



**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(2019-20)**

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2020-21)**

EIGHTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

March, 2020/ Phalguna, 1941 (Saka)

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Presented to Lok Sabha on 13.03.2020

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 13.03.2020



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

March, 2020/ Phalguna, 1941 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(2019-20)**

Dr. Shashi Tharoor - Chairperson

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2. Smt. Locket Chatterjee
3. Shri Karti P. Chidambaram
4. Shri Sunny Deol
5. Dr. Nishikant Dubey
6. Shri Vijay Kumar Dubey
7. Choudhary Mehboob Ali Kaiser
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15. Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore
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18. Shri Sanjay Seth
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20. Dr. T. Sumathy (A) Thamizhachi Thangapandian
21. Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma

Rajya Sabha

22. Dr. Anil Agrawal
23. Dr. Subhash Chandra
24. Shri Y. S. Chowdary
25. Shri Suresh Gopi
26. Shri Md. Nadimul Haque
27. Shri Syed Nasir Hussain
28. Dr. Narendra Jadhav
29. Shri D. Kupendra Reddy
30. Shri Ronald Sapa Tlau
31. Shri Beni Prasad Verma

Secretariat

- | | | | |
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| 2. | Shri Y.M. Kandpal | - | Director |
| 3. | Smt. Geeta Parmar | - | Additional Director |
| 4. | Smt. Rinky Singh | - | Assistant Executive Officer |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Information Technology (2019-20), having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Eighth Report on Demands for Grants (2020-21) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

2. The Standing Committee on Information Technology (2019-20) was constituted on 13 September, 2019. One of the functions of the Standing Committee, as laid down in Rule 331E of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, is to consider the Demands for Grants of the Ministry concerned and make a Report on the same to the Houses.

3. The Committee considered the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for the year 2020-21 which were laid on the Table of the House on 10 February, 2020. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on 25 February, 2020.

4. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 11 March, 2020.

5. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for appearing before the Committee and furnishing the information that the Committee desired in connection with the examination of the Demands for Grants.

6. The Committee would also like to place on record their appreciation for the assistance rendered to them by the officials of the Lok Sabha Secretariat attached to the Committee.

7. For facility of reference and convenience, Observations/Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in Part-II of the Report.

New Delhi;
11 March , 2020
21 Phalgun, 1941(Saka)

DR. SHASHI THAROOR,
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Information Technology.

REPORT

PART-I

Introductory

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, through its various media units, acts as a window for communicating programmes and policies of the Government to the people. The Ministry is also a nodal agency for policy matters related to Media & Entertainment sector. It acts as a catalyst for creating a conducive environment for Broadcasting and Film sector in the country, simultaneously helping strengthen the role of a Public Broadcaster. The Ministry strives to adapt itself to the changing technological paradigm in order to foster the growth of Media and Entertainment industry. This is achieved by bringing timely policy changes to meet both the current as well as future requirements.

II. Demands for Grants for 2020-21

2. The Ministry's budget is spread across three sectors, viz, Film Sector, Information Sector and Broadcasting Sector (including Prasar Bharati). Demand No. 60 covers the expenditure of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and its attached/sub-ordinate offices and autonomous/grantee bodies, including Prasar Bharati. Expenditure of the Ministry is categorized under following categories:

- (A) Establishment Expenditure of the Centre** (It includes establishment expenditure of Main Secretariat and attached/sub-ordinate offices of the Ministry)
- (B) Central Sector Schemes;** and
- (C) Other Central Expenditure,** including those on Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and Autonomous Bodies (It includes Grants-in-Aid to six Autonomous Bodies of this Ministry, viz., Children's Film Society, India (CFSI); Film and Television Institute

of India (FTII); Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI); Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC); Press Council of India (PCI) and Prasar Bharati.

3. The Committee have been informed that the Ministry undertook a rationalization of its Central Sector Schemes effective from Financial Year 2020-21, as per the direction of Ministry of Finance, in accordance with Standard Operating Procedure circulated by them. The rationalisation was aimed to consolidate fragmented schemes to avoid thin spread of resources for optimal output and outcome. The consolidation of resources will provide flexibility in use, leading to better utilization of funds benefiting each sector. The schemes having purely administrative and regular activities have been moved to the category of "Establishment Expenditure" while schemes meant for running the establishment activity of autonomous bodies have been shifted to "Other Central Expenditure". Out of 14 schemes in 2019-20, only 5 schemes remain in FY 2020-21 under Central Sector Schemes. The components of 5 schemes have been shifted to 'Establishment Expenditure', while components of 4 schemes got shifted to 'Other Central Expenditure'. As a result, there is an increase in allocation under Establishment Expenditure and Other Central Expenditure and corresponding decrease in Central Sector Schemes, while the Gross allocation for Ministry's budget grant remain same at Rs. 4375.21 crore during 2020-21 as it was in the year 2019-20.

4. The Committee have further observed that after the 12th Five Year Plan, the Ministry of Finance has ordered evaluation of schemes for their continuation beyond 12th Plan and to make them co-terminus with Finance Commission Cycle i.e. 2020. The last evaluation of CSS of the Ministry was done by M/s CHROME Ltd. in 2017. Fresh evaluation of all the CSS of the Ministry has been initiated by M/s KPMG and will be completed very soon. Necessary action will be taken by the Ministry on the Report.

5. In this regard, it was added that the Ministry of Finance has mandated Evaluation of schemes for their continuation beyond 2019-20 and to make them co-terminus with Finance Commission Cycle i.e. 2020. NITI Aayog and Department of Expenditure; M/o Finance provided the broad framework for undertaking the evaluations of all Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Central Sector Schemes under implementation by Ministry/Department. The last evaluation of CSS of the Ministry was done by M/s CHROME Ltd. in 2017. Fresh evaluation of all the CSS of the Ministry has been initiated by M/s KPMG and will be completed soon. Necessary action will be taken by the Ministry on the Report.

6. The Budgetary allocations to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, for the year 2020-21, under different categories, are as under:

Rs. in crore

S. No.	Component/Sector	Scheme	BE 2019-20	RE 2019-20	BE 2020-21
1.	Establishment Expenditure		495.45	460.64	554.80
2.	Central Sector Scheme		900.00	625.39	740.00
	(i) Information Sector	(i) Development Communication & Information Dissemination (DCID)			220.00
	(ii) Film Sector	(ii) Development Communication			115.50

		& Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC)			
	(iii) Broadcasting Sector	(iii) Champion Service Sector			30.00
		(iv) Broadcasting Infrastructure Development (Prasar Bharati)			370.00
		(v) Supporting Community Radio			4.50
3.	Other Central Expenditure (Autonomous Bodies)		2,979.76	2978.73	3080.41
	Grand Total		4375.21		4375.21

7. It may be seen from the above that the Budget Estimates under Establishment Expenditure for 2020-21 is Rs. 554.80 crore against the BE 2019-20 of 495.45. The increased allocation under this category is in part due to rationalization of Central Sector Schemes having purely administrative objectives being moved to Establishment Expenditure.

8. Further, for Central Sector Schemes, Budget Estimates 2020-21 is Rs. 740.00 crore which is an increase of Rs. 114.61 over RE 2019-20 of Rs. 625.39 crore, however, it is Rs. 160 Crore less than BE, 2019-20 of Rs. 900 crore.

9. The Committee wanted to know the reasons for a drastic reduction of funds at RE, 2019-20. In reply, it has been stated that the RE 2019-20 of the Ministry might be finalized on the basis of the expenditure incurred by the Ministry upto September, 2019. Upto 30.09.2019 Ministry had incurred only 31.03% of the allocated RE. However, upto 29.02.2020 Ministry has spent 83.71% of allocated resources and it is expected that Ministry will fully utilize its allocated funds, for Financial Year 2019-20, upto March, 2020.

10. Besides, allocation under other Central Sector Expenditure, Budget Estimates 2020-21 is Rs. 3080.41 crore which is an increase of 101.68 crore over Revised Estimates 2019-20 of Rs. 2978.73 crore.

11. It has been informed that the Ministry proposed an allocation (post rationalisation) of Rs. 817.04 crore to execute their projects/schemes under Film Sector, Information sector and Broadcasting Sector (including Prasar Bharati) for the year 2020-21, however, Ministry of Finance has approved Rs. 740 crore only.

12. When asked whether the funds of Rs. 740.00 crore would be sufficient for execution of the Central Sector Schemes during the year 2020-21, it has been stated the allocated funds is likely to be sufficient. However, in case of any additional requirement, Ministry will request for funds at Revised Estimates stage.

13. The Committee further asked, how would the reduced allocation affect the performance of the Ministry during 2020-21. The Ministry in their reply has stated that the reduced allocation is not likely to affect the performance of the Ministry as depending upon expenditure there is

recourse to seek additional funds from Ministry of Finance at the stage of Supplementary Grants or the Revised Estimates (RE) stage.

14. The major thrust areas of the Ministry of I & B under its various sectors viz. Information Sector, Film Sector and Broadcasting Sector, during 2020-21 are as follows:

Information Sector

- **Paradigm shift in Communication policy**
 - Shift from Ministry wise approach to Theme wise approach
- **Integrated Media Plan**
 - Broad- basing of Communication through Print media, TV/Radio and Social Media Platforms
- **Increase use of Social Media**
 - Increase in use of Social Media for effective communication of programmes
- **Feedback mechanism from Media /Citizens**
 - Integrated Dashboard for analysis of Reports from all over the country
 - Scheme-wise feedback through Social media
- **Automation of office of Registrar of News Paper in India**

Film Sector

- **Champion Services Sector Scheme -Incentives for Film Shooting in India**
 - Financial Incentives for foreign film makers to shoot in India
 - Financial Incentives for co-production of Film with other countries
 - Development of state of art theatres in tier-II and tier-III Cities
- **Single window for ease of shooting Films**
 - Creation of single window in States for easy permission of shooting of Film
- **Global Media & Entertainment Summit**
 - Organize Media and Entertainment Summit in 2020-21

- **Organising Film festivals abroad in close association with Indian Missions**
- **New Film Institute at Itanagar, Arunachal : Completion of construction work**
- **Digitisation of Filmic content through NFHM**

Broadcasting Sector

- **FM Expansion**
 - Increasing FM coverage across the country with special focus in LWE and border areas
- **DTH Expansion –**
 - Increasing reach of Doordarshan channels in strategic locations like J&K region while increasing channel capacity.
- **Digital Growth –**
 - Increasing digital presence of Prasar Bharati to ensure its availability on all mediums. Curating and digitizing the archival footages from pre-independence to contemporary content of both cultural and national importance and making it available for public
- **Automation & Modernization-**
 - Automating broadcast facilities and modernization of technical facilities along with use of state of the art I.T. systems for improvement in quality and for enhancing the monetization opportunities.

DD&AIR : Content creation with focus on J&K, North East, LWE and aspirational district

- All DD regional channels to be made 24x7
- Encourage Setting up of Community Radio Stations in aspirational districts
- Initiate migration of TV channels to Indian Satellite
- Projecting India abroad
 - Audio-Visual content to be produced on Indian success stories to show it abroad

III Performance under Central Sector Schemes during the last three years

15. The outlay (GBS) earmarked and percentage achievement of targets under the schemes/projects during the years 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 are as under:

Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure	% w.r.t. RE
2017-18	840.00	597.77	501.42	83.88
2018-19	735.05	712.66	656.78	92.16
2019-20	900.00	625.39	479.50	76.67
Up to 31 January, 2020				

16. During the year 2017-18, against the reduced RE allocation of Rs. 597.77 crore, Ministry spent Rs. 501.42 crore (83.88% of RE) due to following, as reported by the implementing division:

- (i) It was decided that programmes for DD Kisan were to be made in house instead of commissioning of programs through SFC mode.
- (ii) Many of the travelogues based programmes could not be produced and the Reality shows were deferred to next Financial Year.
- (iii) Reality show "Mahila Kisan Awards" could not be finalized due to logistic reasons, resulting in savings.
- (iv) Further, DD Kendras of Prasar Bharati including North East Kendras could not utilize the allocated amount for production of programs for DD Kisan Channel because of shortage of staff and also due to bad climatic and road conditions.

- (v) There was under-utilization of funds in the Films Sector as part of expenditure for organizing International Film Festival of India was met from sponsorship. In addition, there was lower expenditure than anticipated in organization of festivals in foreign countries with the assistance of Ministry of External Affairs.
- (vi) Under setting up of National Museum of Indian Cinema (NMIC) the Innovation committee constituted for the purpose suggested changes in NMIC for which no further payment could be made, resulting in savings.

17. During the year 2018-19, against the reduced RE allocation of Rs. 712.66 crore Ministry spent Rs.656.78 crore (92.16% of RE) due to following factors, as reported by the implementing division:-

- (i) Under the scheme "Grants to Prasar Bharati for creation of Capital Assets, procurement process of Digital Terrestrial TV(DTT), setting up of HDTV Studios, upgradation of DTH Platforms were delayed.
- (ii) Entire scheme of National Films Heritage Mission was under review and tender process was put on hold until the review. Moreover, due to pending approval of SFC/EFC proposal & restriction of 15% expenditure in the last month of the financial year, the entire provision of RE could not be utilized.

18. It may be seen from the above that against BE 2019-20 of Rs. 900.00 crore, Ministry has been allocated Rs. 625.39 crore in RE 2019-20 by Ministry of Finance. The Ministry had requested for higher allocation at RE stage, however, the projections were not accepted by Ministry of Finance. No reasons have been given by M/o Finance for the reduction, though it is stated to be generally related to the pace of expenditure.

19. It has been stated that 76.67 % of the allocated funds has already been utilized. As two months left for 2019-20, it is expected that the

expenditure will be closed to Revised Estimates. As regards physical achievements, the Ministry is working towards achieving physical targets set in 2019-20.

20. It has been added that during the year 2019-20, it is expected that Ministry would be able to utilize earmarked resources.

21. During evidence, when the Committee desired to know the reasons for drastic reduction of funds of Rs. 900 allocated at BE, 2019-20 to Rs.625.39 crore at RE stage, a representative of the Ministry of I & B clarified as under:

" Sir, essentially the Ministry had stopped funding them for making of content. From 2019-20, we decided that without the content the channels are not going to grow and so the content funding was introduced. Therefore, the provisioning was done for content funding. Their normal allocation used to be about Rs. 250 odd crores, we provided about Rs. 200 crore for content funding for Prasar Bharati, largely for Doordarshan and some amount for All India Radio. Unfortunately, due to the process by which the Prasar Bharati commissions the content has taken a lot of time to unravel and, therefore, they have not been able to spent the money optimally. This year again, going forward, we have provided a higher allocation. So, your original question as to why, in spite of our spending being so low, is it that the budget around Rs. 900 crore is valid. This is primarily because of that. If you look at the scheme distribution, almost 50 per cent of the funds go to only Prasar Bharati."

IV Broadcasting Sector including Prasar Bharati(DD&AIR)

22. The details with regard to the allocation of funds vis-à-vis utilization during the last three years in respect of Prasar Bharati is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	BE			RE			Actual Expenditure		
	AIR	DD	Total	AIR	DD	Total	AIR	DD	Total
2017	154.	276	430.	115	166	282.	115	86.53	201.57

-18	00	.00	00	.04	.96	00	.04		
2018	125.	190	315.	120	206	326.	108	114.53	222.58
-19	00	.70	70	.02	.72	74	.05		
2019	192.	280	473.	105	211	317.	72.	77.75*	149.93*
-20	44	.56	00	.78	.58	36**	18*		

* Expenditure details for 2019-20 are up to December, 2019.

** inclusive Rs. 81.96 crore unspent balance for previous years.

(i) Doordarshan

23. On being asked about the reasons of shortfall in achievement of the targets in Doordarshan during 2017-18 and 2018-19, the areas of the shortfall during 2017-18 are given as under:

- (i) Modernization, Augmentation and replacement of Satellite Broadcast equipment which included augmentation/replacement of earth stations at various locations & DSNG terminals and 30,000 DTH Receive sets.
- (ii) Modernization and Digitization of Studios which included procurement of Non Linear Editing Machines, SITC of Integrated News Production Facility at News Headquarter Delhi, SITC of Multi Camera Mobile Production Facility and other miscellaneous items. The scheme also included SITC of Studio at Chennai & Kolkata
- (iii) Expansion of DTH
- (iv) Modernization (including Digitization), Augmentation & Replacement of Transmitters which included Tower at Amritsar

24. Further, the reasons for shortfall of expenditure during 2018-19, are given as under:

DD-Capital: For the project Single Channel Automation with Video Server Storage etc., it took some time in extensively re-visiting the technical specifications keeping in view the recent technological developments like change in hardware design architecture from an OEM specific to generic IT hardware for cost effective solution and simultaneously minimizing the maintenance cost.

- i. The Earth Station projects given below got delayed on account of tender opening date's extension nine times, fourteen times and fourteen times respectively due to non-

receipt of sufficient bids/ bidders' queries/ clarification/ amendment etc.

(a) SITC of Up gradation of earth station at DDK Raipur & Ranchi.

(b) SITC of Up gradation of earth station at DDK Mumbai

(c) SITC of compression system, monitoring system for Earth station at Gorakhpur, Dehradun and Srinagar

- ii. Firms delayed the supply of equipment for the projects given below. For DTH Receive Units, initially tender opening date was extended due to non-participation of bidders. Under the Earth Station projects, equipment's installation & testing could not be completed by 31st March, 2019. Penalty has been imposed on the Firms for delay.

(a) DTH Receive units- 30000 nos.

(b) SITC of replacement of compression, IF & RF system for C-Band Earth Station at DDK Delhi.

(c) SITC of replacement of compression, IF & RF system for C-band Earth station at CPC, Delhi.

DD-Kisan

- i. As the recordings for some programmes continued till the end of March, 2019 some payment could not be made.
- ii. Funds allocated to all the states for producing fiction/ non-fiction programmes, Mahila Kisan Awards, Profile Films and Travelogue Series Season-2 could not be utilized as some of the programmes could not be produced.
- iii. There was a dispute in the payment of the royalty for repeat telecast of Hindi Feature Films. A committee was constituted to finalize the issue. The committee submitted its report only towards the end of FY and therefore, the bills could not be processed for payment.
- iv. Fresh SFC programmes could not be scheduled for telecast. An ad-hoc 10% reduction for 18 SFC programmes was withheld till the finalisation of benchmark TRP as per agreement though the provision for same was kept in the budget.
- v. Travelogue Season-2 of Yeh Hai Mera India could not be produced by some of the Kendras as the available resources had to be diverted for time-bound Mahila Kisan Award programme.
- vi. Provision was made in Advertisement & Publicity of Mahila Kisan Award. As the program were telecast till the end of the

year, all the bills were not submitted in time by the Agency, hence, complete payment could not be made.

DD-Arunprabha

Launch of DD-Arunprabha Channel happened during the last quarter of FY 2018-19. As the Funds were released by the Ministry in the Month of March' 2019 only, the commissioning process for creation of content could be started only in March. Apart from this, due to the heavy rush on PFMS portal only Rs. 15.06 crore could be utilized in FY 2018-19.

25. It has simultaneously been informed to the Committee that Doordarshan is likely to utilize the funds allocated at RE, 2019-20 upto March, 2020 (Rs. 96 crore for creation of Capital assets and Rs.115.52 crore for content generation).

26. It has been informed that 30,000 DD Free Dish Set Top Boxes were recently provided to Jammu and Kashmir for distribution in border areas, thus enabling people to access a bouquet of channels free of cost on DD Free Dish. In this regard, the Committee asked about the policy adopted by the Ministry for distribution of Free Dish STBs. In reply, it has been informed that DD Free Dish Set Top Boxes are distributed in consultation with MHA keeping in view the strategic locations, particularly LWE and border areas.

(ii) All India Radio(AIR)

27. Asked about the reasons for the shortfall that led to under-utilization of funds in respect of AIR during 2018-19 and 2019-20 are given as under:

- **Modernization and Digitalization of Studios/ New Studios:** SITC (Supply Installation Testing & Commissioning) of Digital Audio Consoles at 29 places had to be retendered due to a single bid response.

- **FM Expansion/ Replacement:**

(i) Procurement of 100 nos. of 100 W FM transmitters had to be retendered due to process issues. Post retendering there was a delay in vendors' readiness to demonstrate the equipment. Now all Demonstrations have been completed & Price Bid is being opened.

(ii) Orders of DSETC (Design Supply Execution Testing & Commissioning) for 100 M towers which were earlier delayed due to legal issues are currently underway.

28. It has been informed that AIR is likely to utilise Rs. 105.78 crore allocated at RE, 2019-20 (upto March 2020) (Rs. 104.24 crore made to it in RE 2019-20 for creation of capital assets and Rs. 1.50 crore for Content Development).

29. As regards the data for the FM transmitters towers which have been sanctioned but have not been installed or are not functional along with the reasons for the same, the details are given as under:

Sl. No.	Place	State	Powe of FM Tr.	Reason
All India Radio				
1.	ANINI	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	1 KW	Delay in acquisition of site
2.	CHANGLANG	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	1 KW	Delay in acquisition of site and construction of building
3.	KHONSA	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	1 KW	Delay in acquisition of site and construction of building
4.	NAMSAI	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	1 KW	Delay in acquisition of site and construction of building
5.	TAMENGLANG	MANIPUR	1 KW	Delay in acquisition of site and construction of building
6.	CHAMPHAI	MIZORAM	1 KW	Delay in acquisition of site and construction of building
7.	KOLASIB	MIZORAM	1 KW	Delay in acquisition of site and construction of building
8.	ZUNHEBOTO	NAGALAND	1 KW	Delay in acquisition of site

				and construction of building
9.	ALMORA	UTTARAKHAND	1 KW	Delay in acquisition of site and construction of building and delay in environmental clearance.
10.	SSB CENTRE , CHAMPAWAT	UTTARAKHAND	1 KW	Delay in acquisition of site and construction of building.
11.	SSB CENTRE, BATHNAHA	BIHAR	10 KW	Delay in acquisition of site and construction of building.
12.	GREEN RIDGE	JAMMU KASHMIR	& 10 KW	Matter taken up with Min. of I&B/Min. of Defence to provide logistic support
13.	HIMBOTINGLA	JAMMU KASHMIR	& 10 KW	Matter taken up with Min. of I&B/Min. of Defence to provide logistic support
14.	SSB CENTRE, GADANIYA (PALIA)	UTTAR PRADESH	10 KW	Delay in acquisition of site and construction of building.
15.	SSB CENTRE, NANPARA	UTTAR PRADESH	10 KW	Delay in acquisition of site and construction of building.
16.	SULTANPUR	UTTAR PRADESH	10 KW	Delay in acquisition of site and construction of building.
17.	RAJAMUNDRY	ANDHRA PRADESH	10 KW	Approved in 2 nd EC on 30.04.2019. Department has initiated implementation of project
18.	KOKRAJHAR	ASSAM	10 KW	Approved in 2 nd EC on 30.04.2019. Department has initiated implementation of

				project
19.	MUZZAFARPUR	BIHAR	10 kW	Delay in retendering of channel combiner. Delay in acquisition of site and construction of building.
20.	SSB CENTRE, NARKATIAGANJ	BIHAR	10 KW	Delay in acquisition of site and construction of building.
21.	SSB CENTRE, SITAMARHI	BIHAR	10 KW	Delay in acquisition of site and construction of building.
22.	DAHOD	GUJARAT	10 KW	Approved in 3 rd EC on 17.09.2019. Department has initiated implementation of project
23.	GUREJ	J&K	10 KW	Approved in 4 th EC on 05.02.2020. Department has initiated implementation of project
24.	KUPWADA	J&K	10 KW	Approved in 4 th EC on 05.02.2020. Department has initiated implementation of project
25.	RATLAM	MADHYA PRADESH	10 KW	Delay in acquisition of site and construction of building.
26.	RAMESHWARAM	TAMILNADU	10 KW	Approved in 3 rd EC on 17.09.2019. Department has initiated implementation of project
27.	ETAWAH	UTTAR PRADESH	10 KW	Delay in acquisition of site and construction of building.
28.	RAMPUR	UTTAR PRADESH	10 KW	Approved in 3 rd EC

				on 17.09.2019. Department has initiated implementation of project
29.	SSB CENTRE, MAHARAJGANJ	UTTAR PRADESH	10 KW	Delay in acquisition of site and construction of building.
30.	HALDWANI	UTTARAKHAND	10 KW	Delay in acquisition of site and construction of building.
31.	JASPUR	UTTRAKHAND	10 KW	Approved in 3 rd EC on 17.09.2019. Department has initiated implementation of project
32.	COOCH BEHAR	WEST BENGAL	10 KW	Tower fallen. Re-erection is under arbitration.
33.	ALMORA	UTTARAKHAND	5 KW	Delay in acquisition of site and construction of building and delay in environmental clearance.

30. The Committee wanted to know the Ministry's plan to increase FM coverage across the country with special focus in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) and border areas. In reply, it has been stated that the main criteria for allocation of FM transmitters are locations in border areas, LWE areas and aspirational districts. In respect of LWE and border areas, coverage across the country is decided in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs keeping in mind security/strategic issues.

31. It has been stated that Prasar Bharati has been continuously trying to increase and strengthen its media presence on various social media platforms. One of the measures taken in this regard is stated to that Prasar Bharati has re-developed and deployed its Corporate Website a new, vibrant and fully responsive site. Content of All India Radio and

Doordarshan was integrated in the website. The Corporate Website now has live TV, live radio, videos, news podcasts, radio magazines, etc.

32. Further, Prasar Bharati has stated to have taken the following steps to increase digital presence:

- All DD Channels and News Units of DD have a dedicated YouTube channel where content is being uploaded daily and important news and live coverages are being live streamed
- All major services and stations of AIR now have a dedicated live stream on Mobile Apps apart from YouTube channels
- All DD & AIR units including news have dedicated social media handles to further publicize the content being made available digitally
- Prasar Bharati has created the NewsOnAir App as its global digital platform available on both Android and iOS Platforms where all Radio and TV content can be accessed digitally
- Prasar Bharati Archives YouTube channel has been dedicated to making public digitized archives of high public interest including several rare historical footages
- Further to boost digital presence especially among International Audiences, the NewsOnAir App has been enabled to support multiple Indian and Foreign Languages
- To ensure sustained growth digitally a dedicated team has been created under the umbrella of PBNS & Digital so that resources are shared, best practices are exchanged and skills/competencies are upgraded in line with latest trends.

33. The Committee asked about the roadmap for digitizing the archival footages from pre-independence to contemporary content of both cultural and national importance and making it available for public. In reply, it has been stated that all pre-independence era recording of AIR have been digitized. Further, Constituent Assembly speeches, speeches of National Leaders of pre and post-independence India such as Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Patel, Jawaharlal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Subhash Chandra Bose and other prominent leaders have also been digitized.

34. These digitized recordings after suitable curation are disseminated in public domain through non-linear platforms like YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram etc, and linear channels of AIR & DD. Also online sales of specific AIR & DD content through

<https://archives.prasarbharati.org> and amazon.in and offline sales through kiosk / sales counter in form of DVDs and CDs has already been implemented. Also contemporary content of cultural and national importance which also includes important events and milestones in various fields like sports, science & technology, agriculture, performing arts are continuously being digitized in mission mode.

35. It has been supplemented that as of now more than 39,000 hours of DD content and 37,000 hours of AIR content has been digitized despite severe resource constraints in terms of requirement of modern technology platform (Specialized H/w, S/w, Cloud Storage, Deep Archiving and IT equipment).

36. The Committee further asked about the roadmap for making all DD regional channels available 24x7. The Ministry has informed that there are currently 17 24x7 regional channels operational and available across India through various delivery platforms including DD Free Dish. Apart from these regional channels, Prasar Bharati has placed 11 nos. of limited hours DD regional channels on DD Free Dish in March' 2019 for increasing its reach across India. Efforts are on for converting these channels into 24x7 in phased manner within the available resources.

37. It has been added that in the first phase, channels of Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand are being planned to be converted to 24x7. Automated play out systems for these channels have been commissioned and necessary other technical facilities are being upgraded. Further to automate the rest of the channels and to improve the efficiency of 24x7 channels, technology piloting is ongoing for cloud based automated channel payout and channel management. Based on the learnings and evaluation of the same the rest of the channels shall be automated for 24x7 operation apart from migrating existing channels to the cloud based architecture for automated payout.

38. It has further been stated that for expanding the reach of Community Radio Stations, the Ministry has informed that they have taken several measures for expanding the reach preferably in CR Dark districts and Aspirational Districts. In this regard, the process for release of Grant-in-aid to eligible CR Stations is being streamlined and the Ministry is regularly following up with the other Ministries to expedite the process of obtaining clearance. When asked to state as to how many Dark and Aspirational Districts are there in the country and in how many such Districts currently the Community Radio Stations are functioning, it has been informed that there are 117 Aspirational Districts in the country. Out of the 117 aspirational districts, 18 districts are having one or more Community Radio Station. A total of 21 Community Radio Stations are operational in these 18 districts.

39. The Committee enquired about various challenges being faced by Doordarshan to make its programmes attractive and regain the trust of the people. In reply, it has been stated that Prasar Bharati from its policy stand-point, has taken a number of policy decisions to regain the viewers' confidence towards Doordarshan, which are enumerated as under:

- To promote quality programming, the Prasar Bharati Board in its 158th meeting in November 2019 has accorded approval to revised Guidelines for content procurement based on past learnings.
- The revised guidelines will help overcome past challenges in timely procurement of content and will ensure quality content is sourced effectively to address the need of the viewers.
- Prasar Bharati is also mulling to have separate exclusive entertainment channel to better compete with private GEC channels
- Prasar Bharati has also extended the emphasis on its DD News channel in terms of programming format, look & feel, graphics etc. so as to increase the viewer base towards a credible and authentic news channel.

- Further, Prasar Bharati has re-oriented its DD India channel as an English News Channel to attract global audience including Indian diaspora across the globe.
- Ongoing efforts at HD Upgradation and Channel Automation will go a long way in improving quality and perception of DD channels.

(iii) Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources(IEBR)

40. The Committee desired to know the Net IEBR generation by Prasar Bharati and the amount spent on content development of AIR and DD during the last five years. In reply, it has been informed as under:

(Figures in Rs. crore)

Description	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
AIR	212.56	210.1	202.42	198.55	221.85
DD	328.33	338.11	311.48	257.05	274.44
Total Prog. Exp.*	540.89	548.21	513.9	455.6	496.29
Total Net IEBR	1406.53	1378.5	1304.26	1355.36	1401.83
% of Prog. Exp with IEBR Exp.	38.46%	39.77%	39.40%	33.61%	35.40%
Revenue projection	N.A.	2212	1425	1388	1596

*Expenses attributable to Programme Production

41. As regards the steps taken by Prasar Bharati to increase IEBR Generation include the following:

- Revision of the DD Free Dish Policy to improve DTH revenues by monetizing new MPEG4 stream and differentially pricing existing MPEG2 stream.
- Sales and Marketing divisions are being strengthened to improve commercial revenues including impending induction of about sixty professionals from the industry.

(c) Offering of turn-key solutions to various Ministries and Govt. departments for dissemination of various social development schemes administered by them. PB has signed an agreement with NFDC for utilizing empanelled producers of NFDC for executing turn-key solutions for various Ministries. Recently, PB made customized programmes for AMFI for creating awareness about mutual funds among investors.

(d) Sharing of infrastructure such as towers with private broadcasters and cellular operators etc. The tower strengthening of other transmitters sites is also being undertaken to offer these towers to private FM broadcasters on sharing basis.

(e) Exploring the possibility of collaborating with companies having CSR Funds in order to contribute to the overall revenue generation of PB while meeting public broadcasting mandate.

(f) Increasing Digital Revenues through digitization of archives, monetization of digital content and syndication news and non-news content to third party platforms. Monetization of various properties on App has also been taken up to enhance digital revenue.

(g) Monetization of idle time on channels/services on a pilot basis through sponsored content.

(h) Monetization of DTT and DRM on a pilot basis along the lines of DTH (DD Free Dish). A special DRM channel "News on air & Western Music" has been started and efforts are being made to increase its listenership. Ragam and FM rainbow/FM Gold channels are also being broadcast through DRM.

(j) MoUs have been signed with BCCI and with ICC for radio rights to bring back Radio Commentary of domestic and international cricket and through digital monetization of high audience interest sports content.

(k) Sharing of AIR News bulletins with embedded commercials with Private FM Radio operators on a pilot basis.

(iv) Modernisation of AIR & DD

42. Funds allocated & spent on modernization of AIR and DD during the last three years:

(Figure in Rs. crore)

FY	AIR		DD	
	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure
2016-17	177.00	164.52	131.50	208.14
2017-18	115.00	115.00	118.38	52.02

2018-19	119.98	108.01	112.17	80.08
2019-20*	105.78	72.18	211.58	77.75

***Up to Dec' 2019**

43. The Committee have observed that during 2020-21, funds of Rs. 131.95 crore and Rs. 115.05 crore have been allocated for modernization of AIR and DD, respectively.

(v) Human Resource

44. The details with regard to the existing staff strength as on 01.01.2020 in various categories of posts in comparison to sanctioned strength in Prasar Bharati, for AIR and DD separately are given as under:

Staff Position in AIR

Wing	Sanctioned	Filled	Vacant
Programme Inc.			
ARU	6896	2046	4850
Engineering	5974	4675	1299
News	209	184	25
Administration			
Inc. Sec	11558	4760	6798
CCW	1492	1069	423
Total	26129	12734	13395

Staff Position in Doordarshan

Wing	Sanctioned	Filled	Vacant
Programme Inc.			
ARU	3534	1819	1715
Administration Inc.			
Sec	4801	2797	2004

Engineering	11159	7019	4140
News	168	108	60
Total	19662	11743	7919

45. When asked how shortage of manpower, if any, in AIR and DD hampering the performance of Prasar Bharati, it has been stated that the ongoing Manpower Audit has identified several areas where there is a mismatch between the skills and resources required by DD and AIR and the current manpower. These areas include Sales, Marketing, Digital and I.T., Creative & Content Strategy and Corporate Strategy & Planning.

46. As regards the steps taken to fill the vacant posts in AIR and DD, it has been informed that as per section 9 of Prasar Bharati Act, 1990, all recruitment in Prasar Bharati are to be made in consultation with the Recruitment Board. The Ministry has notified 'The Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Establishment of Recruitment Board Rules, 2020' for establishment of Recruitment Board on 12.02.2020 in the Gazette of India. Further action is being taken in coordination with Prasar Bharati. Further, a comprehensive review of the posts and the manner of staffing is being undertaken by Prasar Bharati.

47. The Committee have learnt that an expert committee under Shri Sam Pitroda constituted for the purpose of reviewing the institutional framework of Prasar Bharati, including its relationship with the Government and to revitalize Prasar Bharati, in its report submitted in February, 2014, made 26 recommendations in the areas of (i) Governance and Organisation, (ii) Funding, (iii) Human Resources, (iv) Content, (v) Technology, (vi) Archiving, (vii) Social Media, and (viii) Global Outreach.

48. With regard to the present status of the implementation of the recommendations of the above said committee, it has been informed that the Expert Committee under the chairmanship of Shri Sam Pitroda had

submitted its report on 24.01.2014. The Committee gave 26 recommendations on 8 different subjects viz.(i) Governance and Organisation, (ii) Funding, (iii) Human Resources, (iv) Content, (v) Technology, (vi) Archiving, (vii) Social Media and (viii) Global Outreach.

49. It has further been informed that the recommendations have been examined, and steps towards implementation have been taken on the recommendations accepted by the Ministry.

50. The Committee further desired to ask about the reasons for inordinate delays in implementing the recommendations of the Sam Pitroda Committee. In reply, it has been stated that the recommendations of the Expert Committee required action by various Divisions of the Ministry and by the Prasar Bharati, Directorate General: Doordarshan and Directorate General: All India Radio which is a time consuming process.

V. FILM SECTOR

51. The details with regard to the allocation of funds vis-à-vis utilization during the last three years in respect of Film Sector is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure	%age of utilisation over RE
2017-18	207.00	111.13	83.39	75.03%
2018-19	165.84	111.96	93.52	83.52%
2019-20	165.00	133.13	78.06(upto January, 2020)	58.63%

52. The performance of Film Sector in various schemes during 2019-20 is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Film Sector (Schemes)	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure (up to 31.01.2020)	% age of utilisation over RE
Infrastructure Development Programme Relating to Film Sector	68.15	65.61	50.96	77.7%
Development Communication & Dissemination of Filmic Content	53.87	63.39	23.77	37.51%
Setting up a Centre for Excellence for Animation, Gaming and VFX(Main Sectt.)	20.50	0.02	0.00	0%
Champion Services Sector Scheme	0.00	0.50	0.00	0%
Total	165	133.13	78.06	58.35%

53. It may be seen from above that there has been expected shortfall in utilisation of funds for the schemes under Film Sector.

(i) Development Communication & Dissemination of Filmic Content(DCDFC)

54. The Committee have observed that during 2017-18, against RE of Rs. 53.44 crore, for the scheme, only Rs.36.59 crore (68.46 %) was

utilised. During 2018-19, against RE of Rs. 55.72 crore, for the scheme, Rs.46.16 crore (82.84 %) was utilised. As is observed, 2019-20, against RE of Rs. 63.39 crore, for the scheme, only Rs.23.77 crore (37.51 %) has been utilised up to January, 2020.

55. With regard to under-utilisation of funds, the Secretary, I & B submitted during evidence as under:

"The second programme is Development, Communication and Dissemination of Filming Content. Here, this relates to our participation in various film festivals and co production of films, marketing of films. Here, our expenditure is lower than what it should be. We have to improve our participation in film festivals and also improve co production. This year, we will try to improve our performance in this field. But we have to improve our participation in film festivals. We have to improve film festivals even in India. There are State Film Festivals. For example, on 28th and 29th, we are going to have a Film Festival in Sikkim. We are helping the Sikkim Government in organising a Film Festival. So, this year, we will be helping a large number of State Governments in organising small film festivals. Of course, we have to improve in this regard, and we will do it."

(ii) National Film Heritage Mission(NFHM)

56. The aims and objectives of the scheme is given as under:

- (i)** Condition assessment of NFAIs film reel collection in order to ascertain their remaining life. Preventive Conservation of film reels.
- (ii)** 2K/4K picture and sound restoration of 1086 landmark feature films and 1152 short films pertaining to Indian Cinema and the recording of new picture and sound inter negative of each film.
- (iii)** Construction of state of the art archival and preservation facilities for restored material.
- (iv)** Digitization of 1160 feature films and 1660 short films.
- (v)** Preparation and execution of training workshops and courses pertaining to film conservation, preservation and archiving in association with expert international agencies.
- (vi)** In house capacity building through web-based end to end IT solution.

57. The Committee have observed that during 2017-18, BE of Rs. 50.00 crore was kept, however the same was reduced at RE to Rs. 6.02 crore. During 2018-19, BE of Rs. 57.78 crore was reduced to 15.00 crore. The actual expenditure was Rs. 10.51 crore. During 2019-20, against, BE and RE of Rs. 22.48 crore and Rs. 3.61 crore, funds utilisation remained Rs. 3.33 crore.

58. The Committee learnt during examination of DFG(2019-20) of the Ministry, it was informed that the entire scheme was put under review in 2017 and all tender processes under NFHM were put on hold until the review. Post the review, the pending RFPs, viz. digitization and restoration of filmic material, creation of IT infrastructure at NFAI are being floated in time bound manner and the budget allocation has been proposed post tendering process. As regards underutilisation of funds , the Secretary, during evidence submitted as under:

Sir, this National Film Heritage Mission work has been delayed because the construction work, for two to three years, was not decided as to who will do it. Now, it has been decided that NBCC will do this construction work. NBCC has, now, done the tender; and I hope that this work will pick up in this year. But yes, it has been delayed.....

.....We are running short of building space also, and we have to do conservation of films also. Now, we want to improve our conservation but we want a good building there. Building means, building of international standard, with temperature control. It is a technical kind of thing..... Now, a decision has been taken to give to NBCC. They have even done the tender. So, we hope that during this year, this project will take share, and in the next 18 months, it should get completed."

(iii) National Centre for Excellence for Animation, Visual effects, Gaming and Comics(NCOE):

59. The objective of the project NCoE is to be 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 administrative approval for NCoE had been 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 recommendation of Standing Finance Committee. Consequent to discussions with stake holders and trade bodies like Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and other stake holders, Media & Entertainment Skills Council (MESOC) which is working towards addressing the skill gap requirement in entertainment and media industry and FICCI to assist the Government towards realizing the project.

60. During examination of the Demands for Grants(2019-20) of the Ministry, the Committee had observed that during 2017-18, Rs. 60 crore was allocated and there was NIL expenditure during the year. Again during 2018-19, only Rs. 1.63 was allocated and spent. It was informed that the activities of NCOE were placed on hold on account of review in the Ministry. After the review was complete, operating partner could not be finalized for the Institute. Bids were invited for academic partner for the institute, but no bids were received for the proposal. Accordingly, the physical and financial targets for the scheme were missed. Indian Institute of Mass Communication (Executing partner) released RFP on 03.02.2017 for selection of Operating Partner for NCoE but in response, only four bids were received. Issues for finalisation of the operating partner . and selection of International Academic Partner was being taken up. RFP for selection of International Academic Partner was also released by IIMC. But no bids were received for selection of academic partner.

61. During 2019-20, budgetary allocation of Rs. 20.50 crore was made, however, the expenditure is NIL during the year. With regard to the delay in the project, the Secretary, I & B submitted as under:

" Sir, We want to set up a Centre of Excellence for Animation, Gaming and VFX. Even here, there has been a delay because we could not finalise the tender....., *we want the private sector to run it. We only want to provide the private sector with land and also a part building, I mean, part construction cost of the building. Other equipment, complete building and the courses, we want the private sector to run it. "*

(iv) Champion Services Sector Scheme (CSSS)

62. The Committee have been informed that Champion Services Sector Scheme intends to provide incentives to foreign film makers to shoot in India. India offers a diversity of landscape and locations in the different States and Union Territories, making it an appealing destination for production of both international and domestic film. With a diverse range of production and post production facilities across India, the country offers multiple well-equipped film production hubs. India also has a talent pools of actors, producers, directors, writers and experienced crew including competent line producers across the many regional film industries. The low production and post production cost and favorable dollar-rupee exchange rate add additional attraction. The objective is for making India a hub for world film production.

63. The Committee further desired to know the initiatives being taken/proposed by the Ministry of I & B in this direction. In reply, it has been informed that with a view to promote Indian cinema and to facilitate permission for film shooting by foreign film makers in India, Ministry has set up Film Facilitation Office (FFO) under the aegis of the NFDC. The FFO acts as a single-window facilitation point for the foreign film producers in assisting them to get requisite permissions, disseminates information on shooting locations and facilities available with the Indian Film Industry for production and post-production. A website <https://ffo.gov.in/en> was launched on 20.11.2018 as single-window facilitation point. Foreign film makers interested to shoot their Feature films, Reality TV shows and Commercial TV Series in India can make the applications online for permission of film shootings in the country. The website also provides useful information about shooting locations, shooting incentives being given by various States, International treaties for co-production, Trade Association, film cities and many others.

64. It has been added that it is also proposed to provide financial assistance/ incentives for shooting of foreign films in India.

65. With regard to the existing system available for foreign film makers to shoot in India along with the difficulties encountered in this regard, it has been informed that the Ministry of I & B has set up the Film Facilitation Office (FFO) in the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) as the single window clearance and facilitation mechanism, with a view to promote and facilitate film shootings by both domestic and foreign filmmakers in India and to enhance India's positioning in the global market as an ideal filming destination.

66. Further, FFO web portal was launched in November 2018 for foreign film makers. The facility was extended to domestic film makers as well from April 2019. However, It is not mandatory for Indian filmmakers to apply for permissions through the FFO Web Portal, and filmmakers may also apply directly.

67. An ecosystem of Nodal Officers has been created across various state governments in India and within key stakeholder Central Government Ministries/Departments which has enabled effective governmental collaborations towards the creation of a film friendly environment and faster processing of all shooting permissions.

68. During the course of evidence, the Secretary, I & B elaborated of the Champion Services Sectors Scheme, informed as under:

" There is the Champion Services Sectors Scheme. This is the new Scheme. We have sent our proposal to Commerce Ministry to get approval soon.We hope that this year, this Scheme should start working. The Scheme, basically, has four components. One is the same, incentive for audio-visual production with foreign countries. We want foreign countries to come here. Some countries give incentives for shooting in their countries. We found that, that is one reason why foreign film producers do not come to our country. So, we want to give some incentives for them to come."

69. To a specific query regarding granting permission of shooting in heritage places like it is done in foreign countries, the Secretary clarified that the Ministry also wants that shooting permission is given in heritage places in India also, within a week, 15 days so that they can be give them some percentage of the shooting cost. This will help to encourage tourism also.

70. It was the pointed out that when Indian film producer goes and shoots in foreign countries, it is cheaper for them to shoot there than in India. Indian film producers would, however, prefer to shoot in India, if similar incentives are given to them. In this regard, Secretary, I & B submitted as under:

"Sir, mainly foreign film producers want us to give clearances fast. That is also we aim to do in this. We want to hold a global media summit sometime later this year. This will be a business to business summit because Indian entertainment industry is growing at about 13 to 14 per cent. We want to become it an annual event where we want business to business interaction between the Indian business, foreign business, Indian and foreign business so that they can take their work forward. we want a far bigger event.We have discussed with FICCI. We want also to invite foreign governments to participate We also want big foreign companies to participate in this. There are three or four such kind of events happening all over the world. Sir, within next two-three months, contours would be ready.

VI INFORMATION SECTOR

71. The Committee have been informed that one of the achievements under Information Sector, as provided by the Ministry, is to Counter Fake news. The Ministry has informed that they have already setup a dedicated cell under PIB for handling fake news and the unit will verify the facts and disseminate correct information quickly.

72. It was further informed that the PIB Fact Check Unit was set up as a measure to counter fake news on policies, schemes, programs etc. by Government of India. The Unit has a presence on prominent social media

platforms like Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. The Operations of Unit started on December 17, 2019. The Unit has received 771 complaints over Whatsapp, out of which 102 have been countered, and 561 over Gmail out of which 58 have been countered till date.

73. To a specific query, it has been informed that the Unit has no sanctioned personnel currently. It is being run by the Officers at Press Information Bureau (PIB). The Unit takes suo-moto cognisance of fake news going viral on social media and also on basis of outside complaints. The complaints can be sent on Gmail (pibfactcheck@gmail.com) and Whatsapp hotline (8799711259).

VII. Implementation of Central Sector Schemes in North Eastern Region

74. The allocation vis-a-vis utilisation of funds for CSS in North Eastern Regions during 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 are given as under:

(Figures in Rs. crore)

	Expenditure on North East Allocation		
	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2017-18	84.20	60.63	49.44
2018-19	74.34	122.21	65.24
2019-20	162.65	105.15	46.01*

*As on 31/12/2019

75. The Committee in a written information later on (date when received from the MIB) furnished to the Committee informed that Rs.79.25 crore has been incurred so far and remaining amount is likely to be exhausted by the implementing agencies by March, 2020.

76. The scheme-wise allocation under North Eastern Region for the year 2020-21 is given as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Scheme	BE 2020-21
Information Sector		
1.	Development Communication and Information Dissemination (DCID)	22.00
Total -Information Sector		22.00
Film Sector		
2.	Development Communication and Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC)	11.00
Total – Film Sector		11.00
Broadcasting Sector		
3.	Supporting Community Radio Movement in India	0.20
4.	Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development (BIND)	40.80
Total- Broadcasting Sector		41.00
Grand Total		74.00

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PART-II

The budget of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is spread across three sectors, viz, Film Sector, Information Sector and Broadcasting Sector (including Prasar Bharati). The Committee note that in order to avoid thin spread of resources for optimal output and outcome, the Ministry, as per the direction of Ministry of Finance(MoF), undertook a rationalization of its Central Sector Schemes(CSS) effective from Financial Year 2020-21. Out of 14 schemes in 2019-20, only 5 schemes remain in FY 2020-21 under CSS viz. (i) Development Communication & Information Dissemination (DCID), (ii) Development Communication & Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC), (iii) Champion Service Sector, (iv) Broadcasting Infrastructure Development (Prasar Bharati) and (v) Supporting Community Radio. According to the Ministry, the consolidation of resources will provide flexibility in use, leading to better utilization of funds benefiting each sector. The components of 5 schemes have been shifted to 'Establishment Expenditure', while components of 4 schemes got shifted to 'Other Central Expenditure'. The Committee trust that these initiatives would help in better implementation of various schemes of the Ministry and thus would yield the desired results.

2. The Committee also note that Ministry of Finance has mandated Evaluation of schemes for their continuation beyond 2019-20 and to make them co-terminus with Finance Commission Cycle i.e. 2020. NITI Aayog and Department of Expenditure provided the broad framework for undertaking the evaluations of all Centrally Sponsored Schemes and CSS under implementation by Ministry/Department. The Ministry of I & B carried out the last evaluation of CSS by M/s CHROME Ltd. in 2017. As has been informed, a fresh evaluation of all the CSS of the Ministry has been initiated by M/s KPMG and will be completed soon. The Committee would like to be informed of the progress in the matter and plan of action decided by the Ministry of I & B once M/s KPMG completes its evaluation of CSS of the Ministry.

II. Demands for Grants for 2020-21

3. The Committee note that budgetary allocation of Rs. 740 crore has been made for CSS of the Ministry of I & B for the year 2020-21 which is Rs. 160 crore less than the allocation of Rs. 900 crore made during 2019-20. The Committee are given to understand that due to rationalisation of the CSS during the year, there is a decrease in the allocation under CCS and corresponding increase in allocation under Establishment Expenditure and Other Central Expenditure, while the Gross allocation for Ministry's budget grant remain same at Rs. 4375.21 crore during 2020-21 as it was in the year 2019-20.

The Committee regret to note that the Ministry proposed an allocation of Rs. 817 crore to execute their projects/schemes under Film Sector, Information sector and Broadcasting Sector (including Prasar Bharati) for the year 2020-21, however, MoF has approved Rs. 740 crore only. The Committee have, however been assured that the reduced allocation would not affect the performance of the Ministry as there is recourse to seek additional funds from MoF at the stage of Supplementary Grants or the Revised Estimates (RE) stage, depending upon expenditure incurred by the Ministry. The Committee hope that the Ministry would perform better during this year and RE, 2020-21 would see an upward trend unlike in the previous years.

4. The Committee are constrained to note the recurring nature of reduction in budgetary allocations of the Ministry of I & B during the last three years at RE stage. During 2017-18, BE of Rs. 840 crore was drastically reduced by 28.83% to Rs. 597.77 crore. The Ministry has stated that the reduction at RE stage by the MoF is generally related to the pace of expenditure. The Committee are sure the performance during the previous year resulted in less budgetary allocation at BE of Rs. 735.05 crore by the MoF at BE 2018-19. Again, the allocation at BE, 2018-19 was reduced to Rs. 712.66 crore at RE stage. The Committee further observe that underutilization of budgetary allocation of Rs. 900 crore to Ministry of I & B during 2019-20 was quite alarming that prompted the MoF to reduce the allocation by 30.51% to Rs. 625.39 crore. The Ministry admitted that up to

30.09.2019, the Ministry had incurred only 31.03% of the allocated funds at BE 2019-20. Keeping in view the above, the Committee apprehend the poor budgetary exercise in the Ministry. The Committee would, therefore, desire the Ministry of I& B to ensure that the assessment of requirement of funds for its three Sectors are made on realistic anticipation to make the budgetary exercise more meaningful and accurate.

5. The Committee take a serious note of the fact that during the last three years, the main reason for under-utilisation of budgetary allocations remained non-execution of the projects/schemes mainly of Prasar Bharati, as a major chunk of the total plan allocations for the Ministry are made every year for the organisation. A representative of the Ministry submitted during evidence that during 2019-20, about Rs. 200 crore was provided to Prasar Bharati, largely for Doordarshan and some amount for All India Radio, however, due to the process involved in commissioning of the content by the Prasar Bharati which took a lot of time to unravel, the amount remained unspent. The Committee further note to their dissatisfaction that even reduced allocations during 2017-18 and 2018-19 were not optimally utilized and utilisation remained at 83.88 percent and 92.16 percent, respectively. The Ministry have informed that during 2019-20, out of RE of Rs. 625.39 crore, 83.71 percent have been utilized up to February, 2020 and hope that the funds would be fully utilized. However, keeping in view the restriction imposed by the MoF

for carrying out expenditure up to 25 percent and 10 percent in the last quarter/month, the Committee apprehend shortfall in optimal utilisation of funds. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of I & B should take timely measures and prepare targets for quarterly utilisation of funds for implementation of their projects lest it would lead to shortfall in physical and financial targets during 2020-21.

Broadcasting Sector(Including Prasar Bharati)

6. The Committee note with dismay that Prasar Bharati failed miserably in utilizing the budgetary allocation during the last three years even when there was substantial reduction in allocations at RE 2017-18 and RE 2019-20. During 2017-18, against BE and RE of Rs. 430 crore and Rs. 282 crore, the utilisation was Rs. 201.57 crore(71.47 percent). During 2018-19, against BE and RE of Rs. 315.70 crore and Rs. 326.74 crore, the utilisation was Rs. 222.58 crore(68.12 percent). Further, during 2019-20, against BE and RE of Rs. 473.00 crore and Rs. 317.36 crore, the utilisation is Rs.149.93 crore(up to December, 2019). The Committee are apprehensive that due to restriction imposed by MoF for carrying out expenditure in the last quarter/month, Prasar Bharati will not be able to fully utilize the available funds. The main reasons for under-utilisation of funds during the last two years are stated to be decision taken to make the programmes for DD Kisan in house instead of commissioning them

through SFC mode, non-production of many of the travelogues based programmes and deferment of Reality shows to next Financial Year, non-finalisation of the Reality show "Mahila Kisan Awards" due to logistic reasons, non-utilisation of funds for production of programs for DD Kisan Channel by DD Kendras of Prasar Bharati including North East Kendras due to shortage of staff and also due to bad climatic and road conditions, delays in setting up of HDTV Studios, upgradation of DTH Platforms under the scheme "Grants to Prasar Bharati for creation of Capital Assets, procurement process of Digital Terrestrial TV(DTT) and launch of DD-Arunprabha Channel happened during the last quarter of FY 2018-19 and as funds were released by the Ministry in the Month of March' 2019 only, the commissioning process for creation of content could be started only in March.

The Committee are not at all convinced with such repeated excuses made by the Ministry year after year for under-utilisation of funds which clearly shows the lackadaisical approach of the Ministry. They are of the view that the stated administrative and procedural hurdles could have been overcome had the Prasar Bharati put in focused efforts in this direction. The Committee desire that Prasar Bharati should make concerted efforts to avoid any delays in implementation of the schemes/activities projected for the year for full and fruitful utilisation of the budgetary allocations for the year 2020-21.

Modernisation of AIR & DD

7. The Committee find to their satisfaction the optimal or nearly optimal utilisation of funds allocated under schemes for modernization project of AIR during the last three years. However, the Committee are not happy to note underutilization of funds allocated for the schemes under modernization project of Doordarshan. During 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20, against the allocation of Rs. 118.38 crore, Rs. 112.17 crore and Rs. 211.58 crore, Doordarshan could utilize only Rs. 52.02 crore, Rs. 80.08 crore and Rs. 77.75 crore (up to December, 2019), respectively. In view of the pace of expenditure up to December, 2019, the Committee apprehend optimal utilisation of allocated funds for Doordarshan. This is not a satisfactory position. The Committee also note that during 2020-21, for modernization of AIR and Doordarshan, budgetary allocation of Rs. 131.98 crore and Rs. 111.05 crore, respectively has been made. In case of AIR, the amount has to be utilized for modernization, augmentation and replacement of transmitters, augmentation and replacement of broadcast equipment, modernization and digitization of studios, FM expansion/replacement, etc., and in case of Doordarshan, the amount allocated has to be utilised for studio schemes, transmitter schemes, satellite broadcast schemes and for infrastructure augmentation, etc.

The Committee find that these infrastructural projects are instrumental in ensuring the progress of the public electronic media and enabling it to fulfill its obligations to the nation. The Ministry/Prasar Bharati thus should give serious consideration to their implementation. The Committee would like to the Ministry/Prasar Bharati to take all necessary steps to ensure optimum utilisation of funds during 2020-21 and apprise them of the progress made in the augmentation of AIR and Doordarshan.

8. The Committee find that though 33 FM transmitters towers have been sanctioned, they are either not installed or non-functional for reasons like delays in acquisition of site or construction of building, environmental clearance and in some cases matter is under consideration with Ministry of I & B and Ministry of Defence for logistic support. It is apathy on the part of Prasar Bharati to keep the people deprived of the benefits of FM transmitters for reasons of procedural delays on their part. Hence, the Committee desire that all the sanctioned FM transmitters should be made functional on priority basis and they may be apprise of the progress made.

9. The Committee note that the main criteria for allocation of FM transmitters are the locations in border areas, LWE areas and aspirational districts. Further, in respect of LWE and border areas, coverage across the country is decided in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs keeping in mind security/strategic

issues. The Committee desire the Ministry/Prasar Bharati should cover all the locations in border areas, LWE areas and aspirational districts with FM transmitters in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs so that people of these areas are not deprived of the benefits of FM services.

10. The Committee learn that the Ministry of I & B have proposed to increase reach of Doordarshan channels in strategic locations like J&K region and have so far distributed 30,000 Set Top Boxes (STBs) in J&K and further distribution of STBs is underway in consultation with MHA. The Committee would like to be informed of the criteria adopted by the Ministry for distribution of STBs in strategic areas and the target kept for distribution of STBs during 2020-21.

11. The Committee note that there are currently seventeen(17) 24x7 regional channels operational and available across India through various delivery platforms including DD Free Dish. Apart from these regional channels, Prasar Bharati has placed eleven(11) limited hours DD regional channels on DD Free Dish in March' 2019, for increasing its reach across India. The Ministry are making efforts to convert these channels into 24x7 in phased manner within the available resources. In the first phase, channels of Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand are being planned to be converted 24x7. Automated play out systems for these channels have been commissioned and necessary other

technical facilities are being upgraded. Further to automate the rest of the channels and to improve the efficiency of 24x7 channels, technology piloting is ongoing for cloud based automated channel playout and channel management. Based on the learnings and evaluation of the same, the rest of the channels shall be automated for 24x7 operation apart from migrating existing channels to the cloud based architecture for automated playout. The Committee would like to be informed of the proposed timelines for making all DD regional channels for 24x7 operation and the physical and financial targets fixed in this regard for 2020-21.

12. The Committee note that the Ministry of I & B/ Prasar Bharati have taken several measures for expanding the reach of Community Radio Stations (CRS) preferably in CR Dark districts and Aspirational Districts. The process for release of Grant-in-aid to eligible CR Stations is being streamlined and matter is being pursued with the other Ministries to expedite the process of obtaining clearances. The Committee also note that there are 117 Aspirational Districts in the country and a total of 21 Community Radio Stations are operational in these 18 districts. The Committee would like to be informed of the timelines for opening of CRS in all the aspirational districts in the country and physical and financial targets fixed for 2020-21.

Human Resource

13. The Committee find it a matter of grave concern that in AIR, out of the total sanctioned strength of 26129 personnel, 13395 posts are vacant(48%); 4850 posts are vacant in Programme Wing, 1299 in Engineering Wing, 25 in News Wing and 6798 in Administrative Wing. Similarly, in Doordarshan, out of the total sanctioned strength of 19662 personnel, 7919 posts are vacant(59.72%); 1715 posts are vacant in Programme Wing, 4140 in Engineering Wing, 60 in News Wing and 2004 in Administrative Wing. It is regrettable that a public broadcaster has been allowed to compromise with the quality of the programmes. Of late, the ongoing Manpower Audit has identified several areas where there is a mismatch between the skills and resources required by DD and AIR and the current manpower. These areas include Sales, Marketing, Digital and I.T., Creative & Content Strategy and Corporate Strategy & Planning. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress in this regard with full details.

14. The Committee are given to understand that as per section 9 of Prasar Bharati Act, 1990, all recruitment in Prasar Bharati are to be made in consultation with the Recruitment Board. The Ministry has notified 'The Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Establishment of Recruitment Board Rules, 2020' for establishment of Recruitment Board on 12.02.2020 in the Gazette of India. Further action is being taken in coordination

with Prasar Bharati. A comprehensive review of the posts and the manner of staffing is being undertaken by Prasar Bharati. The Committee take a serious view for the delays in establishment of the Recruitment Board in Prasar Bharati. The Committee, however, recommend that matter should not be further delayed and be expedited to take future course of action. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress in the matter.

15. The Committee are distressed to find that Sam Pitroda committee constituted to review the institutional framework of Prasar Bharati, including its relationship with the Government and to revitalize Prasar Bharati in had submitted its report in February, 2014, however, its recommendations have not been implemented by the Ministry till date. The Committee made 26 recommendations in the areas of (i) Governance and Organisation, (ii) Funding, (iii) Human Resources, (iv) Content, (v) Technology, (vi) Archiving, (vii) Social Media, and (viii) Global Outreach. The Ministry pleaded that the Expert Committee recommendations required action by various Divisions of the Ministry and by the Prasar Bharati, Directorate General: Doordarshan and Directorate General: All India Radio which is a time consuming process. The Committee are unable to appreciate the justification given by the Ministry for delays in implementing the recommendations of the expert committee.

Not convinced with the oft repeated reply of the Ministry, the Committee would like to know the details of action so far initiated by the Ministry on the recommendations of Sam Pitroda Committee and response of the concerned Departments. The Committee further desire that immediate action is warranted on the recommendations of the Sam Pitroda expert committee by avoiding any further delays, in the interest of Prasar Bharati.

16. The Committee have been informed that Prasar Bharati in their efforts to increase and strengthen its media presence on various social media platforms has re-developed and deployed its Corporate Website, which now has live TV, live radio, videos, news podcasts, radio magazines, etc. Further, in order to increase its digital presence, all DD Channels and News Units of DD have a dedicated YouTube channel where content is being uploaded daily and important news and live coverages are being live streamed, all major services and stations of AIR now have a dedicated live stream on Mobile Apps apart from YouTube channels, all DD & AIR units including news have dedicated social media handles to further publicize the content being made available digitally, NewsOnAir App has been created as its global digital platform available on both Android and iOS Platforms where all Radio and TV content can be accessed digitally, etc.

While it is appreciated that steps have been taken by Prasar Bharati to upgrade its Website and establish its presence in You

Tube, the Committee feel that all social media channels such as Twitter, Instagram and Facebook should also be explored as they are by now well established channels of communication being employed by mainstream media channels and garner high response rates among the public.

17. The Committee note that Prasar Bharati has taken a number of policy decisions to regain the viewers' confidence towards Doordarshan which are inter-alia revised guidelines have been approved for content procurement to promote quality programming, which will help overcome past challenges in timely procurement of content and ensuring that quality content is sourced effectively to address the need of the viewers, planning to have separate exclusive entertainment channel to compete with private GEC channels, emphasizing on its DD News channel in terms of programming format, look & feel, graphics etc. so as to increase the viewer base towards a credible and authentic news channel, re-orientation of its DD India channel as an English News Channel to attract global audience including Indian diaspora across the globe besides ongoing efforts at HD Upgradation and Channel Automation.

While commending these steps in right direction, the Committee would like to ensure that plans drawn by Prasar Bharati are implemented in letter and spirit to have the desired and long lasting impact on the viewers.

18. The Committee note that the Net IEBR generation by Prasar Bharati during the last four years is almost static. The net IEBR during 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 had been Rs. 1378.5 crore, Rs. 1304.26 crore Rs. 1355.36 crore and Rs. 1401.83 crore, respectively against the projections of Rs. 2212 crore, Rs. 1425 crore, Rs. 1388 crore and Rs. 1596 crore, respectively. However, it is a matter of concern that only 39.77 percent, 39.40 percent, 33.61 percent and 33.40 percent, respectively of IEBR were utilized for programme production during these years. Keeping in view the importance of the content generation for the growth of Prasar Bharati, it is imperative to make availability of sufficient funds for the content development. Hence, there is a need to contribute a sizeable portion of the IEBR for content development. As the Ministry of I & B has also been providing financial support for content development, the Committee desire that the Government should ensure that Prasar Bharati make serious efforts to optimally utilize funds made available to them and strive hard to make itself a commercial viable entity in the long run and attain self-sufficiency in due course.

The Committee also desire that Prasar Bharati should aim for higher revenue receipts and explore ways and means to achieve the same. The Committee may be informed of the IEBR target and

achievement during 2019-20 and IEBR projections for the year 2020-21.

FILM SECTOR

19. The Committee note that the performance of the Ministry of I & B for their schemes under Film Sector is not at all satisfactory. During 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20, against the budgetary allocation of Rs. 207.00 crore, Rs. 165.84 crore and Rs. 165.00 crore, respectively, which was substantially reduced at RE stage to Rs. 111.13 crore, Rs. 111.96 crore, Rs. 133.13 crore, respectively, the utilisation remained at Rs. 83.39 crore (75.03%), Rs. 93.52 crore (83.52%) and Rs. 78.06 crore (58.63%) (up to January, 2019), respectively. The Committee note that during 2019-20 under the scheme 'Infrastructure Development Programme Relating to Film Sector', 77.7 percent of the allocated funds were utilized, under 'Development Communication & Dissemination of Filmic Content(DCDFC)' against BE and RE of Rs. 53.87 crore and Rs. 63.39 crore only, Rs. 23.77 crore (37.51 percent) were spent, while under 'Setting up a Centre for Excellence for Animation, Gaming and VFX (Main Sectt.)', against BE and RE of Rs. 20.50 crore and Rs.2 lakh, respectively, nothing has been spent. The Committee do not appreciate the manner in which the Ministry has been surrendering the unspent balances each year under Film Sector. The Committee

desire that the Ministry should carry the proper assessment of their schemes and take corrective measures in this regard.

With regard to the Film Sector, the Committee urge the Ministry of I & B to undertake a comprehensive review of The Cinematograph(Amendment) Act, 1952 so as to resolve the entire gamut of issues relating to film censorship/ certification and apprise them about the progress made in this direction within the next three months.

Development Communication and Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC)

20. The Secretary, I & B admitted that during 2019-20, the expenditure under DCDFC has been less, which is related to their participation in various film festivals and core production of films, marketing of films. The Committee hope that as has been assured to them, the Ministry would perform better during 2020-21 by improving their participation in film festivals and helping various State Governments in organizing small film festivals, etc.

National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM)

21. The Committee note that National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM) is aimed to have a building of international standards, for conservation of films. However, the expenditure on the schemes was negligible during the last three years. During 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 (up to January, 2020) against BE of Rs. 50.00 crore,

Rs. 57.78 crore and Rs. 22.48 crore which was substantially reduced at RE stage to Rs. 6.02 crore, Rs. 15.00 crore and Rs. 3.61 crore, the actual expenditure has been Rs. 6.02 crore, Rs. 10.51 crore and Rs. 3.33 crore, respectively. The Secretary, I & B admitted that work related to NHFM has been delayed as decision was not taken as to who will do the construction work. However, now NBCC has secured the tender and will be doing the construction activity. The Committee, however, sound a word of caution that such lethargy on the part of the Ministry may be avoided at all cost while undertaking such important projects. They are, however, hopeful that the project will now take off now as envisaged and assured to the Committee.

National Centre for Excellence for Animation, Visual effects, Gaming and Comics (NCOE)

22. The NCoE aims to be 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 project will be done by PPP mode. The private sector will run the Centre and the Government will be providing the land and part construction cost. The Committee note that almost nothing has been spent on the Schemes for the last three years. Secretary, I & B informed that delays have occurred due to non-finalisation of the tender.

The Committee while expressing their unhappiness over the delay would like to draw the attention of the Ministry to review their entire tendering process from the scratch which is causing unwarranted delays in the execution of important projects/schemes. The Committee, however, hope that the Ministry will make serious efforts to finalise the tender and work in this regard would progress during 2020-21.

Champion Services Sector Scheme

23. The Committee note that the Ministry of I & B proposes to initiate a new Scheme viz. 'Champion Services Sectors Scheme'. At present, the proposal for the same is with the Ministry of Commerce, for getting their approval. The Scheme intends to provide incentives to foreign film makers to shoot in India. The objective is to make India a hub for world film production. According to the Ministry of I&B, India offers a diversity of landscape and locations in the different States and Union Territories, making it an appealing destination for production of both international and domestic film. With a diverse range of production and post production facilities across India, the country offers multiple well-equipped film production hubs. India also has a talent pools of actors, producers, directors, writers and experienced crew including competent line producers across the many regional film industries. The low

production and post production cost and favorable dollar-rupee exchange rate add additional attraction. Further to promote Indian cinema and to facilitate permission for film shooting by foreign film makers in India, Ministry has set up Film Facilitation Office (FFO) under the aegis of the NFDC. The FFO acts as a single-window facilitation point for the foreign film producers in assisting them to get requisite permissions, disseminates information on shooting locations and facilities available with the Indian Film Industry for production and post-production. A website <https://ffo.gov.in/en> was launched on 20.11.2018 as single-window facilitation point. Foreign film makers interested to shoot their Feature films, Reality TV shows and Commercial TV Series in India can make the applications online for permission of film shootings in the country. The website also provides useful information about shooting locations, shooting incentives being given by various States, International treaties for co-production, Trade Association, film cities and many others.

The Committee appreciate the initiative taken by the Ministry with an objective to make India a hub for world film production and desire to be informed of the progress in the matter. The Committee are hopeful that the said Scheme would take off this year as assured by the Secretary, I & B.

24. The Committee are of the considered opinion that permission of shooting in heritage places in India like it is practiced in foreign countries should be given. The Secretary I & B admitted that this practice in India will help to encourage tourism. The Committee are of utmost desire that the Ministry of I & B should take up the matter with the concerned Ministries in this regard and inform the Committee about the progress, if any, made.

Information Sector

25. The Committee have been informed that one of the achievements under Information Sector, is to Counter Fake news. The Committee note that the Ministry has setup a Fact Check Unit under PIB as a measure to counter fake news on policies, schemes, programs etc. by Government of India which has started functioning from December 17, 2019. The Unit has a presence on prominent social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. Out of 1332 complaints received so far, over Whatsapp and Gmail 160 have been countered till date. Keeping in view the insignificant number of complaints so far received, the Committee feel that the Ministry should work in conjunction with social media platforms. Plenty of efforts will be needed in order to make significant impact to counter fake news.

Implementation of Central Sector Schemes(CSS) in North Eastern Region

26. The Committee note that the budgetary allocation for the Central Sector Schemes in North Eastern Regions during 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 remained under-utilised. Out of the allocation of Rs. 60.63 crore, Rs. 122.21 crore and Rs. 105.15 crore, respectively, the actual expenditure remained at the level of Rs. 49.44 crore, Rs. 65.24 crore and Rs. 46.01 crore(up to December, 2019), respectively. The Committee also note that lesser allocation of Rs. 74 crore has been made for CSS in NE states during 2020-21 as compared to last year. The Committee desire that adequate attention need be paid by the Ministry in the implementation of CSS Schemes in Northeastern region to connect them with the mainstream and generate employment opportunities. It will be appreciated if funds allocated are optimally utilized for boosting the implementation of CSS in these regions.

**New Delhi;
11 March , 2020
21 Phalguna, 1941(Saka)**

**DR. SHASHI THAROOR,
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Information Technology.**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(2019-20)
MINUTES OF THE SIXTEENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 25th February, 2020, from 1100 hours to 1230 hours in Committee Room No. '53', First Floor, Parliament House, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Dr. Shashi Tharoor- Chairperson

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Smt. Locket Chatterjee
3. Dr. Nishikant Dubey
4. Shri P. R. Natarajan
5. Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma

Rajya Sabha

6. Dr. Anil Agrawal
7. Shri D. Kupendra Reddy
8. Shri Ronald Sapa Tlau

Secretariat

1. Shri Y. M. Kandpal - Director
2. Smt. Geeta Parmar - Additional Director

List of Witnesses

**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING/PRSAR BHARATI**

Sl. No.	Names	Designation
1	Shri Ravi Mital	Secretary, I&B
2	Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari	Additional Secretary
3	Shri Ali R. Rizvi	AS&FA

4	Ms. T.C.A. Kalyani	JS(Film)	
5	Shri Vikram Sahay	JS(P&A)	
6	Shri P. K. Abdul Kareem	Economic Advisor	
7	Shri Binod Kumar	CCA	
8	Shri Chaitanya Prasad	OSD (C) &ADG: DFF	
9	Shri Amit Katoch	Director (BC)	
10	Shri G. C. Aron	Director (IP)	
11	Shri Shashi Shekhar Vempati	CEO, Prasar Bharati	
12	Shri Rajiv Singh	Member Finance, PB	
13	Shri K. S. Dhatwalia	Pr. DG: PIB &IIMC	
14	Shri Satyender Prakash	DG: BOC &RNI	
15	Shri C. B. S. Maurya	E-in-C, &Doordarshan	AIR
16	O. K. Sharma	ADG: DD &AIR	

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Secretary, Ministry of I & B and other representatives of the Ministry/Prasar Bharati accompanying him to the sitting of the Committee convened to examine the Demands for Grants for the year 2020-21.

3. The Secretary, Ministry of I & B made a power point presentation highlighting the budgetary allocations made for the year 2020-21 and the thrust areas of the Ministry during the year. He also highlighted on the performance of the Ministry during the 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20(up to 31 January, 2020) with regard to various projects/schemes under its three Sectors viz. Film Sector, Information Sector and Broadcasting Sector (including Prasar Bharati. He also informed that the Ministry undertook a rationalization of its Central Sector Schemes(CSS) effective from Financial Year 2020-21, as per the direction of Ministry of Finance, with the objective to consolidate fragmented schemes to avoid thin spread of resources for optimal output and outcome. The schemes having purely administrative and regular activities have been moved to the category of "Establishment Expenditure" while schemes meant for running the establishment activity of autonomous bodies have been shifted to "Other Central Expenditure". Out of 14 schemes in 2019-20,

only 5 schemes remain in FY 2020-21 under CSS. The components of 5 schemes have been shifted to 'Establishment Expenditure', while components of 4 schemes got shifted to 'Other Central Expenditure'. As a result, there is an increase in allocation under Establishment Expenditure and Other Central Expenditure and corresponding decrease in CSS, while the Gross allocation for Ministry's budget grant remain same at Rs. 4375.21 crore during 2020-21 as it was in the year 2019-20. The Ministry also highlighted on its new initiative i.e. Champion Service Sector Scheme to make India a hub for world film production intended to provide incentives to foreign film makers to shoot in India. The proposal was stated to be pending with the Ministry of Commerce, for approval.

4. The Committee, then sought certain clarifications from the representatives of the Ministry/Prasar Bharati on the various aspects of the budget provisions for the year 2020-21 and other issues like inordinate delays in the implementation of the projects viz. Development Communication and Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC), National Film Heritage Mission(NFHM), National Centre for Excellence for Animation, Visual effects, Gaming and Comics(NCoE) and also areas of major shortfall that led to under-utilisation of funds during the last three years, in respect of the schemes of Doordarshan under Prasar Bharati, etc.

5. The representatives of the Ministry replied to some of the queries of the Members and assured the Committee to send the written replies to the queries which remained unanswered.

6. The Chairperson thanked the representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for deposing before the Committee.

The witnesses then withdrew.

A verbatim record of the sitting has been kept.

The Committee, then, adjourned.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(2019-20)**

MINUTES OF THE EIGHTEENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee sat on Wednesday, the 11 March, 2020 from 1500 hours to 1620 hours in Committee Room '62', First Floor, Parliament House, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Dr. Shashi Tharoor -Chairperson

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Smt. Locket Chatterjee
3. Shri Karti P. Chidambaram
4. Dr. Nishikant Dubey
5. Smt. Raksha Nikhil Khadse
6. Dr. Sukanta Majumdar
7. Ms. Mahua Moitra
8. Shri P. R. Natarajan
9. Shri Santosh Pandey
10. Dr. Gaddam Ranjith Reddy
11. Shri Sanjay Seth
12. Dr. T. Sumathy (A) Thamizhachi Thangapandian
13. Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma

Rajya Sabha

14. Shri Y. S. Chowdary
15. Shri Md. Nadimul Haque
16. Shri Syed Nasir Hussain
17. Shri D. Kupendra Reddy
18. Shri Ronald Sapa Tlau

Secretariat

- 1. Shri Ganapati Bhat - Additional Secretary
- 2. Shri Y.M. Kandpal - Director
- 3. Dr. Sagarika Dash - Additional Director
- 4. Smt. Geeta Parmar - Additional Director
- 5. Shri Shangreiso Zimik - Deputy Secretary

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee convened to consider and adopt Draft Reports on Demands for Grants (2020-21) relating to the Ministries/Departments under their jurisdiction.

3. The Committee, then, took up the following draft Reports for consideration and adoption.

(i)xxxx....xxxx...xxxx...xxxx.....xxxx....xxxx...xxxx...xxxx...

(ii)xxxx....xxxx...xxxx...xxxx.....xxxx....xxxx...xxxx...xxxx...

(iii)xxxx....xxxx...xxxx...xxxx.....xxxx....xxxx...xxxx...xxxx

(iv) Draft Report on Demands for Grants (2020-21) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

4. The Committee, thereafter, adopted the above Report with some modifications.

5. The Committee authorized the Chairperson to finalize the draft Reports arising out of factual verification, if any, and present the Reports to the House during the current Session of Parliament.

The Committee, then, adjourned.

xxxx....Matters not related to Report.