

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(2017-18)

51

SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

**[Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of
the Committee contained in their Forty-Fifth Report**

(Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2018-19)

FIFTY-FIRST REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

August, 2018/Shravana, 1940 (Saka)

FIFTY-FIRST REPORT

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(2017-18)**

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**[Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of
the Committee contained in their Forty-Fifth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on
Demands for Grants (2018-19)]**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 07.08.2018

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 07.08.2018



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

August, 2018/Shravana, 1940 (Saka)

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INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Information Technology (2017-2018), having been authorised by the Committee, present this Fifty-first Report on 'Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Forty fifth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2018-19)' of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

2. The Forty fifth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and also laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 13th March, 2018. The Ministry furnished their Action Taken Notes on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Forty fifth Report on 07th June, 2018.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 3rd August, 2018.

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

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

New Delhi;
03 August, 2018
12 Shravana, 1940(Saka)

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

**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(2017-18)**

Shri Anurag Singh Thakur - Chairperson

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Lal Krishna Advani
3. Shri Prasun Banerjee
4. Shri Harishchandra alias Harish Dwivedi
5. Dr. Sunil Baliram Gaikwad
6. Shri Hemant Tukaram Godse
7. Dr. Anupam Hazra
8. Smt. Hema Malini
9. Dr. J. Jayavardhan
10. Shri P. Karunakaran
11. Shri Virender Kashyap
12. Shri Harinder Singh Khalsa
13. Dr. K.C. Patel
14. Shri Raosaheb Danve Patil
15. Smt. R. Vanaroja
16. Shri Paresh Rawal
17. Dr. Bharatiben D. Shyal
18. Shri Abhishek Singh
19. Shri D.K. Suresh
20. Shri Ramdas C. Tadas
21. Shri Nagendra Pratap Singh Patel#

Rajya Sabha

22. Shri Raj Babbar
23. Dr. Subhash Chandra
24. Shri Suresh Gopi
25. Shri K.G. Kenye
26. Shri Santiuse Kujur
27. Smt. Kahkashan Perween
28. Dr. K.V.P. Ramachandra Rao
29. Dr. Vinay P. Sahasrabuddhe
30. Shri Beni Prasad Verma
31. **VACANT***

Secretariat

- | | | |
|------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Shri. R C Tiwari | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. Shri Y.M. Kandpal | - | Director |
| 3. Smt. Geeta Parmar | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 4. Shri. Sandip Prasad | - | Senior Executive Assistant |

Committee constituted w.e.f. 1st September, 2017 *vide* Bulletin Part-II Para No. 5829 dated 26th September, 2017 *Shri Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar, M.P. retired from Rajya Sabha w.e.f. 26-04-2018.

#Nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 27.04.2018 *vide* Bulletin Part-II No.6866 dated 27.04.2018.

CHAPTER I

REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on Information Technology deals with action taken by Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Forty-Fifth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2018-19)' relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

2. The Forty-Fifth Report was presented to the Lok Sabha on the 13 March, 2018 and also laid in the Rajya Sabha, the same day. It contained 23 Observations/ Recommendations. Replies of the Government in respect of all the Observations/Recommendations have been received from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and are categorized as under:-

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

Para Nos. 1,2,3,4,5,6,8,9,14,15,17,18,19,20,22 and 23

Total : 16
Chapter II

- (ii) Recommendations/observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies:-

Para No. 16

Total : 01
Chapter III

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

Para Nos. 7, 10, 11,12,13 and 21

Total : 06
Chapter IV

(iv) Recommendations/observations in respect of which final replies are still awaited:-

Para No. NIL

Total : NIL

Chapter V

3. The Committee trust that utmost importance would be given to implementation of the Observations/Recommendations accepted by the Government. The Committee further desire that Action Taken Notes on the Observations/Recommendations contained in Chapter-I of this Report should be furnished to them at an early date.

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

Doordarshan

(Recommendation Sl. No. 7)

5. In their Report on Demands for Grants (2018-19) of the Ministry of I & B, the Committee had deplored under utilization of funds allocated for various Doordarshan projects during 2016-17 due to delays in their execution for poor participation in tenders and some administrative reasons. Out of an allocation of Rs. 221 crore, only Rs. 208.14 crore were utilised. Further, during 2017-18, allocation of Rs. 276 crore had been reduced to Rs. 167 crore at RE stage on account of under-utilisation of funds in Doordarshan projects viz., digitalization of terrestrial transmitters, providing Earth Station at 11 locations, modernization of Earth Stations at various locations, providing of Earth station at CPC, Delhi, HDTV Studio at Chennai & Kolkata, DTH Expansion, providing of New DSNG terminals and misc. items viz. completion of Amritsar tower etc. Again, the likely expenditure (as on 31.03.2018) was shown as Rs. 71.35 crore only because of the introduction of GST and non-participation of vendors in the higher value tenders resulting in revision of the tender document, etc. The Committee considered it all lack of planning and poor performance besides inefficiency with regard to preparedness of the Prasar Bharati to deal with the upcoming challenges attached to the new reforms in

taxation. Whatever might be the reasons, the nation was kept deprived of the telecasting services. The Committee had desired the Prasar Bharati/Doordarshan to timely execute the Doordarshan projects which are of crucial importance.

6. In their Action Taken Reply, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have submitted as under:

“Prasar Bharati has informed that the expenditure incurred in Financial Year 2017-18 is to the tune of Rs. 86.53 crores out of which Rs. 52.02 crores has been spent for creation of capital Assets including Kisan Channel Capital, Rs. 34.47 Crores for Kisan Channel Content & Rs. 0.04 crores for Swachhata Action Plan (SAP). The reasons for shortfall in expenditure are given below:

1. Modernization of earth stations at various locations & DSNG terminals (Rs. 47.18 crore)

Advance action had been initiated much before the commencement of financial year 2017-18 to utilize the amount allocated fully during the year and all tenders were floated for the year 2017-18 in 2016-17 itself as the procurement cycle for Doordarshan tenders is generally nine months to one year. Doordarshan was confident not only to achieve the target but also go beyond the budget allocation.

However, with the introduction of GST, it was found that vendors were not participating in the higher value tenders, resulting in repeated extension of tender opening dates and delays.

Realizing that the capital plan utilization will undergo a set back due to GST related issues, Doordarshan took following proactive steps.

- Doordarshan organized an interaction with vendors of leading OEMs to clarify their doubts about GST related issues.
- The Finance Wing of Doordarshan clarified all the doubts and advised the bidders to participate in the bidding process so that there is enough competition.
- Delay also happened because of the modifications that have to be carried out in the tender document to make it GST compliant, in consultation with Prasar Bharati. With several rounds of discussions, the tender documents were finalized by Doordarshan and Prasar Bharati Secretariat and they were uploaded to enable the firms to quote the price bids in compliance with GST.

Moreover, even when the commercial bids were opened, some delay happened at the level of vendors, as they took time to take internal approvals within their firms with respect to the passing of input tax credit benefit to Doordarshan and certifying compliance to anti-profiteering clause under GST Act.

As a result of the above mentioned factors, in spite of best efforts by Doordarshan and Prasar Bharati, delay happened in getting bidders to participate in the bidding.

Incidentally, the Department of Space has allotted new satellite to Doordarshan i.e. GSAT 17 in place of INSAT 4B which necessitated obtaining new NOCC clearance and also obtaining fresh license from WPC Wing of Ministry of Communication, thus contributing more delays.

The projects under which budget could not be utilized due to the above reasons are given below:

- (a) Providing New DSNG terminal at 9 locations.(Rs. 18.27 crore).
- (b) SITC of 400W HPA system in (1+1) redundant mode, 7.3-7.6 Meter uplink Antenna (C-Band) and 3 Phase 2x20 KVA Redundant Parallel ON-Line UPS for Digital Earth Station at DDK Gorakhpur, Dehradun, Srinagar (J&K) and Nagpur.(Rs. 9.16 crore).
- (c) SITC of Compression, IF & RF Chain equipment for Earth Station at 3 locations Patna, Hyderabad & Bengaluru.(Rs. 7.69 crore).
- (d) SITC of Replacement of Compression, IF & RF System for C-Band (8+1) Earth Station at DDK, Delhi. (Rs. 6.26 crore).
- (e) SITC of Compression System, IF & RF System for Earth Station at CPC Delhi.(Rs. 5.80 crore).

2. DTH Receiver sets- 30000 nos. (Rs. 6.00 crore)

NIT had been published and the opening date was 28.2.2018. DD empanelled STB manufacturers raised concern regarding vacant channel slots on DD Free Dish service in the meeting held with DG Doordarshan on 1.2.2018 and again with CEO, PB on 8.2.2018. They confirmed that they are technically ready yet they are not ready for bulk manufacturing and commercial launch. The STB manufacturers stated their apprehension and fear that their investment will be wasteful as the public will not buy MPEG4 DD Free Dish iCAS enabled STBs as the content which is available is already being received through cheaper MPEG 2 set top box. The STB manufacturers also inquired about the timeline for 250 channels and starting of channel auction process. They mentioned that the sale of MPEG 2 FTA set top boxes have also dropped drastically due to vacant channel slots and in the current scenario

there is no incentive which can attract viewers to buy iCAS enabled MPEG4 DD Free Dish STBs. In the given circumstances budget could not be utilised. The guarantee sought by the STB manufacturers for their business cannot be provided and they should be willing to take risks and also find alternate applications, users and markets for the STBs.”

3. Non Linear Editing Machine (Rs. 3.44 crore)

The expenditure could not be incurred due to repeated extension of tender opening date due to delayed participation of bidders for the items Non Linear Editing machine.

4. SITC of Integrated News Production Facility at News Headquarter Delhi (Rs. 3.82 crore) Due to delay in commissioning of the project by the Firm the balance amount could not be booked.
5. SITC of Multi Camera Mobile Production Facility (Rs. 1.85 crore). Due to non receipt of clearance from National Green Tribunal (NGT) for registration of OB Van, the balance amount could not be booked.
6. Miscellaneous Items & works (Rs. 4.00 crore)

The amount could not be utilized on account of transponder & WPC charges and misc. departmental works viz. strengthening of towers etc. due to delay in structural analysis of towers by expert agencies viz. NITs, SERC etc .

In the financial year 2018-19 the allocation is to the tune of Rs. 141.50 crore including Kisan Capital. The expenditure already committed (ordered but expenditure yet be incurred) against this amount is Rs. 65.30 crore. All out efforts are being made to utilize the allocated budget from the very beginning of the current financial year. It is the constant endeavor of Doordarshan to complete the projects within the specified time frame. Procurement procedures have been further streamlined. Project review meetings are held regularly at Zonal level & HQ level and various activities involved in procurement of capital equipment and execution of works are critically assessed & targets are fixed.”

7. The Committee note that during 2017-18, against BE and RE of Rs. 276 crore and Rs. 167 crore for various schemes of Doordarshan, the utilization remained to the tune of Rs. 86.53 crore only i.e. a shortfall of 48.18%. This is a poor commentary on the performance of Doordarshan. Moreover, the allocation during 2017-18 was already reduced at RE stage to the extent of Rs. 109 crore on account of under-utilisation of funds in

some of the Doordarshan projects. During 2016-17 also, there was underutilization of funds due to poor participation of tenders and some administrative reasons. These are the oft repeated reasons advanced every year and could have been addressed to while conceptualizing a new project. However, one more reason added for the shortfalls in expenditure this year, is the introduction of GST. The Committee are of the opinion that the sanctity of plan should be maintained at all costs and original targets should be kept in view to avoid any subsequent reduction and shortfalls in the budgetary outlays. The Ministry also have to seriously look into their tendering process and terms and conditions which is quite often a reason attributed to delays and under-utilisation of funds. The Committee hope that keeping this in view, Prasar Bharati/Doordarshan during 2018-19, would take proactive steps accordingly to complete the physical and financial targets in respect of various Doordarshan projects.

Budgetary Allocation for North-East Region

(Recommendation Sl. No.10)

8. In their 45 Report (16th Lok Sabha), the Committee had expressed their concern over inordinate delays in the launch of Aruna Prabha Channel in the North-Eastern Region. Though the technical facility for launch of the Channel had been set up and planning done for content development as per the need, in order to address the funding problem, a consolidated EFC proposal amounting to Rs. 3290.23 crore including Rs. 476.75 crore for content funding of Kisan Channel and Arun Prabha Channel had been circulated to concerned Ministries/ Departments on 31.01.2018. Keeping into consideration the importance of the Arun Prabha Channel in the interest of the people of the North Eastern States, the Committee had desired

that the proposals for funding of the Channel should be considered favourably by the Ministry of Finance and the matter should be pursued in this regard at an appropriate level.

9. In their Action Taken Reply, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have submitted as under:

“The technical facility for Arun Prabha Channel has already been set up. An amount of Rs. 1.15 crore has been allocated for the part equipment of Arun Prabha Channel in FY2018-19 & is expected to be fully utilized. Besides, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance vide their letter dated 2nd April, 2018, has asked this Ministry to furnish afresh the umbrella EFC Scheme namely "Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development" due to non-submission of timely replies to their queries. In compliance of the direction, a revised consolidated EFC proposal for two years i.e. 2018-19 and 2019-20 including funds for content development of DD Kisan Channel and Arun Prabha Channel is under active consideration of Prasar Bharati. Ministry is yet to receive approved proposal from Prasar Bharati. The matter is being pursued with them.

10. The Committee observed in their earlier Report that a consolidated EFC proposal amounting to Rs. 3290.23 crore including Rs. 476.75 crore for content funding of Kisan Channel and Arun Prabha Channel was circulated by the Ministry of I & B to the concerned Ministries/Departments and desired that the proposal for funding of the channel should be considered favourably by the Ministry of Finance. The Committee have now been informed that the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance(MoF) vide their letter dated 2nd April, 2018, has asked the Ministry of I & B to furnish afresh, the umbrella EFC Scheme namely "Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development". The reason for the same being non-submission of timely replies to their queries. The Committee deprecate the lack of seriousness on the part of

Ministry/Prasar Bharati to timely furnish the replies to the queries raised by MoF on matter of public importance

The Committee further note that as desired by MoF, a revised consolidated EFC proposal for two years i.e. 2018-19 and 2019-20 including funds for content development of DD Kisan Channel and ArunPrabha Channel is under active consideration of Prasar Bharati, and yet to be received by the Ministry of I & B from Prasar Bharati. The Committee find that it is more than 3 months since the Ministry of Finance had asked for the umbrella EFC Scheme "Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development" and desire that the matter may now be expedited on priority basis to launch Aruna Prabha Channel in the North-Eastern Region to fulfill the need of the increased Doordarshan coverage in these States and catering to the cultural sensibilities of the region. The Committee would like to be kept apprised of the updated position in this regard.

Revenue Earnings

(Recommendation Sl. No.11 & 12)

11. The Committee in their earlier Report were concerned to observe the decreasing trend in respect of the revenue earned by the Prasar Bharati during the 12th Plan Period. Further, during 2017-18, the revenue target of Rs. 1488 crore was revised downward to Rs.1388.00 crore on account for shortfall of auctioning of DD Free Dish slots and sale of time slots on DD National channel being put on hold. Also, the share of revenue through advertisement was showing a continuous decline at 91%, 83%, 83%, 74%, 71% and 70% (likely) during the period from 2012-13 to 2017-18. It was learnt that in view of stressed financial position of Prasar Bharati, DD was not able to infuse new

content on its channels which had resulted in attrition of commercial advertisers and a decline in commercial revenue. The Committee were of the opinion that Prasar Bharati could address the problem of inadequacy of funds by exploring all possible avenues to enhance its earnings. Several measures initiated by the Ministry/Prasar Bharati to enhance its revenue receipts included strengthening of sales and marketing teams of AIR and Doordarshan, induction of sales/marketing professionals, offering of turn-key solutions to various Ministries and Government Departments for dissemination of information about their various social development schemes, sharing of infrastructure such as towers, studios, auditoria etc., exploring the possibility of collaborating with companies having CSR Funds in order to contribute to the overall revenue generation of Prasar Bharati, devising a new scheme for content acquisition based on the best practices followed by Public Broadcasters around the globe, restructuring of Doordarshan to separate its creative, sourcing, and Marketing/Sales functions from its Operational/Administrative functions, setting up of a task force for developing a new business model for DD Free Dish based on a revenue sharing basis with interested partners, etc. While appreciating various steps taken by the Ministry of I & B/Prasar Bharati, the Committee had hoped for enhanced revenue earnings for Prasar Bharati in the coming years and also expressed a view that there is a need to develop Doordarshan programmes having rich contents in regional languages for better and effective communication located in remote areas of the Country.

12. In their Action Taken Reply, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have submitted as under:

“As per information received from Prasar Bharati a statement of revenue earning during the 12th Plan is given below:

		Achievement (Figure in Crores)			
Year	Target	Amount Realized in Bank (Including Service Tax)	Service Tax	Net Amt (Revenue Excluding service Tax & Commission)	Gross Amt

2012-13	Rs. 1422.24 Cr. (Gross)	1107.76	123.32	1021.71	1134.16
2013-14	Rs. 2211.94 Cr. (Gross)	1139.92	117.19	1038.19	1140.50
2014-15	Rs. 1164.77 Cr. (Net)	990.48	106.27	909.03	993.68
2015-16	Rs. 1469.54 Cr. (Net)	856.62	102.78	750.47	827.35
2016-17	Rs. 800.00 Cr. (Net)	958.28	129.82	828.47	915.15
2017-18	Rs.810.06 Cr. (Net)	1027.69	143.26	884.43	977.14

As seen from table above there was shortfall in achievement of targets in the 12th Plan due to following reasons:-

1. Lack of fresh content.
2. Inability to face competition from Private Channels and declining share of viewership.
3. Completion of the Manpower Audit and Rationalization of Staff.
4. Rationalization and expansion of infrastructure alongwith software convergence options.
5. Finalization of Slot Sale policy and roll out.
6. Finalization of DD-Free Dish policy and moving to a revenue share model.
7. With the introduction of GST, it was found that vendors were not participating in the higher value tenders, resulting in repeated extension of tender opening dates and delays.

Despite above constraints, revenue achievement of Doordarshan has increased against the Target for the Years 2016-17 & 2017-18. In addition to this, all possible efforts are being made by the officers and Marketing Executives of DD to generate more and more revenue from the government Ministries/Departments. Revenue can be increased further by adding fresh content to DD Channels and flexible rate card for telecast of spots.”

13. The Committee are informed that the shortfall in achievement of targets for revenue earnings of Doordarshan in the 12th Plan was due to various reasons viz., lack of fresh content, inability to face competition from Private Channels and declining share of viewership, completion of

the Manpower Audit and Rationalization of Staff, rationalization and expansion of infrastructure along with software convergence options, finalization of Slot Sale policy and roll out, finalization of DD-Free Dish policy and moving to a revenue share mode and with the introduction of GST, it was found that vendors were not participating in the higher value tenders, resulting in repeated extension of tender opening dates and delays. The Committee are not convinced with any of the above reasons attributed to the shortfall in revenue earnings as they fail to understand that why any concrete action was not taken by Prasar Bharati on these long standing issues which have crippling effect on its overall growth. Moreover, the Committee had also recommended several times in their earlier Reports to find solutions to these lingering issues and take required steps accordingly.

14. The Committee are given to understand that despite the above constraints, revenue achievement of Doordarshan has increased against the targets fixed during the years 2016-17 & 2017-18, where against the target of Rs. 800 crore and Rs. 810.06 crore, respectively, the achievement was Rs. 915.15 crore and Rs. 977.14 crore, respectively. However, according to the Committee, it has been so by keeping the lower targets during 2016-17 and 2017-18, as compared to targets during 2014-15 and 2015-16 of Rs. 1164.77 crore and Rs. 1469.54, crore respectively. In fact, there was no growth in the revenue earnings of the Doordarshan in the recent years. The Committee would, therefore, like the Prasar Bharati to rather concentrate in resolving the various constraints hampering the growth in their revenue.

15. The Committee take note of the initiatives taken by Prasar Bharati to enhance its revenue receipts viz. strengthening of sales and marketing teams of AIR and Doordarshan, induction of sales/marketing professionals, offering of turnkey solutions to various Ministries and Government Departments for dissemination of information about their various social development schemes, sharing of infrastructure such as towers, studios, auditoria etc., exploring the possibility of collaborating with companies having CSR Funds in order to contribute to the overall revenue generation of Prasar Bharati, devising a new scheme for content acquisition based on the best practices followed by Public Broadcasters around the globe, restructuring of Doordarshan to separate its creative, sourcing, and Marketing/Sales functions from its Operational/Administrative functions, setting up of a task force for developing a new business model for DD Free Dish based on a revenue sharing basis with interested partners, etc. The Committee are of the view that these initiatives can prove to be instrumental in improving the performance of Doordarshan/AIR, if implemented in letter and spirit. Hence, Prasar Bharati should give serious consideration to these initiatives in right earnest to make itself competitive and self-sufficient. The Committee may be apprised of the status/progress with regard to each of the above said initiatives taken by Prasar Bharati.

16. During their recent visit to Pune, the Committee while having discussion with the Prasar Bharati official in the State of Maharashtra in the presence of the officials of the Ministry of I&B/Prasar Bharati, Delhi came to know that rate card for Doordarshan has not been revised since

2013. The Committee would like to know from the Ministry of I & B/Prasar Bharati, the precise reasons for not taking any action in the matter as this is one of the major reasons affecting the revenue figures of Doordarshan.

17. The Committee further observe from the Action taken Replies that the Ministry is silent on their suggestion to develop Doordarshan programmes having rich contents in regional languages for better and effective delivery of communication to people located in remote areas of the country. The Committee, therefore, reiterate that Prasar Bharati should take action in this regard in order to bring people of these areas in the mainstream.

Anti-Piracy initiatives

(Recommendation Sl. No.13)

18. In their Report on DFG(2018-19) of the Ministry of I & B, the Committee had expressed their concern over an estimated annual loss of about Rs. 180 billion and loss of about 6000 jobs due to film piracy as reflected in FICCI-KPMG Report of 2017. They were distressed to learn that though the Ministry of I&B had introduced a Plan Scheme for Anti-Piracy initiatives during the 12th plan period but unfortunately, nothing has been done in this direction as funds of Rs. 2 crore allocated during the 12th Plan Period and Rs. 1 lakh allocated for the year 2017-18 for Anti-Piracy Initiatives remained mainly un-utilised. As was informed, there were various constraints/difficulties to fulfill the mandate of the scheme viz. requirement to coordinate with various Ministries/ Department to combat the problem of anti-piracy, amending Section 69 A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 to provide for executive action for site blocking in relation to copyright infringement, etc. Considering that Piracy had been causing huge monetary loss to the film Industry and hampering the

overall growth of the film industry, the Committee strongly desired the Ministry to take up the matter with the concerned authorities at the right earnest to take suitable measures in order to effectively address the problem of piracy of films at the earliest.

19. In their Action Taken Reply, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have submitted as under:

The Plan Scheme for Anti Piracy initiatives was approved during 11th Plan Period as a separate scheme. However, during 11th Plan, the Scheme could not properly take off as it involves the role of other stakeholder Ministry's namely Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion and Department of Telecommunications (Ministry of Communications and IT).

During the fresh appraisal & approval of the Anti- Piracy Plan Scheme, it was decided by the Ministry to make it a component of the other existing Plan Scheme namely Development, Communication and Dissemination (DCD) of Filmic Content since the budgetary allocation of the Plan Scheme was only Rs. 2 crore for 11th Plan Period. Accordingly the DCD Scheme got approved on 07.02.2018, with anti piracy initiative as separate component.

20. The Committee note from the Action Taken Replies that the Ministry of I & B have mentioned that the Plan Scheme for Anti Piracy initiatives was approved during 11th Plan Period as a separate scheme. The budgetary allocation of the Plan Scheme was only Rs. 2 crore for 11th Plan Period. However while examining the Demands for Grants(2018-19), it was categorically mentioned in the material furnished to the Committee that the Ministry of I & B had introduced a Plan Scheme for Anti-Piracy initiatives under the 12th Plan. The Plan Scheme had been approved by Secretary, I&B and Rs. 2 crore were allocated during the 12th Plan Period for the Plan scheme and Rs. 1 lakh during the year 2017-18 for Anti-Piracy Initiatives. The Committee do not appreciate failure on

the part of the Ministry in furnishing correct information to them and desire to avoid such lapse in future. They would further like to be apprised of the factual position in this matter.

21. The Committee are informed that during the fresh appraisal & approval of the Anti- Piracy Plan Scheme, the Ministry have decided to make this scheme, a component of the other existing Plan Scheme namely Development, Communication and Dissemination (DCD) of Filmic Content and accordingly the DCD Scheme got approved on 07.02.2018, with anti piracy initiative as separate component. The Committee do not welcome this move of the Ministry. The Committee would like to be apprised of the pressing need to make it a component of another Scheme rather than keeping it as a separate Scheme. It is evident that anti-piracy initiatives are loosing significance year after year. The Committee are concerned over an estimated annual loss of about Rs. 180 billion and loss of about 6000 jobs due to film piracy as reflected in FICCI- KPMG Report of 2017. They are of the considered view that piracy is detrimental to the overall growth of the film Industry and therefore reiterate that the Ministry should take up the matter with the concerned authorities at the right earnest to take suitable measures in order to effectively address the problem of piracy of films at the earliest. They would desire that higher allocation of funds be made for anti-piracy initiatives during 2018-19 and be optimally utilized.

Expenditure on North-East Region

(Recommendation Sl. No.21)

22. In their Report, the Committee had observed that out of Rs.80 lakh allocated for the sub-scheme, 'Media Outreach Programme and Publicity for Special Events(PIB) in North-East Region during 2017-18, only Rs. 24 lakh was the likely expenditure. As the scheme was having a mandate to disseminate information to the target population on the Government plans, policies,

programmes initiatives and achievements, etc., the Committee had desired the Ministry to take corrective measures to optimally utilize the funds allocated for the scheme.

23. In their Action Taken Reply, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have submitted as under:

“Out of the allocation of Rs. 80.00 lakh for NER, in the sub-scheme “Media Outreach Programme & Publicity for Special Events” during the year 2017-18, only an amount of Rs. 27.49 lakh could be spent by Press Information Bureau . Due to shortage of staff in N.E. Region, both at Regional Office and its Branch Offices, 1 Regional Editors’ Conference, 1 Press Tour and few Vartalaps could not be organized / conducted by them during the year resulting into a considerable saving against the ear-marked fund allocation for N.E.R. ”

24. The Committee regret to note that due to shortage of staff in North East Region(NER), both at Regional Office and its Branch Offices, funds allocated in the sub-scheme “Media Outreach Programme & Publicity for Special Events” for NER could not be optimally utilized during 2017-18. The Ministry could spend less than half of the funds allocated for the scheme as Press Information Bureau could incur the expenditure of only Rs. 27.49 lakh against the allocation of Rs. 80 lakh. The Committee take a serious view on the matter of shortage of staff in regional and branch offices in NER that lead to gross under-utilisation of allocated funds for the scheme which was aimed at disseminating information to the target population in NER, on the Government plans, policies, programmes initiatives and achievements, etc. The under-utilisation of funds due to shortage of staff is a matter of grave concern. The Committee find that there is no use of the whole budgetary exercise, if there is not sufficient staff to execute the schemes. Needless to mention, the matter requires urgent attention of the Ministry of I & B/Prasar Bharati. The Committee may be apprised of the steps taken by the Ministry to resolve the problem of shortage of staff in NER to avoid recurrence of a similar situation in future.

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

Budgetary Allocations for the financial year 2018-19

(Recommendation Sl. No.1)

The Committee observe that the total budgetary allocations of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, for the financial year 2018-19 as has been reflected in the Demand No.59 is to the tune of Rs. 4088.98 crore. Out of the total allocation, the Central Sector Schemes accounts for Rs. 735.05 crore and Establishment Expenditure of the Centre and other Central Expenditure accounts for Rs. 3353.93 crore. The Committee further observe that though the allocation of funds for the year 2018-19 is 13.42 % higher than the RE of Rs. 3605.11 crore for the year 2017-18, it is still 7.25% less than the BE of Rs. 4409 crore for 2017-18. The Committee also observe the disturbing trend of less utilization of the allocated funds by the Ministry year after year. With reference to the expenditure made on Central Sector Schemes during the 12th Five Year Plan period, the Committee observe that there is a consistent pattern of expenditure much lower than the allocations made at BE stage as is evident from the fact that against the BE of Rs.905 crore each in 2012-13 and 2013-14, the amount spent was Rs.612.10 crore and 715.22 crore respectively. Similarly, against the BE of Rs.1005.00 crore, 914.53 crore and 800 crore for the year 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17, the amount actually spent was Rs.740.78 crore, 734.50 crore and 802.69 crore respectively. Thus the total expenditure of Rs.3605.33 crore on the Central Sector Schemes during 12th Plan Period (2012-13 to 2016-17) has been much less than the allocation of funds of Rs.4529.53 crore at BE stage.

The underutilization of the allocations is a serious reflection on the functioning of the Ministry which apparently indicate not only failure of the Ministry in timely execution of their various schemes and projects but also on the entire budgetary exercise undertaken by them as the Ministry could not make accurate estimation of their requirements even at RE stage also. The Committee's analysis of the various schemes of the Ministry under all

its sectors in the subsequent paragraphs clearly reinforces this observation. The Committee would, therefore, strongly recommend the Ministry to fine tune their budgetary exercise so that estimated requirements of funds at BE stage are close to accurate in future. The Committee would also like to emphasize that the Ministry should make advance planning so that the funds of Rs. 735.05 crore allocated for Central Sector Schemes for the financial year 2018-19 are optimally utilized.

Reply of the Government

The recommendation of the Standing Committee has been noted. This Ministry is making all efforts to ensure speedy and effective utilization of funds allocated for the financial year 2018-19 which include the following steps:

1. Streamlining the process of implementation of schemes of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.
2. Expediting appraisal/approval and Revised Cost Estimate (RCE) meetings of various schemes of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.
3. Third Party Evaluation of the Schemes of the Ministry for their extension beyond 12th Five Year Plan has also been completed.
4. Undertaking periodic review of implementation and expenditure in meeting chaired by Secretary (I&B).
5. Regular monitoring of the implementation of various schemes by the respective Administrative Heads as well as by Media Unit Heads.
6. Procurement procedure of Prasar Bharati is being rationalised. Various activities involved in procurement of capital equipment and execution are critically assessed and targets are fixed.
7. Efforts are being made to expedite the transfer of land & sites by the respective State Govt. for implementation of Projects.

(Ministry of Information & Broadcasting OM No. G-30011/3/2018-PC Cell,

Dated 31.05.2018)

Performance during the 12th Plan

(Recommendation Sl.No.2)

The Committee's analysis reveal that the total allocations for 12th Plan Period to three sectors of the Ministry viz. Information sector, Film sector and Broadcasting sector was Rs.4986.08 crore(including NER component) at BE which was reduced to Rs.4157.64 crore at RE stage. As against this, the Ministry could utilize only Rs. 3935.11 crore which was 78.92% of the BE and 94.64% of the RE. Thus, the actual utilization was less by Rs. 1050.97 crore with reference to BE and Rs. 222.53 crore with reference to RE. The reasons for the under-utilization of funds have been attributed to be the delays in approval of the schemes during the first two years of the 12th Plan.

The Committee are perturbed to note that the delays in approval of the schemes in various sectors of the Ministry have adversely affected their implementation leading to substantial shortfall in achieving the physical and financial targets. The Committee are of the firm opinion that the preparatory works should have been completed and necessary approvals should also have been taken much in advance by the Ministry so that the schemes could have been effectively implemented well in time. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend the Ministry to develop a mechanism within the Ministry so that all necessary ground works are completed well in time and the funds allocated for the Schemes/projects are optimally utilized.

Reply of the Government

Overall utilization for the entire 12th Plan period stood at 95.43% of RE. Recommendation of the Committee has been noted. Following steps are being taken to ensure that the appraisal/approval of the Schemes is completed well in time and funds allocated are fully utilised:

1. Third Party Evaluation of the Schemes of the Ministry for their extension beyond 12th Five Year Plan has been completed.
2. Expediting appraisal/approval and Revised Cost Estimate (RCE) meetings of various schemes of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.
3. Streamlining the process of implementation of schemes of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. Merger of various sub-schemes has been done.

(Ministry of Information & Broadcasting's OM No. G-30011/3/2018-PC Cell, Dated 31.05.2018)

Allocations vis-à-vis utilisation of funds during the financial year 2017-18

(Recommendation Sl.No. 3)

The Committee observe that during the financial year 2017-18, allocation of funds of Rs.840 crore (Rs.755.80 crore as Normal and Rs. 84.20 crore as NER component) had been made at BE stage for the Central Sector Schemes of the Ministry. However, the allocation had been substantially reduced to Rs.597.77 crore (comprising Rs. 537.14 crore as Normal and Rs. 60.63 crore as NER component) at RE stage. This substantial reduction of Rs. 242.23crore at RE stage for the year 2017-18 has been done by the Ministry of Finance as expenditure in case of some of the main Schemes of the Ministry could not be done in accordance with the BE.

The Committee take a serious note of the shortfall in meeting the physical targets in case of the main schemes of the Ministry resulting not only in low expenditure but denying their benefits to the masses. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry need to seriously look into the reasons of such delays and take appropriate measures to avoid such shortfalls in future. The Committee would like to be apprised of steps taken in this regard.

Reply of the Government

As against RE 2017-18 of Rs. 597.77 crore, the expenditure of the Ministry upto 31.03.2018 stands as Rs. 500.84 crore, i.e. 83.78% of RE 2017-18. The recommendation of the Standing Committee has been noted.

This Ministry is making all efforts to ensure speedy and effective utilization of funds and avoid shortfalls in expenditure by the Ministry in future. Some of the steps taken in this direction are:

1. Streamlining the process of implementation of schemes of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.
2. Expediting appraisal/approval and Revised Cost Estimate (RCE) meetings of various schemes of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.
3. Third Party Evaluation of the Schemes of the Ministry for their extension beyond 12th Five Year Plan has also been completed.
4. Undertaking periodic review of implementation and expenditure in meetings chaired by Secretary (I&B).

5. Regular monitoring of the implementation of various schemes by the respective Administrative Heads as well as by Media Unit Heads.
6. Procurement procedure of Prasar Bharati has been streamlined.
7. Efforts are being made to expedite the transfer of land & sites by the respective State Govt. for implementation of Projects.
8. Three Media Units viz. Directorate of Advertising & Visual Publicity (DAVP), Directorate of Field Publicity (DFP) and Song & Drama Division (S&DD) have been integrated under Bureau of Outreach Communication (BOC) in order to ensure better synergy and reach to the target audience. Several sub-schemes have also been merged and made single entry under the main scheme "Development Communication and information Dissemination (DCID)".
9. Expert Committees have been constituted to speed up the execution of projects like National Centre of Excellence for Animation, Gaming, Visual Effects and Comics (NCoE-AVGC) and National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM).
10. Merger/Closure of Autonomous Bodies is under consideration of the ministry to rationalise their functioning.

(Ministry of Information & Broadcasting's OM No. G-30011/3/2018-PC Cell, Dated
31.05.2018)

(Recommendation Sl.No.4)

The Committee further note that against RE of Rs.597.77 crore for the year 2017-18, the utilization of funds up to January, 2018 is Rs. 387.50 crore (64.82%). As stated, the Ministry has tried to optimize the allocation at RE amongst the schemes of Ministry sector-wise by allocating funds to the Media Units in a rational manner and level of expenditure would be raised significantly upto 31.3.2018 and allocated funds would be utilized. Also, regular review meetings are taken by Secretary (I&B), AS&FA and concerned Joint Secretaries to assess the shortfall in expenditure and to suggest the suitable measures for enhancing the expenditure. The Committee trust that the Ministry would take appropriate measures to optimally utilize the allocated funds. They would like to be apprised of the actual expenditure incurred as on 31.03.2018.

Reply of the Government

The recommendation of the Standing Committee has been noted. As against RE 2017-18 of Rs. 597.77 crore, the expenditure of the Ministry upto 31.03.2018 stands as Rs. 500.84 crore, i.e. 83.78 % of RE 2017-18.

Prasar Bharati

All India Radio

(Recommendation Sl.No.5)

The Committee observed that All India Radio (AIR) was allocated funds of Rs.154 Crore for its various schemes during 2017-18, however the outlay had been reduced to Rs.115 Crore at RE stage. Out of this, AIR has been able to incur expenditure of only Rs.65.41 Crore up to December, 2017 (56.88% of utilization over RE). The reduction in the outlay at RE stage is stated to have been done keeping in view the trend of expenditure, actual requirement, availability of funds and inter-se priority, etc.

None of the reasons for reduction of outlays at RE is convincing. The Committee express their serious concern over reduction in the outlay at RE stage which not only indicate poor planning at the level of Ministry but also adversely affects the targets, physical as well financial, of the next year. The committee therefore strongly recommend that the Ministry should put realistic targets and take all possible steps to achieve the same within the fixed timelines.

Reply of the Government

Prasar Bharati has informed that All India Radio has incurred expenditure of Rs. 115.04 crore under various schemes during 2017-18 against the allocated fund of Rs. 115.04 crore at RE stage (100% of utilization over RE).

(Ministry of Information & Broadcasting O.M. No G-.20019/4/2018-B(Fin)
dated 31.05.2018)

(Recommendation Sl.No.6)

The committee are happy to note the advance planning done by AIR for the execution of their projects during 2018-19. As stated, the purchase orders have already been placed for 13 new 10 kW FM transmitters and associated equipment and order for 100 nos. 100 watt FM transmitters, studio items would be placed by March 2018 so that these projects are completed during 2018-19. Further, construction of new buildings at new sites are also under progress and are likely to be completed during 2018-19. The

Committee trust that such advance measures and planning is all the more necessary for Prasar Bharati to survive in view of strong competition in the market and hope that the AIR would take all measures to optimally utilize the funds of Rs. 125 crore allocated for the year 2018-19.

Reply of the Government

Prasar Bharati has informed that 13 nos. of 10 KW FM transmitters are likely to be received by August, 2018. Price bids have been opened for the procurement of 100 nos. of 100 Watt FM transmitters and order is likely to be placed shortly. All India Radio (AIR) has taken all measures to optimally utilize the funds of Rs. 125 crores allocated for the year 2018-19.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting's O.M. No. N-18013/5/2018-B(D)

dated 31.05.2018)

Modernisation, Augmentation and Replacement of satellite broadcast Equipment

(Recommendation Sl.No.8)

The Committee are constrained to express their unhappiness over the consistent under-utilization of funds for the scheme, "Modernisation, Augmentation and Replacement of satellite broadcast Equipment". During 2016-17, out of the allocated funds of Rs. 10 crore, only Rs. 8.07 crore were utilized. The reason for the shortfall being poor participation by bidders resulting in delays in Standard Industrial Trade Classification (SITC) of compression system for Earth Station at Gorakhpur. The Committee are further perturbed to note under-utilisation of funds during 2017-18 to the extent of Rs. 11.31 crore, where against the allocation of Rs. 21.31 crore for the scheme, the likely utilization of funds upto 31.03.2018 is stated to be only Rs. 10.00 crore. The low utilization of funds is due to less supply of Digital Satellite News Gatherings (DSNGs) as there was delay in processing of sanctions due to GST related issues & delay in obtaining Wireless Planning and Coordination (WPC) clearance. The Committee are not convinced of the reasons adduced by the Ministry for the shortfall during 2016-17 and 2017-18 as there has been gross underutilization of funds allocated for a purpose. The Committee feel that modernization and augmentation of broadcasting equipments/ machinery is necessary pre-requisite for any broadcaster to survive in the competitive industry. The

Committee therefore desire the Ministry/ Prasar Bharati to take all corrective measures for optimum utilization of the allocation of Rs. 14.22 crore made for 2018-19 so that people could be benefitted with better quality transmission of the modernized satellite broadcast equipment.

Reply of the Government

Capital Plan of Doordarshan:

Prasar Bharati has informed that in the financial year 2016-17, there was 80.70% utilization of the allocation. An expenditure of Rs. 0.72 crore incurred in 2017-18 against RE of Rs. 21.31 crores. The major reason for shortfall in 2017-18 is attributed to supply of DSNGs as there was delay in processing of sanction due to GST related issues & delay in obtaining WPC clearance.

The expenditure already committed on the account of DSNG (9 nos.) & Supply Installation Testing and Commissioning (SITC) of 400W HPA system, 7.3-7.6 Meter uplink Antenna (C-Band) and 3 Phase 2x20 KVA UPS for Digital Earth Station at DDK Gorakhpur will be incurred in 2018-19. Further the action for procurement of DTH Set Top Boxes has been initiated. Therefore, the requirement under this scheme has been revised upwardly amounting to Rs. 26.75 crores for FY 2018-19.

It is the constant endeavor of Doordarshan to complete the projects within the specified time frame. Procurement procedures have been streamlined. Project review meetings are held regularly at Zonal level & Headquarter level and various activities involved in procurement of capital equipment and execution of works are critically assessed & targets are fixed.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting's O.M. No. N-18013/5/2018-B(D)
dated 31.05.2018)

Budgetary Allocations for North-Eastern Region

(Recommendation Sl. No. 9)

As far as the North East Region (NER) is concerned, the Committee note that during the 12th Plan, against BE and RE of Rs. 465.55 crore and Rs. 379.64 crore respectively, Rs. 330.11 crore has been utilized with a shortfall of Rs. 49.53 crore. During 2017-18, the allocation of Rs. 84.20 crore was reduced to Rs. 60.63 crore at RE stage. The Committee do not find it as a healthy trend in the Ministry that for almost all the schemes outlays have been reduced at the RE stage. The shortfall in utilization of budgetary allocations for North Eastern Region is stated to be mainly under the scheme 'Infrastructure Development in SRFTI' for the reason that the terrain in Itanagar where the land for the institute is situated, is difficult to reach and therefore a bridge on the nearby river needs to be constructed for taking the activities forward. The Committee

do not find the above reason convincing advanced by the Ministry as by sheer exercise of normal prudence, the Department should have anticipated the preparatory requirements before making budgetary projections on this head. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry should now prepare a concrete plan having in-built mechanism to address the challenges likely to be faced in the process and make concerted efforts to complete the project in a fix time-frame.

Reply of the Government

Ministry is following up with State Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh at various levels to expedite the completion of pre-requisite activities like construction of bridge over River 'Poma' and approach road to the proposed site, thereby making the Institute accessible in all respects before embarking on the construction activities of the Institute. After completion of bridge and approach road to the proposed site ministry will engage construction agency at the earliest for Project Management Consultancy for execution of construction work of FTI in Arunachal Pradesh. As things presently stand casting of the pillars of the bridge have been completed and work on the culverts, leading to the proposed site, is under process.

Meanwhile, Ministry of I&B/SRFTI has established temporary campus at Itanagar to inculcate Film & Television related education for the people of NE region. The Institute has already conducted 2 short term courses styled "Short Trip to Cinema" with an intake in 24 students in the first batch followed by 14 students in the second batch. The third batch with an intake of 13 students has already commenced in April 2018.

(Ministry of Information & Broadcasting's ID Note No. M- 35020/4/2017-DO(FI)

Dated 31.05.2018)

Film Sector

Setting up of National Centre of Excellence for Animation, Gaming, Visual Effects and Comics (NCoE- AVGC)

(Recommendation Sl.No.14)

The Committee learn that National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics is a 12th Plan scheme to build a centre for excellence at the national level to impart world class talent pool in India to cater to the

requirements of the Indian industry and global players. The Committee are, however, disappointed to find gross under- utilisation of funds for the scheme during 2016-17 and 2017-18. During 2016-17, against BE and RE of Rs. 5.10 crore and Rs. 1.00 crore respectively, only Rs. 39 lakh could be utilized. Further, during 2017-18, against BE and RE of Rs. 60 crore and Rs. 1.54 crore respectively, only Rs. 70 lakh is likely to be utilized upto 31.03.2018. It is observed that BE of only Rs. 2.12 crore has been allocated for the year 2018-19 under this Scheme. The Committee are informed that budget allocations from the year 2017-18 to 2018-19 was reduced as the land at Mumbai for construction of campus of NCoE-AVGC has not been handed over to the Ministry. Further, the short courses proposed to be commenced from the academic year 2017-18 could not be started since the operating partner is yet to be finalized, and no bid has been received in spite of issuing of the global tender for the identification of academic partner. The Committee are made to understand that in the absence of academic partner, the purpose of setting up of NCoE- AVGC would not be achieved and hence, it was proposed to revisit the plan scheme ab-initio.

The Committee's analysis reveals that delay in setting up of campus of NCoE-AVGC at Mumbai and resultant gross under- utilisation of funds is another example of lackadaisical approach of the Ministry towards implementation of their important projects. It is highly disquieting that after the lapse of two years since the administrative approval for the scheme 'NCoE-AVGC' was issued with a total outlay of Rs. 167.70 crore to be implemented in a four year period from 2016-17 to 2019-20, as per the appraisal and recommendations of Standing Finance Committee, the Ministry now plans to revisit the scheme ab-initio. The Committee therefore strongly recommend that all issues concerning with this project like acquisition and possession of land, construction of campus, identification of academic partners, finalization of academic programmes etc. must be finalized by the Ministry in a time-bound manner and a monitoring committee may be constituted to expedite the processes involved. The Committee may be kept appraised of the action taken in this regard.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry is in the process of setting up of National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) for Animation, Visual effects, Gaming and Comics. The identified land in Film City Mumbai, Maharashtra has been handed over to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India on 22.03.2018. Film Division has been instructed to get estimates from Civil Construction Wing for constructing the boundary wall for demarcating the land acquired by this Ministry. Meanwhile, it has been decided by the competent authority to constitute a committee to expedite the process involved in

setting up of the NCoE. It was also decided to revisit the plan scheme of National Centre of Excellence.

(Ministry of Information & Broadcasting's ID Note No. M- 35020/4/2017-DO(FI)

Dated 31.05.2018)

National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM)

(Recommendation Sl.No.15)

The Committee note that NFHM is a scheme to restore, digitize and archive films and film related material which is being implemented through the National Film Archive of India (NFAI). During 2016-17, out of Rs. 30 crore allocated for the scheme, only Rs. 10.83 crore was spent. The cited reasons that the executing agency could only be engaged for the work of 'Film condition assessment of the film reels' while the tender process for other activities viz, preventive conservation of film reels and digitization of film reels is under process are not convincing to the Committee. This indicates that NFAI has not acted in a prudent manner to timely assess the situation. Further, during 2017-18, BE of Rs. 50 crore was substantially reduced to Rs. 6.02 crore at RE stage. The Committee are distressed to learn that the entire scheme for which allocation of Rs. 50.00 crore was made for the financial year 2017-18 is under review and all tendering process under NFHM have been put on hold until the review is completed.

The Committee deplore such lackluster attitude of NFAI in implementations of the schemes under it. The Committee desire that serious efforts should be made for implementation of the schemes and there should be proper utilization of allocated funds. The Committee further urge the Ministry to gear up the functioning of NFAI so that the funds of Rs. 57.78 crore allocated for the NFHM scheme, which is also one of the thrust areas of the Ministry during 2018-19 are fully utilized.

Reply of the Government

The Budgetary Allocation for Central Sector Scheme namely National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM) for the year 2018-19 is Rs. 57.78 crore for incurring expenditure arising on account of contractual obligations for different activities such as, Film Condition Assessment, Digitization and Restoration of Ancillary Material, Preventive Conservation of Films, etc. The Budget Provision for the year 2017-18 was Rs. 50.00 crore out of which Rs. 6.02 crore was allocated during RE stage 2017-18.

The entire scheme is under review and all tender processes under NFHM have been put on hold until the review. A Committee of Technical Experts was constituted by the Ministry on 26.04.2018 to look into the conditions of the films and related material at National Film Archive of India (NFAI) and suggest ways and means of restoring them. The Terms of Reference of the Committee are as follows:

List the loss of films in terms of archival history; Suggest how to technically salvage the National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM); To look into the condition of the films and film related material at NFAI; Ways and means of restoring the films; Physical assessment of film storage vaults; Any other issue the Committee may deem fit. After the Committee submits its report, the budgetary requirement under the NFHM scheme for the financial year 2018-19 would be reviewed by the Ministry. It will be ensured to speed up the various tender processes for appointment of executing agencies as per extant procedure for effective implementation of the NFHM Scheme and proper utilization of allotted funds.

(Ministry of Information & Broadcasting's ID Note No. M- 35020/4/2017-DO(FI)
Dated 31.05.2018)

Production of films and documentaries in various Indian Languages - Production of Children's Films (CFSI)

(Recommendation Sl.No.17)

The Committee draw some satisfaction to note that during 2018-19, a handsome amount of Rs. 27.50 crore, including Rs.1.0 crore for North East has been allocated for "Production of Films and Documentaries in various regional languages". The funds will be utilized for production of children films by CFSI, documentaries by Films Division and films by National Film Development Corporation (NFDC). The Committee hope that as assured, the selection process for effective implementation of the scheme of production of documentary films will be expedited and funds will be utilized prudently and within the fixed time frame for the cause of Children welfare.

Reply of the Government

It is stated that in order to optimally utilize the funds, it will be ensured to speed up the selection process for effective implementation of the Plan schemes of production of documentary films. Films will be produced in strict time bound manner to ensure full utilization of allocated funds.

Information Sector

Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC)

(Recommendation Sl. No. 18)

The Committee are aware that Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) is a centre of excellence in the field of communication, teaching, training and research and it aims to be a world class institute. However, the Committee are not satisfied with the pattern of utilization of funds allocated for the scheme "Upgradation of IIMC to International Standards" which was included in the 11th Five Year Plan. During 2016-17, against the allocation of Rs. 1.85 crore, IIMC could utilize Rs. 56 lakhs only. Similarly, during 2017-18, against BE and RE of Rs. 4 crore and 2 crore respectively only Rs. 8 lakhs has been spent up to 31st January 2018. Therefore, unspent balance as on 31st January 2018 is Rs. 3.21 crores. The delay in construction of new buildings at New Delhi campus of IIMC due to pendency of clearance from various civic authorities does not appear to be applusable explanation for under-utilization of the allocated funds. The Committee while deprecating long delay in execution of this proposal, strongly recommends that all pending matters should be sorted out with the authorities concerned without any further loss of time so that building plans for new buildings on the vacant land at the IIMC Campus, New Delhi is finalized and allocated funds are optimally utilized.

Reply of the Government

Under the Plan Scheme "Upgradation of IIMC to International Standards", the delay in construction of additional buildings at New Delhi campus of IIMC is due to non-approval of building plans from the concerned civic authorities of Govt. of NCT of Delhi such as Ridge Management Board (RMB), Delhi Urban Arts Commission (DUAC), Delhi Fire Services (DFS) and Delhi Development Authority (DDA). Presently, the case is with DDA for want of NOC from RMB as the proposed site of construction, which is a part of JNU campus, falls within the boundary limit of 1994 notification of Reserve Forest as well as Morphological Ridge. DDA would process the case with DUAC and DFS, once the NOC is issued by RMB for approval by the Central Empowered Committee appointed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

In the last meeting of RMB convened on 3rd August 2017, IIMC was informed that *“the proposed site of construction of IIMC is a part of JNU campus which falls within Morphological Ridge. The Environment task force of JNU has to finalize the boundary demarcation of proposed green cover of 369 acres of JNU campus and submit the same to the Forest Department for notification as Protected Forest. This is in compliance to the directions of Chairman, Central Empowered Committee. In the absence of demarcation details of proposed Protected Forest, the Forest Department is not in a position to furnish comments on proposed construction of new buildings of IIMC”*.

In view of above directions in the RMB meeting, IIMC approached JNU to issue a certificate that the proposed construction site of IIMC is not part of the above mentioned 369 acres of land. JNU further called a meeting of the representatives of all the Institutions to whom the land has been allotted inside the JNU campus. In the meeting, JNU decided to engage Geospatial Delhi Limited to survey and demarcate the above mentioned 369 acres of Green Cover. The Engineering Department of JNU informed that this action will take minimum three (03) months-time and then only they will be able to confirm whether the proposed site of construction falls in the Green Cover or not.

This Ministry requested the personal intervention of Secretary, Department of Higher Education in the matter. In this respect D/o Higher Education, has requested Vice Chancellor, JNU to take steps to expedite the survey so that the requisite certificate may be issued to IIMC at the earliest.

Further, to expedite the clearances from the concerned Civic Authorities of Govt. of NCT of Delhi, the issue has also been included by the Ministry of I&B in the list of projects requiring the intervention of Chief Minister of Delhi and is also being monitored through e-Samiksha portal of Cabinet Secretariat.

(Ministry of information & Broadcasting's OM No. M-16012/7/2018-IP&MC
Dated 01.06.2018)

(Recommendation Sl. No. 19)

The Committee note that the Central Sector Scheme “Opening of New Regional Campuses of IIMC” was included in the 12th Five Year Plan and approved for an amount of Rs. 94.00 crores. The proposals under this Scheme included construction of permanent campuses for the four new Regional Campuses of IIMC at Aizawl, Kottayam, Jammu and Amravati on lands to be provided by the respective State Government free of cost. The Committee note that fund allocated for the scheme during 2016-17 was fully utilized and during 2017-18 also, funds allocated are likely to be fully utilized. The Committee while appreciating the optimum utilization of funds under this Scheme, express their hope that the construction of permanent campuses at Aizawl and Kottayam would be completed during 2018-19 and construction of permanent campuses at Jammu and Amravati will commence at the earliest.

Reply of the Government

It is submitted here that an MoU was signed b/w IIMC and M/o I&B clearly setting the physical and financial targets to be achieved by IIMC by the end of FY 2017-18 and further, a similar MoU would be signed b/w IIMC and M/o I&B for the FY 2018-19. With regards to the Scheme of “Opening of New Regional Centres of IIMC”, the current status of construction of four regional centres of IIMC is as under:-

- ➔ **Aizawl:** The work of construction of permanent campus at Aizawl is being executed by CPWD as Deposit work. Presently, there has been approximately 80% physical progress at site by March 2018. The construction work is expected to be completed by September 2018.
- ➔ **Kottayam:** The work of construction of permanent campus at Kottayam is being executed by CPWD as deposit work. The construction work at Kottayam started in June 2016 and is progressing satisfactorily. Presently, there has been approximately 80% physical progress at site by March 2018. The construction work is expected to be completed by July 2018.
- ➔ **Jammu:** The Land for construction of the permanent campus of Jammu Regional Centre of IIMC has been taken over from Govt. of J&K in the month of May 2016. The Construction Work has been entrusted to CCW, All India Radio and an MoU has already been signed with CCW, AIR in this regard. At present, the work for

construction of boundary wall is in progress and around 70% of the boundary wall has been constructed. Currently, there is litigation on the land the efforts are being made with litigants and Revenue Department of J&K to get the dispute resolved. The construction of permanent campus is likely to commence by August/September 2018.

→ **Amravati:** The land for construction of permanent campus of IIMC at Amravati had been transferred by Govt. of Maharashtra to IIMC in the month of June 2016. Since the said land is far away from Nagpur, it was decided in the Ministry to ask Govt. of Maharashtra for allotment of land at a different location nearby Nagpur. IIMC vide its DO letter No.2/36/2016-MCI (Vol.III) dated 17/04/2018 has requested Secretary, School Education & Sports Department, Govt. of Maharashtra as well as Principal Secretary, Technical & Higher Education, Govt. of Maharashtra for allotment of new land at Nagpur in lieu of land in possession of IIMC at Amravati, as Nagpur is an educational hub, and very well connected with various parts of the country, particularly the western and southern regions. Also, many senior journalists and media faculty are based out of Nagpur, who have to be regularly invited as guest faculty. The construction would begin only after the final decision is taken on the location of the regional centre in Maharashtra.

(Ministry of information & Broadcasting's OM No. M-16012/7/2018-IP&MC
Dated 01.06.2018)

Development Communication & Information Dissemination (DCID)

(Recommendation Sl. No. 20)

The Committee are informed that from the year 2018-19, all the sub-schemes under Development Communication & Information Dissemination (DCID), viz. Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity(DAVP), Directorate of Field Publicity(PIB), Song and Drama Division(S&DD) and Social Media Platform(MS) have been merged and a single line Budget Entry has been made for scheme DCID. The Committee note that during 2016-17, for all the sub-schemes under DCID, against the allocation at BE and RE of Rs. 144.60 crore and Rs. 220.10 crore, respectively, the utilisation was Rs. 210.30 crore. Further, during 2017-18, against the allocation at BE and RE of Rs. 140.20 crore and Rs. 155.62 crore, respectively, the utilisation of funds up to 31.01.2018 is Rs. 93.21 crore. BE of Rs. 182 crore has been fixed for 2018-19. The Committee learn that due to the reduced allocation for the scheme during 2017-18 from the proposed amount of Rs.

84.23 crore to Rs. 8 crore, 3250 Special Outreach Programmes (SOPs) and 30000 programmes under Direct Integrated Communication Campaign (DICC) proposed to be conducted during 2018-19 would have to be reduced accordingly.

The Committee observe that DICC component aims at raising levels, awareness, empowering and creating an enabling environment through intensified communication campaigns, for the farmers, women, youth, and the disadvantaged section of the society in the 150 districts identified as most backward in the country and 50 districts which are affected by LWE. The Committee therefore strongly recommend that the allocations under DCID and DICC component should be enhanced suitably at the RE stage.

Reply of the Government

In order to bring in more synergy among the activities being conducted by Directorate of Field Publicity, Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity and Song and Drama Division, the three media units of the Ministry have been integrated under **Bureau of Outreach and Communication (BOC)**. Therefore, the three sub-schemes viz. People's Empowerment through Development Communication, Directed Integrated Communication Campaign and Live Arts and Culture have been integrated and named **People's Empowerment through Integrated Communication**. Further sub-components of the two components i.e Special Outreach Programme (SOP) and infrastructure support for Direct Contact Programme under the scheme have also been rationalized and merged under the name (i) Campaign for Special Occasions and (ii) Monetary support for Bureau of Outreach & Communication (BOC).

From the year 2018-19, all the sub-schemes under Development Communication and Information Dissemination (DCID) viz. People's Empowerment through Integrated Communication (executed by Bureau of Outreach and Communication), Media Outreach Programme and Publicity for Special Events (executed by Press Information Bureau) and Social Media Platform (executed by New Media Cell of the Main Secretariat of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting), have been merged and a single Entry has been made for Scheme Development Communication and Information Dissemination (DCID).

During 2017-18, against the allocation at BE and RE of Rs. 140.20 crore and Rs. 155.62 crore, respectively, the utilisation of funds up to 31.03.2018 is Rs. 146.88 crore.

After the integration of DFP, DAVP and S&DD, the funds have been collectively allocated to BOC during the year 2018-19 under the scheme “Development Communication & Information Dissemination”.

The observations/recommendations of the Standing Committee on Information Technology have been noted. Although, during the current financial year, combined publicity activities and Special Outreach Programmes will be conducted by BOC, full efforts will be made to timely utilize the full funds allocated by organizing SOPs all over the country through Regional Outreach Bureaus (ROBs).

Additional funds would be proposed at RE stage after taking into account the SOPs already organized and for raising levels, awareness, empowering and creating and enabling environment in identified backward and LWE affected districts in the country.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. H-11013/12/2018-Press
dated 01.06.2018)

Broadcasting Sector (other than Prasar Bharati)

Supporting Community Radio Movement in India

(Recommendation Sl. No. 22)

The committee observes that there is a less utilization of funds also in the scheme ‘Supporting Community Radio Movement in India’. During 2016-17, against the allocation of Rs. 4 crore, the utilization remained to the extent of Rs. 1.28 crore. The expenditure likely to be incurred under this Scheme during the current year is Rs. 0.89 crore. The committee are also convinced by the reasons advanced for the shortfall in expenditure like non-holding of National Sammelan and 02 Regional Sammelans for Community Radio due to administrative reasons. It has also been mentioned that Community Radio Awards which used to be distributed during the National Sammelan were not distributed and the funds earmarked for capacity building of community radio stations also could not be utilized, etc. The Committee thus found that the Scheme has not been given the importance it deserves and therefore, recommend that the Ministry should focus to undertake all the activities of this Scheme to realize the targets set for the financial year 2018-19.

The Committee further observed that the mandate of the scheme is to strengthen new and existing CR Stations with resources, capacity and technology so that they could provide access and voice to marginalized communities, to promote growth of CRS, especially in remote and rural areas, so that people living in these areas could have access to a meaningful medium of broadcast and to promote socio-economic and cultural development of communities as CRS is a power medium for social mobilization. They therefore desire that serious attempt should be made to utilize the funds allocated for the scheme. The committee further suggested that the Ministry should also conduct a study with regard to the impact assessment of the scheme to improve its content, monitoring and technological aspects, etc. for better performance of the Community Radios.

Reply of the Government

1. Standing Finance Committee/Revised Cost Estimate (SFC/RCE) of the scheme has been prepared with certain changes. The same is under submission for administrative approval
2. As per revised scheme the maximum grant size for purchase of equipment will be 75 % of the total estimated expenditure. For North-Eastern states the grant size will be 90 % of the total estimated expenditure.
3. Simplification of procedure for release of grants: Now no prior approval for release of grant is required from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The eligible organisations would be required to apply only for release of grant after setting up of Community Radio Station (CRS) and operationalising it for 3 months. Already operational stations may apply for release of grant immediately after purchasing and installation of equipment.
4. In the Financial Year 2018-19, it has been planned to undertake all the activities i.e. conduct 1 National Sammelan, 2 Regional Sammelans, 8 Awareness workshops at various locations and National Community Radio Awards.
5. Capacity building of operational Community Radio stations on various themes.
6. Financial assistance to Community Radio Stations for purchase of equipment.
7. Third party evaluation was conducted by Chrome Data Analytics Limited & Media, Noida, Uttar Pradesh. Main findings of the scheme are as follows:
 - a. Sammelans are the most integral part of the support system and serve as a platform for networking for all the community radios spread nation-wide. Hence it should be continued.
 - b. Awareness workshops be continued to be conducted with specific emphasis on the policies. These policies could comprise assistance in making applications

- for financial grants to buy equipment, and other innovation grants. This could make people more aware of the schemes and hence to attract more applications.
- c. Awareness workshops provide a platform for capacity building and knowledge enhancement, helping in optimization of techniques for operations, hence awareness workshops should be conducted.
 - d. Peer reviews are crucial in getting various Community Radio programmers together and facilitate their interaction helping them avail of mutually beneficial learning exercises. Therefore, more rounds be conducted for the same to incorporate as many radio stations which had not previously taken part in the review process.
 - e. Process for release of grant should be simplified. The subsidy provided should increase from 50% to a full 100%. One of the major issues faced by potential Community Radio operators is that they are unable to bear the financial costs of operating the station despite having the intention of operating a community radio.
 - f. The backend subsidy provided is typically time-consuming as it requires a number of bureaucratic approvals causing financial constraints to the applicants when they seek loans in order to fund the setup. Therefore, we suggest that the subsidy/grant be provided upfront.

(Ministry of Information & Broadcasting's O.M. No. 503/103/2016-CRS dated 31.05.2018)

Mission Digitisation of Cable TV Network

(Recommendation Sl. No. 23)

The Committee learn that a proposal to continue the 12th Plan Scheme “Mission Digitisation” up to 31.03.2020 with an outlay of Rs.12.70 crore to ensure full implementation of Cable TV Digitization is under submission. As stated, the preliminary action has been initiated with regard to the Maintenance of the exclusive website of ‘digitalindiamib’, Maintenance of software of Management Information System (MIS) for seeding data of STBs, developing of the Centralized Monitoring System for collection

of data from individual cable TV subscribers in order to ensure better dispute resolution, grievance redressal of consumers and to bring transparency, developing of App based training modules for Cable TV Operators, deployment/engaging of Team/Agency for collection of data on Cable TV digitization which will report on (i) carriage of analog signals, (ii) carriage of unencrypted signals, (iii) carriage of unauthorized channel and (iv) non-carriage of mandatory channels by cable operators and continuation of Head/Regional Units along with Staffs. The Committee observe that during 2016-17, the Ministry could utilise Rs. 2.26 crore, out of Rs. 3 crore allocated for the scheme due to various court cases filed in High Courts challenging the cutoff date of Phase III of Cable TV Digitization.

The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress with regard to the proposal to continue with the 12th Plan Scheme “Mission Digitisation” up to 31.03.2020, which is stated to be under submission. They further desire that sincere efforts be made to utilize the amount of Rs. 2 crore allocated during 2018-19 for the scheme in to make cable TV digitization in the country a complete success.

Reply of the Government

It is submitted that the proposal to continue the 12th Plan Scheme “Mission Digitisation” up to 31.03.2020 with an outlay of Rs.12.70 crore to ensure full implementation of Cable TV Digitization is still under submission for approval of Competent Authority. Once the continuation of the scheme till 31.3.2020 is

approved, Ministry will release the necessary funds allocated during 2018-19 to BECIL (implementing agency for the Scheme) in order to ensure full implementation of cable TV digitization in the country. However, BECIL is continuing the activities as emphasized in the scheme.

(Ministry of Information & Broadcasting’s OM No. N-45007/6/2018-DAS

dated 31.05.2018)

CHAPTER III

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

Production of films and documentaries in various Indian Languages - Production of Children's Films (CFSI)

(Recommendation Sl. No. 16)

The Committee observe that Children Film Society of India also could not fully utilize the funds allocated to them for the year 2017-18. Out of Rs. 7.90 crore allocated for the scheme, only funds to the extent of Rs. 4.65 crore are likely to be utilized upto 31.03.2018. Funds to the tune of Rs. 1.10 crore were re-appropriated towards the Film Festival. As against the target of 3 feature films and 2 short films during the year, only 2 feature films and 1 short film could be completed besides curtailment of some of the other physical targets. The Committee desire the Ministry to focus on the priorities set at the time of allocation of funds and make concerted efforts to complete the mandated activities during the year. The Committee hope that the Ministry will take note of this as a guiding principle for execution of all their programmes/projects/schemes for which budgetary allocations are made.

Reply of the Government

At this stage, the Executive Council and the General Body of Children's Film Society, India (CFSI) are not in existence. Due to which, no new proposals for production of children's films could be assigned during FY 2017-18. So, the physical targets for the FY 2017-18 could not be achieved. Only carried over film productions were completed during 2017-18 under the Central Sector Scheme 'Production of Children's Films'. Hence, CFSI could only utilize Rs.4.70 crores against the allocated amount of Rs.7.90 crores. CFSI will make all efforts to ensure full utilization of funds subject to approval by Executive Council and achieve all the targets set for the FY 2018-19.

(Ministry of Information & Broadcasting's ID Note No. M- 35020/4/2017DO(FI)
Dated 31.05.2018)

CHAPTER IV

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

(Recommendation Sl. No. 7)

The Committee regret to note the under utilization of funds for various schemes of Doordarshan during 2016-17, as against the allocation of Rs. 221 crore, only Rs. 208.14 crore could be utilised. They also note that during 2017-18, allocations of Rs. 276 crore has been reduced to Rs. 167 crore at RE stage.

The committee disapproves the delays in the execution of certain projects targeted during 2016-17 which have been attributed to the poor participation in tenders and some administrative reasons. Again, drastic reduction of Rs. 109 crore at RE, 2017-18 is on account of under-utilisation of funds in projects viz., digitalization of terrestrial transmitters, providing Earth Station at 11 locations, modernization of Earth Stations at various locations, providing of Earth station at CPC, Delhi, HDTV Studio at Chennai & Kolkata, DTH Expansion, providing of New DSNG terminals and misc. items viz. completion of Amritsar tower etc. This poorly reflects on the lack of planning and performance of Doordarshan as a public broadcaster. Resultantly, the nation has been kept deprived of the telecasting services and Doordarshan is unable to compete with other private players in the field.

The Committee are further perturbed to note that even the reduced outlay of Rs. 167 crore would not be fully utilized during the year and the likely expenditure (as on 31.03.2018) would be to the tune of Rs. 71.35 crore only. The reason cited as introduction of GST, non-participation of vendors in the higher value tenders resulting in revision of the tender document, etc. are hardly convincing and rather reflects on the inefficiency with regard to preparedness of the Prasar Bharati to deal with the upcoming challenges attached to the new reforms in taxation. The committee deplore such casual attitude of Prasar Bharati in this regard and desire that the observation of the Committee should be taken seriously by the Prasar Bharati/Doordarshan in implementation of the Doordarshan projects which are of crucial importance.

Reply of the Government

Capital Plan of Doordarshan:

Prasar Bharati has informed that the expenditure incurred in Financial Year 2017-18 is to the tune of Rs. 86.53 crores out of which Rs. 52.02 crores has been spent for creation of capital Assets including Kisan Channel Capital, Rs. 34.47 Crores for

Kisan Channel Content & Rs. 0.04 crores for Swachhata Action Plan (SAP). The reasons for shortfall in expenditure are given below:

1. Modernization of earth stations at various locations & DSNG terminals (Rs. 47.18 crore)

Advance action had been initiated much before the commencement of financial year 2017-18 to utilize the amount allocated fully during the year and all tenders were floated for the year 2017-18 in 2016-17 itself as the procurement cycle for Doordarshan tenders is generally nine months to one year. Doordarshan was confident not only to achieve the target but also go beyond the budget allocation.

However, with the introduction of GST, it was found that vendors were not participating in the higher value tenders, resulting in repeated extension of tender opening dates and delays.

Realizing that the capital plan utilization will undergo a set back due to GST related issues, Doordarshan took following proactive steps.

- Doordarshan organized an interaction with vendors of leading OEMs to clarify their doubts about GST related issues.
- The Finance Wing of Doordarshan clarified all the doubts and advised the bidders to participate in the bidding process so that there is enough competition.
- Delay also happened because of the modifications that have to be carried out in the tender document to make it GST compliant, in consultation with Prasar Bharati. With several rounds of discussions, the tender documents were finalized by Doordarshan and Prasar Bharati Secretariat and they were uploaded to enable the firms to quote the price bids in compliance with GST.

Moreover, even when the commercial bids were opened, some delay happened at the level of vendors, as they took time to take internal approvals within their firms with respect to the passing of input tax credit benefit to Doordarshan and certifying compliance to anti-profiteering clause under GST Act.

As a result of the above mentioned factors, in spite of best efforts by Doordarshan and Prasar Bharati, delay happened in getting bidders to participate in the bidding.

Incidentally, the Department of Space has allotted new satellite to Doordarshan i.e. GSAT 17 in place of INSAT 4B which necessitated obtaining new NOCC clearance and also obtaining fresh license from WPC Wing of Ministry of Communication, thus contributing more delays.

The projects under which budget could not be utilized due to the above reasons are given below:

- (f) Providing New DSNG terminal at 9 locations.(Rs. 18.27 crore).
- (g) SITC of 400W HPA system in (1+1) redundant mode, 7.3-7.6 Meter uplink Antenna (C-Band) and 3 Phase 2x20 KVA Redundant Parallel ON-Line UPS for Digital Earth Station at DDK Gorakhpur, Dehradun, Srinagar (J&K) and Nagpur.(Rs. 9.16 crore).
- (h) SITC of Compression, IF & RF Chain equipment for Earth Station at 3 locations Patna, Hyderabad & Bengaluru.(Rs. 7.69 crore).
- (i) SITC of Replacement of Compression, IF & RF System for C-Band (8+1) Earth Station at DDK, Delhi. (Rs. 6.26 crore).
- (j) SITC of Compression System, IF & RF System for Earth Station at CPC Delhi.(Rs. 5.80 crore).

2. DTH Receiver sets- 30000 nos. (Rs. 6.00 crore)

NIT had been published and the opening date was 28.2.2018. DD empanelled STB manufacturers raised concern regarding vacant channel slots on DD Free Dish service in the meeting held with DG Doordarshan on 1.2.2018 and again with CEO, PB on 8.2.2018. They confirmed that they are technically ready yet they are not ready for bulk manufacturing and commercial launch. The STB manufacturers stated their apprehension and fear that their investment will be wasteful as the public will not buy MPEG4 DD Free Dish iCAS enabled STBs as the content which is available is already being received through cheaper MPEG 2 set top box. The STB manufacturers also inquired about the timeline for 250 channels and starting of channel auction process. They mentioned that the sale of MPEG 2 FTA set top boxes have also dropped drastically due to vacant channel slots and in the current scenario there is no incentive which can attract viewers to buy iCAS enabled MPEG4 DD Free Dish STBs. In the given circumstances budget could not be utilised. The guarantee sought by the STB manufacturers for their business cannot be provided and they should be willing to take risks and also find alternate applications, users and markets for the STBs.

3. Non Linear Editing Machine (Rs. 3.44 crore)

The expenditure could not be incurred due to repeated extension of tender opening date due to delayed participation of bidders for the items Non Linear Editing machine.

4. SITC of Integrated News Production Facility at News Headquarter Delhi (Rs. 3.82 crore) Due to delay in commissioning of the project by the Firm the balance amount could not be booked.
5. SITC of Multi Camera Mobile Production Facility (Rs. 1.85 crore) Due to non receipt of clearance from National Green Tribunal (NGT) for registration of OB Van, the balance amount could not be booked.
6. Miscellaneous Items & works (Rs. 4.00 crore)

The amount could not be utilized on account of transponder & WPC charges and misc. departmental works viz. strengthening of towers etc. due to delay in structural analysis of towers by expert agencies viz. NITs, SERC etc .

In the financial year 2018-19 the allocation is to the tune of Rs. 141.50 crore including Kisan Capital. The expenditure already committed (ordered but expenditure yet be incurred) against this amount is Rs. 65.30 crore. All out efforts are being made to utilize the allocated budget from the very beginning of the current financial year. It is the constant endeavor of Doordarshan to complete the projects within the specified time frame. Procurement procedures have been further streamlined. Project review meetings are held regularly at Zonal level & HQ level and various activities involved in procurement of capital equipment and execution of works are critically assessed & targets are fixed.

**Comments of the Committee
(Please see Para No. 7 of Chapter-I)**

(Recommendation Sl. No. 10)

The Committee are concerned to note that inordinate delays has occurred in the launch of Aruna Prabha Channel in the North-Eastern Region. As informed, the technical facility for launch of the Aruna Prabha Channel has been set up and planning done for content development as per the need and liking of the young generation and also keeping in mind the public service agenda of the Doordarshan. To address the funding problem, a consolidated EFC proposal amounting to Rs. 3290.23 crore including Rs. 476.75 crore for content funding of Kisan Channel and Arun Prabha Channel has been circulated to concerned Ministries/ Departments on 31.01.2018. The Committee observe that keeping in mind the importance of the Arun Prabha Channel for the interest of the people of the North Eastern States, it is imperative that the implementing agency timely gets the adequate funds. The Committee, therefore, desire that the proposals in this regard should get favourable and an urgent attention of Ministry of Finance. The Committee would like that the matter may be taken up with the Ministry of Finance at an appropriate level with the justification for a need to have a Channel in North-Eastern

region to meet aspirations of local people. The Committee would like to be informed of the progress in the matter.

Reply of the Government

Comments concerning Capital Plan of Doordarshan:

The technical facility for Arun Prabha Channel has already been set up. An amount of Rs. 1.15 crore has been allocated for the part equipment of Arun Prabha Channel in FY2018-19 & is expected to be fully utilized. Besides, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance vide their letter dated 2nd April, 2018, has asked this Ministry to furnish afresh the umbrella EFC Scheme namely "Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development" due to non-submission of timely replies to their queries. In compliance of the direction, a revised consolidated EFC proposal for two years i.e. 2018-19 and 2019-20 including funds for content development of DD Kisan Channel and Anuprabha Channel is under active consideration of Prasar Bharati. Ministry is yet to receive approved proposal from Prasar Bharati. The matter is being pursued with them.

Comments of the Committee (Please see Para No. 10 of Chapter-I)

Revenue Earnings

(Recommendation Sl. No.11 & 12)

The Committee observed that Prasar Bharati has not been able to meet the target set by them in respect of their revenue earnings throughout the 12th Plan Period. It is noted that against the target of Rs. 1815.00 crore, Rs. 1996.00 crore, Rs. 2195.00 crore, Rs.2200.00 crore and Rs. 1504.82 crore for the year 2012-13, 2013- 14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 respectively, the revenue earnings had been to the level of Rs. 1552.90 crore, Rs. 1622.84 crore, Rs. 1537.36 crore, Rs, 1393.41 crore and Rs. 1425.00 crore respectively. Further, the revenue target of Rs. 1488 crore for the year 2017-18 had to be revised to Rs.1388.00 crore due to shortfall of revenues on account of auctioning of DD Free Dish slots and sale of time slots on DD National channel being put on hold. The Committee are distressed to find that the share of revenue through advertisement is showing a continuous decline at 91%, 83%, 83%, 74%, 71% and 70% (likely) during the period from 2012-13 to 2017-18. The Committee do not find it as a satisfactory position for Prasar Bharati. The Committee though appreciate the constraint of Prasar Bharati to maintain a balance between its role as a public broadcaster and a revenue earner, yet the fact remains that the organization has to maintain its commercial viability and therefore the Committee would like Prasar Bharati to strive hard to reverse the

declining trend in its commercial revenue without compromising with the quality of programmes.

Reply of the Government

“As per information received from Prasar Bharati a statement of revenue earning during the 12th Plan is given below:

Year	Target	Achievement (Figure in Crores)			
		Amount Realized in Bank (Including Service Tax)	Service Tax	Net Amt (Revenue Excluding service Tax & Commission)	Gross Amt
2012-13	Rs. 1422.24 Cr. (Gross)	1107.76	123.32	1021.71	1134.16
2013-14	Rs. 2211.94 Cr. (Gross)	1139.92	117.19	1038.19	1140.50
2014-15	Rs. 1164.77 Cr. (Net)	990.48	106.27	909.03	993.68
2015-16	Rs. 1469.54 Cr. (Net)	856.62	102.78	750.47	827.35
2016-17	Rs. 800.00 Cr. (Net)	958.28	129.82	828.47	915.15

As seen from table above there was shortfall in achievement of targets in the 12th Plan due to following reasons:-

Lack of fresh content.

Inability to face competition from Private Channels and declining share of viewership.

Completion of the Manpower Audit and Rationalization of Staff.

Rationalization and expansion of infrastructure alongwith software convergence options.

Finalization of Slot Sale policy and roll out.

Finalization of DD-Free Dish policy and moving to a revenue share model.

With the introduction of GST, it was found that vendors were not participating in the higher value tenders, resulting in repeated extension of tender opening dates and delays.

Despite of above constraints, revenue achievement of DD has increased against the Target for the Year 2017-18. In addition to this, all possible efforts are being made by the officers and Marketing Executives of DD to generate more and more revenue from the government Ministries/Departments. Revenue can be increased further by adding fresh content to DD Channels and flexible rate card for telecast of spots.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 13 and 14 of Chapter I)

(Recommendation Sl. No.12)

The Committee are informed that at present, repeat content and movies are being shown on DD National Channel and other regional channels. In view of stressed financial position of Prasar Bharati, DD is not able to infuse new content on its channels which has resulted in attrition of commercial advertisers and a decline in commercial revenue. The Committee are of the considered view that the problem of inadequacy of funds could be addressed by Prasar Bharati by exploring all possible avenues to enhance its earnings. As informed, several measures have been initiated by the Ministry/Prasar Bharati in this regard to enhance its revenue receipts. These measures include strengthening of sales and marketing teams of AIR and Doordarshan, induction of sales/marketing professionals, offering of turn-key solutions to various Ministries and Government Departments for dissemination of information about their various social development schemes, sharing of infrastructure such as towers, studios, auditoria etc., exploring the possibility of collaborating with companies having CSR Funds in order to contribute to the overall revenue generation of Prasar Bharati, devising a new scheme for content acquisition based on the best practices followed by Public Broadcasters

around the globe, restructuring of Doordarshan to separate its creative, sourcing, and Marketing/Sales functions from its Operational/Administrative functions, setting up of a task force for developing a new business model for DD Free Dish based on a revenue sharing basis with interested partners, etc. The committee while appreciating the various steps being taken by the Department as above, are of the considered view that there is also a need to develop Doordarshan programmes having rich contents in regional languages for better and effective communication to people located in remote areas of the country. The Committee hope that all these measures would facilitate enhanced revenue earnings for Prasar Bharati in the coming years.

Reply of the Government

Comments of Doordarshan:

A statement of revenue earning from 2012-13 is given below:

Year	Target	Achievement (Figure in Crores)			
		Amount Realized in Bank (Including Service Tax)	Service Tax	Net Amt (Revenue Excluding service Tax & Commission)	Gross Amount
2012-13	Rs. 1422.24 Cr. (Gross)	1107.76	123.32	1021.71	1134.16
2013-14	Rs. 2211.94 Cr. (Gross)	1139.92	117.19	1038.19	1140.50
2014-15	Rs. 1164.77 Cr. (Net)	990.48	106.27	909.03	993.68
2015-16	Rs. 1469.54 Cr. (Net)	856.62	102.78	750.47	827.35
2016-17	Rs. 800.00 Cr. (Net)	958.28	129.82	828.47	915.15
2017-18	Rs.810.06 Cr. (Net)	1027.69	143.26	884.43	977.14

As seen from table above there was shortfall in achievement of targets in early stage of 12th Plan due to following reasons:-

1. Lack of fresh content.
2. Increased competition from Private Channels and declining share of viewership.
3. Completion of Manpower Audit and Rationalization of staff.
4. Rationalization and expansion of Infrastructure along with software convergence options.
5. Finalization of Slot Sale Policy and roll out.
6. Finalization of DD-Free Dish Policy and moving to a revenue share model.
7. With the introduction of GST, it was found that vendors were not participating in the higher value tenders, resulting in repeated extension of tender opening dates and delays.

Despite above constraints, revenue achievement of Doordarshan has increased against the Target for the Years 2016-17 & 2017-18. In addition to this, all possible efforts are being made by the officers and Marketing Executives of DD to generate more and more revenue from the government Ministries/Departments. Revenue can be increased further by adding fresh content to DD Channels and flexible rate card for telecast of spots.

Comments of the Committee
(Please see Para No.15, 16 and 17 of Chapter-I)

Anti- Piracy Initiatives

(Recommendation Sl. No.13)

The Committee are very concerned to note that as per FICCI- KPMG Report of 2017, there is an annual loss of about Rs. 180 billion accompanied by loss of about 6000 jobs due to film piracy. They are further disturbed to learn that though the Ministry of I&B had introduced a Plan Scheme for Anti-Piracy initiatives during the 12th plan period but unfortunately, nothing concrete has been done in this regard. The approved Scheme which proposes to have an effective legal mechanism in place to combat the piracy issue and also to create awareness among consumers about the serious effects of piracy on the economy has also remained on papers only. The lack of seriousness on the part of the Ministry is reflected from the fact and the funds of Rs. 2 crore allocated during the 12th Plan Period and Rs. 1 lakh allocated for the year 2017-18 for Anti-Piracy Initiatives have remained mainly un-utilised.

The Committee are given to understand that various constraints/difficulties are being faced by the Ministry in their efforts to fulfill the mandate of the scheme viz. requirement to coordinate with various Ministries/ Department to combat the problem of anti-piracy, amending Section 69 A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 to provide for executive action for site blocking in relation to copyright infringement, etc. The Committee are of the considered opinion that Piracy not only causes huge monetary loss to the film Industry but also hampers overall growth of the film industry. The Committee would therefore like the Ministry to take up the matter with the concerned authorities at the right earnest to take suitable measures in order to effectively address the problem of piracy of films at the earliest. The Committee strongly feel that collective, structured, scientific and multi-pronged strategy only can deal effectively the piracy issue and, therefore, it is imperative that immediate steps are taken to implement the approved scheme of the Ministry and also to bring appropriate legislation, if required. The Committee would like to be informed of the precise action taken in this direction.

Reply of the Government

The Plan Scheme for Anti Piracy initiatives was approved during 11th Plan Period as a separate scheme. However, during 11th Plan, the Scheme could not properly take off as it involves the role of other stakeholder Ministry's namely Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion and Department of Telecommunications (Ministry of Communications and IT).

During the fresh appraisal & approval of the Anti- Piracy Plan Scheme, it was decided by the Ministry to make it a component of the other existing Plan Scheme namely Development, Communication and Dissemination (DCD) of Filmic Content since the budgetary allocation of the Plan Scheme was only Rs. 2 crore for 11th Plan Period. Accordingly the DCD Scheme got approved on 07.02.2018, with anti piracy initiative as separate component.

Comments of the Committee
(Please see Para No. 20 and 21 of Chapter-I)

Development Communication & Information Dissemination(DCID)

(Recommendation Sl. No.21)

The Committee observe that out of the allocation of Rs.80 lakh for the sub-scheme, 'Media Outreach Programme and Publicity for Special Events(PIB) for NER during the year 2017-18, only Rs. 24 lakh is likely to be spent up to 31 March, 2018. As the scheme has the mandate to disseminate information to the masses on government plans, policies, programme initiatives and achievements and reach out to the regional media which is in more direct contact with the target population, it is important that the funds allocated for NER are optimally utilised. The Committee therefore desire that corrective measures should be taken by the Ministry without any further delay.

Reply of the Government

Out of the allocation of Rs. 80.00 lakh for NER, in the sub-scheme “Media Outreach Prgramme & Publicity for Special Events” during the year 2017-18, only an amount of Rs. 27.49 lakh could be spent by Press Information Bureau . Due to shortage of staff in N.E. Region, both at Regional Office and its Branch Offices, 1 Regional Editors’ Conference,1 Press Tour and few Vartalaps could not be organized / conducted by them during the year resulting into a considerable saving against the ear-marked fund allocation for N.E.R.

Comments of the Committee (Please see Para No. 24 of Chapter-I)

CHAPTER V

**OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE
GOVERNMENT ARE INTERIM IN NATURE**

-NIL-

**New Delhi;
03 August, 2018
12 Shravana,1940 (Saka)**

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

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(2017-18)**

MINUTES OF THE TWENTIETH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee sat on Friday, 3 August, 2018 from 1600 hours to 1620 hours in Committee Room 'B', Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Anurag Singh Thakur– Chairperson

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Lal Krishna Advani
3. Shri Prasun Banerjee
4. Dr. Sunil Baliram Gaikwad
5. Dr. Anupam Hazra
6. Dr. J. Jayawardhan
7. Shri P. Karunakaran
8. Shri Virender Kashyap
9. Dr. Bharatiben D. Shyal

Rajya Sabha

10. Shri K.G. Kenye
11. Smt. Kahkashan Perween
12. Dr. K.V.P. Ramachandra Rao
13. Dr. Vinay P. Sahasrabuddhe

Secretariat

1. Shri R.C. Tiwari - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Y.M. Kandpal - Director
3. Dr. Sagarika Dash - Additional Director
4. Smt. Geeta Parmar - Deputy Secretary
5. Shri Shangreiso Zimik - Under Secretary

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee convened to consider and adopt two Draft Reports on 'Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their forty-fifth andxxxxx....Reports on Demands for Grants (2018-19)' relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting andxxxxx.... respectively and one original Report onxxxxx.....

3. The Committee, then, took up for consideration the following draft Reports and adopted the same without any modification.

(i)xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....

(ii) Fifty-first Report on 'Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in the 45th Report on Demands for Grants (2018-19) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting ; and

(iii)xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....

4. The Committee, then, authorized the Chairperson to finalize the draft Report atxxxxx..... and present all the Reports in both the Houses of Parliament.

The Committee, then, adjourned.

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

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

[Vide Paragraph No. 5 of Introduction]

(i)	Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government Rec. Sl. Nos.:- 1, 2, 3,4,5,6, 8, 9, 14 , 15, 17, 18, 19,20,22 and 23	Total Percentage	16 69.56
(ii)	Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government Rec. Sl. No.: 16	Total Percentage	1 4.35
(iii)	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and require reiteration Rec. Sl. Nos.:- 7,10,11, 12, 13 and 12	Total Percentage	Total - 06 26.09
(iv)	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which the replies of the Government are of interim in nature Rec. Sl. Nos.:- Nil	Total Percentage	Nil 0.00