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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS  
AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (2022-23)**

**SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA**

**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS  
(2023-24)**

**FORTY-SIXTH REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

*March, 2023/ Phalguna, 1944 (Saka)*

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(2023-24)**

*Presented to Lok Sabha on 21.03.2023*

*Laid in Rajya Sabha on 21.03.2023*



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**

**NEW DELHI**

*March, 2023/ Phalguna, 1944 (Saka)*

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**Composition of the Standing Committee on Communications and  
Information Technology (2022-23)**

**Shri Prataprao Jadhav - Chairperson**

**Lok Sabha**

2. Smt. Sumalatha Ambareesh
3. Shri Karti P. Chidambaram
4. Dr. Nishikant Dubey
5. Smt. Sunita Duggal
6. Shri Jayadev Galla
7. Smt. Raksha Nikhil Khadse
8. Dr. Sukanta Majumdar
9. Smt. Mahua Moitra
10. Shri P. R. Natarajan
11. Shri Santosh Pandey
12. Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore
13. Dr. Gaddam Ranjith Reddy
14. Shri Sanjay Seth
15. Shri Ganesh Singh
16. Shri Parvesh Sahib Singh
17. Shri Shatrughan Prasad Sinha
18. Shri L.S. Tejasvi Surya
19. Dr. T. Sumathy (A) Thamizhachi Thangapandian
20. Dr. M. K. Vishnu Prasad
21. Shri S. Jagathrakshakan

**Rajya Sabha**

22. Dr. Anil Agrawal
23. Dr. Laxmikant Bajpayee
24. Dr. John Brittas
25. Shri Syed Nasir Hussain
26. Shri Ilaiyaraaja
27. Shri Jaggesh
28. Shri Praful Patel
29. Shri Kartikeya Sharma
30. Shri Jawhar Sircar
31. Shri Lahar Singh Siroya

**Secretariat**

- |                        |   |                   |
|------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1. Shri Satpal Gulati  | - | Joint Secretary   |
| 2. Smt. A. Jyothirmayi | - | Director          |
| 3. Smt. Rinky Singh    | - | Executive Officer |

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Committee constituted w.e.f. 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 *vide* Para No.5288 of Bulletin Part-II dated 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2022.

## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology (2022-23), having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Forty-sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

2. The Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology (2022-23) was constituted on 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2022. 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 2023-24 which were laid on the Table of the House on 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2023. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2023.

4. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2023.

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;**  
**17 March , 2023**  
**26 Phalguna, 1944(Saka)**

**PRATAPRAO JADHAV,**  
**Chairperson,**  
**Standing Committee on**  
**Communications and Information Technology.**

# REPORT

## PART - I

### I. INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is the focal point regarding policy matters relating to private broadcasting, administering of the public broadcasting service (Prasar Bharati), multimedia advertising and publicity of the policies and programmes of the Government of India, film promotion and certification and regulation of print and digital media. The task of disseminating information about Government policies, schemes and programmes through different media vehicles is entrusted to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB). Radio, television, films, press and print publications, digital and social media, posters, advertising, and traditional modes of communication such as dance, drama, folk recitals, puppet shows – all these are effectively brought into play by the Ministry and their media units in dissemination and free flow of information.

2. The Ministry is functionally divided into three sectors *viz.*, Information, Broadcasting and Films. The role and responsibility of each sector is as under:-

<b>Information Sector</b>	<b>Broadcasting Sector</b>	<b>Films Sector</b>
The Information Sector is responsible for information dissemination and awareness creation of the policies and activities of the Government of India through print, electronic and digital media, framing of policy guidelines for rate fixation of government advertisements on print, electronic, and online platform, and administering the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, and the Press Council Act, 1978.	The Broadcasting Sector aids the Ministry in the far-reaching dissemination of Government schemes and initiatives via All India Radio and Doordarshan. The Sector oversees these public broadcasters by administering the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990. It also regulates private TV channels and the network of multi-system operators and local cable operators through the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and policy guidelines issued from time to time. It gives license to DTH/HITS operators for their respective operations. The private FM radio network is regulated by the Ministry through auctioning of FM channels, operationalization of Community Radio Stations in rural and remote areas.	The Films Sector is responsible for production and distribution of documentaries, preservation of films, organization of international film festivals and promotion of good cinema by institution of awards. It administers the Cinematograph Act, 1952, which looks into certification of films for public exhibition and handles other matters relating to film industry, including developmental and promotional activities.

3. As per the decision of the Union Government, the Films Division, National Film Archive of India, Directorate of Film Festivals & Children's Film Society of India have been merged with National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) w.e.f. 01.01.2023. So currently, there are **7** media units/ attached & subordinate offices, **5** autonomous bodies which include **3** training institutes and **2** Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under the Ministry. The details are as follows:-

<b>Media units/attached &amp; subordinate offices</b>	<b>Autonomous Organizations</b>	<b>Public Sector Undertakings</b>
i. Press Information Bureau (PIB) ii. Central Bureau of Communication(CBC)* iii. Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) iv. Directorate of Publications Division (DPD) v. New Media Wing (NMW) vi. Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC) vii. Central Board of Films Certification (CBFC)	i. Press Council of India (PCI) ii. Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) iii. Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) iv. Film and Television Institute of India, Pune (FTII) v. Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata (SRFTI)	i. Broadcasting Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL) ii. National Films Development Corporation (NFDC)
*The erstwhile Bureau of Outreach and Communication (BOC) has been renamed as Central Bureau of Communication(CBC)* from 2022.		

4. The expenditure of the Ministry is categorized under the following three 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 {Includes Grants-in-Aid to five Autonomous Bodies of this Ministry, viz., 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), PrasarBharati (PB)and National Film Development Corporation (New entry from RE 2022-23)- a central PSU}. <b>* Note:-</b> Children Film Society, India (CFSI)- This organization has now been merged with National Film Development Corporation as per the decision of Union Government w.e.f. 01.01.2023.

5. An overview of the aforesaid three categories, under three wings/sectors of the Ministry, is as under:-

	FILM SECTOR	INFORMATION SECTOR	BROADCASTING SECTOR (Other than Prasar Bharati)	BROADCASTING SECTOR (Prasar Bharati)
<b>Establishment Expenditure of the Centre</b>	<p>The provision under this Sector covers Establishment Expenditure of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC);</li> <li><b>Films Division (FD); *</b></li> <li><b>National Film Archive of India (NFAI); *</b></li> <li><b>Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF); *</b></li> <li>Payment of Annual Membership Subscription to Association of Moving Images (AMIA); and</li> <li>Contribution to membership of International Archive Organizations.</li> </ol> <p><i>*(As per the decision of the Union Government, <b>Films Division, National Film Archive of India and Directorate of Film Festivals have been merged with National Film Development Corporation w.e.f. 01.01.2023</b>)</i></p>	<p>The provision under this Sector covers Establishment Expenditure of Main Secretariat of the Ministry and Media Units of Information Wing of the Ministry, viz:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secretariat Expenditure;</li> <li>New Media Wing (NMW);</li> <li>Press Information Bureau (PIB);</li> <li>Central Bureau of Communication (erstwhile BOC);</li> <li>Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI);</li> <li>Publications Division (DPD) - Also includes provision for Employment News from FY 2022-23;</li> <li>Contribution to International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC).</li> </ol>	<p>The provision under this Sector covers Establishment Expenditure of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC);</li> <li>Private FM Radio Station; and</li> <li>Payment of Annual Membership Subscription to Asia Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD).</li> </ol>	
<b>Central Sector Schemes</b>	<p>Under Central Sector Schemes the provisions cover the scheme 'Development, Communication and Dissemination of Filmic Content' (DCDFC)</p> <p>DCDFC scheme, which was earlier being implemented by Films Division, National Film Archive of India, Directorate of Film Festivals and Children's Film Society, India, is being implemented by National Film Development Corporation w.e.f. 01.01.2023.</p>	<p>Under Central Sector Schemes the provisions cover the scheme 'Development Communication and Information Dissemination'.</p>	<p>Under Central Sector Schemes the provisions cover the scheme 'Supporting Community Radio Movement in India'.</p>	<p>The provisions under this Sector cover expenditure on Central Sector Scheme namely, Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND)</p>
<b>Other Central Expenditure, including those on Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and Autonomous Bodies</b>	<p>Other Central Expenditure of Autonomous Bodies under Films Wing covered in these provisions is as under:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Children's Film Society, India (CFSI); *</b></li> <li>Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune; and</li> <li>Satyajit Ray Film &amp; Television Institute (SRFTI), Kolkata.</li> <li><b>National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) *</b></li> </ol> <p><i>*(As per the decision of the Union Government, CFSI has been merged with National Film Development Corporation w.e.f. 01.01.2023)</i></p>	<p>The provision under this Sector covers Other Central Expenditure of Autonomous Bodies of Information Wing of the Ministry, viz.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC); and</li> <li>Press Council of India (PCI).</li> </ol>		<p>Salary and Salary related expenditure of Prasar Bharati</p>

6. During the year 2020-21, a new vertical was added to look after the matters relating to Online/ Digital media. The Central Government amended the Government of



India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 on 9.11.2020 giving mandate to the Ministry of I&B on matters as under:

**Digital/Online Media**

- a) “Films and Audio-Visual programmes made available by online content providers”
- b) “News and current affairs content on online platforms”

7. Further, the ‘Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021’ [hereinafter called as ‘IT Rules, 2021’] under the ‘Information Technology Act, 2000’, were notified by the Government on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2021. Part-III of the ‘IT Rules, 2021’ relates to publishers of news and current affairs content and publishers of online curated content [Over-The-Top (OTT) Platforms] on digital media, which is administered by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

**II. IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE CONTAINED IN THE THIRTY-FOURTH REPORT ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2022-23)**

8. The Thirty-fourth Report of the Committee on the ‘Demands for Grants’ (2022-23) relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting was presented to the Lok Sabha/laid in the Rajya Sabha on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2022. The Forty-first Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Thirty-fourth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2023. Out of the 19 Recommendations contained in the said Report, 15 Recommendations were accepted by the Government. The Committee had reiterated 01 Recommendation and three of the replies were interim in nature. The final Action Taken Statement on the Recommendations contained in the Forty-first Report will be due by 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2023.

**III. BUDGET OVERVIEW AND DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2023-24)**

9. Demand No. 61 covers the expenditure of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) and their attached/sub-ordinate offices and autonomous/grantee bodies, including Prasar Bharati. The Budgetary allocations at Budget Estimate and Revised Estimate stage alongwith the Actual Expenditure (hereinafter referred to as BE, RE and AE) for MIB for last five years viz. 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23 alongwith the allocations made for the year 2023-24, at BE stage, are as under:-

(Rs. in Crore)				
Year	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. RE
2018-19	4088.98	4088.98	4003.28	97.90
2019-20	4375.21	4064.76	4032.36	99.20
2020-21	4375.21	3650.25	3380.44	92.61
2021-22	4071.23	3764.69	3728.99	99.05
2022-23	3980.77	<b>4182.00</b>	<b>3403.54*</b>	<b>81.39*</b>
2023-24	<b>4692.00</b>	--	--	--

(\*) - Actual Expenditure up to 31.01.2023

10. For the year 2023-24, the Ministry had proposed Rs. 5199.51 crore and allocation made is Rs. 4692.00 Cr. Details of the proposed and allocated amount, for the three categories of the Ministry, for the year 2023-24, are as under:-

(Rs. in Crore)		
Categories	Proposed amount for 2023-24	Allocated amount for 2023-24 at BE stage
Establishment Expenditure of the Centre	572.65	535.50
Central Sector Schemes	1519.05	1105.00
Other Central Expenditure, including those on Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and Autonomous Bodies	3107.83	3051.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5199.51 crore</b>	<b>4692.00</b>

11. The details of the budgetary allocations and actual expenditure (BE, RE & AE), under the aforesaid three categories during the last five years and the BE allocations for the year 2023-24, are as under:-

Year	(Rs. in Crore)															
	Establishment expenditure of the centre				Central sector schemes				Other central expenditure, INCLUDING those on central public sector enterprises (CPSES) and autonomous bodies				TOTAL			
	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. RE	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. RE	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. RE	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. RE
2018-19	454.90	478.29	455.00	95.13	735.05	712.66	656.78	92.16	2899.03	2898.03	2891.50	99.77	4088.98	4088.98	4003.28	97.90
2019-20	495.45	460.64	449.73	97.63	900.00	625.39	607.43	97.13	2979.76	2978.73	2975.20	99.88	4375.21	4064.76	4032.36	99.20
2020-21	554.80	441.82	431.99	97.77	740.00	346.73	333.34	96.14	3080.41	2861.70	2615.11	91.38	4375.21	3650.25	3380.44	92.61
2021-22	563.77	530.47	499.88	94.23	632.05	450.00	452.66	100.59	2875.41	2784.22	2776.45	99.72	4071.23	3764.69	3728.99	99.05
2022-23	<b>582.87</b>	<b>584.84</b>	<b>453.09*</b>	<b>77.47*</b>	<b>630.00</b>	<b>639.00</b>	<b>356.83*</b>	<b>55.84*</b>	<b>2767.90</b>	<b>2958.16</b>	<b>2593.62*</b>	<b>87.68*</b>	<b>3980.77</b>	<b>4182.00</b>	<b>3403.54*</b>	<b>81.39*</b>
2023-24	<b>535.50</b>	--	--	--	<b>1105.00</b>	--	--	--	<b>3051.50</b>	--	--	--	<b>4692.00</b>	--	--	--

(\*) EXPENDITURE FOR FY 2022-23 is up to 31.01.2023

12. During the year 2022-23, the BE and RE allocations for 'Establishment Expenditure of the Centre' were Rs. 582.87 crore and Rs. 584.84 crore respectively. However, the actual expenditure (till 31.01.2023), was Rs. 453.09 crore which is 77.47% of RE allocations. With regard to 'Central Sector Schemes,' the BE and RE for the year 2022-23 were Rs. 630.00 crore and Rs. 639.00 crore respectively, whereas the actual expenditure (till 31.01.2023), is Rs. 356.83 crore which is 55.84 % of RE allocations. Thus, the Ministry were asked to provide reasons for proposing an amount

of Rs. 572.65 crore and Rs. 1519.05 crore for the aforesaid categories respectively. To this, the Ministry replied as under:-

“Ministry proposed ₹572.63 crores during 2023-24 for Establishment Expenditure against the BE 2022-23 of ₹582.87 crore. The reduction in projection is on account of rationalization of resources after merger of three Film Media Units under ‘Establishment Expenditure of the Centre’ into NFDC. However, the likely increase in expenditure on account of salary including the DA and annual increment was also taken into consideration while projecting BE 2023-24. The projection also covered likely enhanced expenditure on non-salary component. As regards expenditure in the current financial year, the Ministry is likely to fully utilize its RE 2022-23 allocations of ₹584.84 crore as expenditure as on 22.02.2023 is ₹466.96 crore which is 80.11% of BE 2022-23

Ministry proposed ₹1519.05 crores during 2023-24 under Central Sector Schemes to make provisions for the increased expenditure under the DCID Scheme, DCDFC Scheme and BIND Scheme in line with the approval obtained for the Schemes for the five year period of 2021-26. As regards expenditure in the current financial year, the Ministry is likely to utilize its RE 2022-23 allocations of ₹639.00 crores”.

13. Regarding the reasons for under-utilisation during the year 2022-23, the Ministry replied that:-

“The Ministry has utilized 81.39% of its allocated RE 2022-23 upto 31.01.2023. It is expected that funds will be fully utilized upto end of Financial Year”.

14. On enquiring about the preparedness in view of not getting the proposed sum during the year 2023-24 (at BE stage), the Ministry replied as under:-

“Depending upon expenditure, there is recourse to seek additional funds from M/o Finance at the stage of Supplementary Grants or the Revised Estimates stage. Therefore, if any requirement arises, Ministry may request for funds at the stage of Supplementary Grants or at Revised Estimates stage 2023-24”.

15. Assuring the Committee about full utilisation of fund allocated for the year 2022-23, the Secretary, during evidence submitted as under:-

“सर, चूंकि आजका विषय बजट का है, इसलिए बजट के बारे में जैसा प्रस्तुतिकरण किया गया, उसमें आपने देखा होगा कि पिछले 4 वर्षों में यदि हम देखें तो जो हमारा बजट एस्टिमेट था, उसके रिवाइज एस्टिमेट में 300 से 400 करोड़ रुपये की कटौती हुई और उसे कम किया गया, क्योंकि जो अपेक्षा थी उस तरह से खर्च नहीं हो पाया था। वर्ष 2022-23 में आप देखेंगे कि हमारा जो बजट एस्टिमेट है, उसमें रिवाइज एस्टिमेट में बढ़ाकर हमें 200 करोड़ रुपये दिए गए, क्योंकि हमारा खर्चा अच्छा चल रहा है और वित्त विभाग को पूरी अपेक्षा है कि हम इस वर्ष अपना खर्चा पूरा करेंगे। अभी फरवरी का महीना है, तो हमारा खर्चा पूरा होगा”।

16. With regard to the Schemes that have suffered due to underutilization of funds during the year 2022-23, the Ministry submitted as under:-

“Community Radio Station and Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development (BIND) schemes have suffered due to underutilization of funds during the year 2022-23”.

17. The details of Schemes that had maximum and minimum progress during 2019-20 to 2022-23, are as under:-

Year	Scheme with minimum progress	% utilization of scheme with minimum progress (w.r.t RE)	Scheme with maximum progress	% utilization of scheme with maximum progress (w.r.t RE)
2019-20	Development Communication & Dissemination of Filmic Content	88.08%	Up-gradation of IIMC to International Standards (IIMC)	100%
2020-21	Development Communication & Dissemination of Filmic Content  Champion Services Sector Scheme	80.99%  0%	Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development (PrasarBharati)	101.47%
2021-22	Supporting Community Radio Movement in India	76.80%	DCID	112.35%
2022-23	Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development (PrasarBharati)	37.23% (by 30.01.2023)	Development Communication & Dissemination of Filmic Content	75.87% (by 30.01.2023)

18. Asked about the measures envisaged for effective utilization of the budgetary allocation during the year 2023-24, the Ministry replied as under:-

“All efforts will be made to utilize the allocated funds from the start of financial year. Monitoring mechanism is strengthened and review of progress of projects is taken up periodically.

The forecast of the budget expenditure is done meticulously to arrive at the correct requirement of the budget. GFR provisions are followed for the expenditure incurred to ensure correct utilization of the budget. The merger of 4 film media units with NFDC would synergize the activities undertaken under DCDFC scheme leading to effective utilization of budgetary allocation during FY 2023-24.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has been reviewing the expenditure of Prasar Bharati periodically and Prasar Bharati has been advised to regularly review the projects through an annual action plan to be undertaken and monitored at least on a monthly basis both from physical and financial progress point of view. Further, Prasar Bharati is also advised to submit a monthly and annual expenditure plan for the FY 2023-24. The progress of expenditure is also being monitored closely at the senior officer levels.

Prasar Bharati has adopted digital techniques in office functioning such as e-office, email, CAS (Centralized Accounting Software) and TSA for fund release for the scheme. These have made the system fast, efficient and transparent. A comprehensive content procurement policy has been approved by Prasar Bharati which clearly defines the processes and guidelines for procurement of content under different procurement models.

Further, multiple new policies have been approved by Prasar Bharati Board (PBB) to streamline content procurement as mentioned below

- Policy Guidelines for Commissioning of Programmes under DAP (Direct Assignment Process) and an Online Portal has been launched for the same
- Policy Guidelines for acquisition of Licensed Ready-Made Audio-Visual Content and an Online Portal has been launched for the same
- Policy for Procurement of Feature Films for Prasar Bharati Platforms on Fixed License Fee – 2021”.

19. When asked for details of announcements w.r.t. new Schemes/Programmes, if any, in the Union Budget 2023-24, if any, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, replied as under:-

“No announcement has been made in the Union Budget 2023-24 for M/o Information and Broadcasting”.

20. The thrust areas in each of the three sectors of the Ministry, for the year 2023-24, are as under:-

<b><u>Information Sector</u></b>	<p>PIB is committed to achieve the targets sets under the DCID Scheme. <u>01 National Editors Conference, 04 Regional Editors Conference, 80 Vartalaaps, 05 Press Tours, Translation of Hon'ble PM's speeches and messages &amp; press releases in regional languages (approx. 110000 documents)</u> have been planned to be undertaken during the year 2023-24. Apart from these, the publicity for special events viz. IFFI and PBDS will also be undertaken during the year.</p> <p>CBC will reach out to common masses to make them aware about various welfare schemes, programmes etc. through various media vehicles, such as newspapers, Private FM Radio Stations, Private C&amp;S TV channels, exhibitions, Internet Website.</p>
<b><u>Broadcasting Sector</u></b>	<p><b>AIR:</b> Major thrust areas under BIND scheme 2021-26 are setting up of new FM transmitters in LWE, Border and uncovered area, replacement and setting up of new Studio Transmitter Links, replacement of antenna feeds, replacement of DG/AC plants, modernization and facelift of stations.</p> <p><b>Doordarshan:</b> Major thrust areas under BIND scheme 2021-26 are Expansion of DD Free Dish DTH Platform, DTH Disaster Recovery Centre, Automation &amp; Modernization of Program Production Facilities to HD, Automation &amp; Modernization of Satellite Transmission Facilities to HD, Augmentation of News Production Equipment, Upgradation of Technical facilities to HD for live coverages, Technology for Content Innovation and Scheme for DTH receive sets to grow base for DD</p>

	<p>Free dish. Acquisition/ production of quality content, both in-house and from the outside producers. For this, a comprehensive content procurement policy has been notified.</p> <p><b>Community Radio Station:</b> The major thrust area, in respect of Community Radio Station sector, is to provide impetus towards setting up of Community Radio Stations specially in Community Radio Dark areas. Emphasis is on increasing awareness amongst eligible organisations in these areas so that more and more stations are setup in larger public interests. A total of 6 Awareness workshops and 4 regional Sammelans have been planned in 2023-24.</p>
<b>FILM Sector</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Amendment of the Cinematograph Act to make the process of sanctioning of films for exhibition more effective, in tune with the changed times and curb the menace of film piracy.</li> <li>ii. Further amendments in the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 1983 to enhance ease of film certification and make the process more effective.</li> <li>iii. 54th International Film Festival of India to be organized from 20-28 November, 2023 at Panjim, Goa.</li> <li>iv. Organizing of the 69th and 70th National Films Awards at New Delhi.</li> <li>v. Making India a preferred shooting destination for Film and Television producers around the world under the umbrella of Champion Services Sector Scheme.</li> <li>vi. Digitization of 1245 feature films and 1368 short films.</li> <li>vii. 2K/4K Picture and Sound Restoration of 300 feature films and 330 short films.</li> <li>viii. Construction of storage facilities of global standards at NFAI, Pune.</li> <li>ix. Participation and setting up of India Pavilion in International Film Festivals viz. Cannes, Berlin, Toronto and many other international film festivals.</li> <li>x. Setting up of a National Centre of Excellence for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (NCoE- AVGC) at Mumbai.</li> <li>xi. Expediting the Audio Visual Co-production Agreement with various Countries which are under process and other identified countries</li> <li>xii. Launching of AVGC Mission to promote the AVGC segment of Media &amp; Entertainment (M&amp;E) Sector</li> </ol>

#### **IV. CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEMES (CSS)**

21. For effective and better utilization of resources, a comprehensive rationalization and restructuring of the Plan Schemes was carried out by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in 2019-20, which have been implemented in 2020-21. Various small schemes/programmes with similar objectives and activities spread across different media units have been merged together under umbrella schemes. New sub-schemes required for further strengthening of different activities have been clubbed with main schemes. As a result, after rationalization from the financial year 2020-21, 14 Schemes

and 13 sub-schemes were reduced to 5 Schemes viz. Development Communication & Information Dissemination (DCID), Development Communication & Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC), Champion Service Sector Scheme (CSSS), Broadcasting Infrastructure Development (Prasar Bharati) and Supporting Community Radio.

22. As the objectives of the Champion Service Sector Scheme (CSSS) for Audio Visual Services were closely related with the Development Communication and Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC) scheme of the Ministry, CSSS was merged with DCDFC scheme from FY 2022-23. After the merger of CSSS with DCDFC, the Ministry now have four (4) Central Sector Schemes with following objectives:-

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Central Sector Schemes</b>	<b>Objectives</b>
i.	Development Communication & Information Dissemination (DCID)  <b><u>(Information Sector)</u></b>	This scheme is targeted towards meeting the requirements of publicity for various Government Schemes. The primary objective of the scheme is to generate awareness that will enable targeted beneficiary to avail the benefits of developmental schemes of the Government, to elicit enhanced participation of the people in the process of development and governance, to ensure the upkeep of a healthy and clean environment for sustainable and green growth and to enable better public compliance.
ii.	Development, Communication & Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC) Scheme  <b><u>(Film Sector)</u></b>	The scheme Development, Communication and Dissemination of Filmic Content was launched to promote and preserve quality Indian cinemas by means of hosting film festivals, producing new films documentaries, collecting and maintaining film archives and adopting anti-piracy initiatives. The scheme aims to synergize activities of various media units in participation in and organization of international film festivals in India and abroad for showcasing Indian cinema to a large and versatile audience. It wishes to facilitate production, distribution and marketing of all genres of Indian Cinemas, including films in regional languages. It also works to promote and build institutions that play a part towards conservation and preservation of the filmic heritage of India and to initiate steps to prevent unlawful use of filmic content.
iii.	Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND) <b><u>(Broadcasting Sector)</u></b>	The scheme Broadcast Infrastructure Network Development consists of a wide range of initiative taken up by Prasar Bharati to cover the national television-based broadcaster Doordarshan and radio-based broadcaster All India Radio. The scheme aims to improve physical infrastructure of both, Doordarshan and All India Radio to incorporate latest state-of-the-art technology as well as ensures universal and public access to their offerings. The objective of the scheme is to expand the networks and upgrade quality of programmes and transmission on both mediums through a

		list of interventions decided upon within the scheme.
iv.	Supporting Community Radio Movement in India	The scheme aims to strengthen new and existing CRSs with resources, capacity and technology in order to upgrade the standard of the stations and increase reach and visibility to the interior regions of India. This would help promote growth of CRS in remote and rural areas thereby aiding socio-economic and cultural development of communities by using CRS as a powerful medium of social mobilization. The scheme therefore aims to revitalize new and existing CRSs by providing required funds for resources, capacity and technology thereby increasing effectiveness of operational community radio stations.

23. When the Ministry was asked, whether the rationalization of Schemes done in 2020-21 have led to better utilization of funds, they replied as under:-

“The rationalization has been undertaken on the basis of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) circulated by M/o Finance on 30.09.2019. It was aimed to consolidate fragmented schemes to avoid thin spread of resources for optimal outputs and outcomes. Further, the schemes having purely administrative nature have been shifted to the category- Establishment Expenditure and Other Central Expenditure. The consolidation of resources is providing flexibility in use, leading to better utilization of funds benefiting each sector. In order to avoid parking of funds, Ministry is releasing limited head wise monthly grant on the basis of Monthly Expenditure Plan (MEP) / Quarterly Expenditure Plan (QEP) under Cash Management System of Govt. of India. The requisition of funds with unspent balance of the previous years projected by the Media Units/Scheme Administrators is also taken into consideration at the time of release of Grant by the Ministry. This helps the Ministry to re-appropriate the funds with maximum flexibility amongst schemes and component of expenditure within the scheme. Besides this, a report on output-outcome budgeting is also furnished to the Ministry by the Media Units as per the allocated physical targets. This helps the Ministry to re-appropriate the funds to maximize the utilization and achievement of the agreed objectives”.

24. Overall budgetary allocation and utilization (BE, RE and AE) under Central Sector Schemes for the year 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 and BE for the year 2023-24 are as under:-

CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEMES				(Rs. in Crore)
Year	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t RE
2019-20	900.00	625.39	607.43	97.13
2020-21	740.00	346.73	333.34	96.14
2021-22	632.05	450.00	452.66	100.59
2022-23	630.00	639.00	356.83*	55.84
2023-24	1105.00			

(\*) Actual Expenditure up to 31.01.2023.



25. Details of the budgetary allocation and utilization under each Central Sector Schemes for the last four years are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)					
<b>INFORMATION SECTOR</b>					
<b>1. Development Communication &amp; Information Dissemination (DCID)</b>					
Year	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. BE	% w.r.t. RE
2019-20	200.00	187.63	184.20	92.10	98.17
2020-21	220.00	103.40	100.39	45.63	97.09
2021-22	188.00	188.00	211.21	112.34	112.34
2022-23	184.00	194.00	141.98*	77.16	<b>73.19</b>
2023-24	200.00				
(**) The Allocation under DCID scheme was enhanced to ₹ 214.35 cr in Final Grant.					
<b>FILM SECTOR</b>					
<b>2. Development Communication &amp; Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC)</b>					
Year	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. BE	% w.r.t. RE
2019-20	53.87	63.39	56.46	104.80	85.07
2020-21	115.50	63.51	54.52	47.20	85.84
2021-22**	122.62	84.50	77.85	63.49	92.13
2022-23	127.16	127.00	96.36*	75.78	<b>75.87</b>
2023-24	300.00				
<b>BROADCASTING SECTOR</b>					
<b>3. Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND of Prasar Bharati)</b>					
Year	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. BE	% w.r.t. RE
2019-20	473.00	235.40	235.40	49.77	100.00
2020-21	370.00	173.90	176.46	47.69	101.47
2021-22#	316.00	175.00	161.68	51.16	92.39
2022-23	315.00	315.00	117.29*	37.23	<b>37.23</b>
2023-24	600.00				
(#) The allocation under this scheme was enhanced to Rs.182.03 crore in Final Grant 2020-21.					
<b>4. Supporting Community Radio Movement in India (SCR)</b>					
Year	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. BE	% w.r.t. RE
2019-20	3.80	3.80	3.29	86.58	86.58
2020-21	4.50	2.12	1.97	43.78	92.92
2021-22	3.84	2.50	1.92	50.00	76.80
2022-23	3.84	3.00	1.20*	31.25	<b>40.00</b>
2023-24	5.00				
(*) Actual Expenditure up to 31.01.2023.					

26. Explaining about the enhanced allocation for the year 2023-24, under Central Sector Schemes, the Secretary, during evidence submitted as under:-

“आप देखें तो इस वर्ष जो हमारी केंद्रीय योजनाएं हैं, उसमें इस वर्ष 2022-23 का जो हमारा बजट एस्टिमेंट था, वह 630 करोड़ रुपये था, जिसे बढ़ाकर रिवाइज एस्टिमेंट 639 करोड़ रुपये किया गया। बजट एस्टिमेंट 2023-24 में जैसा कि मैंने बताया था, बहुत अधिक वृद्धि हुई है। 75 परसेंट की वृद्धि करके इसे 1105 करोड़ रुपये किया गया है। अगले वर्ष में हमसे यह अपेक्षा है कि हम अधिक से अधिक केंद्रीय योजनाओं पर व्यय करेंगे। इसमें सबसे अधिक वृद्धि ‘डीसीडीएफसीस्कीम’ में है, जो फिल्मों के ऊपर है। इसमें 127 करोड़ से 300 करोड़ और बाइंड स्कीम में 315 करोड़ से 600 करोड़ किया गया है”।

27. During the year 2022-23, under all the four ‘Central Sector Schemes’ [DCID, DCDFC, BIND and Supporting Community Radio Movement in India], there was underutilization of funds and actual expenditure (till 31.01.2023) for the 4 Central Sector

Schemes were 73.19%, 75.87%, 37.23% and 40% of RE allocations respectively. When asked for the details of the impact of reduced allocation of fund, at RE stage during the year 2022-23, on all the Central Sector Schemes, alongwith the reasons for under-utilization of funds allocated for each Central Sector Schemes, the Ministry replied as under:-

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name of the Scheme</b>	<b>The impact of the reduced allocation of fund, at RE stage during the year 2022-23, on the Central Sector Schemes</b>	<b>Reasons for under-utilization of funds on the Central Sector Schemes during the year 2022-23</b>
<b>(i)</b>	<b>Development Communication &amp; Information Dissemination (DCID)</b>	No reduction in allocation has been done during the RE stage during the year 2022-23.	There is no underutilization of funds. The funds are being optimally utilized.
<b>(ii)</b>	<b>Development Communication &amp; Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC)</b>	No reduction in allocation has been done during the RE stage during the year 2022-23.	There is no underutilization of funds. The funds are being optimally utilized.
<b>(iii)</b>	<b>Broadcasting Infrastructure Development (Prasar Bharati)</b>	No reduction in allocation has been done during the RE stage during the year 2022-23.	The reason for underutilization of funds are enumerated as under: (i) Tender of FM project like Mobile FM Transmitters etc. was cancelled due to technical reasons. Tower erection work is still under progress at some places. There was also delay in supply of 10 kW FM Transmitters. Acquisition of site at Dahod(Gujarat) is also getting delayed to cost factor. (ii) Delay in receipt of Decision Letter (DL) from WPC for SITC for uplink Antenna system (7 locations) & UPS system for 11 locations. (iii) SITC of End to End File based workflow system at DDK Hyderabad is delayed by the firm due to different technical reasons and technical requirement of Kendra. The expenditure is expected to be booked in 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter of current financial year i.e. FY 2022-23.

			<p>(iv) The tender of Procurement of archive system LTO has been cancelled due to administrative reasons.</p> <p>(v) Cancellation of tenders for procurement of DD Free Dish Receiver Sets due to limited participation of bidders, unreasonable higher price bids/quoted rates due to low participation of bidders.</p> <p>(vi) Tower strengthening work at Gangtok got delayed based on the recommendation of CCW based on the report of IIT Guwahati.</p> <p>(vii) Some delays took place due to non-compliance of terms and conditions of the agreement by the producers in some content cases.</p>
(iv)	<b>Supporting Community Radio</b>	No reduction of allocated fund at RE Stage has been proposed	Under the Scheme "Supporting Community Radio Movement in India" Various activities such as Community Radio Workshops, Capacity Building for existing Community Radios were carried out in an online mode, which resulted in savings.

28. When asked to enumerate the major challenges/hindrances witnessed under each Central Sector Schemes as well as the steps taken to overcome them alongwith the outcome of the same, the Ministry replied as under:-

	<b>Major challenges/hindrances witnessed under the Scheme</b>	<b>Steps taken to overcome the challenges/hindrances encountered under the Scheme</b>	<b>Tangible Outcome of the measures taken to address the challenges/hindrances encountered under the Scheme</b>
<b>Development Communication &amp; Information Dissemination (DCID)</b>	There have been no challenges and there is optimum utilization of funds.		
<b>Development Communication &amp; Dissemination of</b>	There have been no challenges and there is optimum utilization of funds.		

<b>Filmic Content (DCDFC)</b>	
<b>Broadcasting Infrastructure Development (Prasar Bharati)</b>	Due to COVID-19 pandemic there were hindrances in supply of equipments.
<b>Supporting Community Radio</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness about the Community Radio Schemes amongst eligible applicants</li> <li>• Lack of financial resources with applicants</li> <li>• Procedural delay in grant of permission/ License</li> <li>• Organizing workshops in places where no community Radio exists</li> <li>• Increasing grant size for Operational Stations</li> <li>• Launch of Broadcast seva portal and integration with DOT portal.</li> </ul> <p>The number of CRS has increased from 303 in Jan 2022 to 412 by January 2023</p>

29. Regarding plans to improve the performance under each Scheme under Central Sector Schemes during the year 2023-24, the Ministry replied as under:-

<b>Central Sector Schemes</b>	<b>Plans to improve the performance under each Scheme/Media Units under Central Sector Schemes for the year 2023-24</b>
<b>Development Communication &amp; Information Dissemination (DCID)</b>	Schemes are being implemented as per the planned schedule. The new automation platform under implementation has proposed modules where better monitoring and review of schemes can be done.
<b>Development Communication &amp; Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC)</b>	An Empowered Committee is in place to monitor the implementation of the DCDFC Scheme and control over the performance of the Scheme.
<b>Broadcasting Infrastructure Development (Prasar Bharati)</b>	Prasar Bharati has adopted digital techniques in office functioning such as e-office, email, CAS (Centralized Accounting Software) and TSA for fund release for the scheme. These have made the system fast, efficient and

	<p>transparent. A comprehensive content procurement policy has been approved by Prasar Bharati which clearly defines the processes and guidelines for procurement of content under different procurement models. Further, multiple new policies have been approved by Prasar Bharati Board (PBB) to streamline content procurement as mentioned below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy Guidelines for Commissioning of Programmes under DAP (Direct Assignment Process) and an Online Portal has been launched for the same</li> <li>• Policy Guidelines for acquisition of Licensed Ready-Made Audio-Visual Content and an Online Portal has been launched for the same</li> <li>• Policy for Procurement of Feature Films for Prasar Bharati Platforms on Fixed License Fee - 2021</li> </ul>
<p><b>Supporting Community Radio</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposal of holding 4 Regional Sammelans in 2023-24</li> <li>• Capacity and training of Community Radio Stations</li> <li>• Awareness Workshops for CRS applicants</li> <li>• Dissemination of Content on development through CRS</li> <li>• Financial assistance to New and existing CRS</li> </ul>

**V. BROADCASTING SECTOR (INCLUDING PRASAR BHARATI)**

30. The Broadcasting Sector is broadly categorized into two categories viz. 'Content' and 'Carriage services'. It also regulates private TV channels and the network of multi-system operators and local cable operators through the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and policy guidelines issued from time to time. Broadcasting Carriage services include Multi-System Operators (MSOs)/Local Cable Operators (LCOs), Directto-Home (DTH) operators, Headend-In-The- Sky (HITS) operators and Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) service providers. It gives license/permission to DTH/HITS operators for their respective operations.

**(i) Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development (BIND)**

31. BIND scheme of Ministry of I&B is the only vehicle for providing Governmental support to Prasar Bharati for expenses related to expansion and upgradation of its broadcasting infrastructure, content development and civil work. The basic features/objectives of the BIND Scheme are Modernization (including Digitization) Augmentation & Replacement of Transmitters, Broadcast Equipments & Studios, FM Expansion/Replacement, Strengthening of Coverage in sensitive areas, Expansion of TV Channels, E-Governance, Content Development, etc.

32. BIND Scheme also provides support to Prasar Bharati for strengthening border area infrastructure and special focus on development of J&K and NE for the following activities:

- (i) FM Stations in LWE and border district of strategic locations.
- (ii) Doordarshan DTH Set Top Boxes (STBs) distribution in strategic areas: Under first phase distribution of 1,50,000 STBs in J&K and NE region were approved under BIND Scheme 2017- 21. 30,000 STBs have distributed in 2019-20. Procurement for remaining 1.2 Lakhs STBs is under process.

33. During previous DFG (2022-23), it was found that some projects/schemes of Prasar Bharati were impacted during 2021-22 which *inter-alia* included (i) Non-availability of site for AIR project at Dahod in Gujarat; (ii) Insufficient participation of tender for procurement of 5 kW Mobile FM Transmitters (iii) Procurement of 1.2 lakhs Direct to Home (DTH) Receive Sets; (iv) Tower Strengthening work at Gangtok; etc. During this year some of the reasons for under-utilization under one of the CSS i.e BIND Scheme, provided are (a) tender of FM project like Mobile FM Transmitters etc. cancelled due to technical reasons; (b) delay in supply of 10 kW FM Transmitters and (c) acquisition of site at Dahod (Gujarat) delayed due to cost factor; etc. When asked about the measures taken to address the pending issue of acquisition of site at Dahod (Gujarat) due to high cost as well as outcome of those measures, the Ministry replied as under:-

“In view of high cost of the site offered earlier, matter was followed up further and alternate site has been identified which is being offered by State Government at free cost.

This site has been got examined through senior officers of CCW for assessment of feasibility of the site for the project and subsequently CCW has intimated that the development cost of the site would be approximately Rs. 5 crore. However, due to non-availability of proper approach road to reach the site, zonal office has taken up the issue with State Govt. for providing approach road and favorable decision likely to be received shortly”.

34. The Budgetary allocation and utilisation for BIND during the last three years along with BE for 2023-24 are as under:-

<b>Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (Prasar Bharati)</b>					
<b>(Rs. in crore)</b>					
<b>Year</b>	<b>BE</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>AE</b>	<b>% w.r.t. BE</b>	<b>% w.r.t. RE</b>
<b>2019-20</b>	473.00	235.40	235.40	49.77	100.00
<b>2020-21</b>	370.00	173.90	176.46	47.69	101.47
<b>2021-22<sup>#</sup></b>	316.00	175.00	161.68	51.16	92.39
<b>2022-23</b>	315.00	315.00	117.29*	37.23	37.23

<b>2023-24</b>	600.00	-	-	-	-
(#) The allocation under this scheme was enhanced to Rs.182.03 crore in Final Grant 2020-21. (* ) Actual Expenditure up to 31.01.2023.					

35. When asked for the year-wise details of the fund for BIND, the Ministry submitted as under:-

<b>(Rs. in crore)</b>		
<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Year wise Allocation</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>
2021-22	159.85	159.85
2022-23	315.00	83.94*
2023-24	600.00	
2024-25	750.00	
2025-26	714.76	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2539.61</b>	
*Expenditure up to Jan' 2023		

36. Enumerating the reasons for under-utilisation of funds under BIND Scheme, the Ministry stated as under:-

- (i) Tender of FM project like Mobile FM Transmitters etc. was cancelled due to technical reasons. Tower erection work is still under progress at some places. There was also delay in supply of 10 kW FM Transmitters. Acquisition of site at Dahod(Gujarat) is also getting delayed to cost factor.
- (ii) Delay in receipt of Decision Letter (DL) from WPC for SITC for uplink Antenna system (7 locations) & UPS system for 11 locations.
- (iii) SITC of End to End File based workflow system at DDK Hyderabad is delayed by the firm due to different technical reasons and technical requirement of Kendra. The expenditure is expected to be booked in 4th quarter of current financial year i.e. FY 2022-23.
- (iv) The tender of Procurement of archive system LTO has been cancelled due to administrative reasons.
- (v) Cancellation of tenders for procurement of DD Free Dish Receiver Sets due to limited participation of bidders, unreasonable higher price bids/quoted rates due to low participation of bidders.
- (vi) Tower strengthening work at Gangtok got delayed based on the recommendation of CCW based on the report of IIT Guwahati.
- (vii) Some delays took place due to non-compliance of terms and conditions of the agreement by the producers in some content cases.

37. On the issue of under-utilisation of funds under BIND Scheme, the Secretary during evidence submitted as under:-

“सर, एक विषय था कि प्रसार भारती में बाइंड में खर्च कम होता है, उसका कारण यह है कि कुछ माननीय सदस्यों ने कहा कि नक्सल प्रभावित क्षेत्रों और बॉर्डर एरियाज में जो सेट टॉप बॉक्सेज डीडी फ्री डिश के देने पड़ते हैं, उसमें एमएचए से हमें लिस्ट प्राप्त होनी चाहिए कि किस हाउस-होल्ड को हमें सेट टॉप बॉक्स देना है? हमारा उद्देश्य लगभग 9 लाख सेट टॉप बॉक्सेज बांटने का है। एमएचए से हमारी इस संबंध में बैठकें भी हुईं और चर्चा भी

हुई। अब उन्होंने इसके लिए एक पोर्टल भी बनाया है, जिसमें संबंधित जिले के कलेक्टर और उनके अधिकारी यह भरें कि किसको सेटटॉप बॉक्स देना है। एक बार यह लिस्ट तैयार हो जाए, फिर सेटटॉप बॉक्स खरीदने की प्रक्रिया आगे हो पाएगी। इसमें एक नयी चीज यह हुई है कि पहले जैसे टेरेस्ट्रियल होता था, तो टेरेस्ट्रियल टीवी में आपने केवल एंटीना लगाया, उसे टीवी से जोड़ा और टीवी शुरू हो जाती थी। उसी में अब बीआईएस ने अपना एक नया स्टैंडर्ड निकाला है, जिसमें सेट टॉप बॉक्स की आवश्यकता नहीं रहेगी और टीवी के अंदर इन बिल्ट सेटटॉप बॉक्स आ जाएगा, जिससे सेटटॉप बॉक्स को खरीदे बिना कोई भी डीडी फ्री डिश को देख पाएगा। अब हमारी चर्चा 'मेटी' के साथ चालू है कि टीवी मैनुफैक्चरर्स पर यह अनुबंध किया जाए और उनको बाइंडिंग किया जाए कि यह सेटटॉप बॉक्स हर टीवी में रहेगा, जिससे सेटटॉप बॉक्स को खरीदे बिना कोई भी डीडी फ्री डिश को देख पाएगा। यह हमारा प्रयास है कि इस वर्ष हम यह कर पाएं।

38. Further, the Secretary added as under:-

“हमारी पहली जो मेजर सेन्ट्रल सेक्टर्स स्कीम है, वह डीसीआईडी की है। इसमें स्कीम्स की पब्लिसिटी, सरकार के प्रोग्राम्स, पॉलिसीज़ की पब्लिसिटी और कैम्पेन्स चलाए जाते हैं। ये चल ही रहा है। ब्रॉडकास्टिंग में दो हैं। एक तो हम कम्युनिटी रेडियो और प्रसार भारती को सपोर्ट करते हैं, इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर यानी कैपिटल और कंटेंट के लिए। हम वह देख रहे हैं। हमें 315 करोड़ रुपये आरई में मिले थे। अभी तक हम 117 करोड़ रुपये तक ही पहुंच पाए हैं। इसमें बहुत सारे टेंडर्स हुए थे, जो हमें रिवाइज करने पड़े थे। हम कुछ इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर एक्सपेक्ट कर रहे हैं कि जो हम अगले दो महीनों में कर पाएंगे। इसमें ऑल इंडिया रेडियो के 100 ट्रांसमीटर्स हैं और डीडी इंडिया का न्यूज रूम है, जोकि नया बनेगा। कुछ हो जाएगा और कुछ टेंडर्स न पूरे होने की वजह से हमें दोबारा करना पड़ा और फिर उसकी मियाद आगे बढ़ी थी। शायद हम इस साल पूरा न कर पाएं।”

39. Adding on the issue of under-utilisation of funds under BIND Scheme, following was submitted by CEO, Prasar Bharati, during evidence:-

“सर, पहला है— इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर का, जिसमें बाइंड के अंतर्गत सरकार व संसद द्वारा अभी हाल ही में 4 जनवरी को कैबिनेट अप्रूवल और फिर बजट में 2500 करोड़ रुपये का प्रावधान अगले 3-4 वर्षों के लिए उपलब्ध कराया गया है। विभिन्न कारणों से इसका जो खर्च है, व्यय है, उसकी दर कुछ हद तक जरूर कम रही है, जिस पर माननीय सदस्यों ने भी अपनी चिंता व्यक्त की है। इसमें मैं आपको यह अवगत कराना चाहूंगा कि हमारी तरफ से अब इसकी कार्रवाई को पूरी गति से आगे बढ़ाने का प्रयास किया जा रहा है। जो ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट के विभिन्न पोर्टल्स हैं, जैसे जेम है या अन्य साधन हैं, उनमें आज की तारीख में लगभग 687 करोड़ रुपये के टेंडर्स ऑलरेडी लगे हुए हैं, जोकि विभिन्न प्रकार की चीजों के लिए है। जो ट्रांसमीटर हैं या हमें जो इक्विपमेंट्स खरीदने हैं या स्टूडियो अपग्रेड करने हैं या वीडियो वॉल्स देनी है, तो 687 करोड़ रुपये के टेंडर्स इस वक्त ऑलरेडी लग चुके हैं। हमारा प्रयास है कि हम और तेजी से इनको आगे बढ़ाएं। अभी तक इस वर्ष का जो व्यय है, वह जरूर कुछ कम रहा है लेकिन प्रयास करके मार्च तक हम उसको जितना आगे तक ले जा सके, उसकी हम कोशिश करेंगे।”

40. When asked about the measures planned to address each of the above factors that had resulted in under-utilisation of funds, the Ministry furnished the following replies:-

- (i) “Mobile FM Project was delayed due to unique nature of requirement as major integration is required for transmitter and container with antenna & tower as a single supply. This has now been addressed and road map for implementing this project has been approved. Specifications for transmitter, towers & containers are being processed separately.



Due to cancelation of tenders, erection of towers was delayed. Now all tower tender process are in the final stages and will be completed during 2023-24.

4 nos. of 10kW transmitter under dispatch. Remaining 5 nos. of 10kW FM transmitter will be supplied before December, 2023.

- (ii) Acquisition of site for FM Dahod is in the final stage as state government has provided alternate site free of cost. However, development work needs to be carried out. Further coordination with State Govt. is in progress at present for providing of approach road by the State Govt. Subsequently, development works would be carried out at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 5 Cr. as per tentative estimates provided by CCW.
- (iii) Matter pursued with WPC and NOCC by escalating level. All of the PDAs have been received at 7 sites. Installations at Lucknow, Ahmedabad and Bhubaneswar completed. At remaining 4 locations, installation is under progress and targeted to be completed by March 2023. Installations of UPS system at 11 locations have been completed.
- (iv) Site visits and review meeting by senior officers were done. Supply of equipment for SITC of End to End File based workflow system at DDK Hyderabad completed and system integration with NLE/Graphics & BAT server is in final stages. Project is targeted to be completed by March 2023. The inputs /feedback /experience gathered from this Pilot Project would be utilized while implementing such projects in future.
- (v) Under the new scheme, there is provision for end to end file based work flow for Kendras and LTO component is part of the file based work flow facility, hence provision of LTO will be taken care of while implementing file based work flow facility planned under BIND 2021-26.
- (vi) Approval has been conveyed to Prasar Bharati on 13.09.2022 for procurement of 8.7 lakh non-CAS, non-RPD DTH Receiver Sets with STBs. Prasar Bharati is issuing a tender with a condition of site installation of the Set Top Boxes(STBs) under Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning (SITC) mode. Hence it is essential that the addresses of nearly 8.7 lakhs beneficiaries are to be collected. It has now been decided in the coordination meeting held on 8.2.2023 with Additional Secretary (LWE), Ministry of Home Affairs that a portal will be developed by the Prasar Bharati in consultation with Ministry of Home Affairs for collection of data of beneficiaries. MHA has informed that they will co-ordinate with the States for ensuring that data is collected, following which tender will be issued by Prasar Bharati for distribution of Set Top Boxes.
- (vii) The matter is being taken up at the highest level. CCW has been advised to take the opinion of Geological Survey of India (GSI) and SERC Chennai on sinking of hill slope and stability and tilt of TV tower. Further course of action will be decided on the basis of report received from above said authorities.

- (viii) To overcome any hindrance and to streamline the processes for acquiring content, a comprehensive content procurement policy has now been approved by Prasar Bharati. This new comprehensive content procurement policy, clearly defines the processes and guidelines for procurement of content under different procurement models.

41. In addition to the above, the Ministry also submitted the following information with respect to the steps envisaged for improving the utilization under BIND:-

- (i) Most of the broadcast equipments are imported with no production in India. This procedure takes considerable time. There has been shortfall in utilization also due to Covid-19 pandemic during which movement of man and material across the globe was impacted.
- (ii) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has been reviewing the expenditure of Prasar Bharati periodically and Prasar Bharati has been advised to regularly review the projects through an annual action plan to be undertaken and monitored at least on a monthly basis both from physical and financial progress point of view. Further, Prasar Bharati is also advised to submit a monthly and annual expenditure plan for the FY 2022-23. The progress of expenditure is also being monitored closely at the senior levels.
- (iii) It is the constant endeavour of Prasar Bharati to complete the projects within the specified time frame. Monitoring mechanism has been strengthened considerably. Procurement procedures have been streamlined. Project review meetings are held regularly at Zonal level & HQ level and various activities involved in procurement of capital equipment and execution of works are critically assessed & targets are fixed. The frequency of monitoring meetings has been increased at all levels of Directorate & Prasar Bharati Sectt. Use of digital platform viz e-office, e-tendering, procurement through GEM, Video conference is also being utilized.
- (iv) Prasar Bharati has adopted digital techniques in office functioning such as e-office, email, CAS (Centralized Accounting Software) and TSA for fund release for the scheme. These have made the system fast, efficient and transparent. A dedicated IPMC (Integrated Project Monitoring Cell) has been created to closely monitor the progress as well as implementation of projects.
- (v) A comprehensive content procurement policy has been approved by Prasar Bharati which clearly defines the processes and guidelines for procurement of content under different procurement models.
- (vi) Further, multiple new policies have been approved by Prasar Bharati Board (PBB) to streamline content procurement as mentioned below:

- Policy Guidelines for Commissioning of Programmes under DAP (Direct Assignment Process) and an Online Portal has been launched for the same
- Policy Guidelines for Acquisition of Licensed Ready-Made Audio-Visual Content and an Online Portal has been launched for the same
- Policy for Procurement of Feature Films for Prasar Bharati Platforms on Fixed License Fee – 2021”.

(a) **DOORDARSHAN**

42. According to the Ministry, there are 36 satellite TV channels [8 All India channels and 28 Regional/State channels (21 nos. of 24x7 channels and 7 numbers of limited hours channels)]. The details are as under:-

<b>All India Channels(8)</b>	DD National	DD News	DD Sports
	DD Bharati	DD Urdu	DD Kisan
	DD India*	DD Retro	
<b>24x7 Regional Channels (21)</b>	DD Malyalam	DD Chandana	DD Yadagiri
	DD Podhigai	DD Sahyadri	DD Girnar
	DD Odia	DD Kashir	DD North East
	DD Bangla	DD Punjabi	DD Rajasthan
	DD Bihar	DDUP	DDMP
	DD Saptagiri	DD Arunprabha	DD Uttarakhand
	DD Jharkhand	DD Chhattisgarh	DD Tripura
Limited hours channels <b>(7)</b> (made operational on 24X7 basis by having local content and feed of DD News/DD India channels)	DD Himachal	DD Meghalaya	DD Goa
	DD Haryana	DD Nagaland	
	DD Mizoram	DD Manipur	

*\*DD India channel has international presence also*

43. Regarding the status of Modernization of channels, the Ministry replied as under:-

“The modernization and providing facilities to run these channels are continuous process and schemes are being framed in this regard from time to time depending upon the availability of funds and inter-se-priorities. However, the facilities in the kendras originating limited hour channels needs to be augmented to cater the needs for its operation on 24x7 basis independently”.

44. Submitting the details of the physical targets set and achieved under Doordarshan, during the year 2022-23, the Ministry stated as follows:-

Areas/ Projects/ Schemes in Doordarshan	2022-23		
	Physical Target set	Physical Target achieved	Reason for shortfall in the target, if any.
Modernization (including Digitization), Augmentation & Replacement of Transmitters	Balance tower strengthening work at Gangtok.	On the basis of structural analysis through Jadhavpur University & IIT Gauwahati report, safety point of view CCW has recommended to dismantle TV Tower at DDK Gangtok	CCW recommended to dismantle TV Tower at DDK Gangtok, comments of CCW are being reviewed by Transmitter Design of DG:DD
Modernization, Augmentation & Replacement of Satellite Broadcast equipment	Replacement of Uplink PDA at 7 locations.	Except Lucknow, Ahmedabad and Bhubaneshwar where MPVT has been cleared by NOCC at remaining 4 locations, installation is under progress.	Targeted to be completed in March 2023
Modernization & Digitalization of Studios	End to End File based workflow facility at Hyderabad.	Supply of equipment completed, system integration with NLE/Graphics & BAT server is under progress	Targeted to be completed in March 2023
	2 M/E HD Production switcher for 4 locations.	Supplied to all 4 locations.	No shortfall
Expansion of DTH	Procurement of 1,20,000 DTH sets for remote, tribal & LWE areas of the country.	Scheme has been clubbed with 7.5 Lakh STBs to be procured under project mode in financial year 2023-24 of BIND scheme 2021-26. Modalities to Procure DTH Receive sets through GeM is	Review of scope to include additional 7.5 lakh under project mode 2021-26 with 1.2 lakh earlier proposal.  Working with MHA to finalize the list of beneficiaries

		also being explored.	
	Upgradation of C-Band DTH E/S at Pitampura.	Approved technical evaluation report submitted to purchase wing for C-Band DTH at Pitampura	Targeted to be completed in March 2023
	Upgradation of compression chains and Misc equipment at DTH Todapur	For DTH Todapur, draft technical specifications approved and indent will be submitted to purchase wing for initiating procurement process	Supply of equipment targeted to be completed in March 2023
High Definition TV (HDTV)	Automated News Production system at News HQ, Delhi	Automated News Production system at News HQ, Delhi completed only training part by Firm of project is left.	Targeted to be completed in March 2023
Expansion of TV Channels	EFP van (for Dehradun)	Supplied.	No short fall
Augmentation of Civil Infrastructure including Staff Quarters and other misc. works	Furnishing of Guest House at Chandigarh.	Work is under Progress.	Delayed due to NOC issue from Chandigarh authority.
	Balance work for completion of tower, shifting of Transmitters & other associated works at 1 location	Zonal Office (NZ) has ordered the BECIL to complete the work in time bound manner.	The work was affected due to COVID-19 situation in the country and later on due to some administrative issues with the firm. Administrative issues with the firm M/s BECIL are to be resolved by O/o ADG (NZ)
Strengthening of Coverage in sensitive areas	Setting up 3 nos. of 10 kW HPTs at Patni Top, Green Ridge.	During joint inspection, Zonal office has been asked to take corrective action as per observations. Likely to be commissioned shortly.	Inspection at site completed. Project targeted to be completed in March 2023.
[AIR			

Component]	Setting up 2 nos. of 5 KW HPTs at Rajouri	SAT after installation is completed and transmitters are ready for commissioning.	Commissioning of project targeted to be completed by March 2023
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45. To a specific question as to which States/UTs did not have any separate Channels or even Limited Hours, the Ministry replied as under:-

“Except State of Sikkim, all States have dedicated Doordarshan channels. Programme Generating Facility, Gangtok in the State of Sikkim has local transmission hours on Analogue Terrestrial and Local Cable Network”.

46. About the reach of Doordarshan including its regional channels in terms of viewership, the Ministry submitted that:-

“Overall viewership of Doordarshan Network Channels including regional/state channels as per the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) data is 1551 lakhs in the year 2022”.

47. With respect to challenges faced by Doordarshan in expanding their outreach and measures taken to tackle those challenges, the Ministry replied as under:-

“Positioning of Doordarshan Channels on private DTH Operators and Cable Network is a major challenge. A separate Division namely, Domestic Distribution has been created to actively follow the private DTH Operators and Cable Network in this regard”.

48. Asked about the updated status of digitization of all the DD Kendras, the Ministry replied as under:-

“All of the DD channels of Doordarshan network are fully digitized. However, terrestrial transmission is being broadcast in analog mode”.

49. To the query as to whether all the archives of DD had been digitized, the Ministry replied that the archives have been digitized to the extent possible and efforts are being made to complete the remaining digitization at the earliest. On this issue, the CEO, Prasar Bharati, during evidence submitted as under:-

“जहां तक आर्काइव्स का सवाल है, आर्काइव्स में लगभग 40 हजार घंटे का कंटेंट है, जोकि प्रसार भारती के द्वारा ऑलरेडी आर्काइव और डिजिटाइज किया जा चुका है। अभी भी काफी संख्या में हमारा जो आर्काइवल मटेरियल है, वह हमारे रीजनल सेंटर्स में हैं। एक विशिष्ट योजना बनाकर हम आने वाले दिनों में प्रयास करेंगे कि आर्काइव्स का एक प्रॉपर कैटेगरीजेशन और डिजिटाइजेशन करके उसका उपयोग कर सकें”।

50. Regarding the efforts made for easy access of the archives and purchase of the recordings available with the Kendra through use of internet, the Ministry replied as under:-

“The archival content of public interest is being showcased through Social Media platforms like YouTube. The interested persons can approach Central Archives through email in order to purchase the recordings/media under the ambit of various archival policies. Information to this effect has been made public on Prasar Bharati website”.

51. On the progress made w.r.t. digitization of transmitters, studios, etc., under Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development (BIND) Scheme, the Ministry submitted:-

“Studios and Satellite of DD network are already digitized. All DTT transmitters switched off w.e.f. 31/10/2022. No new scheme under plan for digitization”.

52. Submitting the current status of procurement of equipment for Digitization and the efforts made to simplify the procurement process, the Ministry stated:-

“Digitisation of Doordarshan equipment is going on since last couple of capital plans. DD Studios, Earth stations and OB vans of all Major kendras have been digitized. Based on the technology innovation, necessary upgradation of equipment in state of art technology are being taken up. To simplify the procurement process, Prasar Bharati has introduced new procurement policy in June 2022. At the same time periodic review is being taken up at Integrated Project Monitoring Cell (IPMC) at Top Management level of Prasar Bharati”.

53. In a written submission made to the Committee, the Ministry has informed that Future technology investments in Digital Terrestrial Broadcasting will be based on the converged roadmap recommended by IIT Kanpur and viability of the same. When asked about its timeline for completion, the Ministry replied as under:-

“The timeline is dependent on the proof of Concept to be submitted by IIT Kanpur. The same is perused & followed up with IIT Kanpur”.

54. Some of the achievements of MIB during the year 2022-23, as delineated by MIB, during evidence are:-

- a) Automated News production System set up at DD News Headquarters for DD India Channel and is ready for commissioning
- b) Setting up of 100 W FM transmitters at nearly 100 locations; will be commissioned by March 2023.

55. When asked to furnish details regarding the process of automation of News production System set up at DD News Headquarters for DD India Channel, the Ministry provided the following information:-

	<b>Information sought by the Committee</b>	<b>Reply of the Ministry</b>
i.	starting time	Purchase order (AT no. 1881) was placed on 18.12.2021
ii.	target date for completion set at the inception	Target date for completion was set for September, 2022 at the time of inception
iii.	completion date	The project is likely to be completed in March 2023
iv.	funds allocated and utilized for completing the said process of automation	Funds allocated for this project are Rs. 4.36 crore and Rs. 3.36 crore have been utilized till date.
v.	reasons for delay, if any; and	The first lot of the equipment was delivered in time. However, second lot of the equipment was supplied late in August 2022. Further, as the Kendra is in 24x7 working environment, there is slight delay in project owing to finding best suited space for installation of Equipment and installation of NRCS clients workstation
vi.	Measures taken to overcome the hindrance encountered in completion of automation of News production System	Considering all the constraints related to day to day activities of the Kendra like news, recording and live transmission, allocation of best space in respect of functional requirement and in compliance of fire safety norms for installation of Equipment

56. With respect to 'Setting up of 100 W FM transmitters at nearly 100 locations' that will be commissioned by March 2023, the Ministry provided the following information:-

	<b>Information sought by the Committee</b>	<b>Reply of the Ministry</b>
(i)	Average (minimum and maximum) time take to commission one tower	Average (minimum and maximum) time taken to commission one 100W FM tower is 3 to 6 Months depending upon location of site.



(ii)	Number of towers that have taken more than 5 years for commissioning alongwith reasons for delay, if any	No FM tower has taken more than 5 years for commissioning.
(iii)	Number of towers that have taken more than 5 years for commissioning alongwith reasons for delay, if any	No FM tower has taken more than 5 years for commissioning.
(iv)	Date of approval for setting up of aforesaid 100 W FM transmitters at nearly 100 locations	Date of approval for setting up of 100W FM transmitters - 18/3/2014
(v)	Target date set at the approval stage for completion for setting up of above-mentioned 100 W FM transmitters	Target date set at the approval stage for completion for setting up of 100W FM transmitters- 31/03/2017
(vi)	Number of towers that were not completed within the set timeline	10 FM towers were not completed within the set timeline.
(vii)	Reasons for delay, if any	Repeated tendering for supply of 100W FM transmitters was done due to administrative reasons. Order for supply of 100W FM transmitters was placed on 4/6/2021 with DP 4 Months from receipt of WPC clearances
(viii)	Measures taken to overcome the hindrance encountered in completion of automation of News production System	A dedicated IPMC (Integrated Project Monitoring Cell) has been created to closely monitor the progress as well as implementation of projects.
(ix)	Fund allocated and actually utilized for 'Setting up of 100 W FM transmitters at nearly 100 locations	Funds to the tune of Rs. 16.12 Cr. have been utilized out of Rs. 28.0 Cr. allocated for the 100 Watt FM Project.

57. Asked about the details relating to DD Free Dish Platform, the Ministry submitted the following:-

	<b>Information sought by the Committee</b>	<b>Reply of the Ministry</b>
i.	Number of TV homes in India	As per FICCI E&Y M&E Report of March 2022, total number of TV homes in India was 168 million in 2021.

ii.	Number of homes that have DD Free Dish / Number of Free Dish distributed till date	As per industry report (FICCI E&Y M&E Report of March 2022), 43 Million TV homes in India have DD Free Dish. Till date, 96,000 DD Free Dish sets have been distributed free across the country
iii.	Number of Free Dish in India (State/UT-wise)	Viewers purchase Free-to-Air Set-top-Boxes from open market to receive DD Free Dish channels. Therefore, no data is available regarding State/UT-wise Free Dish homes in India.
iv.	Measures taken to increase the Free Dish Platform in Southern India and States/UTs where it is less	Prasar Bharati has revised DD Free Dish e-auction policy in February, 2023. As per the revised policy 03 MPEG-2 slots of DD Free Dish have been earmarked for allotment to unrepresented languages channels in significantly lesser reserve price of Rs. 3.0 Crore per annum. All Southern India language channels are eligible to apply and bid for these slots to come on DD Free Dish.
v.	Plan and budgetary allocations for upgradation and expansion of DD Free Dish Platforms	The Government has recently allocated funds to the tune of Rs. 114.50 Cr. under BIND Scheme for 2021-26 for capacity expansion of DD FreeDish Platform.
vi.	Details of the hindrances anticipated in doing so alongwith the envisaged plan of action for addressing the issues	NIL
vii.	Measures taken for addressing the issue of cancellation of tenders for procurement of DD Free Dish Receiver Sets due to limited participation of bidders and unreasonable higher price bids/quoted rates due to low participation of bidders	Technical specifications for DD Free Dish receivers sets have been modified from CAS, RPD STBs to Non-CAS, Non-RPD STBs to attract more manufacturers and procurement process has been initiated accordingly.
viii.	Plans for upgradation and expansion of DD Free Dish Platform during 2023-24	Capacity of DD Free Dish Platform would be increased to 168 SDTV channel by up-gradation of remaining four compression chain and monitoring system of DD Free dish Platform to MPEG-4 compression system in 2023-24.

ix.	Reasons for not having Free Dish service of Doordarshan in Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Andaman & Nicobar Islands falls out of satellite (DTH services) foot print. DD Free Dish Services are being operated through GSAT-15 Satellite which cover the mainland of India except A & N Islands. For A&N Islands, special 10 channel C-Band DTH service is in operation through C-Band GSAT-17 Satellite.
x.	By when, will the in-built Set Top Boxes in TV be available in the market	Gazette Notification of BIS standard for built-in Satellite Tuner in place of Analog TV tuner in all TV sets (LED/LCD etc) has been issued by BIS, Department of Consumer Affairs on 21st December, 2022.

58. On the issue of Free Dish, the Representative of the Ministry, while deposing before the Committee informed as under:-

“सर, डीडी फ्री डिश प्लेटफार्म को हम और बड़ा करना चाह रहे हैं। हमें लार्जर सेटेलाइट फुटप्रिंट मिला है, हमें सेटेलाइट पर ज्यादा ट्रांसपॉंडर स्पेस मिला है। बॉर्डर, एलडब्ल्यूई और एस्पिरेशनल डिस्ट्रिक्स में लोग दूरदर्शन को देखें, उसके लिए इस स्कीम के अंतर्गत सेट-टॉप बॉक्सेज को सरकार द्वारा डिस्ट्रीब्यूट किया जाएगा।”

59. Adding on the issue of Free Dish, the CEO Prasar Bharati, during evidence deposed as under:-

“जहां तक फ्री डिश का सवाल है, फ्री डिश के बारे में दो-तीन प्रमुख बातें यह है कि भारत में कुल 21 करोड़ के आस-पास टीवी होम्स हैं, जो सर्वेक्षण के आधार पर है। उन 21 करोड़ में से लगभग 4.5 करोड़ यानी लगभग 22 से 23 प्रतिशत जो है, वह फ्री डिश पर है। इस लिहाज से अगर देखा जाए तो केवल विस्तार की दृष्टि से वह भारत का सबसे बड़ा डीटीएच नेटवर्क है। लेकिन फ्री होने के कारण उसमें समय-समय पर कुछ इश्युज भी रहे हैं, जिससे उसके प्रसार में हम थोड़ी सी वृद्धि और कर सकते हैं। अभी एडिशनल ट्रांसपॉंडर्स और बाइंड के अंदर जो प्रावधान दिए गए हैं, उनके माध्यम से हम यह प्रयास लगातार जारी रखेंगे कि हम लोग फ्री डिश को और तेजी से आगे बढ़ा सकें। जैसा सचिव महोदय ने अभी बताया कि एमएचए से जानकारी मिलने में थोड़ा समय लगा। अब हम प्रयास करेंगे कि लगभग 8.7 लाख जो हाउसहोल्ड्स हैं, जिनको बाइंड के अंतर्गत सेट-अप बॉक्सेस दिए जाने हैं, हम उनकी जानकारी शीघ्रतिशीघ्र एकीकृत करके उसके आधार पर एक्सपेंडिचर कर पाएंगे। अकेले इसी आइटम के लिए बाइंड में लगभग 270 करोड़ रुपये का प्रावधान है। हम वह काम जितना तेजी से करेंगे, हमारा एक्सपेंडिचर भी उतनी तेजी से आगे बढ़ेगा।”

**(b) All India Radio (AIR)**

60. When asked about the total fund allocated to Prasar Bharati and for AIR, for the year 2022-23, the Ministry provided the following details:-

<b>Central Sector Scheme (BIND)</b>	
Grant received under BIND Scheme	Rs. 315.00 crore
Funds allocated for AIR	Rs. 84.09 crore
Other Central Expenditure	Rs. 2764.51 crore in RE 2022-23
Funds allocated for AIR	Rs. 1262.10 crore

61. The BE, RE and AE for last 4 years, under AIR, are as follows:-

<b>AIR</b>						<b>(Rs. in crore)</b>	
<b>year</b>	<b>BE</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>AE</b>	<b>AE % w.r.t BE</b>	<b>AE % w.r.t RE</b>		
<b>2019-20</b>	192.44	105.78	101.69	52.84%	96.13%		
<b>2020-21</b>	132.00	58.72	57.22	43.35%	97.45%		
<b>2021-22</b>	140.05	60.68	60.26	43.03%	99.31%		
<b>2022-23</b>	160.51	84.09	35.91*	22.37%	42.70%		
<b>2023-24</b>		-	-	-	-		

(\*) Actual utilisation till 31.01.2023.

62. According to the Ministry, AIR had 501 stations spread all over India comprising 229 stations with studio facilities for production of programme locally and 272 Relay Stations. Total 653 transmitters were operational from these stations comprising 524 FM transmitters, 122 MW transmitters and 7 SW Transmitters which provide terrestrial coverage to about 90.0% area and about 98% population of the country. In addition to terrestrial transmission, 48 channels of AIR were available on Doordarshan DTH platform (DD Free Dish) which could be received throughout the country (except Andaman & Nicobar Islands) by using set top box (Ku band). Additionally, about 290 AIR channels could be received through "NewsonAIR" app on mobile phones.

**(a) Digitalization of Studios:** AIR has digitalized 127 studios of AIR stations by providing modern state of art digital equipment for production, storage & reproduction of programmes. The new studios are being set up by born digitally. Partial digitalization of 90 studios has also been done and will be fully digitalized in coming years as per approval of schemes.

**(b) Digitalization of Transmitters:** Out of total 122 MW transmitters, AIR has 38 Digital Transmitters (DRM) and 84 analog transmitters. Out of 7 SW transmitters, AIR has 3 Digital Transmitters (DRM) and 4 analog transmitters.

63. The Committee desired to know about the timeline for digitizing the remaining Transmitters and Studios. To this, the Ministry replied as under:-

"Presently, there is approved plan for complete digitalization of studios. It is stated that production, storage and reproduction of programme at these

studios are already being done digitally. The analog equipment like switching /announcer console, mixer, etc of these studios will be replaced by modern state of the art equipment as per approved scheme in coming years. The ecosystem for digital broadcasting in AM Band (MW & SW) is not favorable due to high cost of receivers and also in view of better ecosystem in analog FM broadcasting, digitalization of MW, SW and FM transmitters has not been planned under BIND Scheme (2021-26)".

64. With respect to plans for improving the performance of AIR, during the year 2023-24, the Ministry submitted the following information:-

**A : Continuing projects:**

1. Installation and commissioning of 7 nos. 10 kW FM transmitters (Maharajganj, Haldwani, Rajahmundry, Rampur, Kokrajhar, Gurej & Kupwara), 20 kW FM transmitter at Rameshwaram and 2 nos. of 1 kW FM transmitters (Champawat & Namsai).
2. Provision of workstations and sound cards for upgradations of AIR studios.
3. Installation of 10 kW FM transmitters at Jaspur and Dahod and provision of 5 kW FM mobile transmitters at 5 locations along LOC.

**B: New projects:**

1. Replacement and provision of STL at 18 locations.
2. Installation of FM transmitters at 41 locations.
3. Refurbishing of 34 studios.
4. Replacement of AC Plants (38 nos.) and Diesel Generators (15 nos.)
5. Visual studios.

65. On being asked to furnish a brief note on the shortcomings of AIR and on the grievances of the AIR employees, the Ministry submitted:-

“A major target of AIR is to reach the length and breadth of the country with providing content on Education, Information and Entertainment. In other words, AIR has to meet the primary target with appropriate content and carriage.

As far as the content on Education, Information and Entertainment are concerned, AIR is doing its job satisfactorily to large extent but as far as carriage is concerned, AIR is facing challenges due to technological advancement and changes in method of broadcasting.

Radio broadcasting is reshaping itself from MW broadcasting to FM broadcasting and the area of coverage by FM transmitters is limited to line of sight only. As a result, the reach of AIR has reduced drastically and AIR needs large scale FMisation to enhance its reach. At present, AIR is left with no other option than the large scale placement of FM transmitters with power ranging from 1 KW to 20 KW depending on geographical location and population density of the area.

There are large scale grievances among the Employees working under Prasar Bharati in the categories of Programme, Engineering and Administrative Wing over their Stagnation, Emoluments and Recoveries etc.

In addition to above, Prasar Bharati is facing large number of court cases approximately around thousand. Due to persistent efforts, AIR managing many cases which are close to attaining the finality.

Steps are being taken continuously by both Prasar Bharati and the Ministry to address these issues”.

66. Regarding, details of the problems witnessed in AIR and steps taken to overcome them during the year 2022-23 alongwith the tangible outcome of the measures taken to address the challenges/ hindrances encountered in AIR, the Ministry has submitted that:-

<b>Major challenges/ hindrances witnessed in AIR during 2022-23</b>	<b>Steps taken to overcome the challenges/ hindrances encountered in AIR during 2022-23</b>	<b>Tangible Outcome of the measures taken to address the challenges/ hindrances encountered in AIR</b>
1. Erection of towers for FM transmitters due to insufficient participation from vendors.	Probable vendors were identified & meetings were held with vendors to develop mutual trust. BSNL & Power Grid have been approached for tower sharing.	Order placed for erection of tower at 12 locations, under TE at 5 locations and under tendering at 2 locations.
2. Acquisition of land for FM transmitter at Dahod	Being pursued with State government on regular basis	Yet to be resolved.

67. On the issue of 'Radio shadow areas', the Committee pointed out that the Ministry could work with BSNL which was already working for LWE areas. To this, the CEO, Prasar Bharati, during evidence, assured the Committee as under:-'

"सर, हम उनके साथ जानकारी एकत्रित कर रहे हैं। जहां-जहां पर हमारे रेडियो के शैडो एरियाज़ हैं, उनको हम मैपिंग कर, उनके साथ मिल कर ही काम करेंगे, इसका आश्वासन मैं आपको देता हूँ।"

**(c) CONTENT CREATION AND CONTENT PROCUREMENT POLICY**

68. With respect to content creation, the representative of MIB, during evidence submitted as under:-

“हम प्रसार भारती में कंटेंट क्रिएशन के ऊपर जोर देंगे। बीच में हमारा फोकस इतना नहीं रहा, लेकिन अब हम दोबारा इस फोकस को लेकर आए हैं और एक नए कंटेंट प्रोक्योरमेंट पॉलिसी को नोटिफाई किया गया है”।

69. Elaborating on the issue concerning content, the Secretary while tendering evidence submitted as under:-

“जहां तक कंटेंट का सवाल है, मीडिया में कंटेंट इज किंग, एक सामान्य कहावत रहती है। कंटेंट में पूर्व में अनेक प्रकार की समस्याएं आई थीं, चाहे हमारी जो कार्यालयीन प्रणाली है, उससे संबंधित हो या फिर उस कंटेंट को लेकर जो प्रोड्यूसर्स हैं, कंटेंट बनाने के लिए जो हमारे साथ मिलकर काम करते हैं, उनको भी कहीं कुछ समस्याएं जरूर रही होंगी। इस दृष्टि से काफी मनन-चिंतन करके एक मीडिया नीति— हमने कंटेंट इक्विजिशन पॉलिसी तैयार की, लेकिन उसे नोटिफाइड करने से पहले हमने अपनी तरफ से प्रोएक्टिवली जो प्रोड्यूसर्स हैं, जिन्होंने पूर्व में हमारे साथ काम किया है, जो प्रोड्यूसर्स के एसोसिएशन्स हैं, वह ड्राफ्ट पॉलिसी हमने उन सबके बीच भी सर्कुलेट की। जनवरी के प्रथम सप्ताह से लेकर तीन या चार हफ्ते तक हमने उनको समय देकर उन सभी से सुझाव भी मांगे थे कि हमारे साथ मिलकर कंटेंट बनाने के लिए किस प्रकार की समस्याएं उनको आती हैं। उनके सुझावों को समाहित करते हुए उसमें जो-जो मान्य करने योग्य थे, उन सभी सुझावों के आधार पर आवश्यक संशोधन करते हुए अभी इसी माह की 6 तारीख को हमारी जो कंटेंट एक्विजिशन की नई नीति है, उसको हमने जारी किया है, नोटिफाई किया है। उसमें हम विभिन्न माध्यमों से कंटेंट का एक्विजिशन करेंगे, जिसमें स्पॉन्सर्ड कार्यक्रम भी हो सकते हैं, जॉइंट प्रोडक्शंस भी हो सकते हैं, जिसमें उसका खर्चा प्रसार भारती और प्रोड्यूसर मिलकर भी उठा सकते हैं। जो बने हुए कार्यक्रम हैं, उनको हम रॉयल्टी पर भी प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। इस तरह के विभिन्न माध्यम उसमें हमने समाहित किए हैं। आने वाले दिनों में हमारा प्रयास रहेगा कि इस नीति को जल्दी से जल्दी पूरी तरह से क्रियान्वित कराकर हम ऐसे कार्यक्रम ला सके, जिससे हम व्यूअर्स को अपने दूरदर्शन चैनल तक फिर से ला सके”।

70. Asked about the initiatives taken for Content Creation and Content Procurement Policy, the Ministry replied as under:-

“1. To streamline the process for acquisition of programmes, a comprehensive content procurement policy has now been notified by Prasar Bharati. The policy defines the processes and guidelines for procurement of content under different procurement models {License fee/Royalty, Revenue Share, Outside Sponsored programme, Commissioning (Full funding by Prasar Bharati or Public Private Partnership), Gratis}.

2. Doordarshan is in the process of revamping the content of its channels both at National and Regional levels according to need and taste of audience. Several steps have been taken in this regard including opening of portal inviting proposals for fresh programmes from reputed production houses. A number of mega shows have been launched including ‘Swaraj: Bharat Ke Swantrata Sangram Ki Samagra Gatha’, on DD network.

## **Recent Initiatives: Doordarshan -**

- i. Doordarshan launched a 75 episode mega historical show “Swaraj: Bharat ke Swatantrata Sangram ki Samagra Gatha” on the occasion of Independence Day 2022 showcasing the stories of freedom fighters, many of whom were lost in the pages of history. The show, produced in Hindi, is being dubbed in 9 regional languages and is being telecast on DD National and Doordarshan’s regional Network.
- ii. In order to revamp content, Doordarshan introduced several new shows including “Corporate Sarpanch: Beti Desh Ki”, “Suron ka Eklavya” and “Rag Rag mein Ganga-II”. Several new shows are in the pipeline/under production with focus on social messaging along with high entertainment value.
- iii. On the occasion of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, various Doordarshan Kendras produced and telecast documentaries, short films on the theme of freedom struggle while focusing on lesser known freedom fighters of their respective states/regions.
- iv. A weekly series on the theme of “Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat” produced by DD News is being run highlighting the spirit of one nation. The channels of paired States are telecasting programmes on various aspects of their paired States such as culture, traditions, cuisine, etc. Resonating this idea, Doordarshan produced and telecast a number of programmes on “Kashi Tamil Sangamam”.
- v. Covering the march of technology and digital India, Channels of Doordarshan network produced and telecast a gamut of programmes to catalyse the penetration of technology. Doordarshan extensively covered “Smart India Hackathon” organized in various cities across the country. Various Science & technology based programmes like Robocon and programmes on cybercrime were telecast.
- vi. DD News produced two seasons of “Startup Champions” showcasing the achievements of award winning startups and promoting startup culture in India.
- vii. Fulfilling the mandate of public broadcaster and promoting the traditional games, DD Sports covered 36<sup>th</sup> National Games 2022 in Gujarat extensively. It also covered Khelo India University Games 2022 in Bangaluru and North East Olympics 2022 in Shillong, Khelo India Youth Games 2023 in Bhopal, Khelo India Winter Games 2023 in Gulmarg.
- viii. Making people and specially youth, the engine of the Indian economic growth, programmes have been telecast by Doordarshan Network Channels on Skill India, Make in India etc.
- ix. For the first time DD News organized DD Conclaves on the occasion of State Assembly elections held in the year 2022 where prominent leaders of both ruling and opposition parties were called for interviews/debates so that people could make informed choices while voting. The Conclaves were very well received.
- x. DD News and its Regional News Units have covered a large number of ground reports on the schemes of the government and their implementation in the field.
- xi. In addition, regular programmes are telecast on Government’s flagship schemes and issues concerning health, youth, women etc.

3. National Academy of Broadcasting and Multimedia (NABM) has been organizing and conducting trainings in the field of TV production and broadcasting for the programme and engineering staff to familiarize and train



Doordarshan manpower to latest and innovative developments in the field of TV production and broadcasting.

4. In addition to the sponsored serials, sales division is also approaching the Central and State Government departments such as Rural Development, Skill development, Education, Health, IT etc. for getting sponsored programmes from them including the production on payment basis. Efforts are also being made for getting sponsored programmes from private NGOs and corporate”.

71. Regarding the strategies and budgetary details outlined for acquisition and production of Quality content both through In-House and Private Producers through a New Content Acquisition Policy, the Ministry, in addition to inputs submitted in the aforesaid Para, stated the following:-

“Prasar Bharati provides funds for content creation from its internal and extra-budgetary resources (IEBR) despite tremendous financial constraints. The Government has also approved funds for Content Development under the scheme Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development (BIND). The budget allocated for AIR and Doordarshan for content creation during the year 2023-24 from IEBR is Rs 353.32 Crore and under BIND is Rs.145.00 Crore”.

72. With respect to measures taken to have a transparent content policy, the Ministry has submitted:-

“To streamline the process for acquisition of programmes, a comprehensive Prasar Bharati content procurement policy has now been notified. The policy defines the processes and guidelines for procurement of content under different procurement models.

Recently Prasar Bharati has launched Talent Booking System Software, through which artists are booked for programme production”.

73. On being asked about the plans to have self sufficiency w.r.t funding, the Ministry replied as under:-

- (i) “Sales Division is approaching both government and private sector directly and also through agencies to get business. In addition to the sponsored serials, sales division is also approaching the Central and State Government departments, PSUs etc. for getting sponsored programmes from them including the production on payment basis.
- (ii) Efforts are also being made for getting sponsored programmes from private NGOs and corporate.
- (iii) Programme Heads have been asked to make all efforts for revenue generation.
- (iv) Monitoring of Revenue is being done on regular basis.
- (v) Recently, Doordarshan sales Rate Card has been revised to remain competitive in the Market.
- (vi) All producers are being asked to have the commercial angle in mind while conceiving the content and work in close coordination with sales division in monetization.

(vii) Efforts are on to strengthen the sales team by having more registered agencies and Sales Agents to reach out to more clients”.

74. With regard to the percentage of advertisements that DD got from private sector, the Ministry informed that the total corporate revenue for the financial year 2021-22 was 16 % and for the current financial year, the contribution of corporate revenue will be around 18%.

75. On being asked about the steps taken to get more advertisements from private sector, the Ministry informed as under:-

- (i) Sales Division is approaching both government and private sector directly and also through agencies to get business.
- (ii) Programme Heads have been asked to make all efforts for revenue generation.
- (iii) Monitoring of Revenue is being done on regular basis.
- (iv) Recently, Doordarshan sales Rate Card has been revised to remain competitive in the Market.
- (v) All producers are being asked to have the commercial angle in mind while conceiving the content and work in close coordination with sales division in monetization.
- (vi) Efforts are on to strengthen the sales team by having more registered agencies and Sales Agents to reach out to more clients.

**(d) Human resource in Prasar Bharati**

76. During previous DFG (2022-23), the status of vacancies in All India Radio and Doordarshan was observed as follows:-

<b>Units</b>	<b>Sanctioned Strength</b>	<b>In-position</b>	<b>Vacant</b>
All India Radio	26,129	10,810	15,319
Doordarshan	19,662 (excluding 2,038 posts which were abolished under ADRP's 2002 to 2008-09)	9,793	9,869
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,791</b>	<b>20,603</b>	<b>25,188</b>

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77. When asked about the current status of vacancies in All India Radio and Doordarshan, the Ministry furnished the following information:-

<b>Units</b>	<b>Sanctioned Strength</b>	<b>In-position</b>	<b>Vacant</b>
All India Radio	26,129	12,163	13,966
Doordarshan	19,662	7,242	12,420

	(excluding 2,038 posts which were abolished under ADRP's 2002 to 2008-09)		
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,791</b>	<b>19,405</b>	<b>26,386</b>

78. The Committee observed that the number of vacancies in AIR had reduced from 15,319 to 13,966, but it had increased in DD from 9,869 to 12,420 and asked the Ministry to provide reasons for the increase in vacancies in DD alongwith the plan to address the persistent problem of human resource in both AIR and Doordarshan. To this, the reply was:-

“The reason for reduction in no. of vacancies in All India Radio and increase of vacancies in Doordarshan is due to the fact that many officials were transferred from Doordarshan to All India Radio as Analog Terrestrial Transmitters (Doordarshan) were closed and spared manpower was redeployed in newly installed / running establishment of All India Radio. It may also be noted that cadre controller of most of the cadres of All India Radio and Doordarshan is, All India Radio.

The final report of Manpower Audit (MPA) has been accepted by Prasar Bharati. In the report substantial restructuring in the organization in view of changes in broadcast technology and business practices, has been recommended. The manpower requirement in Prasar Bharati may undergo substantial change. Filling up vacancies is mandate of PBRB (for posts carrying pay scale less than that of JS) after the finalization of assessment of Manpower requirement. As a stopgap arrangement, Prasar Bharati is managing its functioning and operation with available human resources with re-skilling through short-term training programmes and engagement of short term contractual where rate of skill obsolescence is high and where skills are highly market driven”.

79. On being asked about the steps taken to address the need for manpower for assisting in production and day-to-day work of the Kendra, the Ministry provided following reply:-

“Due to continuous retirement in various cadres under Doordarshan and AIR in Prasar Bharati and no fresh recruitment, there is a deficiency of skilled, professional and young manpower, which is a back bone of any organization. Talent Management & Specialised Outsourcing (TM&SO) division in PBS is mandated to meet the urgent need based requirement of skilled and professional manpower. Prasar Bharati is engaging professionals in various categories under Contractual Engagement Policy (CEP 2021) on short term contracts ranging from 1 year to 3 years. These contracts are being renewed on yearly basis based on the requirement of organization in that skill set at a station and performance of contractual. As a stop gap arrangement the need for manpower is being addressed by hiring persons on assignment basis for assisting in production and day-to-day work of the Kendra”.

80. In view of the aforesaid reply, the Ministry was asked to provide reasons for adopting stop gap arrangement method and contractual basis hiring when there was such a huge shortage of staff and also deficiency of skilled, professional and young manpower. Responding to this, the Ministry replied as under:-

“The manpower requirement in Prasar Bharati may undergo substantial change. Filling up vacancies is mandate of Prasar Bharati Recruitment Board (for posts carrying pay scale less than that of JS) after the finalization of assessment of Manpower requirement. Therefore, as a stopgap arrangement, Prasar Bharati is managing its functioning and operations with available human resources with re-skilling through short-term training programmes and engagement of short term contractuales where rate of skill obsolescence is high and where skills are highly market driven.

With rationalization of operations, reforming of work processes, automation etc, as per the recommendations of Manpower Audit exercise and assessment of manpower required, an optimum number of posts would be filled up in due course”.

81. When asked as to how many stations of DD throughout the country were being run sub-optimally without engineers and programming staff, the Ministry replied as under:-

“As per the availability of recourses (manpower), stations are operating optimally. On the basis of Manpower Audit Report, the required manpower shall be engaged by appropriate means as per rules, as per recommendations of Manpower Audit Report”.

82. Elaborating on the issues concerning human resources in Prasar Bharati, the CEO Prasar Bharati, during evidence submitted as under:-

“जहां तक मैनपावर का सवाल है, मैनपावर ऑडिट की एक बड़ी विस्तृत कार्रवाई प्रसार भारती में पिछले तीन-चार वर्षों में की गई थी। वर्ष 2020 की शुरुआत में उसकी जो रिपोर्ट है, वह प्रस्तुत कर दी गई थी। उसके तत्काल बाद कोविड की परिस्थितियों के कारण 2 साल तक उसके ऊपर कार्रवाई थोड़ी कम रही। लेकिन अब पूरी गति से वह काम शुरू कर लिया गया है। वर्ष 1997 में जिस वक्त प्रसार भारती का गठन हुआ था, उस समय आकाशवाणी और दूरदर्शन के सभी अलग-अलग जो वर्टिकल्स थे, उनमें मिला-जुलाकर तकरीबन 45 हजार पद थे, जो अलग-अलग समय पर सृजित किए गए थे। इनमें से कई पद आज की तारीख में रिलेवेंट नहीं रह गए हैं। माननीय सदस्य और हमारे सीईओ महोदय ने भी इसके बारे में अभी उल्लेख किया था। उदाहरण के तौर पर जैसे मैं यह बताना चाहूँ कि हमारे पुराने जो टेरेस्ट्रियल ट्रांसमीटर्स थे, जिनको हमने बंद किया है, वहां पर यदि कोई स्टाफ डिप्लॉयड रहता था, तो उनकी अब उस स्थान पर उस प्रकार से आवश्यकता नहीं है। टेक्नोलॉजी में जिस प्रकार से इम्प्रूवमेंट हुआ है, पहले वैक्यूम ट्यूब या डायोड्स के ऊपर काम होता था। अब हमारे पास एलईडी और इलैक्ट्रॉनिक्स हैं, इसलिए मैनपावर की उस दृष्टि से जो आवश्यकता थी, उसमें अब कमी आई है। मैनपावर ऑडिट की जो रिपोर्ट है, जिसका सघन परीक्षण किया गया है और उसके आधार पर आज की और आने वाले समय की आवश्यकता के आधार पर जो आवश्यक मैनपावर रहें, उसका एक आकलन अभी वर्तमान में भी किया जा रहा है। मैं उम्मीद करता हूँ कि अगले कुछ माह में हम लोग अपनी नई समेकित मानव संसाधन नीति लाकर और फिर उसके हिसाब से परमानेंट, कॉन्ट्रैक्टुअल तथा जो स्पेशलिस्ट्स हैं, इन लोगों की विभिन्न माध्यमों से नियुक्ति करते हैं, जिससे हमारी जो गतिविधि है, उसको और तेजी से आगे बढ़ा पाएंगे”।

83. While furnishing the details of the gap between sanctioned staff strength and the existing staff strength in the DD Kendras and steps taken to fill the vacancies, the Ministry submitted the following:-

“The final report of Manpower Audit (MPA) has been accepted by Prasar Bharati. In the report substantial restructuring in the organization in view of changes in broadcast technology and business practices, has been recommended. The manpower requirement in Prasar Bharati may undergo substantial change. Filling up vacancies, will be taken up by PBRB (for posts carrying pay scale less than that of JS) after the finalization of assessment of Manpower requirement. The steps for incorporating changes required in the Recruitment Regulations are in process.

In pursuance of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Establishment of Recruitment Board Rules, 2020 notified by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in the Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 12.02.2020, ‘Prasar Bharati Recruitment Board’ (PBRB) has been constituted on 01.07.2020 for filling up of vacancies in Akashvani (All India Radio) and Doordarshan carrying scale of pay less than that of a Joint Secretary to the Government of India by Direct Recruitment/ Departmental Competitive Examination/ Deputation.

The Prasar Bharati Recruitment Board has become functional and has initiated the process of recruitment to fill up the backlog vacancies for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). Selection process for filling up of 15 DDA posts on deputation for DG Doordarshan and DG AIR head quarters is in process. Filling up of vacancies by direct recruitment to other posts will be taken up after implementation of the recommendations of Manpower Audit. There are a total of 115 actionable recommendations in the Manpower Audit report of M/s Ernst and Young LLP,...xxx..xxx...xxx. There are 5 actionable recommendations of Manpower Audit which are within the purview of the Government ..xxx...xxx..xxx.. Further, continuous efforts are being made by Prasar Bharati in consultation with the Ministry to fill up vacancies by promotion as per rules. DPCs for filling up vacancies up to the year 2023 (by promotion) are under process”.

84. Adding on, the Ministry also submitted that the Manpower audit recommendations envisage a revised strength considering obsolete technologies automation, IT enablement and outsourcing of non-core activities, which are as under:-

Units	Employees						
	Technology	Content	Sales & Marketing	Finance	HR	Others	Total
<b>AIR</b>	4520	2818	0	333	0	810	8481
<b>DD</b>	2029	1904	0	70	0	335	4338
<b>Corporate</b>	108	166	1149	101	93	388	2005
<b>Total</b>	<b>6657</b>	<b>4888</b>	<b>1149</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>1533</b>	<b>14824</b>

85. According to the Ministry, the revised manpower model recommended by Manpower Audit has an increased focus on the following:-

- (a) Outsourcing of non-core Engineering activities to 3<sup>rd</sup> Party by having FTE driven contracts
- (b) Outsourcing of key non-core Administration activities like drivers, security, Assistants by bringing in automation platforms like e-office.
- (c) Hiring of specialists on contract for new roles required by Prasar Bharati in line with proposed structure change.
- (d) Building an effective mix of full time and contractual manpower.

86. With respect to recommendations contained in the Manpower Audit report of M/s Ernst and Young LLP, the Ministry also submitted as under:-

“As per Manpower Audit recommendations, all the roles requiring special broadcasting skills where rate of skill obsolescence is high and where skills are highly market driven should be primarily contractual. Roles, where the responsibilities/ duties performed are strictly governed by the rules of Government of India such as General Financial Rules, CCS/CCA conduct rules etc. should be primarily insourced.

It is to mention that any hiring against regular posts will have to be funded out of IEBR fund of Prasar Bharati, while creating a permanent liability on Prasar Bharati's IEBR resources while Prasar Bharati's revenue are subject to dynamic market conditions.

Further, a Scheme for regularisation of irregular appointments/engagements in Prasar Bharati (All India Radio & Doordarshan), as a onetime measure, was prepared by Prasar Bharati in pursuance of Department of personnel & Trg. O.M. No. 49019/1/2006-Estt(C) dated 11.12.2006 as per parameters laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in CA 3595-3612 of 1999 in Secretary, State of Karnataka and others versus Uma Devi and others as interpreted in its successive judgments.

In this regard a large number of online applications (around 4000) have been received in IARS Portal (Inviting applications under regularisation Scheme). These online applications are being scrutinized to determine their eligibility for regularization as per the parameters laid down in the Scheme.

## **(ii) Supporting Community Radio Movement in India**

87. Community Radio is an important third tier in Radio Broadcasting, distinct from Public Service Radio broadcasting and Commercial Radio. Community Radio Stations (CRSs) are low power Radio Stations, which are meant to be set-up and operated by local communities. In December 2002, the Government of India approved a policy for the grant of permissions, for setting up of Community Radio Stations, to well established educational institutions. The policy guidelines were amended in 2006, 2017 and 2018. The policy guidelines for Community Radio and the list of CRSs currently in operation

can be accessed from the MIB website [www.mib.gov.in](http://www.mib.gov.in). The Community Radio provides a platform to air local voices among the local community on issues concerning Health, Nutrition, Education, Agriculture etc. Moreover, the Community Radio is a powerful medium for the marginalized sections of society to voice their concerns. Community Radio also has the potential to strengthen people's participation in development programmes through its holistic approach. In a country like India, where every state has its own language and distinctive cultural identity, CRSs are also a repository of local folk music and cultural heritage. The unique position of CRS as an instrument of positive social change makes it an ideal tool for community empowerment. To support the Community Radio movement, a Central Sector Scheme namely "Supporting Community Radio Movement in India" is being implemented.

88. The BE, RE and actual expenditure for the last four years and BE for the year 2023-24 for supporting Community Radio movement in India are :-

<b>Supporting Community Radio Movement in India</b>					<b>(₹ In crore)</b>
<b>Year</b>	<b>BE</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>AE</b>	<b>% w.r.t. BE</b>	<b>% w.r.t. RE</b>
<b>2019-20</b>	3.80	3.80	3.29	86.58	86.58
<b>2020-21</b>	4.50	2.12	1.97	43.78	92.92
<b>2021-22</b>	3.84	2.50	1.92	50.00	76.80
<b>2022-23</b>	3.84	3.00	1.20*	31.25	40.00
<b>2023-24</b>	5.00				
<i>(*) Actual Expenditure up to 31.01.2023.</i>					

89. On being asked for the reasons for shortfall in utilization in respect of all the four Central Sector Schemes alongwith the plan of action for improving the utilisation pattern, the Ministry replied as under:-

"The main reason for less expenditure in respect of Community Radio is due to savings as awareness Workshops were held in online mode".

90. For better utilization of funds in respect of Community radio station, the Ministry also informed that activity calendar has been prepared which would help in timely utilization of resources and could result in better utilization of funds.

91. According to the Ministry, at present there were 412 Community Radio Stations in India. Out of 412 Community Radio Stations, a total of 5 Community Radio Stations were non-functional and they had not applied for extension of the Grant of permission

Agreement (GOPA). The permissions issued to these CRS were under process of cancellation of GOPA.

92. Responding to a query regarding the number of applications for Community Radios Station license that were pending with the Ministry, the following information was provided:-

“A total of 72 applications for Community Radios Station are pending with the Ministry, which are at various stages of processing for grant of permission for setting up of Community Radio Station”.

93. Further when asked for the details of the applications that were received during 2022-23, the Ministry replied as under:-

“A total of 85 applications were received during 2022-23 till December 2022. Out of these 85 applications received, Letter of intent for grant of permission for setting up of community radio station have been issued to 18 organizations. A total of 5 applications were rejected due to non-availability of frequency spot and 62 applications are at various stages of processing. Further 71 LOIs were issued in 2022-23 in respect of applications received prior to the FY 2022-23. Thus, in the year 2022-23 (till Dec 2022) a total of 89 LOIs were issued. (It is pertinent to mention that after obtaining LOI, applicant applies to Ministry of Communication for Wireless Operating License before commissioning the CRS. The License for CRS is issued by the Ministry of Communication)”.

94. Elaborating the steps taken to strengthen the Community Radio Movement in the Country alongwith the road map for the year 2023-24, the Ministry submitted:-

“The Ministry of Information and broadcasting has taken several steps for strengthening the community radio movement in India. Activities such as community radio awareness workshops, capacity building workshops, regional sammelan and financial assistance to new and existing community radio stations towards procurement of equipment are undertaken for community radio sector. Few states/UTs where community radio stations are not present or less in numbers, emphasis are given to organized community radio awareness workshops. In 2023-24, the following activities have been planned for the community radio sector.

- Organising of community radio workshops in community radio mdia dark areas.
- Organizing regional sammelan at four places.
- Financial assistance to new and existing community radio stations towards procurement of equipments.
- Development communication through community radios.
- Capacity building workshops through Indian institute of mass communication (IIMC).
- Survey for assessing community radio effectiveness”.



95. The details of CRSs in India (State/UT wise), as provided by the Ministry is as under:-

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Name of State/UT</b>	<b>Number of Community Radio Stations</b>
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-
2	Andhra Pradesh	11
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1
4	Assam	4
5	Bihar	11
6	Chandigarh	4
7	Chhattisgarh	12
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-
9	Delhi	5
10	Goa	-
11	Gujarat	14
12	Haryana	21
13	Himachal Pradesh	6
14	Jammu and Kashmir	5
15	Jharkhand	3
16	Karnataka	25
17	Kerala	19
18	Ladakh	-
19	Lakshadweep	-
20	Madhya Pradesh	35
21	Maharashtra	45
22	Manipur	4
23	Meghalaya	-
24	Mizoram	-
25	Nagaland	1
26	Odisha	28
27	Puducherry	2
28	Punjab	9
29	Rajasthan	23
30	Sikkim	1
31	Tamil Nadu	45
32	Telangana	9
33	Tripura	1
34	Uttar Pradesh	44
35	Uttarakhand	13
36	West Bengal	11
	<b>Total</b>	<b>412</b>

96. While noting that there were 'No' CRS in a few States/UTs like Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Goa, Ladakh, Lakshadweep, Meghalaya and Mizoram, the Ministry were asked to provide the following information:-

	<b>Information sought by the Committee</b>	<b>Reply of the Minsitry</b>
i.	Reasons for not having CRS in aforesaid States/UTs	Setting up of Community Radio Station is a voluntary activity. As per the Policy Guidelines for setting up of Community Radio Stations, only "Not-for profit" organizations are eligible for seeking permission for operationalization of Community Radio Stations. Lack of awareness amongst eligible organizations and lack of financial resources with these not-for profit organizations are prime reasons for non-presence of CRS in states/UTs Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Goa, Ladakh, Lakshadweep, Meghalaya and Mizoram.
ii.	measures taken to promote local programme in CRS	As per the Policy guidelines, at least 50% of content shall be generated with the participation of the local community, for which the station has been set up. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting holds capacity building workshops from time to time so that CRS is able to generate the local content with the participation of local community. Further, a few CRS who are having experience in running CRS have been identified for hand holding new CRS in creation of Local programmes.
iii.	Details of requests received by the Ministry to allow CRS to broadcast local news. if any	As per the Policy Guidelines, CRS are not permitted any programmes which relate to news and current affairs and are otherwise political in nature. However, CRS can broadcast news and current affairs contents sourced exclusively from All India Radio in its original form or translated into the local language/dialect. It is the responsibility of the CRS permission holder to ensure that the news is not distorted or edited during translation.  Stakeholders, from time to time, have been requesting the Ministry to allow News on CRS on various forums. However, no formal

		request for allowing news on CRS has been received.
iv.	Ministry's view point with respect to permitting the broadcast of local news and content in CRS, along with the reasons for the same	<p>The broadcast pertaining to the following categories are treated as non-news and current affairs broadcast and therefore are permissible on CRS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information pertaining to sporting events excluding live coverage. However live commentaries of sporting events of local nature may be permissible;</li> <li>• Information pertaining to Traffic and Weather;</li> <li>• Information pertaining to and coverage of local cultural events, festivals;</li> <li>• coverage of topics pertaining to examinations, results, admissions, career counselling;</li> <li>• Availability of employment opportunities;</li> <li>• Public announcements pertaining to civic amenities like electricity, water supply, natural calamities, health alerts etc. as provided by the local administration,</li> </ul>
v.	Targets and Plans for 2023-24 for Support Community Radio sector	<p>To Strengthen the Community Radio Sector, the Government of India has approved a Central Sector Scheme titled ' Supporting Community Radio Movement in India". Under the Scheme, during 2023-24 the following activities have been planned to be undertaken: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizing Community Radio workshops especially in NE and Community Radio dark areas.</li> <li>• Organizing 4 Regional sammelans</li> <li>• Capacity building workshops</li> <li>• Providing financial assistance for CRS towards Equipment.</li> </ul>
vi.	Furnish details of Radio shadow areas and measures taken to have CRS/ radio stations in those areas	For paving a way for setting up of CRS in areas where no CRS is present, Community Radio Awareness workshops are planned to be organized.

97. On the issue of CRS, while deposing before the Committee during the examination of DFG, the Secretary, submitted as under:-

“ सीआरएस का एक प्रश्न आया। उसके बारे में मैं यह बताना चाहूंगा कि प्रस्तुतीकरण में दिखाया गया था कि इस वर्ष हमने 124 एल ओ आई दिए हैं, जिनमें से इस वर्ष 59 कार्यरत हुए हैं। यह वर्ष अभी चल रहा है, इसलिए और भी होंगे। एक वर्ष में यह संख्या सर्वाधिक है। इसमें काफी विलम्ब लगता था, क्योंकि जैसा कई माननीय सदस्यों ने कहा कि कुछ मंत्रालयों पर हम लोग डिपेंडेंट हैं, हमें एमएचए की क्लीयरेंस लगती है और साथ ही चूंकि इसकी स्पेक्ट्रम क्लीयरेंस टेलीकॉम की तरफ से होती है। उसमें दो-तीन वर्षों का विलम्ब लगता था। इस संबंध में हमने टेलीकॉम मंत्रालय के साथ कई मीटिंग्स कीं। उन्होंने पोर्टल के ऊपर ऑनलाइन प्रक्रिया कर दी है। WPC और SACFA का जो लाइसेंस होता है, उसमें सिंगल विंडो करके लगभग एक-दो महीने के अंदर इसे दिया जा रहा है। जो लोग एप्लिकेंट्स होते हैं और दूर-दराज के इलाकों से होते हैं, अगर वे अप्लाई करते हैं और उन्हें दो-तीन वर्षों तक परमिशन नहीं मिलती है, तो उनका एक तरह से मनोबल टूटता है। इस वजह से वे उसमें पूरी तरह से आगे काम नहीं कर पाते। हमारा यही उद्देश्य था कि हम जल्दी से जल्दी इसमें 3 से 4 महीनों के भीतर उन्हें परमिशन दिला पाएं। उसके बाद उनको इक्युपमेंट्स की खरीदारी करनी पड़ती है। हमारी यह प्रक्रिया चालू है। इसकी वजह से हमें लगता है कि आने वाले वर्षों में सीआरएस में अधिक वृद्धि होगी। इस वर्ष भी वृद्धि हुई है, लेकिन आगे और अधिक वृद्धि होगी”।

#### **VI. Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR), Revenue generated and utilized**

98. The details regarding IEBR of Ministry of I&B for the years 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 are as under:-

(Rs. in Crore)									
Description	BE 2019-20	RE 2019-20	BE 2020-21	RE 2020-21	BE 2021-22	RE 2021-22	BE 2022-23	RE 2022-23	BE 2023-24
(A) Autonomous Bodies	1896.60	1495.41	1506.38	1375.23	1328.28	1328.08	1394.75	1396.27	1492.44
(i) CFSI	1.00	0.75	0.85	0.10	0.30	0.22	0.25	0.00	0.00
(ii) FTII	2.78	4.20	4.50	4.00	5.50	4.00	5.50	5.50	5.70
(iii) SRFTI	3.00	3.73	4.10	3.73	3.92	3.42	3.50	3.96	4.31
(iv) IIMC	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	4.07	5.50	5.00	5.50
(v) PCI	1.64	2.32	1.74	1.74	1.59	2.37	0.00	1.81	1.93
(vi) Prasar Bharati	1882.68	1478.91	1489.69	1360.16	1311.47	1314.00	1380.00	1380.00	1475.00
(B) Public Sector Enterprises	152.16	233.47	253.63	229.62	247.02	185.27	201.39	399.68	356.24
(i) NFDC	10.16	5.26	6.61	1.41	0.00	4.67	0.00	187.84	159.90
(ii) BECIL	142.00	228.21	247.02	228.21	247.02	180.60	201.39	211.84	196.34
<b>Total (A) + (B)</b>	<b>2048.76</b>	<b>1728.88</b>	<b>1760.01</b>	<b>1604.85</b>	<b>1575.30</b>	<b>1513.35</b>	<b>1596.14</b>	<b>1795.95</b>	<b>1848.68</b>

CFSI merged with NFDC on 31.12.2022.

99. Statement of Gross Revenue Projections, net revenue earned and Net Expenditure during 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 as furnished by the Ministry are as follows:

Financial Year	Revenue projection	Net Revenue earned	Net Expenditure
2019-20	1649.06	1364.53	1318.04
2020-21	1410.00	1298.90	1074.25
2021-22	1314.00	1417.10	1202.56
2022-23	1380.00	977.01*	790.70
<b>2023-24</b>	<b>1475.00</b>	<b>--</b>	

\*upto December, 2022

100. Responding to a query about the level of self sufficiency achieved by Prasar Bharati with GBS allocation and IEBR raised during the year 2022-23, the Ministry stated as under:-

“Prasar Bharati is meeting its operational expenses from its IEBR and has some surplus also. The revenue generated upto December 2022 is Rs 977.01 crore whereas operational expenses are Rs 953.90 crore. Further, Prasar Bharati is carrying various activities under Public Service broadcasting whose combined estimated cost that includes direct and opportunity cost. Broadly, Public Service broadcasting includes non-monetisable broadcast, pro-bono content sharing/syndication, pro-bono carriage & distribution, unviable Public Services channels/services, pro-bono campaigns, non-commercial terrestrial broadcasting TV, non commercial terrestrial broadcasting radio (only MW & SW + non commercial FM relay) etc”.

101. Elaborating on the sufficiency of revenue, the CEO, Prasar Bharati, during evidence submitted as under:-

“जहां तक रेवेन्यू का सवाल है, आज की तारीख में प्रसार भारती की जो कुल आय है, लगभग-लगभग उतना ही हमारा व्यय है। इसमें वह राशि ऑफकोर्स सम्मिलित नहीं है, जोकि सरकार से हमें ग्रांट के तौर पर प्राप्त होती है, आकाशवाणी और दूरदर्शन के पूर्व के कर्मचारियों के लिए, जो प्रसार भारती को अंतरित किए गए थे, इसका अर्थ और अभिप्राय यह है कि आनेवाले समय में यदि हमें अपनी नई रिक्रूटमेंट करनी है तो हमें अपने आय के साधनों में और तेजी से वृद्धि करनी पड़ेगी ताकि हम उसका भार उठा सके। हमारा प्रयास रहेगा कि कंटेंट के माध्यम से ही हम उस अतिरिक्त आय की व्यवस्था कर सके”।

102. To a specific question as to what was done with the excess of IEBR generated which remains unutilized during 2022-23, the Ministry replied as under:-

“Expenditure of Prasar Bharati from IEBR is almost equal to revenue generated in FY 2022-23 so far”.

103. On being asked whether any study had been conducted to assess the assets which were in idle state for a long time under Doordarshan Kendras in India, the Ministry replied as under:-

“Survey of Doordarshan and All India Radio land and building has been carried out by Prasar Bharati throughout the country and data has been compiled for each centre. Prasar Bharati has uploaded this data of land and building on Government Land Information System (GLIS) portal which can be accessed online.

Further, Prasar Bharati is generating revenue through sharing of Doordarshan and All India Radio resources like tower and associated infrastructure with private FM broadcasters and private mobile operators as detailed below:

(i) AIR & Doordarshan infrastructure being shared with private FM operators at 99 places with 360 Pvt. FM Channels in the form of tower, land and building.

(ii) AIR & Doordarshan infrastructure being shared with BSNL/MTNL and Pvt. Mobile operators at 43 sites with 66 BTS setups in the form of tower, land and building.

In 2021-22, Prasar Bharati earned revenue of Rs. 102 Cr (including GST) through sharing of its above infrastructure.

Prasar Bharati is in the process of undertaking a study on its assets at various centres across the country for effective monetising of assets as per the policy of the Government”.

## **VII. FILM SECTOR**

104. The Films Sector is responsible for production and distribution of documentaries, preservation of films, and organization of international film festivals and promotion of good cinema by institution of awards. It administers the Cinematograph Act, 1952, which looks into certification of films for public exhibition and handles other matters relating to film industry, including developmental and promotional activities. Some of the Establishment Expenditure of Main Secretariat and Other Central Expenditure of Autonomous Bodies under Film Sector of the Ministry have been dealt in following paragraphs.

### **(i) National Films Development Corporation (NFDC) - Merger of Four Media Units with NFDC**

105. The National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) Ltd. was set up by the Government of India in 1975 with the primary objective of planning, promoting and organizing an integrated and efficient development of the Indian Film Industry in accordance with the National Economic Policy and Objectives laid down by the Central Government from time to time. NFDC was re-incorporated in the year 1980 by merging the Film Finance Corporation (FFC) and Indian Motion Picture Export Corporation (IMPEC) with NFDC. Since inception, NFDC had funded/produced over 300 films in more than 21 regional languages, many of which had earned wide acclaim and won National/International awards. Apart from production of films, NFDC also provides 360° integrated marketing solutions for Government Agencies and produces advertisements, documentaries, short films, TV series, web advertisements, radio series and thematic musical anthems.

106. The Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2020, had decided to merge four Film Media Units, namely Films Division (FD), National Film Archive of India (NFAI), Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF) and Children’s Film Society, India (CFSI) with National Film Development Corporation Ltd. (NFDC) by expanding the Memorandum and Articles of Association (MoAA) of NFDC, which would then carry out all the activities hitherto performed by them and to all consequential action/ actions required to be taken, including closure of FD/ NFAI/ DFF/ CFSI.

107. Submitting the detailed status of merger of the aforesaid four film media units, the Ministry stated as under:-

“The mandate of four Film Media Units, namely Films Division, Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF), National Film Archive of India (NFAI) and Children’s Film Society, India (CFSI) has been transferred to National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) Ltd. in a phased manner. The Umbrella Organization, NFDC, consequent upon the merger of Film Media Units is now uniquely placed with regard to Promotion, Production & Preservation of Filmic content - all under one management. The vision of the new entity is to ensure balanced and focused development of Indian cinema. The detailed status is given below:

- (a) The Implementation Committee under the Chairmanship of AS&FA, M/o I&B, was set up in the Ministry on 11.03.2021 to oversee the implementation of merger of four Film Media Units into NFDC.
- (b) As part of Functional Merger for Knowledge Transfer and Skill Development, action has been initiated. The National Film Archive of India (NFAI) has been integrated with NFDC. The mandate of CFSI for ‘Production of Children’s Films’ and ‘Organization of International/National Children’s Film Festivals’ has been transferred to NFDC. Further, the Operations and Maintenance of National Museum of Indian Cinema, operated by the Films Division, have been transferred to NFDC. The mandate of DFF to organize International Film Festival of India (IFFI) has been transferred to NFDC and all other activities of DFF shall be undertaken by NFDC w.e.f. 01.07.2022. These decisions will ensure that NFDC is able to carry out all the mandate of the Four Film Media Units successfully, post-merger.
- (c) To protect the interest of the employees of the four Film Media Units to be merged with NFDC, this Ministry vide letter dated 29.09.2022 and 26.10.2022 has re-deployed 103 staff from Films Division, DFF and NFAI in other Media Units within this Ministry. Simultaneously, the details of 123 staff above the age of 55 years have been sent to DoP&T on 14.10.2022 and 17.10.2022 and details of 155 staff below the age of 55 years have been sent to DoP&T on 26.10.2022 for taking them on the role of its Re-training & Re- deployment Division for taking further necessary action for offering them Special VRS as well as their re-deployment. Subsequently, 4 more staff below the age of 55 years have been placed in Surplus Staff Establishment (SSE) for administrative reasons. Therefore, the number of staff placed in SSE is now 282. Order for creation of SSE was issued on 23.12.2022. Total 282 staff have been transferred to SSE w.e.f. 01.01.2023. Once these 282 staff are re-deployed, these posts will be abolished simultaneously. In so far as re- deployment of 27 staff of CFSI is concerned, they have been re-deployed in FTII and IIMC.
- (d) All operations of Films Division, DFF, NFAI and CFSI have been ceased w.e.f. 31.12.2022 vide Ministry of I&B's O.M. dated 30.12.2022. Further all the staff working in Films Division, DFF and NFAI have been declared as surplus and they have been transferred to SSE vide Ministry of I&B's O.M. dated 28.12.2022. They are being

utilized by NFDC for the new activities given to NFDC and also in other media units.

- (e) Ministry of I&B's O.M. was issued on 03.11.2022 to Films Division, DFF, NFAI and CFSI for transfer of contracts with effect from 15.11.2022 to NFDC. The matter related to assets of these merged Film Media Units for Right to Use (RTU) by NFDC is being finalized. The ownership will be with Ministry of I&B”.

108. When asked to provide details of the financial and physical target set and achieved after the merger of the above-mentioned four film media units, the Ministry stated that:-

“The merger of Film Media Units came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2023. Budgetary allocation of Rs.9.296 crore has been made for Surplus Staff Establishment (SSE) under the CBFC Budget heads for Salary, Medical Expenses, Domestic Travel Expenses and Office Expenses of the staff placed in SSE”.

109. The Ministry also informed that all operations of Films Division, Children’s Film Society, India (CFSI), Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF) and National Film Archive of India (NFAI) have been ceased w.e.f. 31.12.2022 and their activities have been transferred to NFDC (except activities related to PSA Films). The ownership of all assets shall vest in this Ministry and NFDC shall have the Right to Use for Operations and Maintenance of these assets.

110. Regarding the impact of the merger of 4 film media units on their objectives and human resources, the Ministry submitted as under:-

“As per decision of the Government on merger of four Film Media Units into National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), all the activities/objectives of Films Division, Children’s Film Society, India (CFSI), Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF) and National Film Archive of India (NFAI) have been transferred to NFDC vide this Ministry’s O.M. dated 24.12.2021, 30.03.2022 and 30.12.2022, except the activities of Public Service Awareness Films which is proposed to be carried out by CBFC. Hence, it is said that no objectives of the closed Media Units have been affected adversely and these are being carried out by NFDC from 01.01.2023.

There is no retrenchment of human resources of the closed Film Media Units. As on 31.12.2022, a total No. of 381 staff was in position in these Film Media Units. Out of which, 95 staff is already redeployed in various offices within Ministry. 286 staff is now declared as surplus. The process for their redeployment is under process in accordance with CCS (Redeployment of Surplus Staff) Rules, 1990 and as per guidelines issued by DoP&T from time to time, in consultation with R&R Division of DoP&T. For this purpose, fresh vacancies under DR Quota have been called for from various Media Units of this Ministry”.



111. Elaborating on the issue of merger of 4 film units, the Secretary, during evidence submitted as under:-

“ फिल्म सेक्टर के मर्जर का विषय आया था, तो बताना चाहूंगा कि 1 जनवरी से इसमें मर्जर हो गया है। इसका एक उद्देश्य यह भी था कि जैसे कोई फिल्म आर्काइव हुई, उसमें कई फिल्मों का आर्काइव और रिस्टोरेशन होता है, पर इसे कॉमर्शियली यूज कर पाना और दिखा पाना आर्काइव संस्था के परिप्रेक्ष्य में नहीं था। एक बार एनएफडीसी के पास होता है, तो वह उसका कुछ कॉमर्शियल यूटिलाइजेशन भी कर पाएंगे और उससे जो आय होगी, उसका उपयोग फिल्मों की बढ़ोत्तरी के लिए कर पाएंगे। हमारा नेशनल फिल्म म्यूजियम, जो मुंबई में है, उसे आप लोगों ने देखा होगा। वह बहुत अच्छा बना हुआ है। उसकी इनकम पहले गवर्नमेंट के कन्सोलिडेटेड फंड में ही जाती थी, लेकिन अब फिल्मों के लिए ही उसका यूटिलाइजेशन हो पाएगा। उसमें इंडिपेंडेंस अधिक रहेगी”।

**(ii) Film and Television Institute of India (FTII)**

112. According to the Ministry, the Film Institute of India was setup in 1960. The Institute was renamed as Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) and was registered as a Society in October, 1974 under the Registration of Societies Act, 1860. The FTII Society consisted of eminent personalities connected with Film, Television, Communication, Culture, Alumni of the Institute and Ex-Officio Government Members and was governed by a Governing Council, headed by Chairman. The Institute consisted of two Wings, Film and Television wings, which offered three-years and two-year Post Graduate Diploma courses and one-year PG certificate course.

113. The BE, RE and AE for the last four years and BE for 2023-24, under FTII, as furnished by the Ministry, are as follows:-

<b>Film and Television Institute of India (FTII)</b>					<b>(₹ in crore)</b>	
<b>year</b>	<b>BE</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>AE</b>	<b>% w.r.t BE</b>	<b>% w.r.t RE</b>	
<b>2019-20</b>	32.85	30.87	29.56	89.98	95.76	
<b>2020-21</b>	49.40	37.97	37.97	76.86	100.00	
<b>2021-22</b>	58.48	45.09	42.67	72.97	94.63	
<b>2022-23</b>	55.39	68.53	50.71*	91.55	74.00	
<b>2023-24</b>	64.75	-	-	-	-	

(\*) Actual Expenditure up to 31.01.2023.

114. Details of the Physical target set and achieved during 2022-23 and Physical target set for the year 2023-24 under FTI, are:-

<b>‘Other Central Expenditure [including those on Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and Autonomous Bodies]’</b>	<b>Physical target set during 2022-23</b>	<b>Physical target achieved during 2022-23</b>	<b>Physical target set during 2023-24</b>

Film and Television Institute of India (FTII)	Construction of Girls Hostel and Auditorium and Knowledge Centre	100% Completion of construction of Girls Hostel  60% construction of Auditorium and Knowledge Centre	Construction of Two indoor Studio at new land FTII Pune  Completion of construction of Auditorium and Knowledge Centre
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115. On the issue of the major challenges witnessed in achieving the physical targets set the under the FTII during 2022-23 and the reasons for non-achievement of the target alongwith the measures taken to overcome them, the Ministry submitted that:-

“Four regular batches of student activities are conducted every year. However, due to pandemic, seven regular batches of the student activities are being conducted now to cover the backlog. The major challenges faced are budgetary expenditure and requirement of extra man power for the student activities”.

116. Regarding plans to improve the performance under the FTII for the year 2023-24, the Ministry stated that:-

“TSA is implemented for proper management of budgetary expenditure. Continuous follow up of activities for timely completion of projects. The necessary approvals are also being taken up on priority basis to ensure utilization of allocated funds”.

117. When the Committee sought to know about the major problems encountered in FTII; Initiatives taken to address the hindrances witnessed in FTII; Status of digitization/automation alongwith the targets and plan for 2023-24, the Ministry replied as under:-

<b>Issues related to FTII</b>	<b>Reply of the Ministry</b>
<b>major problems encountered</b>	On campus academic activities were suspended during the COVID-19 lockdown which has caused a backlog of 20 months of academic activities. However, the Institute was operating online classes for the benefit of its students.
<b>Initiatives taken to address the hindrances witnessed in FTII</b>	FTII is running parallel batches on the campus to neutralize the academic backlogs and delay in admissions. The Institute currently has 7 batches, ie 5 batches in Film Wing (against the normal of 3 batches) and 2 batches in TV Wing (against the normal of 1 batch). The resources: financial, HR, equipment and space are accordingly configured. The backlogs are expected to be neutralized in August 2025.
<b>Targets and plan for 2023-24</b>	It is proposed to complete the construction of Auditorium cum Knowledge Centre at Pune during the FY 2023-24. Also, the construction of two studios (at the extension

	campus of FTII, at Kothrud) will be commencing during FY 2023-24.
<b>Status of digitization automation</b>	Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) for managing Academics is proposed to be implemented.
Institute was operating online classes for the benefit of its students.	

(iii) **National Centre for Excellence for Animation, Visual effects, Gaming and Comics(NCOE-AVGC)**

118. To realize the potential of the Indian AVGC industry, in the Budget speech for the fiscal year 2022-2023, Hon'ble Finance Minister of India, had announced the formation of an Animation, Visual effects, Gaming, and Comic (AVGC) promotion Task Force. The AVGC Promotion Task Force was formed to recommend strategies to provide impetus to the AVGC sector and increase domestic capacity to serve Indian and global markets. One of the major work areas for the AVGC task force was to set up robust policies to encourage capacities and capabilities of the Indian AVGC sector by creating employment opportunities which will eventually drive the economic growth of the country. The larger thought supporting the formation was to unleash the scope and reach of AVGC sector in India to become a torch bearer of "Create in India" and "Brand India". The AVGC promotion task force had representation from different Government of India Ministries, light house states in AVGC sector, AVGC Industry and academia. The recommendations were received from the sub task forces in the area of policy formulation, capacity building, infrastructure development, technological access, Industry development, research and development, creating local IPs and enhancing export potential among other interventions. The below 5 pillars together represent interventions proposed by AVGC Promotion Task Force.

<b>Sector Potential Realization</b>	<b>Education, Skilling, Mentoring and Capacity Building</b>	<b>Access to Technology</b>	<b>Enhancing Sector's financial viability</b>	<b>Diversity and Sustainability</b>
Market access and Development	Skilling and Mentorship for professionals	Innovation in technology	Access to finance	Gender, Equality and Social Inclusion
Infrastructure development	Capacity Building of Officials and Decision makers	Increased access to technology	Enhanced financial outlay	Climate First approach

Creation of high-quality Content	Education (School, Higher Education)	Research and Development		
Promotion of Indian Content		Intellectual Property and Patents		
IEC and Outreach		MSME and Start Ups		

119. Two of the thrust areas of MIB, for the year 2023-24, are:-

- (i) Setting up of a National Centre of Excellence for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (NCoE- AVGC) at Mumbai.
- (ii) Launching of AVGC Mission to promote the AVGC segment of Media & Entertainment (M&E) Sector

120. While examining previous DFG (2022-23), it was observed that under Film Sector the thrust areas for the year 2022-23 also included (i) 'Setting up of a National Centre of Excellence for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (NCoE- AVGC) at Mumbai' and (ii) a target to set up an AVGC promotion task force with all stakeholders to recommend ways to realize AVGC potential and build domestic capacity for serving our markets and the global demand. When asked to provide updates on the aforesaid thrust areas set during the year 2022-23, the Ministry replied as under:-

“(I) Pursuant to Budget announcement 2022-23, an AVGC Task Force was constituted on 08.04.2022. After having collated the recommendations of all the sub task force on subjects viz. policy formulation, skill development, education and gaming, a final report was prepared which was duly approved by Secretary (I&B) on 15.12.2022.

(II) The Report of the AVGC Task Force has broadly recommended the following:

- (a) Market access and development through information, education, communication and outreach
- (b) Skilling and mentorship by defining AVGC related job roles, qualification packs and strong integration with the education framework
- (c) Standardization of education focused on AVGC sector
- (d) Enhancing accessibility to technology vis-à-vis creating financial viability
- (e) Promoting Create in India initiative with exclusive focus on content creation while giving equal weightage to skilling, re-skilling and upskilling of people across gender, economic background and geography, thus, diversifying the sector through equity and inclusion

(III) Secretary (I&B) gave a press briefing at 12:30 PM on 26.12.2022 on AVGC Task Force Final Report.

(IV) Pursuant to the AVGC Task Force final recommendations, the following key actions are contemplated for the implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force-

- (a) A **National AVGC-XR Mission** needs to be created with a budget outlay for providing promotional funding and support infrastructure. Most of the recommendations of the Task Force and the inter-departmental actions envisaged in the draft of National Policy for the AVGC sector are envisaged to be implemented through this AVGC Mission.
- (b) Establish a **National Centre of Excellence (NCOE)** for the AVGC sector to become an international reference point across Skilling, Education, Industry Development and Research & Innovation for the AVGC sector.
- (c) Seeking Cabinet approval on the **Draft National Policy** (pages /c) for AVGC Sector potential realization.
- (d) Deliberations with State/UT Governments for adopting **Model State Policy** (pages /c) prepared by the task force for growth of AVGC sector in their respective State/UT”.

121. Detailing the action taken/initiated on each of the above action contemplated for implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force in, the Ministry submitted the following:-.

Sl. No	Broad recommendations of the Report of the AVGC Task Force	Action contemplated for implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force	Road map/ Schedules for implementation	Timeline and target set for implementation	Budget outlay
1.	Market access and development through information, education, communication and outreach	A <b>National AVGC-XR Mission</b> needs to be created with a budget outlay for providing promotional funding and support infrastructure. Most of the recommendations of the Task Force and the inter-departmental actions envisaged in the draft of National Policy for the AVGC sector are envisaged to be implemented through this AVGC Mission.	Roadmap is being worked out; awaiting approval for the National policy on AVGC. Public consultation is going on right now	Roadmap is being worked out; awaiting approval for the National policy on AVGC. Public consultation is going on right now	--
2.	Skilling and mentorship by defining AVGC related job roles, qualification packs and strong integration with the education framework	Establish a National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) for the AVGC sector to become an international reference point across Skilling, Education, Industry Development and Research & Innovation for the AVGC sector.	Same as above	Same as above	--
3.	Standardization of	Seeking Cabinet approval on the	Public consultation	Public	

	education focused on AVGC sector Enhancing accessibility to technology vis-à-vis creating financial viability	<b>Draft National Policy</b> (pages /c) for AVGC Sector potential realization	<b>is being held. Only then the matter will be taken to the Cabinet.</b>	<b>consultation is being held. Only then the matter will be taken to the Cabinet.</b>	--
<b>4.</b>	Promoting Create in India initiative with exclusive focus on content creation while giving equal weightage to skilling, re-skilling and upskilling of people across gender, economic background and geography, thus, diversifying the sector through equity and inclusion	Deliberations with State/UT Governments for adopting <b>Model State Policy</b> (pages /c) prepared by the task force for growth of AVGC sector in their respective State/UT	<b>Letters have been written to all States for their comments. Statewide consultation shall be held soon</b>	<b>Letters have been written to all States for their comments. Statewide consultation shall be held soon</b>	--

122. Regarding details of the budgetary allocation and targets set for promotion for 'Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC)', the Ministry replied:-

"Consultation regarding budgetary allocation and targets set for promotion for AVGC is underway with the stakeholders".

123. When the details of the budgetary allocations and utilisation status for promoting AVGC sector and the initiatives planned to attract Foreign Direct investment (FDI) in AVGC sector was sought, the Ministry replied as under:-

"There is no concrete budgetary allocation provided for this sector as of now. However once the National and Model State Policy is being approved, financial requirement for the same shall be drawn up".

124. Further, when asked about Rule or Law being formulated with respect to 'Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC)', the Ministry replied as under:-

"There is currently no Law/Rule with respect to AVGC sector. The Draft National Policy is still in consultation stage. The recommended State Model Policy for AVGC- XR Sector has been circulated to the States for consultation".

125. The Ministry were also asked to provide a few other details relating to AVGC sector viz. (i) details of the States/UTs that are doing well in AVGC sector and that are lagging behind; (ii) Plans to promote AVGC sector in the States/UTs that are lagging behind; (iii) Details of the roadblocks in promoting AVGC sector and (iv) measures planned for addressing the roadblocks. Responding to these, the Ministry replied as under:-

“States like Karnataka, Telangana, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu are advanced in the field of AVGC sector. Most of the other States are behind in this sector. Most of the issues related to non-development of this sector such as unavailability of infrastructures, technology access etc which have all been addressed in the draft national and model state policy. Once the policies are approved, the AVGC mission will encompass all of these issues and provide strategies on how to take this sector forward.

126. On being asked the rules and policy governing the gaming and gambling industry, the Ministry stated that this was being dealt with by MeitY.

127. During the course of examination of DFG, the Secretary while responding to an issue related to gaming sector *viz.* advertisement for betting/gambling, submitted as under:-

“महोदय, एक प्रश्न बेटिंग और गैबलिंग विज्ञापनों के ऊपर आया था कि वह एक थिन लाइन है। यह बात सही है। इसके ऊपर हाल ही में सरकार ने यह निर्णय लिया है कि जो ऑनलाइन गेमिंग है, इसे अब डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स, माइटी देखेगा और उसके ऊपर वे अभी अपने रूल्स आदि निकालेंगे। उसके ऊपर उनकी चर्चा चालू है। परन्तु इसमें कुछ क्योंकि हमने जोरो के थे, बीच में जब टी-20 वर्ल्ड कप आ रहा था, तो उसमें कॉफी बेटिंग के विज्ञापन आ रहे थे। उन पर हमने रोक लगाई और स्टार टीवी, स्टा रस्पोर्ट्स पर उस समय वे विज्ञापन नहीं भी आए, क्योंकि स्पोर्ट्स के कॉफी बेटिंग विज्ञापन आ रहे थे। कुछ विज्ञापन आज भी चलते हैं, क्योंकि गेम ऑफ स्किल और गेम ऑफ चांस के अंदर यह एक थिन लाइन आज भी है। अब सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने खुद ही कुछ गेम्स को, जैसे रमी है, उसे गेम ऑफ स्किल कहा गया है तो गेम ऑफ स्किल के ऊपर, क्योंकि वह लीगल है तो उसके विज्ञापन आते हैं। ऐसे ही जो ड्रीम 11 और इस तरह के अन्य विज्ञापन हैं, क्योंकि वह लीगल है तो वे आते हैं। अब इसमें क्या लीगल है, क्या इल्लिगल है, माइटी आगे इसके ऊपर और अधिक ध्यान देगी। जो हमारा मीडिया सेक्टर है, लगभग 25 बिलियन डालर का मीडिया सेक्टर है, जिसमें हमारी दर वर्ष जो ग्रोथ होती है, वह 12 से 13 परसेंट होती है। भारत देश का जो ग्रोथ रेट 6 से 7 परसेंट है, उससे अधिक दर पर मीडिया सेक्टर ग्रो कर रहा है। हमारी अपेक्षा है कि वर्ष 2030 तक जो मीडिया सेक्टर आज 25 बिलियन डालर का है, वह बढ़कर 70 से 75 बिलियन डालर हो जाएगा और अगर भारत की ग्रोथ और बढ़ी तो हो सकता है कि 90 से 100 बिलियन डालर तक भी पहुँचे। उसमें एवीजीसी, एनिमेशन, विजुअल इफेक्ट और गेमिंग सेक्टर एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण सेक्टर है। हमारी आईटी के अंदर बहुत एक्सपर्टीज है। हमारे बहुत से लोग आईटी में काम करते हैं, तो एवीजीसी को फोकस करते हुए टास्क फोर्स बनायी गई थी। जो रिपोर्ट दी गई है, उसमें और अधिक हम कैसे कर सकते हैं, किस तरह से स्कूल के पाठ्यक्रम में इसको शामिल करें, किस तरह से लोगों को इस के बारे में शिक्षित करें, जैसे कंप्यूटर की कक्षाएं होती हैं, तो उसमें किस तरह से एनिमेशन और विजुअल इफेक्ट्स आदि का पाठ्यक्रम रखें। 5वीं, छठी कक्षा से ही बच्चों को उसके बारे में बताएं, उनके कैरियर्स क्या हैं, कैसे हो सकते हैं और आगे स्किलिंग के अंदर भी उस तरह के कोर्सेज को शुरू करें। इसके ऊपर जोर दिया गया है। कुछ इंसेंटिव्स की भी बात है कि कैसे स्टॉर्टअप्स को उसमें हम कर सकते हैं। स्टॉर्टअप फंड आदि कैसे कर सकते हैं? अभी टास्क फोर्स की रिपोर्ट ही मिनिस्ट्री एंड आई एंड बी ने स्वीकार की है, उसे कैबिनेट में ले जाकर उसके इम्प्लीमेंटेशन के लिए हमें आगे जाना होगा।”

**(iv) Film Shooting in India**

128. Development Communication and Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC) Scheme, is being implemented by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for promotion of Indian cinema and showcasing its soft power globally. One of the components of the Scheme is to provide incentives for shooting of foreign films in India.

129. On being asked to provide details of the States/UTs that were preferred most as shooting locations, the Ministry replied as under:-

“List of States / UTs where shooting of the foreign projects that have been accorded permission through the FFO have taken place - Chandigarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Karnataka, Ladakh, Maharashtra , Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand”.

130. Regarding the measures taken to promote other States/UTs as preferred shooting destination for films, the Ministry provided information about FFO’s engagement with State Government to ease filming and promoting India as a shooting destination. They are as follows:-

- (i) “Participation at Prominent International Film Markets - Subsequent to the launch of the website, the FFO has participated in various key international film markets such as Cannes Film Market in 2019, 2020 (Online Edition) and 2022, European Film Market in Berlin in 2019, 2020 and online in 2022, Hong Kong International Film and TV Market 2019, Venice Production Bridge (VPB) 2022, Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) 2022 with a view to make the global film industry aware of the FFO and promote the ‘Film in India’ initiative of the Government. In addition, FFO undertook branding and advertisements and conducted sessions and meetings promoting India and directly engaged with producers from all over the world, to discuss the production and location needs for their upcoming projects.
- (ii) The FFO website has dedicated pages for all the 36 States and UTs of India. The website allows the State Nodal Officer to promote their respective States as filming destination by maintaining the following information –
  - a. The State/UT’s Film Policy and Incentives Offered
  - b. Nodal Officers contact details
  - c. Shooting locations, with filming related information per location
  - d. Important State Festivals
  - e. Filmography of the State

<https://ffo.gov.in/en/locations/state-information/28>



- (iii) Since 2017 the FFO has helped States/UTs to set up their Film Offices in Film Bazaar to connect them to the Industry and also enable them to showcase their incentives and policies. Continuous engagement with Nodal Officers through Workshops & Film Offices have resulted in:
- 19 States have a Film Policy
  - 17 States have an online Single Window Filming Ecosystem
  - 18 States have incentives for film makers”
- (iv) FFO on behalf of the Ministry executes the Most Film Friendly State Award, instituted under the National Film Awards to encourage States to create film friendly environment. The award has been accorded to the State of Gujarat (2015), Uttar Pradesh (2016), Madhya Pradesh (2017 & 2020), Uttarakhand (2018) and Sikkim (2019)”.

131. The Committee sought the Budgetary details for the last 5 years for making India a preferred shooting destination. To this, the Ministry furnished the following information:-

“As per information available with FFO, the Ministry has sanctioned the below mentioned amounts to NFDC for the functioning of the Film Facilitation Office which has been set up to promote India as a preferred filming destination.

Sl No	Year	Amount (Rs)
1	2018-19	4,99,01299
2	2019-20	7,25,31,000
3	2020-21	2,00,00,000
4	2021-22	Nil
5	2022-23	3,06,30,676

132. Elaborating on the hindrances witnessed in making India a preferred destination for shooting films and the measures taken to address them and their outcome, the Ministry furnished the following information:-

- a) “Incentive policy: The lack of a Central Incentives policy for filming was a major hindrance in making India a preferred filming destination. All the major competing destinations had a robust incentives policy that would either provide tax rebates or straight forward cash incentives to offset the production expenditure. In order to address this issue, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting announced the scheme of incentives for foreign productions and official co-productions in May 2022. This scheme aims to reimburse 30% of the cost of production incurred in India by foreign films and official co-productions. The Ministry and FFO have

also worked with many state governments and encouraged them to have their own incentives policy. The central incentive can be claimed over and above the incentives by the respective state governments and it is believed that this would address a major concern of the foreign film maker.

- b) Visas: Visas for the cast and crew of the foreign productions that come to India was another area of concern. The Ministry of I&B worked closely with the Ministry of Home Affairs to introduce a special category of visa i.e the Film (F) Visa that would enable the cast and crew of productions that have been given permission by the Ministry of I&B for film in India to come to India. The F Visa is a multiple entry visa valid for one year so that the cast and crew can visit for multiple schedules. To further ease the visa process, the F visa was also made eligible for recce visits.
- c) Single window permission system: Multiple permissions are required at central and state levels for filming in India which takes up time and budget for the foreign production. The Ministry has set up the Film Facilitation Office which acts as single window facilitation system for permissions by the Ministry of I&B as well as other central agencies like the ASI, Railways, etc. The FFO has also worked actively with State Governments and encouraged them to set up a single window permissions eco-system either online and/or through the nodal officer system. As a result of the efforts, 16 states have an online single window permissions eco system”.

133. Regarding new initiatives under DFDC and promoting foreign films, the Secretary, while deposing before the Committee, submitted as under:-

“सर, एक प्रश्न यह उठा था कि हम क्या नयी चीजें कर रहे हैं? डीसीडीएफसी स्कीम में खर्च का प्रावधान है, क्योंकि इस वर्ष हमने चैंपियन सेक्टर स्कीम के अंदर फिल्मों को लिया और फिल्मों में नयी योजनाएं लागू की गयीं कि इसमें हम पहली बार इंसेंटिव देंगे, यदि परदेस की फिल्मों की भारत में शूटिंग होती है। जैसा कि माननीय सदस्य श्री शत्रुघ्नसिन्हाजी ने बताया था कि इन्होंने यूपी में फिल्म इन्सेंटिव पॉलिसी की थी और उसका लाभ हुआ था। उसी आधार पर अब केंद्रीय स्तर पर भी फॉरेन फिल्मों को हम शूटिंग का इंसेंटिव देंगे और उसमें राज्य जो दे रहे हैं, वह अलग से मिलेगा और केंद्र की तरफ से अलग से मिलेगा। यह केवल फिल्मों के लिए ही नहीं है। चाहे वे किसी एडवर्टाइजमेंट के लिए आए, किसी एनीमेशन के लिए आए या किसी भी काम के लिए आए, उसके लिए हम उन्हें इंसेंटिव देंगे और साथ ही फॉरेन देशों में लगभग 17 देशों के साथ हमारी को-प्रोडक्शन ट्रीटी हैं। उन्हें भी हम बढ़ाकर और अधिक करना चाहते हैं। इस पर भी हमारा काम चल रहा है”।

134. On the role of MIB w.r.t to content of foreign films that are shot in India, the Ministry stated as under:-

“The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting accords shooting permission to Filmmakers desirous of shooting their Feature Films, TV/Web shows and series & Reality TV/Web shows and series in India. The applications for the same is accepted online by the FFO. Before according to permission, the scripts of the projects are evaluated by the Script Evaluation Officer (SEO) from a panel appointed by the Ministry. The SEO evaluates the scripts to examine that there is nothing controversial or damaging of the image of India in the content. The SEO also recommends appointment of Liaison Officer

during the filming period to ensure that the film does not deviate from the approved script or pre vetting of the film by the Indian Mission abroad before the release if required.

The Ministry also accords the official co-production status to projects under the audio-visual Co-production Treaty signed by the Government of India with 15 Countries. Issuance of Custom Exemption Letter for temporary import of Equipment to international projects if required”.

135. Further, the Secretary, during evidence added that:-

“फॉरेन फिल्मों के कंटेंट के बारे में एक प्रश्न पूछा गया था। जो फॉरेन फिल्में यहाँ आती हैं, उनके कंटेंट के बारे में एक प्रश्न आया था। हम तो वेलकम करते हैं कि फॉरेन फिल्म्स यहाँ पर आएँ और उनकी शूटिंग आदि यहाँ पर हो और अधिक से अधिक हमारे देश को भी बाहर के देशों में देखा जाए। हमारी सिंगलविडियो और उसके माध्यम से हमारा तो यही प्रयास है कि हम उनको ज्यादा से ज्यादा आकर्षित करें और उनको इंसेंटिव भी दें। उनके कंटेंट के बारे में बस यह है, हम थोड़ा सा देखते हैं कि उस में कोई हमारे देश के विरोधी या कोई इस तरह की चीज न हो। हमारे कुछ लोग स्क्रिप्ट्स वैल्यूएटर्स रहते हैं, जो कि दो-तीनदिन से ज्यादा समय नहीं लगाते हैं, अधिकतम एक हफ्ते में उसे कर देते हैं और वे सिर्फ इतना देखते हैं कि जिससे हमारे यहाँ शूटिंग आदि करते वक्त उससे भावनाएँ न भड़कें। उसके बियॉन्ड हमारा कोई और उद्देश्य नहीं है”।

## **VIII. INFORMATION SECTOR**

136. The Information Sector is responsible for information dissemination and awareness creation of the policies and activities of the Government of India through print, electronic and digital media, framing of policy guidelines for rate fixation of government advertisements on print, electronic, and online platform, and administering the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, and the Press Council Act, 1978. Some of the Establishment Expenditure of Main Secretariat, Other Central Expenditure of Autonomous Bodies under Information Wing of the Ministry have been dealt in the following paragraphs.

### **(i) Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) and Upgradation of IIMC to International Standards**

137. The Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), registered as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (XXI of 1860), came into existence on August 17, 1965. It was established with the basic objectives of teaching, training and undertaking research in the areas of media and mass communication. Over the past 56 years, the Institute has graduated into conducting a number of specialized courses to meet the diverse and demanding requirements of the rapidly expanding and changing media industry in modern times, in keeping with its original mandate “to make available facilities for training and research to meet the information and publicity needs of public and private sector industries.

138. The Plan Scheme 'Upgradation of IIMC to international Standard' was included in the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan and approval was accorded for a total amount of Rs. 62.0 crore. The proposals under the Scheme included upgradation of IIMC, i.e., construction of additional facilities at the IIMC Campus, New Delhi, as well as starting of four new Regional Campuses of IIMC in Maharashtra, Mizoram, Kerala and Jammu. In January, 2021, the Hon'ble Supreme Court had allowed the construction of new additional institutional buildings at IIMC, New Delhi, subject to the conditions imposed by the Central Empowered Committee. As against this Plan Scheme, IIMC's proposed conversion into a 'Deemed to be' University under de novo category was also under consideration since 2017 which would involve construction of various infrastructure facilities once the proposal moved ahead further. Under the above Plan Scheme, two Regional Campuses were started at Aizawl (Mizoram) and Amaravati (Maharashtra) in 2011 and the other two Regional Campuses were started at Jammu (J&K) and Kottayam (Kerala) in 2012.

139. The budgetary allocations and utilizations for IIMC for the last four years are as under:-

<b>Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC)</b>					
<b>(Rs. in crore)</b>					
<b>year</b>	<b>BE</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>AE</b>	<b>% w.r.t BE</b>	<b>% w.r.t RE</b>
<b>2019-20</b>	26.49	25.69	24.33	91.85	94.71
<b>2020-21</b>	61.30	41.41	25.93	42.30	62.62
<b>2021-22</b>	65.00	30.00	27.15	41.77	90.50
<b>2022-23</b>	52.00	41.00	27.03*	51.98	65.93
<b>2023-24</b>	44.67	-	-	-	-
<i>(*)Actual Expenditure up to 31.01.2023.</i>					

140. Major Problems encountered under IIMC, as provided by MIB, are as under:-

"The major problems encountered by the Institute while taking up various ongoing/new projects, in the pipeline, as per the target 2022-23, for the fulfillment in the F.Y. are as follows:

A. Up-gradation of IIMC to International standards:

IIMC had to obtain the necessary clearances from various regulatory authorities for the construction of the building. However, this expansion could not take place due to certain objections relating to construction of building on environmental grounds. Subsequently, Hon'ble Supreme Court has allowed IIMC to construct new additional Institutional Building at IIMC, New Delhi subject to the conditions imposed by the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) in its report No. 28 dated 22.10.2019. While recommending the proposed new construction CEC advised IIMC to reduce ground coverage. Accordingly, the plan has been revised and required fresh approvals from various regulatory authorities. The requisite approvals have been received.

## B. Opening of Regional Campuses:

Under the above scheme, IIMC had the target to set up four Regional Campuses in different parts of the country, and the major problems encountered are as follows:

The Western Regional Center of IIMC at Amravati was delayed as representations were received to change the location of the Western Regional Centre of IIMC, Amaravati. The matter was considered and it was decided in the year 2021 to construct the Western Regional Centre of IIMC at Badhera, Amaravati. The lease Agreement between IIMC & the Govt of Maharashtra got 'time-barred/lapsed'. Therefore, a fresh 'Lease Agreement' had to be signed, which has since been done, and the construction is likely to begin in FY 2023-24.

The North East Regional Center of IIMC Aizawl was completed in 2019; however, the acquisition of the project got delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The new Campus has been inaugurated by the Hon'ble President of India on 3rd November, 2022, and the session 2022-23 has started from the new permanent Campus.

The Northern Regional Campus of IIMC Jammu was also delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and some local issues. The project has now been completed and the academic session 2022-23 has been started.

The Southern Regional Campus in Kottayam, Kerala has already started functioning from the permanent campus since 2019".

141. Reasons for non-achievement of the physical targets set under the IIMC during 2022-23 and the measures taken to overcome them, as submitted by the Ministry are as follows:-

	<b>Reasons for non-achievement</b>	<b>Measures taken to overcome them</b>
(a) The scheme for "Up-gradation of IIMC to International Standards".	The scheme envisaged upgrading facilities at IIMC, New Delhi by expansion of its infrastructure. However, this expansion could not take place due to certain objections relating to construction of building on environmental grounds. Subsequently, Hon'ble Supreme Court has allowed IIMC to construct new additional Institutional Buildings at IIMC , New Delhi subject to the conditions imposed by the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) in its report No. 28 dated 22.10.2019. While recommending the proposed new construction CEC advised IIMC to reduce ground coverage. Accordingly, the plan	The tender for Topographical Survey of the plot and necessary clearances has been awarded by the CPWD, New Delhi. Construction shall begin in FY 2023-24  (b) Letter of Intent

(b) Construction Western Regional Centre of IIMC at Amravati, Maharashtra.	has been revised and required fresh approvals from various regulatory authorities. The requisite approvals have been received.  (a) Certain Proposed works required the approval of various regulatory authorities.  (b) Representations were received to change the location of the Western Regional Centre of IIMC, Amravati. The matter was considered and it has been decided in the year 2021 to construct the Western Regional Centre of IIMC at Badhera, Amravati.	has been issued to C.P.W.D for submission of drawings and costs estimates. Initially, Boundary Wall will be constructed to secure the premises in FY 2023-24
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142. Regarding initiatives to address the hindrances witnessed under IIMC, the Ministry has submitted the following:-

“IIMC has taken certain initiatives to address the hindrances in various ways to achieve the set targets which are as follows:

A. Up-gradation of IIMC to International Standards:

IIMC has already cleared the formalities and obtained the necessary documents required to start the project relating to the “Up-gradation of IIMC to International Standards. The Letter of Intent has already been sent to CPWD New Delhi on December 05, 2022 for submitting the cost estimates, timelines & drawings for the construction of the new building. The construction is likely to begin this year.

B. Opening of Regional Campuses:

Regarding the Western Regional Center at Amravati, IIMC has already been signed a fresh lease agreement and LOI has been issued to C.P.W.D. for submission of drawing and costs estimates of the construction works. The construction is likely to begin this year”.

143. Submitting the reasons for delay in commencement of IIMC building at Delhi and furnishing action taken thereon, the Ministry has submitted that:-

“The start of the project got delayed as IIMC had to obtain the necessary clearances from various regulatory authorities for the construction of the building. IIMC had to wait for the judgment of the Hon’ble Supreme Court of India in this matter, which has finally been given.

Now, IIMC has already cleared the formalities and obtained the necessary documents required to start the project relating to the “Up-gradation of IIMC to International Standards. The Letter of Intent has already been sent to CPWD

New Delhi on December 05, 2022 for submitting the cost estimates, timelines & drawings for the construction of the new building. The construction is likely to begin in FY 2023-24”.

144. Details of the projects that are being planned to be implemented during 2023-24, are as under:-

Projects under IIMC	Date of inception	Target date	Status of implementation	Reason for delay	Projects targeted for 2023-24 along with the budgetary details
Construction of Permanent Campus for North East Regional Centre of IIMC Complex at <b>Aizawl, Mizoram</b>	2014	2019	Project Completed	The acquisition of the project got delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Some additional construction of Retaining Wall, Under Ground Water Sump, acoustic wall paneling, false ceiling etc, at different rooms including CCTV, LAN system, IP EPABX, Sound System, Air conditioning etc. would be undertaken  [Estimated Cost: 07.05 Crore]
Construction of Northern Regional Campus of Indian Campus of Indian Institute of Mass Communication at Keran Bantalab <b>Jammu( J&amp;K)</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2019  (Date of Laying foundation stone)	31.03.2021	Project completed.	Covid-19 pandemic and certain issues with the local population.	Construction of additional boundary wall & security fencing and strengthening of drainage system etc. would be undertaken  [Estimated Cost: 02.00 Crore]
Setting up Western Regional Campus of IIMC at <b>Amravati, Maharashtra.</b>	A letter of Intent dated 22.11.2022 has been issued to C.P.W.D, Nagpur for preparation of drawings and cost estimates.	Yet to be received from CPWD	Construction work will start in 2023-24.	-	The exact cost of the project is yet to be informed by the executing agency i.e. CPWD.

Construction of new building at IIMC campus at <b>New Delhi</b> .	A letter of Intent dated 05.12.2022 has been issued to C.P.W.D, New Delhi for preparation of drawings and cost estimates.	Yet to be received from CPWD	Construction work will start in 2023-24	-	The exact cost of the project is yet to be informed by the executive agency i.e. CPWD.
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**(ii) Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI)**

145. The Office of the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) was set up on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1956, on the recommendation of the First Press Commission in 1953 and by amending the Press and Registration of Books Act (PRB), 1867. An attached office with the Ministry of I&B, RNI executes statutory and non-statutory functions. RNI maintains a Register of Newspapers and Publications, published across the country, issues Certificate of Registration to newspapers and publications, informing District Magistrate (DM) concerned about availability of titles for fresh newspapers and scrutinizes and analyzes the annual statements submitted by the publishers of newspapers and publications. RNI also submits an annual report on the print media scenario in the country, entitled 'Press in India', to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting by December 31 every year. Under its non-statutory functions, RNI authenticates self-declaration certificates for import of newsprint to actual user publications registered with RNI. The office also conducts circulation verification of registered publications, through designated officers of PIB, on the basis of requests received from the publishers or the instructions of the Ministry of I&B.

146. During April to October 2020, RNI scrutinized 10,590 applications for verification of title and out of this 5,514 titles were approved. As many as 276 titles were de-blocked between April to November, 2021 and made available for verification to intending applicants. Out of 1,44,520 publications registered as on March 31, 2021, 20,512 were daily newspapers and 1,24,008 other periodicals. As many as 844 publications had been registered (fresh & revised) during April 1 to November 30, 2021. An entry in this regard was also made in the register of RNI. Also details of registered newspapers and publications was available on the website of RNI.



147. The Budgetary allocations and utilisation under RNI, during last five years, are as under:-

<b>RNI</b>		<b>(Rs. in crore)</b>			
<b>year</b>	<b>BE</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>AE</b>	<b>% w.r.t BE</b>	<b>% w.r.t RE</b>
<b>2018-19</b>	8.53	8.76	6.96	81.59	79.45
<b>2019-20</b>	8.65	6.53	6.36	73.52	97.39
<b>2020-21</b>	7.81	5.66	5.87	75.16	103.71
<b>2021-22</b>	8.52	8.22	7.70	90.38%	93.67%
<b>2022-23</b>	7.95	8.80	6.64*	83.52%	75.45%
<b>2023-24</b>	12.36				

;(AE) Actual Expenditure upto 31.01.2023

148. At present, application for titles could be filled online. Apart from computerized processing of title verification and registration, all the verified titles are put on RNI website and could be downloaded. With the introduction of this facility, any person/prospective publisher could access the existing title data base, which was available State/Language-wise. In the second phase of digitalization, various procedures of the office, including application for registration would be made completely online.

149. While furnishing details of the automation process in RNI and the hindrances faced in completing the automation process in RNI, the Ministry informed as under:-

“The Phase I of the automation project of RNI started in the year 2020 with an in-house team of programmers led by NIC. The Project envisages the automation of the following functions of RNI.

- Title verification
- Registration
- Circulation Verification
- Newsprint Certificate generation
- Regularity updates
- Annual Statements filing,
- Integration with the National Single Window System, Central Bureau of Communication, Press Information Bureau, and Press Council of India; Licensing Authorities in various Districts through e-sign.
- DAK management, Helpdesk and Grievance Redressal
- Digitization of records;
- Other day-to-day operations of the RNI.

As part of the Project, online payment of penalty through BharatKosh has been enabled. Further, the filing of Annual Statements by Publishers have been made online. The Phase II of the project has commenced in January 2023 by hiring an Agency. The final deployment for public usage is planned for July, 2023. As on date, baseline of all the modules have been completed; the

Software Requirement Specification (SRS) of Title verification and Registration Modules are also completed. The deployment Architecture Preparation, along with website home page design is in progress. As part of the Digitization, a total no. of 960 Registers are to be digitized. This includes 1,56,000 register records. Out of these, 619 Registers have been scanned and data mapping of 61,749 register records have been completed as on date. The automated system is to be integrated with the e-sign solution so as to offer the publishers and the authenticating authorities, ease of transaction and record management. The project also has a facility to link these modules with the National Single Window System, Online payment system of Bharatkosh Portal, and the empanelment portal of Central Bureau of Communication for seamless integration of data.

150. Asked about the timeline set for integration of RNI portal with National Single Window System portal of DPIIT and for automation of different modules on title verification, title registration, circulation verification, regularity, annual statements and Press in India etc, the Ministry submitted as under:-

“Timeline for integration with National Single Window System (NSWS) and other Government Portals is July, 2023.

The timelines for automation module		
Sl. No.	Component	Timeline
1.	Functional Development of the Web Portal	28.04.2023
2.	Final QC Testing & Sharing for UAT	12.05.2023
3.	User Acceptance Testing (UAT)	26.05.2023
4.	Training	05.06.2023
5.	Security Audit	19.06.2023
6.	Go-Live	26.06.2023
7.	Post Deployment Warranty Support	25.09.2023

The timelines for two major modules i.e. Title Verification and Registration is as under:

Sl. No.	Component	Timeline
1.	Functional Development (Title verification and Registration)	24.02.2023
2.	Final QC Testing & Sharing for UAT	03.03.2023
3.	User Acceptance Testing (UAT)	09.03.2023
4.	Training	17.03.2023
5.	Security Audit	24.03.2023
6.	Go-Live	29.03.2023
7.	Go-Live Sign Off	31.03.2023

151. When asked to detail the problems, challenges witnessed in Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) alongwith the steps taken to overcome them, the Ministry informed as under:-

<u>Challenges</u>	<u>Measures Taken to overcome the challenges</u>
• Manual process of Verification of	• The processes have been simplified with

<p>documents as part of the Title Verification and Registration Process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manual process of penalty payment through Demand Draft.</li> <li>• Enormous number of applications received in RNI, New Delhi as there is only one office to cater to the applications from across the country.</li> <li>• In view of the above, pendency of applications for Title Verification and Registration.</li> <li>• Large number of defunct publications that have not filed the Annual Statement for many years.</li> <li>• Co-ordination with District Magistrates/Licensing Authorities in districts across the country.</li> </ul>	<p>the new Guidelines for Title Verification and Registration to be in effect from 1st March, 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Automation of Processes is being undertaken.</li> <li>• New Standard Operating Procedures issued for Circulation Verification with clear and stringent provisions.</li> <li>• Identification of defunct publications and cancellation of Registration has started.</li> <li>• Efforts to address Grievances/complaints are being done.</li> <li>• A dedicated Enquiry Office in the ground floor of Sochna Bhavan.</li> <li>• Physical meetings at RNI for publishers in and around Delhi are being held.</li> <li>• Online Meetings for publishers from far-off places are being held.</li> <li>• Demo videos (Hindi &amp; English) explaining the Registration processes are made available on RNI's website and MIB's official YouTube platform.</li> </ul>
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152. In the backdrop of automation of RNI, the Committee desired to know about the perennial problem of RNI. To this, the Secretary, M/o I&B submitted during evidence as under:-

“ एक प्रश्न आरएनआई के बारे में आया तो आरएनआई में यह बिल्कुल सही है कि आज आर एन आई में बहुत विलंब होता है। 8-8, 10-10 महीने विलंब होता है। इसीलिए उसके पोर्टल का काम शुरू किया गया है। हमारी अपेक्षा है कि यह काम जून-जुलाई तक पूरा हो जाएगा। जिससे अगर कोई भी उसमें अप्लाई करता है तो उसे एक दिन में पता चल जाएगा कि उसका जो टाइम है, वह उपलब्ध है या नहीं है। परन्तु कुछ विषय उस में ऐसे हैं, जो आरएनआई चलता है, प्रेस रजिस्ट्रेशन बिल जो एक्ट है, प्रेस एंड न्यूज पेपर एक्ट जो है, जो पीआरबी एक्ट है, यह वर्ष 1867 का एक्ट है। उसके आधार पर हमारे न्यूज पेपर्स का रजिस्ट्रेशन होता है। यह एक्ट कोलोनीयल सरकार के समय बना था और उसमें जो अधिकार हैं, वे कलेक्टर के पास हैं। उस एक्ट के अनुसार लाइसेंस को कैंसिल करने या उसे देने का अधिकार कलेक्टर के पास है। यह दो स्तर के ऊपर होता है। कलेक्टर के पास उन्हें अपना कागजात दाखिल करने पड़ते हैं, कलेक्टर के यहाँ से प्रेस रजिस्ट्रार के पास आता है और फिर वापस कलेक्टर के पास जाता है। इस वजह से उसमें कॉफी विलंब होता है। हमने एक नया बिल तैयार किया है, जो कि अभी कैबिनेट की मंजूरी के स्तर पर है। एक बार वह होता है और अगर नया एक्ट पारित होता है तो हमें अपेक्षा है कि यह जो प्रणाली है, उसके अंदर भी कुछ सुधार आ सकेंगे।”

**(iii) Central Bureau of Communication (erstwhile BOC)**

153. With respect to Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), the Ministry was asked to furnish information w.r.t. its date of inception of automation process, updated status of automation done, hindrances faced in completing the automation process in BOC, targets set for the year 2023-24., etc. To this, the Ministry replied as follows:-

Information related to CBC	Reply of the Ministry
<b>Date of inception of automation process in BOC and targeted date for completion</b>	<p>CBC has started the Automation process in November, 2020 and the targeted date for completion of the process was in March, 2021. However, due to COVID-19 pandemic and also owing to operational difficulties being faced by CBC and regular consultation with stakeholders, the project could not be completed till date.</p> <p>However, during the year 2023-24, the new ERP solution with website management and internal dashboard will be tested, put to use and made fully operational by September, 30, 2023.</p>
<b>Updated status of automation done including the area/process that is yet to be automated in BOC</b>	<p><b>Among the Core Modules,</b> Print Media, Outdoor Media, Audio Visual Media, Website and Mobile Application have been completed. Vendor Billing module of these core modules are under progress.</p> <p><b>Under Non-Core Modules,</b> Establishment Management, IVR based call center, Feedback management, Inventory management, assets management have been implemented. Parliamentary question record and follow-up management, Grievance and complaint management, Transport and fleet management and Financial Accounting management are ready to be implemented.</p>
<b>Details of the hindrances faced in completing the automation process in BOC alongwith the action taken to address them</b>	<p>The regular consultation is done with stakeholders and industry friendly software solutions are being implemented.</p>
<b>Target set for the year 2023-24</b>	<p>During the year 2023-24, the new ERP solution with website management and internal dashboard will be tested, put to use and made fully operational by September, 30, 2023.</p>

#### **IX. North Eastern Region (NER)**

154. The detailed statement of BE, RE and AE of funds marked for North-East Region for the last four years, along with the allocations made for the year 2023-24, as furnished by the Ministry are:-

Allocations and expenditure under NER (Rs. in crore)					
year	BE	RE	AE	AE % w.r.t BE	AE % w.r.t RE
2019-20	162.65	105.15	127.70	78.50	121.40
2020-21	74.00	45.29	51.79	70.00	120.67
2021-22	63.24	45.00	24.61	38.92	54.69
2022-23	63.00	63.90	15.98**	25.37	24.05
2023-24	110.50	-	-	-	-

(\*\*) Actual Expenditure up to 31.01.2023.

155. When the Committee sought details regarding the Physical targets set and achieved under the Schemes/projects being implemented in North-East Region (NER) for the last two years marked for and the reasons for their shortfall in targets, the Ministry replied as under:-

“Construction of new building of Regional Centre of IIMC at Aizawl has been completed. The building has been inaugurated by the Hon’ble President of India on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2022.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions dissemination of information through press releases (Translation of Hon’ble PM speeches, Press Releases, Articles etc. in regional languages of N.E. regions) only could be done under this Scheme”.

156. On being asked for the details of financial allocations and utilisation under all the Schemes/projects being implemented in North-East Region (NER) during 2022-23, the Ministry provided the following statement showing Allocation and Expenditure under 10% Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) for NER:-

Statement showing Allocation and Expenditure under 10% GBS for the North Eastern Region during 2022-23 (upto 31.12.2022)								
(Rs. In Crore)								
S. No.	Name of the Sector/ Scheme/ Media Unit	BE (2022-23) for NER	Actual Exp. in NER (2022-23) (1st Quarter)	Actual Exp. in NER (2022-23) (2nd Quarter)	Actual Exp. in NER (2022-23) (3rd Quarter)	Actual Exp. in NER (2022-23) upto 3rd Quarter (4+5+6)	% of Exp. Upto Q3 against BE (Col. 7/ Col. 3)*100	Reasons for low Expenditure, if any
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A	Information Sector (Development Communication & Information Dissemination - DCID)							
1	People’s Empowerment through Integrated communication (CBC)	17.68	0.74	2.03	2.62	5.39	30.49	In this regard, it is stated that maximum booking will be executed during the 4th quarter of the financial year. Several programmes/ proposals are likely to be organized in the election states of North Eastern Region. Voter Awareness programme like SVEEP (Systematic Voters Awareness Education and Electoral Participation) is likely to be organized in Tripura, Meghalaya, Nagaland & Mizoram. Brahmaputra Festival will be organized in Assam. Couple of other programmes will be organized in Arunachal Pradesh. NER oriented media campaign

								will be prepared/ released. Above steps will increase the expenditure during the last quarter is likely to be booked.
2	Media Outreach Programme and Publicity (PIB)	1.00	0.15	0.28	0.19	0.62	62.47 (83.29 % funds have been utilized upto 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr. in comparison to the total re-appropriated funds of Rs 75 lakhs)	Out of BE 2022-23 allocations of Rs. 1.00 Cr. for NER, M/o I&B has so far issued orders for re-appropriation of funds Rs. 75 Lakhs (Rs. 25 lakhs during every Qtr.) only from Major Head to Functional Head. The latest re-appropriation order for 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr. has been issued by Press Section on 21.11.2022 and accordingly, funds are being utilized by the implementing authority i.e. PIB Guwahati. PIB Guwahati has informed that they shall utilize the remaining funds in last Qtr. Keeping in view of expenditure trends.
	<b>Total Information Sector</b>	<b>18.68</b>	<b>0.89</b>	<b>2.31</b>	<b>2.81</b>	<b>6.01</b>	<b>32.17</b>	
<b>B</b>	<b>Film Sector (Development Communication &amp; Dissemination of Filmic Content - DCDFC)</b>							
3	Promotion of Indian cinema through film festivals in India and abroad (Main Sectt.) 3.1. Participation and Conduct of film festivals in India and abroad (DFF) 3.2. National/International Children's Film Festival (CFSI)- 3.3. Production & Exhibition of Children's films in Schools (CFSI) 3.4. Mumbai International Film Festival (Films Division) 3.5. Production of films in various regional languages (NFDC)	13.00	0.00	0.00	8.53	8.53	65.61%	This Ministry has envisaged various activities related to Promotion and Production of Filmic Content in North-Eastern Region during the last quarter of FY 2022-23 viz. Organizing of NE Film Festivals both in NE and in other parts of the country, Production of Documentary Films on eminent personalities from NE region, Production of Children's Films and Exhibition of famous Children's Film in remote locations of NER, Production of Feature Films in NE language, Master Classes for film students from NE region through NFDC. The aforementioned activities will showcase North East traditions and cultures to other parts of the country. Skilling NE students interested in film technology fields will enhance participation and employment opportunities for NE students in the film industry. Based on the aforementioned plan of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, it is expected that remaining unutilized allocation under NE component of DCDFC scheme shall be utilized fully during last quarter of FY 2022-23 leading to 100% utilization of NE funds.
	<b>Total Film Sector</b>	<b>13.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>8.53</b>	<b>8.53</b>	<b>65.61</b>	
<b>C</b>	<b>Broadcasting Sector</b>							
4	Main Sectt. Supporting Community Radio Movement in India (CRS)	0.32	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.12	37.5	No application was received from NER for release of Financial Assistance Awareness/ capacity building workshops couldn't be held as the agency for organizing the workshops was not finalized.
5	Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development - BIND)	31.00	0.17	0.20	0.34	0.71	2.29	Expenditure of Rs. 2.20 crores is likely to be completed under the ongoing AIR Projects like Procurement of Digital Audio Work Station, various departmental works under Digitalization of Studio & earthing, etc.in North Eastern Zone.
	Total Broadcasting Sector	31.32	0.29	0.20	0.34	0.83	2.65	
	<b>GRAND TOTAL (A+B+C)</b>	<b>63.00</b>	<b>1.18</b>	<b>2.51</b>	<b>11.68</b>	<b>15.37</b>	<b>24.40</b>	

157. The Ministry was asked to furnish reasons for underutilization of funds allocated for North-Eastern Region during the year 2021-22 and 2022-23. Details of the projects/Schemes that had been affected due to under-utilisation of fund and the measures being taken for optimal utilization of funds earmarked for the Region in 2023-24 was also sought. To this, they responded as under:-

“As far as PIB is concerned the endeavour will be to utilise the sanctioned amount related to financial year 2022- 2023.

Further, in regard to CBC, it is stated that more expenditure is planned to be booked during the 4th quarter of the financial year. Several programmes/proposals are likely to be organized in the election states of NER.

- (i) Voter Awareness Programme like SVEEP (Systematic Voters Awareness Education and Electoral participation) is likely to be organized in Tripura, Meghalaya, Nagaland & Mizoram.
- (ii) Brahmaputra Festival will be organized in Assam. Couple of other programmes will be organized in Arunachal Pradesh.
- (iii) NER oriented media campaign will be prepared/released.

Further, for optimal utilization of funds under NER component of DCID scheme for the FY 2023-24, CBC will do awareness generation among the people about various schemes and policy announcements of the Government through systematic dissemination of information through various media vehicles such as Print Media (Newspapers & Periodicals), Private C&S TV Channels, Private FM Radio Stations, Outdoor Publicity, Exhibition and Social Media.

In r/o BIND:

**AIR FM at Namsai (Non - submission of estimate for SETC of 50M SS Tower at Namsai by CCW):** Construction of building still under progress. Hence, the tendering / procurement action for upcoming departmental works and ancillary equipment could not be initiated.

**Procurement of Digital Audio Workstations:** Delay in placement of Order for procurement of Digital Audio Workstations (placed in the Jan'23) which caused sequential delay in **raising** of LOC demand which is currently under process in directorate.

Approval was conveyed to Prasar Bharati on 13.09.2022 for procurement of 8.7 lakh non-CAS, non-RPD DTH Receiver Sets with STBs. Prasar Bharati is issuing a tender with a condition of site installation of the Set Top Boxes (STBs) under Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning (SITC) mode. Hence it is essential that the addresses of nearly 8.7 lakhs beneficiaries are to be collected. It has now been decided in the coordination meeting held on 8.2.2023 with Additional Secretary (LWE), Ministry of Home Affairs that a portal will be developed by the Prasar Bharati in consultation with Ministry of Home Affairs for collection of data of beneficiaries. MHA has informed that they will co-ordinate with the States for ensuring that data is collected, following which tender will be issued by Prasar Bharati for distribution of Set Top Boxes.

The underutilisation of funds allocated for the NER in DCDFC Scheme has been due to the slow progress of the construction related work at the permanent campus of North East Film and Television Institute at Itanagar (NEFTI) due to following reasons:

Year	Causes of delay for completion of construction work at NEFTI	Measures taken for optimal utilisation of earmarked funds	Remarks
2021-22	COVID, adverse climatic conditions and infrastructural issues at the NEFTI campus site at Jote, Arunachal Pradesh.		
2022-23	Local issues including land demarcation; adverse climatic conditions and infrastructural issues like road & bridge connectivity, power supply, water supply, etc.		
2023-24		SRFTI is regularly following up the construction progress and number of visits are being undertaken to review the progress, regular updates are also being monitored by MIB. Matter related to Water, electricity, road and telecommunications facilities have been taken up with State Govt. and other nodal agencies.	Target Date of Completion : 31.10.2023 Residential buildings expected to be handed over before target date of completion
As a result of slow progress of the construction work, the coming up of the NEFTI campus at Arunachal Pradesh has been delayed. This has also resulted in under-utilisation of funds. The construction is being done by CPWD and road connection and water supply are being provided by the State Govt.			

158. The details of the new initiatives planned for North-East Region for the year 2023-24, as submitted by the Ministry in their written reply, are as follows:-

“Regular visits and monitoring of the pace of construction work at the Film Television Institute at Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh in consultation with CPWD, by senior officials of the Institute.

After merger of four film media units with NFDC, NFDC has called for separate applications for documentary film, animation film and film production for North East filmmakers, giving a unique opportunity to the filmmakers from North East. North- East campus at Aizwal has been completed. Further Infrastructure development would be made as per requirements.

PIB is implementing the sub-scheme Media Outreach Programme and Publicity for Special Events under the Central Sector Scheme ‘Development Communication & Information Dissemination (DCID)’. The activities under this



sub scheme are Media Interactive sessions (National Editors' Conference/Regional Editors' Conference, Vartalaaps) and Press Tours. Further dissemination of information through press releases including PM's speeches and messages translated to regional languages. During the year 2023-24 these activities are planned for implementation in the North Eastern region also.

Campaign initiatives for the North-East under DCID involves a 360 degree dissemination of developmental communication to the region. Emphasis has been given for doing outreach programmes to connect the last mile of the society with focused messaging".

## OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

### PART-II

#### BUDGET OVERVIEW AND DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2023-24)

1. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is the focal point regarding policy matters relating to private broadcasting, administering of the public broadcasting service (Prasar Bharati), multimedia advertising and publicity of the policies and programmes of the Government of India, film promotion and certification and regulation of print and digital media. Demand No. 61 covers the expenditure of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and its attached/subordinate offices and autonomous/grantee bodies, including Prasar Bharati. For the year 2023-24, as against the proposed sum of Rs. 5199.51 crore, an amount of Rs. 4692.00 crore has been fixed for M/o I&B at the BE stage. Out of this, Rs. 1105.00 crore has been fixed for the 'Central Sector Schemes' against the proposed sum of Rs. 1519.05 crore; Rs. 535.50 crore has been earmarked for the 'Establishment Expenditure of the Centre' against the proposed amount of Rs. 572.65 crore and Rs. 3051.50 crore is fixed for 'Other Central Expenditure [including those on Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and Autonomous Bodies] against the proposed sum of Rs. 3107.83 crore.

The Committee note that during the year 2022-23, the BE allocation was Rs. 3980.77 crore which was increased to Rs. 4182.00 crore at RE stage, however, the actual expenditure till 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2023 was Rs. 3403.54 crore which is 81.39 % of RE allocation. The utilisation percentage (w.r.t RE) for three categories i.e. Central Sector Schemes, Establishment Expenditure of the Centre and 'other Central Expenditure', during the year 2022-23, were 77.47%, 55.84% and 87.68% respectively. The Committee note that the Schemes that suffered due to underutilization of funds during the year 2022-23, include Community Radio Station and Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development (BIND) Schemes. When asked for the reasons for under-utilisation of funds during 2022-23, the Ministry replied that upto 31.01.2023 they had utilized 81.39% of RE allocations and it is expected that the funds will be fully utilized upto the end of Financial Year 2022-23. While noting that the utilisation trend for last 4 years (except for the year 2022-23) has improved and the Ministry has utilized more than 90% of allocations made at RE stage, the Committee hope that the Ministry will keep up their assurance of fully utilizing the funds allocated for the Year 2022-23. The Committee desire to be apprised about the updated status of the fund utilized,

during the year 2022-23, alongwith the status of the physical targets that were set corresponding for the remaining unutilized fund for the year 2022-23. The Committee recommend the Ministry to ensure full utilisation even during the year 2023-24 and look into the feasibility of preparing a Statement with quarterly financial and physical targets set and achieved during the year 2023-24. The Ministry may also apprise about the outcome of the initiatives taken for improving the performance under 'Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development (BIND)' and 'Supporting Community Radio Movement in India' Schemes that have suffered due to underutilization of funds during the year 2022-23.

### **CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEMES (CSS)**

2. The Committee note that a comprehensive rationalization and restructuring of the Plan Schemes was carried out by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in the year 2019-20, which was implemented in 2020-21. As a result, 14 Schemes and 13 sub-schemes were reduced to 5 Schemes viz. Development Communication & Information Dissemination (DCID), Development Communication & Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC), Champion Service Sector Scheme (CSSS), Broadcasting Infrastructure Development (Prasar Bharati) and Supporting Community Radio (SCR). Further, CSSS was merged with DCDFC scheme from FY 2022-23, as the objectives of the Champion Services Sector Scheme for Audio Visual Services were closely related with the Development Communication and Dissemination of Filmic Content scheme of the Ministry. Thus, after the merger of CSSS with DCDFC, the Ministry now have four (4) Central Sector Schemes. The Committee note that during the year 2022-23, the allocations for 'Central Sector Schemes' at BE and RE stage were Rs. 630.00 crore and Rs. 639.00 crore respectively. The actual utilisation, till 31.01.2023, was Rs. 356.83 crore which is 55.84 % of RE allocations. The Committee also note with concern that under all the four 'Central Sector Schemes' [DCID, DCDFC, BIND and Supporting Community Radio Movement in India], there has been underutilization of funds during the year 2022-23 and actual expenditure, till 31.01.2023, for these 4 Central Sector Schemes were 73.19%, 75.78%, 37.23% and 40% of RE allocations respectively.

In light of the fact that the actual utilisation under two of the four Central Sector Schemes (i.e. BIND and Supporting Community Radio Movement), during the year 2022-23 (till 31.01.2023), was just 37.23% and 40% of RE allocations respectively, the Committee observe that the rationalization of 'Central Sector

Schemes', for having effective and better utilisation of resources, does not appear to be achieving its desired result. Further, the expenditure under the other two Central Sector Schemes (i.e. DCID and DCDFC) were around 70% of RE allocations. The Committee note that the Ministry has been able to achieve the financial and physical targets to some extent under DCID and DCDFC Schemes where the primary objectives of the DCID Scheme is targeted towards meeting the requirements of publicity for various Government Schemes and that of DCDFC is to promote and preserve quality Indian cinemas. However, the financial and physical targets are way too far from the targets set under 'BIND Scheme' - which aims to improve physical infrastructure of Doordarshan and All India Radio and to expand the networks and upgrade quality of programmes and transmission - as well as under 'Supporting Community Radio Movement in India Scheme'. In the light of these, the Committee are of the opinion that after more than 2 years of rationalization of Schemes, the Ministry should avoid such lag in the targets by addressing the recurrent hindrances impacting 'Central Sector Schemes' particularly under 'BIND'. The Committee recommend the Ministry to ensure proper utilisation of funds for meeting the physical target under all the Central Sector Schemes, during the year 2023-24. The Committee also recommend the Ministry to gear up their mechanism of implementing the physical targets under 'Central Sector Schemes' as per defined timelines as it will ultimately lead to consolidation of resources and result in better utilization of funds. The Committee may be apprised about the measures taken alongwith the outcomes of the same.

### **BROADCASTING SECTOR (INCLUDING PRASAR BHARATI)**

#### **Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development (BIND)**

3. The Committee note that the basic objective of the 'BIND' Scheme is Modernization (including Digitization) Augmentation & Replacement of Transmitters, Broadcast Equipments & Studios, FM Expansion/Replacement, Strengthening of Coverage in sensitive areas, Expansion of TV Channels, E-Governance, Content Development, etc. BIND Scheme also provides support to Prasar Bharati for strengthening border area infrastructure with special focus on development of J&K and NE. The Budgetary allocations for BIND Scheme, for the year 2023-24 (at BE stage) is Rs. 600.00 crore. During the year 2022-23, the BE and RE allocations have been same i.e. Rs. 315.00 crore. However, it is a matter of concern to note that the actual expenditure till 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2023 was just Rs.

117.29 crore which is 37.23% of RE allocations. Regarding under-utilisation, the Ministry furnished a few reasons which *inter-alia* include: (i) Cancellation of tender of FM project like Mobile FM Transmitters due to technical reasons, Tower erection work still under progress at some places, delay in supply of 10 kW FM Transmitters, delay in acquisition of site at Dahod (Gujarat) due to cost factor; (ii) Delay in receipt of Decision Letter (DL) from WPC for Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning (SITC) for uplink Antenna system (7 locations) & UPS system for 11 locations; (iii) SITC of End to End File based workflow system at DDK Hyderabad - delayed by the firm due to different technical reasons and technical requirement of Kendra; (iv) Cancellation of the tender of Procurement of archive system Linear Open Tape (LTO) cancelled due to administrative reasons; (v) Cancellation of tenders for procurement of DD Free Dish Receiver Sets due to limited participation of bidders and unreasonable higher price bids/quoted rates due to low participation of bidders; (vi) Tower strengthening work at Gangtok got delayed due to recommendation of CCW based on the report of IIT Guwahati; and (vii) Delay due to non-compliance of terms and conditions of the agreement by the producers in some content cases. The Ministry has informed that most of the broadcast equipment are imported with no production in India. This procedure takes considerable time. The Committee note that there has been a shortfall in utilization which is also due to Covid-19 pandemic during which movement of man and material across the globe was impacted. While observing that having indigenous manufacturing of broadcasting equipment would reduce the dependence on imports, the Committee hope that since the impact of Covid 19 pandemic is over, the Ministry would adhere to their assurance that efforts will be made to take action with full speed and the creation of portals for E-procurement through GeM would help in meeting the requirement of Transmitters on time. The Ministry may apprise the Committee about the initiatives envisaged to have proper utilisation and to meet the physical and financial targets set for the year 2023–24.

#### DOORDARSHAN

4. The Committee note that there are 36 satellite TV channels, of which 8 are All India channels and 28 are Regional/State channels (21 nos. of 24x7 channels and 7 numbers of limited hours channels). Except Sikkim, all States have dedicated Doordarshan channels. As per the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) data, overall viewership of Doordarshan Network Channels including regional/state is 1551 lakhs in the year 2022. With respect to digitization of all the DD Kendras, the Ministry has informed that all DD channels of

Doordarshan network are fully digitized. However, terrestrial transmission is being broadcast in analog mode. The Committee have also been informed that Studios and Satellite of DD network are already digitized and all DTT transmitters are switched off w.e.f. 31/10/2022. With respect to 'Setting up of 100 W FM transmitters at nearly 100 locations' that will be commissioned by March 2023, the Committee note that the approval date was 18/3/2014 and the target date set at the approval stage for completion for setting up of 100W FM transmitters was 31/03/2017. The Ministry have informed that the average (minimum and maximum) time taken to commission one 100W FM tower is 3 to 6 Months depending upon location of site and 'No' FM tower has taken more than 5 years for commissioning. However, the Committee noted that 10 FM towers were not completed within the set timeline. When asked for measures taken to overcome the hindrances encountered in completion of automation of News production System, the Ministry informed that a dedicated IPMC (Integrated Project Monitoring Cell) has been created to closely monitor the progress as well as implementation of projects.

Regarding procurement of 8.7 lakh non-CAS, non-RPD DTH Receiver Sets with STBs, the Committee note that approval was conveyed to Prasar Bharati on 13.09.2022 and Prasar Bharati is issuing a tender with a condition of site installation of the Set Top Boxes (STBs) under Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning (SITC) mode. For this, it is essential that the addresses of nearly 8.7 lakhs beneficiaries are to be collected. However, it has been decided on 8.2.2023 that, in the coordination with Ministry of Home Affairs, that a portal will be developed for collection of data of beneficiaries. MHA has informed that they will co-ordinate with the States for ensuring that data is collected, following which tender will be issued by Prasar Bharati for distribution of Set Top Boxes.

Regarding capacity expansion of 'DD Free Dish Platform', the Committee note that the Government has recently allocated Rs. 114.50 crore under 'BIND' Scheme for 2021-26. As per FICCI E&Y M&E Report of March 2022, total number of TV homes in India was 168 million in 2021 and 43 Million TV homes in India have DD Free Dish. Till date, 96,000 DD Free Dish sets have been distributed free across the country. With respect to plans for upgradation and expansion of DD Free Dish Platform during 2023-24, the Committee have been informed that the capacity of DD Free Dish Platform would be increased to 168 SDTV channel by up-gradation of remaining four compression chain and monitoring system of DD

Free dish Platform to MPEG-4 compression system in 2023-24. On being informed that in-built STB in TV will be available in the market, the Committee desired to know the timeline for the same. Responding to this, the Ministry informed that Gazette Notification of BIS standard for built-in Satellite Tuner in place of Analog TV tuner in all TV sets (LED/LCD etc) has been issued by BIS, Department of Consumer Affairs on 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2022. To increase the Free Dish Platform in Southern India and States/UTs where it is less, the Ministry has informed that Prasar Bharati has revised DD Free Dish e-auction policy in February, 2023. As per the revised policy, 03 MPEG-2 slots of DD Free Dish have been earmarked for allotment to unrepresented languages channels in significantly lesser reserve price of Rs. 3.0 Crore per annum. All Southern India language channels are eligible to apply and bid for these slots to come on DD Free Dish. In view of the aforesaid, the Committee recommend the following:

- (i) Since setting up of 100 W FM Transmitters, that were to be completed within March, 2023, have been delayed by more than six years from the targeted date, the Committee urge the Ministry to address the issues causing delay in setting up of these Transmitters that are to be completed within March, 2023.
- (ii) Noting that the South Indian language channels are eligible to apply and bid for the slots to come on Doordarshan free dish, the Committee would like to be apprised about the measures taken to expand DD Free Dish platforms in Southern India and the outcome of the same.
- (iii) In view of the decision of the Ministry with MHA, that a portal is developed for preparing the list of beneficiaries, and accordingly Set Top boxes will be purchased, the Committee recommend to finalize the list of beneficiaries on time and the target of distributing around 9 lakh Set Top boxes be met within the financial year i.e. 2023-24.
- (iv) The Committee also recommend the Ministry to do the needful, in coordination, with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology for having in-built Set Top Boxes for TV in accordance to the new BIS standards.
- (v) The Committee would like to be informed whether the Ministry has had any discussion with respect to requirement of distributing the Set Top Boxes, once the new standard of BIS is implemented and if people would be able to watch DD free dish without having to buy/install STBs.
- (vi) The Committee recommend the Ministry to do periodic analysis of the viewership of Doordarshan on the basis of the ratings available.

## **All India Radio (AIR) and FM**

5. The Committee note with concern that under AIR, during the year 2022-23 as against budgetary allocations of Rs. 160.51 crore (at BE stage) and Rs. 84.09 crore (at RE stage) the actual expenditure upto 31.01.2023 has been Rs. 35.91 crore which is 22.37% of BE and 42.70% of RE allocations respectively. Further, with respect to digitization, the Committee note that AIR has 501 stations spread all over India comprising 229 stations with studio facilities for production of programme locally and 272 Relay Stations. Total 653 transmitters were operational from these stations comprising 524 FM transmitters, 122 MW transmitters and 7 SW Transmitters. The Committee note that AIR has digitalized 127 studios of AIR stations by providing modern State-of-the-Art digital equipment for production, storage and reproduction of programmes. The new studios are being set up and partial digitalization of 90 studios has also been completed, which will be fully digitalized in coming years as per approval of schemes. With respect to digitalization of Transmitters, it has been noted that out of total 122 MW transmitters, AIR has 38 Digital Transmitters (DRM) and 84 analog transmitters. Out of 7 SW transmitters, AIR has 3 Digital Transmitters (DRM) and 4 analog transmitters. The Ministry has informed that presently, there is an approved plan for complete digitalization of studios and production, storage and reproduction of programme at these studios are already being done digitally. The analog equipment like switching /announcer console, mixer, etc of these studios will be replaced by modern State of the Art equipment as per approved scheme in coming years. It is seen that the ecosystem for digital broadcasting in AM Band (MW & SW) is not favorable due to high cost of receivers and also better ecosystem in analog FM broadcasting, digitalization of MW, SW and FM transmitters has not been planned under BIND Scheme (2021-26). The Committee note that as far as the content on Education, Information and Entertainment are concerned, AIR is doing its job satisfactorily to a large extent. But as far as carriage is concerned, AIR is facing challenges due to technological advancement and changes in method of broadcasting. The Ministry has also informed that Radio broadcasting is reshaping itself from MW broadcasting to FM broadcasting and the area of coverage by FM transmitters is limited to line of sight only. As a result, the reach of AIR has reduced drastically and AIR needs large scale FMisation to enhance its reach. At present, AIR is left with no other option, other than the large-scale placement of FM transmitters with power ranging from 1 KW to 20 KW depending on geographical location and population density of the area. The Committee also note that a few projects of AIR, that are targeted to be completed during 2023-24, are infact carry over projects, that could



not be completed during 2021-22 and 2022-23, like installation of 10 kW FM transmitters at Dahod where the matter is yet to be resolved and is being pursued with State Government on regular basis. In view of the foregoing and poor achievement of targets under AIR, the Committee desire for the action taken alongwith the outcome on the following recommendations:

- (i) The Ministry should look into the factors causing delays in supply and installation of Transmitters/Towers and construction of Studios etc. and do timely intervention for early completion of these projects;
- (ii) The Ministry may chalk out suitable time-plan for digitization of all AIR stations and apprise the Committee about the same;
- (iii) The Ministry should improve the content of the AIR to attract the audience to listen to AIR and generate revenue;
- (iv) With respect to providing coverage in 'Radio shadow areas', the Ministry may coordinate with other Ministry/organisation like BSNL which is already working for Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas.
- (v) The Ministry may look into the concerns that the content of regional FM stations are being mixed with languages other than the local language so as to protect the sanctity of regional radio channels and and if any measure has been brought in as part of COVID Action Plan for this needs to be done away. The Committee may be apprised about the action in this regard.

#### **CONTENT CREATION AND CONTENT PROCUREMENT POLICY**

6. The Committee note that to streamline the process for acquisition of programmes, a comprehensive content procurement policy has now been notified by Prasar Bharati. The Committee note the submission of Ministry that they will focus on content which is very important in light of growing competition from private networks. The Committee hope that the Ministry and Prasar Bharati realize the importance of content and the need to avoid outgoes and losses. Further, the Committee note that Doordarshan is in the process of revamping the content of its channels according to need and taste of audience both at National and Regional levels. The Committee also note and appreciate that the budget allocated to AIR and Doordarshan for content creation during the year 2023-24 is Rs. 498.32 crore which includes Rs. 353.32 crore from IEBR and Rs.145.00 crore under BIND. With respect to plans to be self-sufficient and steps taken to get more advertisements from private sector, the Committee are happy to note that the Ministry/Prasar Bharati is taking several measures which *inter-alia* include (i) Sales Division is approaching both government and private sector directly and also through agencies to get business; (ii) Programme Heads have been asked to make all efforts for revenue generation; (iii) Monitoring of Revenue is being done on a regular basis; (iv) Doordarshan sales Rate Card has been

revised to remain competitive in the Market and (v) All producers are being asked to have the commercial angle in mind while conceiving the content and work in close coordination with sales division in monetization. The Committee appreciate the initiatives taken by the Ministry to increase the level of self sufficiency and for getting more advertisements. The Committee recommend the Ministry to utilize Rs. 498.32 crore allocated for content creation judiciously. Further, the Committee desire to be apprised about the financial targets set and achieved for content creation during 2023-24. The Ministry may also provide details of the targets for revenue generation and actual revenue generation through content during 2023-24. The Committee recommend Ministry/Prasar Bharati to ensure both financial accountability and content performance. It goes without saying that if content is good and improved, it will automatically attract advertisements and commercials. The Committee feel that the initiatives for having good content is the need of the hour particularly in light of emergence of Over-The-Top (OTT) Platforms which are providing myriad range of content/programme. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to have professionalism in improving and procuring the content and to focus on creating and getting quality content so as to match the competitive market as well as for revenue generation.

#### Human resource in Prasar Bharati

7. The Committee note that the current vacancies in Prasar Bharati is 26,386. Of this, 12,420 are in Doordarshan and 13,966 in All India Radio (AIR). During examination of previous DFG (2022-23), the Ministry had informed that the vacancies in Doordarshan and AIR were 9,869 and 15,319 respectively. The Committee note that the number of vacancies in AIR had reduced from 15,319 to 13,966. However, in case of DD it has increased from 9,869 to 12,420. The Committee take a note of the fact that inspite of repeated recommendation of the Committee to fill up these vacancies expeditiously, the vacancies instead of reducing have increased in DD. As for the reasons for reduction in number of vacancies in All India Radio and increase of vacancies in Doordarshan, the Ministry informed that it is due to the fact that many officials were transferred from Doordarshan to All India Radio as Analog Terrestrial Transmitters (Doordarshan) were closed and spared manpower was redeployed in newly installed / running establishment of All India Radio. The Ministry also informed that the cadre controller of most of the cadres of All India Radio and Doordarshan is, All India Radio. The Committee also note that as per the availability of resources (manpower), stations are operating optimally. It is a matter of concern to note that due to continuous retirement in various cadres under Doordarshan and AIR in Prasar Bharati and no fresh recruitment, there is a deficiency of

skilled, professional and young manpower, which is a back bone of any organization. Talent Management & Specialized Outsourcing (TM&SO) division in PBS is mandated to meet the urgent need based requirement of skilled and professional manpower. Prasar Bharati is engaging professionals in various categories under Contractual Engagement Policy (CEP 2021) on short-term contracts ranging from 1 year to 3 years. These contracts are being renewed on yearly basis depending on the requirement of the organization in that skill set at a station and performance of contractual. It is a matter of concern, to learn that the requirement of manpower is being addressed by hiring persons on assignment basis for assisting in production and day-to-day work of the Kendra. Prasar Bharati is managing its functioning and operation with available human resources with re-skilling through short-term training programmes and engagement of short term contractual where rate of skill obsolescence is high and where skills are highly market driven.

The Committee have been informed that the final report of Manpower Audit (MPA) has been accepted by Prasar Bharati wherein substantial restructuring in the organization has been recommended in view of changes in broadcast technology and business practices. Thus, the manpower requirement in Prasar Bharati may undergo substantial change. The Ministry also informed that the Manpower audit recommendations envisage a revised strength considering obsolete technologies automation, IT enablement and outsourcing of non-core activities. Accordingly, the total vacancies would be 14824 (in DD-4338 and in AIR-8481). As per the Ministry, the revised manpower model recommended by Manpower Audit has an increased focus on (i) Outsourcing of non-core Engineering activities to 3rd Party by having FTE driven contracts; (ii) Outsourcing of key non-core Administration activities like drivers, security, Assistants by bringing in automation platforms like e-office; (iii) Hiring of specialists on contract for new roles required by Prasar Bharati in line with proposed structure change and (iv) Building an effective mix of full time and contractual manpower. In view of the perennial problem of human resources in Prasar Bharati and considering the fact that the final report of Manpower Audit (MPA) has been accepted by Prasar Bharati, the Committee feel that the Ministry should take up the issue of filling up the vacancies on priority basis. Else, with fast changing technology and business practices even the recommendations of Man power Audit might become obsolete making the entire Audit exercise futile. The Ministry may provide details w.r.t. roadmap planned in accordance to the suggestions made in the report of Manpower Audit (MPA) alongwith the targeted timeline for filling up all the vacancies of Prasar Bharati. The Committee would also like to know in brief about the posts that have been considered as irrelevant

as well as the plan of action envisaged for those posts alongwith the number of vacancies that are likely to be filled during the year 2023–24. The Ministry may provide details of the action taken for filling up the vacancies within three months of the submission of this Report.

### **Supporting Community Radio Movement in India**

8. The Committee note that the Community Radio is an important third tier in Radio Broadcasting, distinct from Public Service Radio. Community Radio Stations (CRS) are low power Radio Stations, which are meant to be set-up and operated by local communities. In December 2002, the Government of India approved a policy for granting permissions, for setting up of Community Radio Stations, to well established educational institutions. The policy guidelines were amended in 2006, 2017 and 2018. To support the Community Radio movement, a Central Sector Scheme namely “Supporting Community Radio Movement in India” is being implemented. At present, there are 412 Community Radio Stations in India and out of these, 5 Community Radio Stations are non-functional as they had not applied for extension of the Grant of permission Agreement (GOPA). The permissions issued to these CRS are under process of cancellation of GOPA. The Committee also note that till December, 2022, a total of 85 applications were received for the year 2022-23. Out of these 85 applications, Letter of intent (LoI), for grant of permission for setting up of Community Radio Station, have been issued to 18 organizations. A total of 5 applications were rejected due to non-availability of frequency spot and 62 applications are at various stages of processing. The Committee note that 71 LOIs were issued in 2022-23, in respect of applications received prior to the FY 2022-23. Thus, in the year 2022-23 (till Dec 2022) a total of 89 LOIs were issued. The Ministry informed that after obtaining LOI, applicant applies to Ministry of Communication for Wireless Operating License before commissioning the CRS and the License for CRS is issued by the Ministry of Communication. The Committee observed that there are ‘No’ CRS in a few States/UTs like Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Goa, Ladakh, Lakshadweep, Meghalaya and Mizoram and asked the Ministry for reasons. To this, the Ministry have informed that Setting up of Community Radio Station is a voluntary activity and as per the Policy Guidelines, only “Not-for profit” organizations are eligible for seeking permission for operationalization of Community Radio Stations. In addition, the prime reason for non-presence of CRS in these States/UTs is lack of awareness amongst eligible organizations and lack of financial resources with these not-for profit organisations. Further, the Committee note that as per the Policy Guidelines, CRS are not permitted any programme, which relate to news and current affairs and are otherwise political in

nature. However, CRS can broadcast news and current affairs contents sourced exclusively from All India Radio in its original form or translated into the local language/dialect and it is the responsibility of the CRS permission holder to ensure that the news is not distorted or edited during translation. The Committee have also been informed that the Stakeholders, from time to time, have been requesting the Ministry to allow News on CRS on various forums. However, no formal request for allowing news on CRS has been received.

The Committee note that the Community Radio provides a platform to air local voices among the local community on issues concerning Health, Nutrition, Education, Agriculture etc., and it is a powerful medium for the marginalized sections of society to voice their concerns. In a country like India, where every state has its own language and distinctive cultural identity, CRSs are also a repository of local folk music and cultural heritage and it has the potential to strengthen people's participation in development programmes through its holistic approach. The unique position of CRS as an instrument of positive social change makes it an ideal tool for community empowerment. Thus, the Committee observe/recommend following:

- (i) The Committee are happy to note that against the BE and RE for the year 2022-23 the actual expenditure has been around 40% and the main reason for less expenditure is due to savings as awareness Workshops were held in online mode. The Ministry may ensure that the under-utilisation of funds is not due to shortfall in the physical targets.
- (ii) The Committee recommend the Ministry to look into the demand of CRS for promoting local News, if any and the feasibility of permitting the same.
- (iii) The Committee recommend the Ministry to address the above-mentioned concerns and hold awareness camps and pay attention to such States/UTs to facilitate setting up of CRS in States/UTs where there are no CRSs like Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Goa, Ladakh, Lakshadweep, Meghalaya and Mizoram, etc.

#### **Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR) and self sufficiency**

9. The Committee note that the IEBR revenue projection, for the year 2023-24, is Rs. 1475.00 crore. During the year 2022-23, the revenue projection and generated by Prasar Bharati were Rs. 1380.00 crore and Rs. 977.01 crore respectively and the Net expenditure upto December 2022 has been Rs. 790.70 crore. The Committee express satisfaction at the level of self-sufficiency achieved by Prasar Bharati, with respect to IEBR, during the last few years and appreciate that Prasar Bharati is meeting its operational expenses from its IEBR and has

some surplus too. The Committee, while applauding the efforts of Prasar Bharati to generate revenue under IEBR during 2022-23, recommend the Ministry to continue their efforts in this regard during the year 2023-24 also. The Committee would like to remind the Ministry about their assurance made during evidence with regard to focus on content and monetisation of assets like infrastructure, Archives, etc. The Committee express displeasure at the fact there is no time-mannered action plan to digitise the content which can help in monetisation/viewership. The Committee expect that as assured by Prasar Bharati, they would complete the remaining digitization at the earliest and come out with a time-bound action plan for the same. The Committee recommend the Ministry to focus on improving the quality of the content of the programmes, both in respect of DD and AIR. The Committee also recommend to complete digitization of remaining archives to facilitate monetization of the content. The Committee also desire to be apprised of the study undertaken by Prasar Bharati with respect to its assets at various centres across the country for effective monetising of assets as well as details of the roadmap for monetising the same. The Committee may be kept apprised of the steps taken in this direction.

#### **Nation Films Development Corporation (NFDC) - Merger of Four Media Units with NFDC**

10. The Committee note that the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) Ltd. was set up by the Government of India in 1975 with the primary objective of planning, promoting and organizing an integrated and efficient development of the Indian Film Industry in accordance with the National Economic Policy and Objectives laid down by the Central Government from time to time. NFDC was re-incorporated in the year 1980 by merging the Film Finance Corporation (FFC) and Indian Motion Picture Export Corporation (IMPEC) with NFDC. On 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2020, the Union Cabinet had decided to merge four Film Media Units, namely Films Division (FD), National Film Archive of India (NFAI), Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF) and Children's Film Society, India (CFSI) with National Film Development Corporation Ltd. (NFDC) by expanding the Memorandum and Articles of Association (MoAA) of NFDC, which would then carry out all the activities hitherto performed by them and to all consequential action/ actions required to be taken, including closure of FD/ NFAI/ DFF/ CFSI. The Ministry informed that all operations of Films Division, Children's Film Society, India (CFSI), Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF) and National Film Archive of India (NFAI) have ceased w.e.f. 31.12.2022 and their activities have been transferred to NFDC. The ownership of all assets shall vest in this Ministry and NFDC shall have the Right to Use for Operations and Maintenance of these

assets. The Committee have taken note of the fact that the Umbrella Organization, NFDC, consequent upon the merger of Film Media Units is now uniquely placed with regard to Promotion, Production & Preservation of Filmic content - all under one management. The Ministry have informed that no objectives of the closed Media Units have been affected adversely as these are being carried out by NFDC from 01.01.2023 and there is no retrenchment of human resources of the closed Film Media Units. Nevertheless, the Committee recommend the Ministry to ensure that the objectives of all the four closed Media Units are carried out in their essence even after the merger of these four Units with NFDC and apprise about the hindrances in doing so. The Ministry may also be vigilant about the impact of the merger the four Media Units on their objectives and targets. The Committee feel it would be prudent if the impact of the merger is analysed in the beginning itself so as to avoid any aftermath failure. The Ministry may also look into the grievances of the employees who have been affected by the aforesaid merger and apprise the Committee of the same, if any. Thus, now that the merger is completed, the Committee also recommend the Ministry to apprise the physical and financial targets under NFDC and ensure that the target set for the year 2023-24 may be achieved as per the deadlines. The Ministry may also apprise about the concerns expressed regarding merger alongwith the action taken by them on those concerns, if any. Further, in view of the submission of the Ministry that with the merger of NFDC they will be able to do some commercial utilization of archived films, the Committee desire to be apprised of the income so generated and the utilisation status of the same. The Committee may also be apprised of the creative and supportive role of the Ministry in films.

#### **Film and Television Institute of India (FTII)**

11. The Committee note that the Film Institute of India was setup in 1960. It was renamed as 'Film and Television Institute of India (FTII)' and was registered as a Society in October, 1974. FTII has two Wings, namely-Film and Television wings, which offers three-years and two-year Post Graduate Diploma courses and one-year PG certificate course. During the year 2022-23, the BE allocations was Rs. 55.39 crore and it was increased to Rs. 68.53 crore at RE stage and the actual expenditure till 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2023 was Rs. 50.71 crore which is 74.00 % w.r.t RE allocations. The Ministry has informed that major challenges being faced in FTII are budgetary expenditure and requirement of extra human resource for the student activities. The Committee note that FTII is running parallel batches on the campus to neutralize the academic backlogs and delay in admissions. The Institute currently has 7 batches, ie 5 batches in Film Wing (against the normal of 3 batches) and 2 batches in TV Wing (against the normal of 1 batch). The Ministry

has informed that the resources like finance, HR, equipment and space are accordingly configured and the backlogs are expected to be neutralized in August 2025. About the plans to improve the performance under the FTII for the year 2023-24, the Committee have been informed that Treasury Single Account (TSA) system is implemented for proper management of budgetary expenditure and continuous follow up of activities is done for timely completion of projects. Besides, the necessary approvals are also being taken up on priority basis to ensure utilization of allocated funds. Further, the construction of Auditorium cum Knowledge Centre at Pune is proposed to be completed during the FY 2023-24 and the construction of two studios (at the extension campus of FTII, at Kothrud) will be commencing during FY 2023-24. While appreciating the steps taken by MIB to take care of backlogs, the Committee recommend the Ministry to look into the feasibility of upgrading their infrastructure so as to make the FTII as State-of-the-art institution in real sense. The Committee urge the Ministry to complete the construction of Auditorium cum Knowledge Centre at Pune within the stipulated time frame i.e. within 2023-24 and apprise them about the status of commencement and the targeted timeline for completion of the construction of two studios (at the extension campus of FTII, at Kothrud) which is proposed to be started during 2023-24.

#### **National Centre for Excellence for Animation, Visual effects, Gaming and Comics (NCOE-AVGC)**

12. The Committee note that to realize the potential of the Indian AVGC industry, announcement for formation of an Animation, Visual effects, Gaming, and Comic (AVGC) promotion Task Force was made in the Budget speech for the fiscal year 2022-2023. The AVGC Task Force was constituted on 08.04.2022. After having collated the recommendations of the sub task force on subjects viz. policy formulation, skill development, education and gaming, a final report was prepared and was duly approved by the Secretary (I&B) on 15.12.2022. The Committee observe that the AVGC Task Force have broadly recommended for (i) Market access and development through information, education, communication and outreach; (ii) Skilling and mentorship by defining AVGC related job roles, qualification packs and strong integration with the education framework; (iii) Standardization of education focused on AVGC sector; (iv) Enhancing accessibility to technology vis-à-vis creating financial viability; and (v) Promoting 'Create in India' initiative with exclusive focus on content creation while giving equal weightage to skilling, re-skilling and upskilling of people across gender, economic background and geography, thus, diversifying the sector through



equity and inclusion. The Ministry have informed that pursuant to the AVGC Task Force final recommendations, they have contemplated some key actions for the implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force which *inter-alia* include (i) need for creation of a National AVGC-XR Mission with a budget outlay for providing promotional funding and support infrastructure; (ii) Need to establish a National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) for the AVGC sector to become an international reference point across Skilling, Education, Industry Development and Research & Innovation for the AVGC sector; (iii) To seek Cabinet approval on the Draft National Policy for AVGC Sector potential realization; (iv) Deliberations with State/UT Governments for adopting Model State Policy prepared by the task force for growth of AVGC sector in their respective State/UT. The Committee find that currently there is no Law/Rule with respect to AVGC sector and there is no concrete budgetary allocation provided for this sector. However, once the National and Model State Policy is approved, financial requirement for the same shall be drawn up. The Ministry have also informed that the Draft National Policy is still in consultation stage and the recommended State Model Policy for AVGC-XR Sector has been circulated to the States for consultation. Further, the Committee were informed that States like Karnataka, Telangana, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu are advanced in the field of AVGC sector and most of the other States are behind in this sector. The Committee appreciate the fact that most of the issues related to non-development of AVGC sector, such as unavailability of infrastructures, technology access etc., have been addressed in the draft National and model State policy and once the policies are approved, the AVGC mission will encompass all of these issues and provide strategies on how to take this sector forward. With respect to rules and policy for gaming and gambling industry, the Ministry has informed that recently, the Government has decided that the MeitY will look into the online gaming and consequently frame rules and it will be dealt with by MeitY. On the concerns related to advertisements for betting and gambling, the Ministry has informed that some commercials of betting and gambling still continue because there is a thin line between gaming and gambling advertisements. For example, the Supreme Court has called game like Rummy as a game of skill.

The Committee appreciate all the aforesaid initiatives undertaken by the Ministry to realize the potential of the Indian AVGC industry. Nevertheless, the Committee feel that the Ministry will have to gear up the entire process of implementing the AVGC-XR Mission because India is still at a nascent stage in this sector and opportunities are galore in AVGC Sector. The Committee also feel that there is a need for facilitating infrastructure and accessibility to technology

relating to the AVGC sector in States/UTs that are lagging behind as well as in tier-II and tier-III cities. The Committee, feel that the need of the hour is to have a coordinated effort with all the concerned Ministries alongwith the industry and other stakeholders. The Committee, therefore, recommend the following and desire to be apprised accordingly:

- (i) To fix timeline and quarterly targets for creation of National AVGC-XR Mission and for establishing the National Centre of Excellence (NCOE);
- (ii) To Complete the consultation process with States/UTs and other Stakeholders within the current financial year ;
- (iii) Apprise the Committee about the decision for having specific budgetary allocations for this Sector;
- (iv) To fix the year-wise targets for each of the initiatives under AVGC Sector;
- (v) To apprise the Committee about the main points proposed in the Draft National and model state policy alongwith the roadmap year-wise;
- (vi) Measures taken for coordinated effort with MeitY w.r.t. regulating gambling and betting; and
- (vii) Apprise the Committee about the plans for leveraging Indian comic characters and comic market under the Mission of promoting AVGC Sector in India.

### **Film Shooting in India**

13. The Committee note that Development Communication and Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC) Scheme, is being implemented by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for promotion of Indian cinema and showcasing its soft power globally and one of the components of the Scheme is to provide incentives for shooting of foreign films in India. The Committee note that the Film Facilitation Office (FFO) website has dedicated pages for all the 36 States and UTs of India and this website allows the State Nodal Officer to promote their respective States as filming destination. The States/UTs where shooting of the foreign projects have been accorded permission through the FFO are Chandigarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Karnataka, Ladakh, Maharashtra , Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand. Since 2017, the FFOs have helped States/UTs to set up their Film Offices and to connect them to the Industry and also enable them to showcase their incentives and policies. Continuous engagement with Nodal Officers through Workshops & Film Offices have resulted in 19 States having a Film Policy; 17 States have an online Single Window Filming Ecosystem and 18 States have incentives for film makers.

With respect to hindrances witnessed in making India a preferred destination for shooting films, the Ministry informed that lack of a Central Incentives policy for filming was a major one. All the major competing destinations had a robust incentives policy that would either provide tax rebates or straight forward cash incentives to offset the production expenditure. In order to address this issue, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting announced the scheme of incentives for foreign productions and official co-productions in May 2022. This scheme aims to reimburse 30% of the cost of production incurred in India by foreign films and official co-productions. The Committee really appreciate that the Ministry and FFO have also worked with many State Governments and encouraged them to have their own incentives policy. The Central incentive can be claimed over and above the incentives by the respective State Governments. The Ministry of I&B has worked closely with the Ministry of Home Affairs to introduce a special category of visa i.e the Film (F) Visa that would enable the cast and crew of productions which have been given permission by the Ministry of I&B for film in India to come to India. The Committee also appreciate that the Ministry has set up a Film Facilitation Office which acts as a single window facilitation system for permissions by the Ministry of I&B as well as other central agencies like the ASI, Railways, etc. As a result of the efforts, 16 states have an online single window permissions eco system. Further, the Committee appreciate the initiative of instituting 'Most Film Friendly State Award', under the National Film Awards to encourage States to create film friendly environment. The Committee hope that all the aforesaid initiatives would address the concerns of the foreign film makers. The Committee would like to be apprised w.r.t. feasibility of having a single window system in its true sense i.e. the system in all the States/UTs being linked to the Central Window System.

#### **Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) and Upgradation of IIMC to International Standards**

14. The Committee note that the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) came into existence on August 17, 1965 with the basic objectives of teaching, training and undertaking research in the areas of media and mass communication. The Plan Scheme 'Upgradation of IIMC to international Standard' was included in the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan and the proposals under the Scheme included upgradation of IIMC, i.e., construction of additional facilities at the IIMC Campus, New Delhi, as well as starting of four new Regional Campuses of IIMC in Maharashtra, Mizoram, Kerala and Jammu. The Southern Regional Campus in Kottayam, Kerala has already started functioning from the permanent campus since 2019. Even though the North East Regional Center of IIMC Aizawl was

completed in 2019, the acquisition of the project got delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The new Campus in Alzwal has been inaugurated on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2022, and the session 2022-23 has commenced in the new permanent Campus. Though, the Northern Regional Campus of IIMC Jammu was also delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and some local issues, the project has been completed and the academic session 2022-23 has been started. However, the Western Regional Center of IIMC at Amravati has been delayed as representations were received for changing the location of the Western Regional Centre of IIMC, Amravati. The matter was considered and it was decided in 2021 to construct the Western Regional Centre of IIMC at Badhera, Amravati. The lease Agreement between IIMC & the Government of Maharashtra got 'time-barred/lapsed'. Therefore, a fresh 'Lease Agreement' had to be signed, which has since been done, and the construction is likely to begin in FY 2023-24. Further, with respect to 'Up-gradation of IIMC to International standards' the Ministry informed that the start of the project got delayed as IIMC had to obtain the necessary clearances from various regulatory authorities for the construction of the building and IIMC had to wait for the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in this matter, which has finally been given. Now, IIMC has already cleared the formalities and obtained the necessary documents and the Letter of Intent (LoI) has already been sent to CPWD 5th December, 2022 for submitting the cost estimates, timelines & drawings for the construction of the new building. The construction is likely to begin in FY 2023-24.

The Committee, while noting the problems encountered in implementing the four Regional Campuses and in 'Upgradation of IIMC to international Standard', observe that it took more than a decade to complete three campuses (at Kottayam, Aizwal and Jammu) and the campuses at Amravati and New Delhi are still to see the light of the day as the construction in both the places are likely to begin in 2023-24. The Committee cannot but express extreme concern over the inordinate delay with respect execution of projects under IIMC given the important role it plays in conducting a number of specialized courses to meet the diverse requirements of the ever expanding and changing media industry and in training and research. Now that all the necessary approvals have been received with respect to remaining Campuses, the Committee recommend that the Ministry take necessary steps for the expeditious completion of the project so as to avoid further cost and time overrun. The Committee desire to apprise of the timeline fixed for completion of new building at IIMC, Delhi and Amravati as well as about the progress made with respect to construction work at these Centres.

## **Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI)**

15. The Committee note that the Office of the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) was set up in 1956, is an attached office with MIB and it executes statutory and non-statutory functions. RNI maintains a Register of Newspapers and Publications, published across the country, issues Certificate of Registration to newspapers and publications, informs District Magistrate (DM) concerned about availability of titles for fresh newspapers and scrutinizes and analyzes the annual statements submitted by the publishers of newspapers and publications. Under its non-statutory functions, RNI authenticates self-declaration certificates for import of newsprint to actual user publications registered with RNI. The Committee note that at present, application for titles can be filled online and apart from computerized processing of title verification and registration, all the verified titles are put on RNI website and can be downloaded. With the introduction of this facility, any person/prospective publisher can access the existing title data base, which is available State/Language-wise. In the second phase of digitalization, various procedures of the office, including application for registration will be made completely online. The Phase-I of the automation project of RNI started in the year 2020 and the Phase-II of the project has commenced in January 2023. The final deployment for public usage is planned for July, 2023. As part of the Digitization, a total number of 960 Registers are to be digitized and this includes 1,56,000 register records. Out of 960 Registers, 619 Registers have been scanned and data mapping of 61,749 register records have been completed as on date.

With respect to automation process in RNI, the Committee, in their Thirty-fourth Report (on DFG 2022-23) had noted completion of only 35% of the automation project in RNI and had recommended the Ministry to streamline the entire process of registration for speedy automation process in RNI. The Committee had also recommended not to delay the amendment of the 'Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867' (PRB Act) which is almost 160 years old. Further, the Committee had recommended to link the automation project to the payment system too so as to reduce the time. In this regard, the Committee are pleased to note that the online payment of penalty through BharatKosh has been enabled and Phase-II of the project has commenced in January 2023 and the final deployment for public usage is planned for July, 2023. When the matter of automation process in RNI was raised, the Ministry acknowledged the delay and informed that a portal has been created to address the delay. The Ministry also

apprised the Committee that since 'The Press and Registration of Books Act (PRB), 1867' is very old, they have prepared a new Bill which is now at the Cabinet approval stage and if the new Act is passed, there will be some improvements in the system that is in place. The Committee note that the automated system which is to be integrated with the e-sign solution will offer the publishers and the authenticating authorities, ease of transaction and record management. The Committee, however, disapprove the slow pace of automation of RNI. The Committee recommend that the entire process of registration be streamlined and fast track the automation process in RNI. Further, the Committee recommend that the necessary amendments in the 'Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867' be made without any further delay.

#### **Central Bureau of Communication (erstwhile BOC)**

16. The Committee note that Central Bureau of Communication (CBC) [erstwhile called as Bureau of Outreach and Communication (BOC)] had started the automation process in November, 2020 and the targeted date for completion of the process was March, 2021. However, due to COVID-19 pandemic, operational difficulties being faced by CBC and regular consultation with stakeholders, the project could not be completed. Submitting the status of the automation, the Ministry informed that among the Core Modules, Print Media, Outdoor Media, Audio Visual Media, Website and Mobile Application have been completed. Whereas vendor billing module of these core modules are under progress. Under Non-Core Modules, Establishment Management, IVR based call center, Feedback management, Inventory management, assets management have been implemented. Further, Parliamentary question record and follow-up management, Grievance and complaint management, Transport and fleet management and financial accounting management are ready to be implemented. With respect to the target set for the year 2023-24, the Ministry has informed that during the year 2023-24, the new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solution with website management and internal dashboard will be tested, put to use and made fully operational by 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2023. The Committee, while noting that the project is already delayed for more than 2 years, recommend the Ministry to complete the entire automation process as per the revised timeline and apprise the Committee about the status of progress.

## **North Eastern Region (NER)**

17. The Committee note that the budgetary allocations for the year 2023-24, under 10% Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) for the North Eastern Region, has been fixed at Rs. 110.50 crore. The budgetary allocations for NER during the year 2022-23 at BE and RE stage, were Rs. 63.00 crore and Rs. 63.90 crore respectively. Whereas the actual expenditure, till 31.01.2023, was Rs. 7.86 crore. The Committee note with concern that during the year 2022-23, the actual expenditure percentage was just 24.05% of RE allocations. Even during the year 2020-21, the actual expenditure had been low, which was just 54.69% of RE allocations. Regarding financial performance in North Eastern Region, the Committee had expressed concern while examining previous DFG. However, it has been observed that the situation instead of improving has deteriorated during the year 2022-23. Reasons for under-utilizations by the Ministry were that under Development Communication & Information Dissemination [‘Information Sector] meant for People’s Empowerment through Integrated communication (CBC), maximum booking will be executed during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the financial year 2022-23 and several programmes/ proposals are likely to be organized in the election states of North Eastern Region which will increase the expenditure during the last quarter. Further, under Media Outreach Programme and Publicity (PIB), PIB Guwahati has informed that keeping in view of expenditure trends, they shall utilize the remaining funds in last Quarter. Under Development Communication & Dissemination of Filmic Content [Film Sector] - meant for Promotion of Indian cinema through film festivals in India and abroad, the Ministry has envisaged various activities related to Promotion and Production of Filmic Content in North-Eastern Region during the last quarter of FY 2022-23. Under ‘Broadcasting Sector’ - for Supporting Community Radio Movement in India (CRS) - No application was received from NER for release of financial assistance. Besides, awareness/ capacity building workshops couldn’t be held as the agency for organizing the workshops was not finalized. Under BIND Scheme, the expenditure of Rs. 2.20 crore is likely to be completed under the ongoing AIR Projects like Procurement of Digital Audio Work Station, various Departmental works under Digitalization of Studio & Earthing, etc., in North Eastern Zone. In the light of the aforesaid submissions of the Ministry, the Committee desire to be apprised of the physical and financial targets met by the end of the completion of the financial year 2022-23. Further, in view of the continuing under-utilisation of fund and shortfall in physical targets in NER, the Committee recommend the

**Ministry to find solutions and take necessary timely measures to overcome the difficulties/deficiencies being faced in North Eastern Region. The Committee also recommend the Ministry to ensure that the budgetary allocation of Rs. 110.50 crore for the year 2023-24 are optimally utilized for implementation of the Schemes/Projects in NER and apprise the Committee about the concrete measures taken in this direction.**

**New Delhi;  
17 March , 2023  
26 Phalguna, 1944(Saka)**

**PRATAPRAO JADHAV,  
Chairperson,  
Standing Committee on  
Communications and Information Technology.**



**STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (2022-23)**

**MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE**

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The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 from 1200 hours to 1415 hours in Committee Room No. '1', Extension to Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

**Shri Prataprao Jadhav - Chairperson**

**MEMBERS**

**Lok Sabha**

2. Dr. Nishikant Dubey
3. Smt. Mahua Moitra
4. Shri Santosh Pandey
5. Shri Ganesh Singh
6. Shri Shatrughan Prasad Sinha
7. Dr. T. Sumathy (A) Thamizhachi Thangapandian

**Rajya Sabha**

8. Dr. Anil Agrawal
9. Dr. John Brittas
10. Shri Syed Nasir Hussain
11. Shri Kartikeya Sharma
12. Shri Jawhar Sircar
13. Shri Lahar Singh Siroya

**Secretariat**

- |    |                     |   |                  |
|----|---------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Shri Satpal Gulati  | - | Joint Secretary  |
| 2. | Smt. A. Jyothirmayi | - | Director         |
| 3. | Shri Nishant Mehra  | - | Deputy Secretary |

## LIST OF WITNESSES

### MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (MIB)

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Shri Apurva Chandra	Secretary (T) & Chairman DCC
2.	Shri Jayant Sinha	AS & FA
3.	Ms. Neerja Sekhar	Additional Secretary
4.	Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena	Sr. Economic Advisor
5.	Shri Vikram Sahay	JS (P&A)
6.	Shri Sanjiv Shankar	JS (Broadcasting-I)
7.	Shri C. Senthil Ranjan	JS (Broadcasting-II)
8.	Shri Prithul Kumar	JS (Films)
9.	Shri Nalin Kumar Srivastava	CCA
10.	Shri Gopal Sadhwani	JS [(Budget & Accounts) & Fin.]

### MEDIA UNITS OF MIB

11.	Shri Satyendra Prakash	Pr. DG, PIB
12.	Shri Gaurav Dwivedi	CEO, Prasar Bharati
13.	Shri D P S Negi	Member (Finance)
14.	Shri Mayank Kumar Agarwal	DG: Doordarshan
15.	Dr. Vasudha Gupta	DG: AIR
16.	Shri Manish Desai	DG: CBC
17.	Shri Dharendra Ojha	Press Registrar & HoD, RNI/DG: NMW/DG: EMMC
18.	Prof. Sanjay Dwivedi	DG: IIMC
19.	Ms. Anupama Bhatnagar	DG: DPD

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee convened to examine Demands for Grants (2023-24) related to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB).

***(The witnesses were then called in)***

3. After welcoming the representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) to the sitting of the Committee, the Chairperson drew their attention to the allocations made during the year 2022-23 at Budget Estimate (BE) and Revised Estimate (RE) stage, which were Rs. 3980.77 crore and Rs. 4182.00 crore respectively, and to the actual utilisation that was Rs. 3403.54 crore (i.e. 81.39 % of RE allocation) till 31.01.2023. He, then, desired to know the reason for under-utilisation of fund allocated for the year 2022-23. Thereafter, he observed that for the last few years, except for the year 2022-23, the overall trend of actual expenditure had been above 90 percent of RE allocation and hoped that the same would be continued during 2023-24. Drawing attention of the Ministry to the proposed and allocated sum under three categories of MIB viz. (i) 'Central Sector Schemes' (ii) 'Establishment Expenditure of the Centre' and (iii) 'other Central Expenditure [including those on Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and Autonomous Bodies], the Chairperson sought to know about the adverse

impact of reduced allocations as well as about the initiatives and preparedness for achieving the financial and physical targets during the year 2023-24. The reasons for proposing an amount of Rs. 5199.51 crore for the year 2023-24 were also sought. Further, with respect to 'Central Sector Schemes', he observed that during the year 2022-23, the allocations for 'Central Sector Schemes' at BE and RE stage were Rs. 630.00 crore and Rs. 639.00 crore respectively and the actual utilisation (till 31.01.2023) was Rs. 356.83 crore (i.e. 55.84 % of RE allocations), and desired to know the reasons for under-utilisation as well as the plan of action for improving the utilisation pattern, particularly for Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development (BIND) Scheme. He also desired for the updated status of action taken on the Report of M/s KPMG and its impact on rationalization of 'Central Sector Schemes'. He, drew the attention of the Ministry to various issues relating to Prasar Bharati, Community Radio Stations, merger of four film media units, Digital Terrestrial Transmission, and so on.

4. Thereafter, the representatives of MIB made a Power Point presentation highlighting the Organizational Structure, Schemes, Budget, expenditure trends for last few years, physical and financial achievements, etc. They also elaborated on the following Policy Initiatives of MIB:

- (i) Revised Policy Guidelines for Uplinking & Downlinking of Satellite Television Channels in India, 2022;
- (ii) Decriminalization of penal provisions under 3 legislations: Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2022;
- (iii) Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming & Comics (AVGC) Task Force Report;
- (iv) Approval of Central Sector Scheme Broadcast Infrastructure Network Development (BIND) by the Cabinet for Rs. 2539.61 crore for 2021-26;
- (v) FM Policy Amendments;
- (vi) Major Focus on Content Creation in Prasar Bharati through BIND : Content Procurement Policy notified; and
- (vii) Financial Incentives for Co-production of Films and Film Shooting in India Announced.

5. The Ministry also informed the Committee about the initiatives taken for 'Ease of Doing Business' which *inter-alia* included (i) Registrar of Newspapers for India Portal; (ii) Film Facilitation Office Portal and linkage with NSWS; (iii) Broadcast Sewa Portal and linkage with other Ministries; and (iv) Automation of Bureau of Outreach & Communication. The Ministry also highlighted achievements of MIB during 2022-23 which *inter-alia* included (i) Major campaign on Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav; (ii) Collaboration with Netflix for production of 14 two-minute short videos showcasing women achievers and freedom fighters; (iii) Mann Ki Baat Booklet; (iv) Combating fake news; (v) Innovative social media communication; (vi) Action against betting and gambling advertisements; (vii) Automated News production System set up at DD News Headquarters for DD India Channel - ready for commissioning; (viii) Setting up of 100 W FM transmitters at nearly 100 locations – to be commissioned by March 2023; (ix) initiatives for setting up of Community Radio Stations; (x) Merger of 4 Film Media

Units into NFDC; (xi) Submission of Report of AVGC Task Force under chairmanship of Secretary I&B to promote the sector; (xii) Permission granted to shoot 22 foreign film during 2022-23; (xiii) Digitization of over 1888 titles, commencement of restoration of picture and sound reels and construction of storage vaults done up to 55%; (xiv) Construction of Girls Hostel in FTII, Pune; etc.

6. The representatives of MIB also informed about the Committee about the 'Thrust Areas for the year 2023-24' which *inter-alia* included:

- (i) Automation of RNI;
- (ii) Automation of CBC;
- (iii) Expansion of FM Transmitters in LWE/Border areas/Aspirational districts;
- (iv) Modernization (including digitalization) Augmentation and Replacement of Transmitters;
- (v) Modernization, Augmentation & Replacement of Broadcast equipment of both AIR and DD;
- (vi) Modernization and Digitalization of Studios/ New Studios of both AIR and DD;
- (vii) Acquisition and Production of Quality Content both through In- House and Private Producers through a New Content Acquisition Policy;
- (viii) Upgradation and Expansion of DD Free Dish Platform;
- (ix) Support Community Radio sector;
- (x) Setting up of AVGC Mission to promote the fast growing AVGC sector;
- (xi) Formulation of National Policy on AVGC sector and Model State Policy on AVGC;
- (xii) To organize 54<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival of India from 20<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 at Panjim, Goa;
- (xiii) Organizing of the National Films Awards at New Delhi;
- (xiv) Making India a preferred shooting destination for Film and Television producers around the world under the umbrella of Champion Services Sector Scheme;
- (xv) Preserving Heritage: Digitization of 1245 feature films and 1368 short films and 2K/4K Picture and Sound Restoration of 300 feature films and 330 short films;
- (xvi) Strengthening of NFDC; etc.

7. Thereafter, the Members raised queries and sought reasons on myriad issues such as shortfall in utilization in respect of all the four Central Sector Schemes; No new initiatives planned for the year 2023-24; low expenditure on DTH; non-satisfactory performance under Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND of Prasar Bharati) Scheme during the last two years; etc. The Committee also deliberated and sought clarification on various issues which *inter-alia* included Roadmap for Content Creation and Content Procurement Policy; Reason for less advertisements to Doordarshan from private sector; Plans for upgradation and expansion of DD Free Dish Platform during 2023-24; Measures taken to increase the Free Dish Platform in Southern India and States/UTs where it is less in number; Details of the Tier - III and IV cities where rationalization of net worth criteria under FM Policy Amendments are

planned; Impact of auction of spectrum by TRAI on Broadcasting sector; Status of preservation, restoration and monetisation of archives made during 2022-23; Status of digitization of content of regional stations done by MIB; Initiatives for promoting local programme and permitting broadcast of local news and content in Community Radio Stations (CRS); Initiatives to address the persistent problem of human resource in both AIR and Doordarshan; quantifiable data reflecting the effectiveness of the aforesaid merger of four film media units, [i.e. Children Films Society of India (CFSI), Films Division (FD), National Films Archive of India (NFAI) and Department of Films Festival (DFF) with Nation Films Development Corporation (NFDC)]; Progress of Task Force for AVGC sector; Initiatives planned to attract Foreign Direct investment (FDI) in AVGC sector; Rules and policy for gaming and gambling industry and plans for revising the same particularly in view of emerging new technologies; Measures taken for delayed automation process in RNI; Reasons and action for delay in commencement of IIMC building at Delhi; Measures taken to promote Co-Production of Films; Measures taken for making India a preferred shooting destination for Films; Initiatives taken to address menace of Fake News; Problem related to Press Information Bureau (PIB); Issues related to 'content' viz. monetization of 'content' and other resources of MIB/Prasar Bharati; etc

8. The representatives of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting responded to most of the queries raised by the Members. The Chairperson, then, directed that written replies to points on which information were not readily available may be furnished to the Committee within five days.

9. Thereafter, the Chairperson thanked the representatives of MIB for deposing before the Committee.

**The witnesses then withdrew.**

A copy of verbatim record of the proceedings was kept on record.

**The Committee, then, adjourned.**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(2022-23)**

**MINUTES OF THE TWELFTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE**  
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The Committee sat on Friday, the 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 from 1000 hours to 1045 hours in Main Committee Room, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

**Shri Prataprao Jadhav**

**MEMBERS**

***Lok Sabha***

2. Shri Karti P. Chidambaram
3. Shri Nishikant Dubey
4. Shri Santosh Pandey
5. Shri Sanjay Seth
6. Shri Ganesh Singh
7. Dr. T. Sumathy (A) Thamizhachi Thangapandian

***Rajya Sabha***

8. Dr. Anil Aggarwal
9. Dr. John Brittas
10. Shri Syed Nasir Hussain
11. Shri Kartikeya Sharma
12. Shri Jawahar Sircar
13. Shri Lahar Singh Siroya

**SECRETARIAT**

- |    |                    |   |                  |
|----|--------------------|---|------------------|
| 3. | Shri Satpal Gulati | - | Joint Secretary  |
| 4. | Smt. A.Jyothirmayi | - | Director         |
| 5. | Shri Nishant Mehra | - | 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 (2023-24) relating to the Ministries/Departments under their jurisdiction.

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

- (i) Draft Report on Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications).
- (ii) Draft Report on Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Communications (Department of Posts)
- (iii) Draft Report on Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, and
- (iv) Draft Report on Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

4. After due deliberations, the Committee adopted the Reports with modifications. The Committee then placed on record their appreciation of the Hon'ble Chairperson under whose guidance and leadership the Study Visit to Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Pune and Mumbai from 19.01.2023 to 24.01.2023 was conducted successfully.

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.**