, an action plan and emphases on faculty development. The Committee therefore, urges the Ministry that there should be more and more interaction with the Institute. The Committee emphasis that the Society and governing body in consultation with the Ministry should seriously involve themselves in framing/evolving consistent policy, proper action plan, basic academic discipline, and in creating basic infrastructure facilities so that optimum utilisation of resources could be made by the Institute and the students. The Committee also desires that the Ministry should come up with a Master Plan to deal with the persistent problems of the Institute and bring about flexibility by removing the core problems of friction between the students and the faculty, thus creating a congenial atmosphere for learning so that there are commensurate returns to the nation of the heavy investments made in this premier institute.

(V) *Indian Institute of Mass Communication, (IIMC)*

74. The Budget Estimates provide Rs. 787.77 lakh (397.77 lakh non-plan-net and 390 lakh plan). During IX Plan, Rs.18.11 crore has been provided to the Institute by Annual Plan schemes. There was underutilisation of funds on Research and Evaluation studies at IIMC, Kottayam, IIMC, Dimapur and IIMC Jhabua due to non-availability of necessary infrastructure.

75. The Ministry in a written note has stated that Kottayam Branch of IIMC started in 1994 for which Government of Kerala agreed to provide about 10 acres of land including 5.54 acres of private land. However, it was stated that the construction work could not be started as the acquisition of 5.54 acres of land came under litigation in a case filed by the title holder. The litigation against the land acquisition came to an end with the Division Bench of the High Court dismissing the appeal of the titleholders of the land. However, it was stated that as the State Public Works Department submitted the valuation report to the Court very late, the Hon'ble High Court asked the District Collector in April, 2001 to initiate the acquisition proceedings 'denovo' and by that time Expenditure Reforms Commission had recommended that the Branch Institutes should be discontinued as they lacked infrastructure. The ERC recommendation was accepted by the Ministry and it was decided by IIMC Society not to acquire anymore land at Kottayam. Further, it is stated that since Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam already has a department of journalism, the Branch has short term courses.

76. When asked about the status of IIMC, it was informed by Director, IIMC that the Institute has its main branch at Delhi and four other outlying branches. It was stated that the branch at Dhenkanal only has its developed infrastructure . Regarding the other three units at Dimapur, Jhabua and Kottayam it was stated that there was lack of proper infrastructure. The total staff strength was stated to be 188 with 42 vacancies.

77. It was informed by Director, IIMC that among the five centers, for those at Kottayam, Jhabua, Dimapur and Dhenkanal no post was created and in the case of centre at Dhenkanal the Ministry on its own has agreed to provide eight posts but none was sanctioned by the Finance Ministry as yet inspite of efforts of I & B Ministry. Regarding Dimapur, it has been stated that the Society was running the Institute with one consultant on a fixed consolidated honorarium. Director, IIMC further stated that Geethakrishnan Committee report has advocated pruning of branches outside Delhi. About Dimapur Centre, it has been recommended that they can go in for collaboration with the Central University of Nagaland and Vice-Chancellor has agreed in principle and the matter was before their Governing Council. The Committee was informed that the Minister from the State of Nagaland has held discussion with the Chairperson and there is a plan to launch the undergraduate programme in journalism in the University at the Dimapur Campus.

**78. The Committee notes with concern the underutilisation of funds and non-implementation of proposed programmes in various branches of IIMC. The Committee also regrets to note that except the Branch at Dhenkanal, the Society has failed to develop infrastructure at Dimapur, Jhabua and Kottayam. Delay in the approval of projects, lack of planning, 42 vacancies, lack of faculty and staff, lack of infrastructure, apathy towards the Institutes and lack of planning in implementation of various schemes on the part of Institute have been the reasons for the sorry state of affairs of the IIMC. As the Society provides curriculum of national and international relevance and in view of the tremendous scope for development Newspapers, in the context of information explosion with increased opportunities in media units, public relations, advertising and journalism, these institutes should be given utmost importance and made functional at an early date. The Committee desires that the Ministry should review and reassess the ERC recommendations regarding closing down of the five Centres of IIMC. Sincere efforts should be made for the filling up of 42 posts lying vacant in IIMC without further loss of time.**

79. NFAI was set up in 1964 at Pune with the objective to trace, acquire and preserve for posterity, the heritage of National Cinema, classify and document data relating to films and to undertake and encourage research on cinema and publish and distribute them and to act as a centre for the dissemination of film culture in the country and abroad.

80. The approved outlay for NFAI for the year 2001-2002 was Rs.154.00 lakh out of which Rs.80.00 lakh was sanctioned for acquisition of archival film (Indian & Foreign) and the Actual Expenditure up to December, 2001 was Rs.19.67 lakh. The shortfall was in respect of the construction of Additional Wing to NAFI complex for which Rs.30.00 lakh was approved and no head way has been made so far.

81. In respect of the shortfall in utilisation of funds under the scheme of acquisition of archival films (Indian and Foreign) the Ministry has submitted that it was due to non-supply of raw stock by the dealer, orders for procurement of raw stock worth Rs.32.00 lakhs was blocked in May, 2001 with M/s Kodak India Ltd, Mumbai & which has not so far been executed. Thereafter, when it appeared that M/s Kodak India Ltd. was not prepared to supply the raw stock NAFI contracted M/s Hindustan Photo Films Corporation Ltd., a public sector undertaking, with the request to import raw stock. However, it was stated that the proposed import of raw stock could not be arranged during the current financial year and is likely to come through during the next financial year. The Bills to the tune of Rs.10.00 lakh towards the procurement of raw stock, processing charges, sub-titling changes are said to have settled by NFAI in March, 2002. It was also stated that an amount of Rs.10.00 lakh earmarked for import of foreign films could not be utilised as foreign parties quoted high rates. The Ministry has further stated that after re-assessing the requirements, NAFI has already surrendered the unspent amount to the tune of Rs.49.50 lakhs at the Final Grants stage.

82. With regards to the construction of Phase-II building of NFAI complex, it has been stated that the scope of the scheme had to be changed considerably as the Archive's existing storage and presentation capacity are likely to be completely utilised in a few years time. Further, the matter was taken up with FTII for allotment of one acre of land for the purpose which has since been agreed to by the Institute and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NFAI & FTII is likely to be signed shortly and the scheme is likely to be finalised and undertaken in the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan period.

**83. The Committee notes that the major shortfall for the year 2001-2002 has been in the non-utilisation of funds earmarked for acquisition of archival films (Indian & Foreign) which is stated to be the non-supply of raw stock by the dealer. This shows that NAFI had not acted**

**either timely or prudently. The Committee is not satisfied with the reasons adduced by the NAFI. The Committee therefore, desires that budgetary exercise should be undertaken with seriousness so that the schemes do not get hampered and there is proper utilisation of funds according to a time frame. The Committee also urges the Government to gear up the functioning of NAFI.**

**84. The Committee also expresses its concern over the delay in the construction of Phase-II building of NFAI complex and hopes that the matter will be taken up on priority basis so as to give the archive proper storage and presentation capacity at the earliest.**

**GEETHA KRISHNAN COMMITTEE REPORT ON**  
**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING**

85. While presenting the Budget for 1999-2000, the Hon'ble Minister for Finance had observed that the high rate of growth of non-developmental expenditure by Government is a growing and critical source of concern. He had further observed that the most effective and lasting solution to this problem is to begin the process of downsizing the Government. Accordingly, the Government of India vide Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, Resolution No.F-I(30)-E, Coord/2000, dated 28 February, 2000 decided to set up an Expenditure Reforms Commission under the Chairmanship of Shri K.P. Geethakrishnan, a former Finance Secretary to the Government of India.

86. The terms of reference of the Expenditure Reforms Commission was inter-alia to view the evolving role of Government, the need to foster convergence and avoiding overlap in the functions of different Central Government Ministries, Departments and attached organisations and the role of the State Government and to suggest a road map for reducing the functions, activities and administrative structure of the Central Government; Review the framework of all subsidies and examine the economic rationale for their continuance and make recommendations for making subsidies transparent and also to review the adequacy of staffing under Central Government Ministries, attached offices and institutions and suggest measures for rationalising the staff and cadres of different services.

87. The Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC) in its 2<sup>nd</sup> Report (Part-III) relating to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has recommended that following Divisions of the Ministry should be closed down or their functions be given to other formations of the Central/State Governments:-

- (i) Film Division
- (i) Directorate of Field Publicity
- (ii) Song & Drama Division
- (iii) Photo Division
- (iv) Publications Division

88. The National Films Development Corporation and Broadcasting Engineering Consultants of India Limited should be disinvested.

89. The following Units should be retained with reduced/rationalised functioning/modernisation:

- (i) Press Information Bureau – with presence only in State Capitals and it should be modernised.
- (ii) Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity for deciding rates of government advertisements.
- (iii) Research, Reference and Training Division – Should bring out only “India – A Reference Annual”.

90. The Commission further recommended that functions of the following Units of the Film Wing should be handed over to the Film Industry:

- (i) Children’s Film Society of India
- (ii) Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute of India
- (iii) Film and Television Institute of India
- (iv) Directorate of Film Festivals

91. As regards Prasar Bharati: Staff Inspection Unit’s recommendations of 1995 should be accepted, programme production facilities could be leased out to private parties. Doordarshan should confine itself to two main channels and un-utilised All India Radio-time of All India Radio should be commercialised.

92. When asked about the views/comments of the Ministry on Geethakrishnan Committee Report, the Ministry has stated that:

- (i) The recommendations of the ERC are based on the presumption of the extensive reach of the electronic media especially television, which is not borne out by facts. While Prasar Bharati claims that the reach of Doordarshan is approximately 89.3% by population, these figures include fringe areas also. Good quality signals are available in about 75% of the area. However, this does not mean that all the persons living in these areas have access to television, since this is dependent on the capacity of people to own television sets and infrastructural facilities like availability of power. Likewise, although it may be stated that cable television is available in the entire country, yet its availability is dependent on the existence of cable networks. In rural areas, only 6.5 percent of the households have cable and satellite connections. In fact, 70 percent of those persons who do own television sets have Black & White sets. In rural areas of certain states like Rajasthan, West Bengal, Orissa and Bihar, the reach of television is less than 20 percent of the households.
- (ii) The units that use the medium of print, outdoor publicity, performing arts, interactive sessions etc. are required to bridge the vast gap that exists in communication through the electronic media only.
- (iii) The Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity is required to ensure that advertising by the government and its agencies is done in a coordinated manner.
- (iv) The suggestions of the ERC to hand over the functions being performed so far by the specialised units of the Ministry to other government formations would not result in any economy in expenditure, since the other organisations would incur similar expenditure. Further, the expertise gathered by the units of the Ministry would be lost by scattering the work or curtailing their functions.
- (v) The suggestions of the ERC that functions performed by the units of the Film Wing should be handed over to the film industry are not based on an appreciation of facts. The Film Industry is not yet organised and corporatised. The industry is still functions through family/individually owned enterprises. The Commission has also not appreciated the tremendous employment and export potential of the film industry. Some of the units of the Ministry in the Film Wing are engaged in projection of Indian culture and Human Resource Development, both of which are functions which should be performed by the Government and should not be left to private enterprise alone.
- (v) The Ministry has only two PSUs. The Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited has a small component of 9 persons in its staff at present. Since its inception, the Company

is having a paid up share capital of Rs. 136.5 lakhs and has not availed any budgetary support till date. It is essentially a commercial organisation that is engaged in consultancy and turn-key jobs in various aspects of the broadcast sector. No useful purpose would be served by disinvesting this PSU. The other PSU, National Film Development Corporation, is in the nature of a venture capital fund for providing finance to small and new filmmakers. There is no parallel to this organisation in the private sector. Hence this organisation should also continue.

- (vi) Measures for consolidation of the establishment and rationalisation of staff structure have been suggested. Keeping in mind the need to rationalize staff structure without in any way impinging on the functioning of the various units, 1334 posts have been identified for abolition.

93. During the oral evidence, when asked whether on the basis of Geethakrishnan Committee Report, Films Division, Children's Film Society of India, Directorate of Field Publicity, Song and Drama Division, Photo Division and Publication Division would be closed, the representatives of the Ministry stated that they have opposed the proposal to close down the aforesaid Divisions. However, in regard to Photo Division the Ministry has agreed to merge it with PIB and further in regard to Publication Division at present they have not agreed to anything but are going to modify it by agreeing to have staff reduction by negotiation through association.

94. During the oral evidence, when asked about the reduction of persons, rationalisation and modernization of PIB in State capitals, which resulted in the closure of the Cuttack Branch of PIB. The representative of the Ministry stated that there was a tentative decision to close down five branches but they would certainly again have a look considering the sentiments expressed by the Members of the Committee.

95. Asked whether it has been recommended that Indian Institute of Mass Communication should be closed, the representative of the Ministry stated as under:

“ there was a problem in the sense that we had been told that we should not do any of these things. Of course, it was not recommended that Indian Institute of Mass Communication should be closed, but the other two educational institutions we were asked by the Geethakrishnan Committee to be closed down. But for the first time in any Plan, we have provided collaboration with regional centres for learning and an allocation of Rs. 76 lakh. That is a huge provision because what was being done earlier was tokenism.

96. The Committee enquired whether Delhi institute of Mass Communication did not have a full-fledged Director for the last one year, the representative of the Ministry stated that they have selected a professional Director and he was expected to join soon.

97. Asked whether on the basis of Geethakrishnan Committee Report, Ministry is going to handover the Children's Film Society, Satyajit Ray Film Institute to the Film industry and closing down the Directorate of Film Festivals, the representatives of the Ministry replied in negative in this regard.

98. In evidence, when asked whether there is any duplication of work and similarity in Song and Drama Division and Directorate of Film Publicity. The representatives of the Ministry stated as under:

“ The Directorate of Field Publicity goes to the villages. Mainly it projects films; it has video projectors; it used to project films; it also has got some other things, whereas the Song and Drama people are basically having folk troops; it also conveys similar messages of health and family welfare”.

99. During the oral evidence, when asked whether out of 363 posts 161 posts would be immediately affected and the rest would be undertaken over four years period, the representatives of the Ministry stated that rest of the work would be done in a two years period and process therefore has been started.

**100. The Committee notes that the Expenditure Reforms Commission has recommended that Film Division, Directorate of Field Publicity, Drama Division, Photo Division and Publication Division should be closed or their functions be given to other formations of the Central/State Governments but the Secretary of the Ministry while deposing before the Committee has opposed the proposal to close down the aforesaid Divisions except Photo Division of which staff reduction would be made through negotiation with the staff association. As regards, the National Film Development Corporation and Broadcasting Engineering Consultant of India Ltd., ERC has recommended that this should be disinvested. The Ministry has opposed the disinvestment of the NFDC. In regard to BECI Ltd., the Ministry has stated that it is a very small company with a very limited staff of 9 persons only and equity of crore of rupees has been put in it. Moreover, it is a commercial organisation and has never demanded for budgetary support from the Ministry. Hence no useful purpose would be served by disinvestment. The Ministry has also opposed disinvestment of the BECI Ltd. The Committee is in full agreement with the views of the Ministry. The Committee, therefore, strongly endorses the views of the Ministry in this regard and feels that the primary functions of the Government can not be entrusted to non-Governmental organisations.**

**101. As regards the Press Information Bureau (PIB), ERC has recommended its presence only in state capitals and that it should be modernised. In accordance with the recommendation of ERC, the Ministry has tentatively closed down Five Branches situated at places other than State Capitals. The Committee is, however, of the opinion that the Press Information Bureau, being a core infrastructure of the Government for dissemination of information on Government programmes to people through media and also for receipt of feedback information from the people, there appears to be no justification for closure of five Branches outside the state capitals. It will be very difficult to perform the required functions in big States from one branch considering the fact that its staff strength is bare minimum. The Committee, therefore, desires that the Ministry should reconsider its tentative decision to close down the said five Branches.**

**102. As regards DAVP, ERC has recommended that DAVP may concern itself with the establishment of rate contracts relating to advertisement rates etc. leaving actual release of advertisements to individual Ministries. The Committee is not in favour of leaving release of advertisements to individual Ministries. DAVP, being a centralised agency of the Government, caters to the publicity requirements of the Central Ministries and Departments etc., in addition to campaigning on National Integration, Communal harmony, spread of the message of peace and harmony. In this process, it had acquired a specialised skill to perform the job in a better way. Hence it is absolutely necessary that there should be an integral approach. Moreover, the agencies which would be entrusted with additional responsibilities of DAVP will also require additional hands to cope with the added workload.**

**103. So far as the other media and film units are concerned, the Committee finds that these were set up with specific objectives in mind and are performing a useful purpose. The Government must consider the views of the administrative Ministry i.e., the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting before taking a final decision. It should also be kept in view that non-commercial functions of the Government can not be performed better by private organisations and handling of these activities by private organisations will also entail costs.**

**104. ERC in regard to Prasar Bharati has recommended that the Staff Inspection Unit's recommendations of 1995 should be accepted and programme production facilities could be leased out to private parties. Doordarshan should confine itself to two main channels and unutilised air-time of AIR should be commercialised. The Committee notes from the reply of the Ministry that recommendations of the ERC are based on the presumptions of the extensive**

reach of the electronic media specially Television, when it is not borne out by facts. The Committee, therefore, desires that the Ministry may take up the matter with the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure) for review on the basis of factual information and recommend accordingly in this regard.

105. In view of the foregoing, the Committee concludes that before closing or reducing the activities of any unit/Division/Branch, the Ministry should always keep in mind that the basic purpose for which these institutions have been set up should not be defeated. The Committee is of the considered opinion that by following concept of market oriented economy or private ownership, the Government should not ignore the value based socio-economic policies, issues of national integration, communal harmony etc. The Committee also emphasise that before

taking a final decision about the closure of any unit or reduction of posts are disinvestment of any unit of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, widest possible consultations must be held with staff associations/workers at an appropriate stage invariably with a view to fully safeguarding their interests and after obtaining the views of this Committee.

NEW DELHI:

15 April, 2002

25 Chatira, 1924 (Saka)

SOMNATH CHATTERJEE,

Chairman,

*Standing Committee on Information Technology.*