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

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

**[Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations
of the Committee contained in their Forty-sixth Report (Seventeenth Lok
Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2023-24)']**

FIFTIETH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

August 2023/ Sravana 1945 (Saka)

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Presented to Lok Sabha on 10.08.2023

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 10.08.2023



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

August, 2023/Sravana, 1945 (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. Shri V. Vijayendra Prasad[#]
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 | - | Additional Secretary |
| 2. Smt. A. Jyothirmayi | - | Director |
| 3. Smt. Rinky Singh | - | Executive Officer |

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

[@] Dr. M. K. Vishnu Prasad has been nominated *vice* Dr. Shashi Tharoor *vide* Para No. 5311 of Bulletin Part-II dated 12th October, 2022.

^{\$} Shri S. Jagathrakshakan has been nominated *vide* Para No. 5580 of Bulletin Part –II dated 8th December, 2022.

[#] Shri V. Vijayendra Prasad has been nominated *vice* Dr. Laxmikant Bajpayee *vide* Rajya Sabha Bulletin No. 63085 dated 12th April, 2023 of Parliamentary Bulletin Part II.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology (2022-23), having been authorised by the Committee, present this Fiftieth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Forty-sixth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2023-24)' of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

2. The Forty-sixth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and also laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 21st March, 2023. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting furnished their Action Taken Notes on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Forty-sixth Report on 27th June, 2023.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 7th August, 2023.

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

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

**New Delhi;
7 August, 2023,
16 Sravana, 1945 (Saka)**

**PRATAPRAO JADHAV,
Chairperson,**

**Standing Committee on
Communications and Information Technology.**

CHAPTER I REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Forty-sixth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2023-24)' relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

2. The Forty-sixth Report was presented to Lok Sabha/laid in Rajya Sabha on 21 March, 2023. It contained 17 Observations/Recommendations. Replies of the Government in respect of all the Observations/Recommendations have been received from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and are categorized as under:-

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| (i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government
Rec. Sl. Nos.:- 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17 | Total -08
Chapter-II |
| (ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government | Total - NIL
Chapter-III |
| (iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and require reiteration
Rec. Sl. Nos.:- 6 and 12 | Total - 02
Chapter-IV |
| (iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are of interim in nature
Rec. Sl. No.:- 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 14 and 15 | Total – 07
Chapter-V |

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

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

(Recommendation Sl. No. 2)

CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEMES (CSS)

5. The Committee, in their 46th Report on the subject 'Demands For Grants (2023-24)', had made the following observation/recommendation:

“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".

6. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, in their Action Taken Notes, have stated as under:

"During the year 2022-23, the allocations for 'Central Sector Schemes' at FG (Final Grant) stage was ₹ 646.90 crore, out of which 88.01% of funds were utilized by the Ministry. Against RE 2022-23 of ₹ 639.00 crore, 89.10% of funds were utilized under Central Sector Scheme.

Development Communication & Information Dissemination (DCID) utilized **95.59%** of Final Grant, Development Communication & Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC) used **96.50%** of allocated FG whereas Supporting Community Radio (SCR) used **88.94%** of its allocated FG and Broadcasting Infrastructure Development (Prasar Bharati) utilized **72.82%** out of Final Grant allocated to this scheme.

- Under DCID Scheme, a quarterly planner of annual physical targets has been prepared and targets have been assigned to various regions/units of PIB accordingly. Further, a monthly calendar of physical targets is also being framed in a centralized manner and will be shared with regions/units of PIB for compliance. Monthly & Quarterly calendar of physical targets will help in achieving the targets in a phased manner and will also help the regions/units of PIB in maintaining the continuum of activities. It will also ensure better utilization of funds in defined timelines.

- To improve the performance under BIND, it is the constant endeavor 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 being 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 Secretariat. Use of digital platform viz. e-office, e-tendering, procurement through GEM, Video conference is also being utilized.

The Integrated Project Monitoring Cell (IPMC) created under the chairmanship of CEO (PB) is monitoring the progress of projects and improvement in their implementation. Review meeting to assess progress of BIND Scheme is also taken by Secretary (I&B) from time to time.

- For better utilization of funds under Supporting Community Radio, the Ministry has taken several measures to ensure that physical as well as financial Targets are met under the Scheme. Activities to be conducted during 2023-24 have been planned for timely implementation. Output and Outcome based targets have been fixed”.

7. In light of the fact that under two of the four Central Sector Schemes i.e. [Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development (BIND) and Supporting Community Radio Movement (SCR)], the actual utilization during the year 2022-23 (till 31.01.2023), was just 37.23% and 40% of RE allocations respectively, the Committee had recommended the Ministry to gear up their mechanism of implementing the physical targets under ‘Central Sector Schemes’ particularly under BIND scheme. The Committee had also desired to be apprised about the measures taken along with their outcomes. Responding to this, the Ministry have replied that during the year 2022-23, the allocation for ‘Central Sector Schemes’ at Final Grant Stage was Rs. 646.90 crore, out of which 88.01% of funds were utilized. Further, out of the Final Grant allocated, 72.82% have been utilized under BIND (Prasar Bharati) and 88.94% under SCR. They have also informed that the Integrated Project Monitoring Cell (IPMC) created under the Chairmanship of CEO (Prasar Bharati) is monitoring the progress of projects and improvement in their implementation. Further, for better utilization of funds under Supporting Community Radio, several measures have been taken; Output and Outcome based targets have been fixed and activities have been planned for the year 2023-24 for timely implementation of SCR Schemes. As the reply of the Ministry is

silent on the outcome of all the measures taken, the Committee desire to be apprised about the outcome of all the measures taken to achieve the physical and financial targets under all Central Sector Schemes (CSS) including BIND Scheme. The Ministry may also elaborate about the Output and Outcome based targets fixed for SCR Schemes along with the activities planned for their timely implementation. The Ministry may also provide details of the steps that will be taken to ensure full utilization of fund during the financial year 2023-24.

(Recommendation Sl. No. 3)

BROADCASTING SECTOR (INCLUDING PRASAR BHARATI)

Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development (BIND)

8. The Committee, in their 46th Report on the subject 'Demands For Grants (2023-24)', had made the following observation/recommendation:

“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 31st 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”.

9. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, in their Action Taken Notes, have stated as under:

“It is the constant endeavor 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 being 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 Secretariat. Use of digital platform viz. e-office, e-tendering, procurement through GEM, Video conference is also being utilized.

The Integrated Project Monitoring Cell (IPMC) created under the chairmanship of CEO (PB) is monitoring the progress of projects and improvement in their implementation. Review meeting to assess progress of BIND Scheme is also taken by Secretary (I&B) from time to time.

An amount of Rs. 600 crore has been allocated to PB in BE 2023-24 for BIND Scheme. Prasar Bharati would strive to ensure its full utilization”.

10. **The Committee in their 46th Report, had noted that the actual expenditure under BIND Scheme, till 31st January, 2023, was just Rs. 117.29 crore which is 37.23% of RE allocations. Regarding under-utilisation, the Ministry had furnished a few reasons and had also informed that most of the broadcast equipment were imported with no production in India. While observing that having indigenous manufacturing of broadcasting equipment would reduce the dependence on imports, the Committee had hoped that 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 Committee had also desired to be apprised about the initiatives envisaged to have proper utilisation and to meet the physical and financial targets set for the year 2023–24. The Ministry, in their Action Taken**

Notes, have outlined several measures which *inter-alia* include (i) Monitoring mechanism has been strengthened; (ii) Procurement procedures have been streamlined; (iii) The Integrated Project Monitoring Cell (IPMC) has been created under the Chairmanship of CEO (PB) for monitoring the progress of projects and improvement in their implementation; (iv) Prasar Bharati would strive to fully utilize the amount of Rs. 600 crore allocated for BIND Scheme in BE 2023-24, etc. The Committee would like to be apprised of the outcome of all the above-mentioned measures taken by the Ministry to meet the physical and financial targets under BIND Scheme.

CONTENT CREATION AND CONTENT PROCUREMENT POLICY

(Recommendation Sl. No. 6)

11. The Committee, in their 46th Report on the subject 'Demands For Grants (2023-24)', had made the following observation/recommendation:

“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”.

12. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, in their Action Taken Notes, have stated as under:

"The actual revenue generation during 2023-24 will be available only after March 2024. However, the commercial revenue generation for the FY 2022-23 (upto February 2023) is 363.44 Crore. Calculation sheet is as follows:

Sl. No	REVENUE OF AIR For the FY 2022-23 (Upto Feb 2023)		REVENUE OF Doordarshan For the FY 2022-23 (Upto Feb 2023)	
Figures in crore				
1	Commercial revenue From CBS Centres and CSU	182.02	Commercial revenue from channels including CRDs, DCD and Ministry of agriculture and farmer welfare	177.91
2	PB Resources (AIR Component)	55.25	PB Resources (DD Component)	37.06
3	PB Archives	0.41	DTH Carriage fees	674.72
4	Misc. deposits	0.36	Misc. deposits	0.56
5	Total Revenue	238.04	Revenue from Digital operations	3.1
Total				893.35
The commercial revenue of AIR is 182.02+0.41		= 182.43 Crore		
The commercial revenue of Doordarshan is 177.91+3.1		= 181.01 Crore		
Total Commercial Revenue during FY 22-23(upto Feb 2023) = 363.44 Crore				

13. The Committee, in their 46th Report on DFG (2023-24), had recommended the Ministry:

- (i) To utilize Rs. 498.32 crore allocated for content creation judiciously;
- (ii) To apprise about the financial targets set and achieved for content creation during 2023-24;
- (iii) To provide details of the targets for revenue generation and actual revenue generation through content during 2023-24;
- (iv) To ensure both financial accountability and content performance; and
- (v) 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.

The Committee note that the Ministry, in their Action Taken Notes, have been silent on the targets set for revenue generation for 2023-24. However, they have stated that the actual revenue generation during 2023-24 will be available only after March 2024. Further, it is stated that the commercial revenue generation for the year 2022-23 (upto February 2023) is 363.44 crore. According to the details provided by the Ministry, the total Commercial Revenue during 2022-23 (up to February 2023), is Rs. 363.44 crore wherein Commercial Revenue of AIR and DD are Rs. 182.43 crore and Rs. 181.01 crore respectively. The Committee, while expressing concern over the fact that no reply has been furnished by the Ministry on some of the above-mentioned recommendations, desire to be apprised about the action taken on the point nos. (i), (ii), (iv) and (v).

(Recommendation Sl. No. 10)

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

14. The Committee, in their 46th Report on the subject 'Demands For Grants (2023-24)', had made the following observation/recommendation:

“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 23rd 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”.

15. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, in their Action Taken Notes, have stated as under:

“The ownership of all the assets of closed Film Media Units shall be with Ministry of I&B. The matter of Right to Use of the assets by NFDC is under submission to IFD. The activities like International Film Festival of India (IFFI), Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF), National Film Awards (NFA) have already been organized successfully by NFDC. The other activities transferred to NFDC are also being carried out efficiently.

With regard to progress of physical and financial targets under NFDC set for the year 2023-24 and explaining income from commercial utilization of archived films, necessary directions have been given to NFDC for compliance. The grievances received from the staff of these merged Film Media Units, who have now been declared as Surplus and placed in Surplus Staff Establishment, have been resolved.

Regarding concerns expressed relating to merger and the creative and supportive role of the Ministry in films, it is stated that it is the constant endeavour by this Ministry to revive the new role and responsibility of NFDC. Action on various issues including revision of MoAA of NFDC is under active consideration in this Ministry”.

16. **The Committee, in their Original Report, had noted that the merger of 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) have been completed with National Film Development Corporation Ltd.**

(NFDC) and had recommended that the physical and financial targets set under NFDC for the year 2023-24 may be achieved as per the deadlines. The Committee had also desired to be apprised about the concerns regarding the merger along with the action taken, if any. The Ministry, in their Action Taken Notes, have stated that “necessary directions have been given to NFDC for compliance of physical and financial targets under NFDC set for the year 2023-24 and explaining income from commercial utilization of archived films”. They have also stated that action on various issues including revision of Memorandum and Articles of Association (MoAA) of NFDC is under active consideration. The Committee desire to know the details of the directions given to NFDC along with the mechanism envisaged to ensure the compliance of the said directions. The Committee may be apprised about the various issues of NFDC which are under active consideration by the Ministry. The Committee would like to know whether there has been any instance of failure/delay from NFDC in honouring the contracts which were earlier executed by the erstwhile Media units. The Ministry may also provide details of the total staff (category-wise) who were declared surplus and were placed in surplus staff because of the merger. The details should also include their entitled salary and allowances. The Committee would also like to know about the timeline by which the surplus staff would be redeployed.

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

(Recommendation Sl. No. 12)

17. The Committee, in their Original Report, had made following Observation/Recommendation:

“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”.

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

“To promote AVGC Sector in the country, an Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC) Promotion Task Force was constituted on 8th April, 2022 headed by Secretary (I&B) and inter alia include Secretary of relevant Ministries/Department with administrative secretaries handling AVGC policy in selected States, representative from Core Practitioners from AVGC Industry, FICCI, CII, etc.

As decided in the first meeting of the AVGC Promotion Task Force held on 4th May, 2022, four Sub-Task Forces were also constituted namely, for Education, Skilling, Gaming and Industry & Policy.

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. This Ministry has uploaded the AVGC Task Force’s Report including draft National Policy and draft Model State Policy on Ministry’s Website on 23rd January, 2023 for offering comments. All the concerned Ministries/ Departments of Central Government, States, UTs and Industry stakeholders were also requested to offer their comments on the AVGC Task Force’s Report.

A National Workshop and consultation on Draft National Policy and Draft Model State Policy has been organised on 18th April, 2023 to take view of States/UTs and Industry stakeholders. Now further procedures of taking it to Cabinet is being initiated.

Further, Ministry is in process of establishing the National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) for AVGC. NCoE has been proposed to be set up on Shareholder agreement basis as Section 8 company in collaboration of FICCI, CII and State Government of Maharashtra. In-principal decision has been taken to establish NCoE in the Ministry. The same has been submitted to the Committee of Establishment Expenditure (CEE). Subsequently, Cabinet approval will be sought.

As this Ministry has to obtain Cabinet Approval on both National AVGC Policy and Setting of NCoE, it is not feasible to fix timelines creation of National AVGC-XR Mission and for establishing the National Centre of Excellence (NCOE)".

19. **While noting all the initiatives of the Ministry to realize the potential of the Indian Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC) industry, the Committee, in their 46th Report, had felt 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 AVGC sector and opportunities are galore in AVGC Sector. Accordingly, the Committee had recommended/desired following:**

- (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."**

The Committee note that the Ministry have updated about the workshop and consultation on Draft National Policy and Draft Model State Policy and they have stated that they are in the process of establishing the National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) for AVGC and in-principal decision has been taken to establish NCoE in the Ministry. The Ministry have also stated that as they have to obtain Cabinet Approval on both National AVGC Policy and Setting of NCoE, it is not feasible to fix timelines creation of National AVGC-XR Mission and for establishing the National Centre of Excellence (NCOE). In view of the importance of this AVGC sector, the Committee express concern over Ministry's silence on other recommendations of the Committee relating to this sector. The Committee, therefore, while reiterating their recommendation, desire for an updated status of the Action Taken on point nos. (iii) to (vii).

CHAPTER II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

(Recommendation Sl. No. 1)

BUDGET OVERVIEW AND DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2023-24)

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/sub-ordinate 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 31st 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.

Reply of the Government

During 2022-23, Ministry utilized 96.22% of its total allocated funds of ₹ 4,182.00 crore. The utilization percentage (w.r.t. Final Grant) for three categories i.e. Central Sector Schemes, Establishment Expenditure of the Centre and 'Other Central Expenditure', during the year 2022-23, were 88.01%, 97.00% and 97.86% respectively.

Under Central Sector Scheme, Ministry utilized 88.01% of its Final Grant of ₹ 646.90 crore. Out of this, DCID utilized 95.59%, DCDFC 96.50%, SCR 88.94% and BIND 72.82% of their allocated funds.

Physical targets are set for a quarter as such. Quantifying the same for a portion of the quarter may not be feasible. However, the physical targets set for the year 2022-23 along with progress thereon in the statement of Output Outcome Monitoring Framework (2022-23) is enclosed at **Annexure-I**.

To improve the performance under BIND, it is the constant endeavor 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 being 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 Secretariat. Use of digital platform viz e-office, e-tendering, procurement through GEM, Video conference is also being utilized.

The Integrated Project Monitoring Cell (IPMC) created under the chairmanship of CEO (PB) is monitoring the progress of projects and improvement in their implementation. Review meeting to assess progress of BIND Scheme is also taken by Secretary(I&B) from time to time.

An amount of Rs. 600 crore has been allocated to PB in BE 2023-24 for BIND Scheme. Prasar Bharati would strive to ensure its full utilization.

As far as Supporting Community Radio is concerned, the Ministry has taken several measures to ensure that physical as well as financial Targets are met under the Scheme. Activities to be conducted during 2023-24 has been planned for timely implementation.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/17/2023-PC Cell
dated .06.2023]

(Recommendation SI. No. 2)

CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEMES (CSS)

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.

Reply of the Government

During the year 2022-23, the allocations for 'Central Sector Schemes' at FG (Final Grant) stage was ₹ 646.90 crore, out of which 88.01% of funds were utilized by the Ministry. Against RE 2022-23 of ₹ 639.00 crore, 89.10% of funds were utilized under Central Sector Scheme.

Development Communication & Information Dissemination (DCID) utilized **95.59%** of Final Grant, Development Communication & Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC) used **96.50%** of allocated FG whereas Supporting Community Radio (SCR) used **88.94%** of its allocated FG and Broadcasting Infrastructure Development (Prasar Bharati) utilized **72.82%** out of Final Grant allocated to this scheme.

- Under DCID Scheme, a quarterly planner of annual physical targets has been prepared and targets have been assigned to various regions/units of PIB accordingly. Further, a monthly calendar of physical targets is also being framed in a centralized manner and will be shared with regions/units of PIB for compliance. Monthly & Quarterly calendar of physical targets will help in achieving the targets in a phased manner and will also help the regions/units of PIB in maintaining the continuum of activities. It will also ensure better utilization of funds in defined timelines.

- To improve the performance under BIND, it is the constant endeavor 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 being 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 Secretariat. Use of digital platform viz. e-office, e-tendering, procurement through GEM, Video conference is also being utilized.

The Integrated Project Monitoring Cell (IPMC) created under the chairmanship of CEO (PB) is monitoring the progress of projects and improvement in their implementation. Review meeting to assess progress of BIND Scheme is also taken by Secretary (I&B) from time to time.

- For better utilization of funds under Supporting Community Radio, the Ministry has taken several measures to ensure that physical as well as financial Targets are met under the Scheme. Activities to be conducted during 2023-24 have been planned for timely implementation. Output and Outcome based targets have been fixed.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/17/2023-PC Cell
dated .06.2023]

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

(Recommendation SI. No. 3)

BROADCASTING SECTOR (INCLUDING PRASAR BHARATI)

Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development (BIND)

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 31st 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.

Reply of the Government

It is the constant endeavor 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 being 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 Secretariat. Use of digital platform viz. e-office, e-tendering, procurement through GEM, Video conference is also being utilized.

The Integrated Project Monitoring Cell (IPMC) created under the chairmanship of CEO (PB) is monitoring the progress of projects and improvement in their implementation. Review meeting to assess progress of BIND Scheme is also taken by Secretary (I&B) from time to time.

An amount of Rs. 600 crore has been allocated to PB in BE 2023-24 for BIND Scheme. Prasar Bharati would strive to ensure its full utilization.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/17/2023-PC Cell
dated .06.2023]

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

(Recommendation Sl. No. 8)

Supporting Community Radio Movement in India

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.

Reply of the Government

- i) The Ministry has taken several measures to ensure that physical as well as financial Targets are met under the Scheme. Activities to be conducted during 2023-24 have been planned for timely implementation.
- ii) As per the Policy Guidelines, the broadcast pertaining to the following categories are permissible:
 - a) Information pertaining to sporting events excluding live coverage.
 - b) Information pertaining to Traffic and Weather;
 - c) Information pertaining to and coverage of local cultural events, festivals;
 - d) Coverage of topics pertaining to examinations, results, admissions, career counseling;
 - e) Availability of employment opportunities;
 - f) Public announcements pertaining to civic amenities like electricity, water supply, natural calamities, health alerts etc. as provided by the local administration.
- iii) The Ministry has planned to organize Community Radio Workshops especially in CR dark areas including Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Goa, Ladakh, Lakshadweep, Meghalaya and Mizoram. A total of 5 workshops have been planned during 2023-24. Besides this 8 Webinars have been proposed.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/17/2023-PC Cell
dated .06.2023]

(Recommendation Sl. No. 10)

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

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 23rd 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.

Reply of the Government

The ownership of all the assets of closed Film Media Units shall be with Ministry of I&B. The matter of Right to Use of the assets by NFDC is under submission to

IFD. The activities like International Film Festival of India (IFFI), Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF), National Film Awards (NFA) have already been organized successfully by NFDC. The other activities transferred to NFDC are also being carried out efficiently.

With regard to progress of physical and financial targets under NFDC set for the year 2023-24 and explaining income from commercial utilization of archived films, necessary directions have been given to NFDC for compliance.

The grievances received from the staff of these merged Film Media Units, who have now been declared as Surplus and placed in Surplus Staff Establishment, have been resolved.

Regarding concerns expressed relating to merger and the creative and supportive role of the Ministry in films, it is stated that it is the constant endeavour by this Ministry to revive the new role and responsibility of NFDC. Action on various issues including revision of MoAA of NFDC is under active consideration in this Ministry.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/17/2023-PC Cell
dated .06.2023]

**Comments of the Committee
(Please see Para No. 16 of Chapter I)**

(Recommendation Sl. No. 13)

Film Shooting in India

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.

Reply of the Government

Ministry of Information & Broadcasting set up Film Facilitation Office (FFO) with a view to promote and facilitate film shootings by foreign film makers in India. FFO is housed in and operated by National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), a Public Sector Enterprise of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. FFO acts as a single-window facilitation point for the foreign film producers in assisting them to get requisite permissions, disseminates information on shooting locations and facilities available with the Indian Film Industry for production and post-production. FFO has also launched a website <https://ffo.gov.in/en> on 20th November, 2018 for making online applications for requisite permission to foreign film makers. This facility has been extended to Domestic Film makers. The website besides facilitating shooting permission also provides useful information about shooting locations, shooting incentives being given by various States,

International treaties for Co-production, Trade Association, film cities and many others.

FFO web portal has status integration with various Central Govt. agencies like Archaeological Survey of India, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Directorate General Civil Aviation. FFO is in discussion with Animal Welfare Board of India for status integration purpose

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/17/2023-PC Cell
dated .06.2023]

(Recommendation Sl. No. 16)
Central Bureau of Communication (erstwhile BOC)

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 30th 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.

Reply of the Government

The observation and recommendation of the Committee on completing entire IT Modernization and Automation project as per the revised timeline' is noted. Presently,

different modules of IT Modernization and Automation project of CBC are under implementation. The testing with stakeholders is also being done simultaneously so that the transition to new system is smooth.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/17/2023-PC Cell
dated .06.2023]

(Recommendation Sl. No. 17)
North Eastern Region (NER)

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 4th 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.

Reply of the Government

- In the North-Eastern Region, PIB Guwahati has been allocated with funds of Rs.1.00 crore in BE 2022-23 during FY 2022-23. Out of these, PIB Guwahati has utilized funds of Rs.97.60 lakhs i.e. 97.6% utilizations of funds. There is marginal shortfall as the expenditure is satisfactory in so far as PIB is concerned. Further, the status of activities, other than translation of documents, allocated to PIB Guwahati is as under:

Vartalaps		Regional Editors Conference	
Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
4	7	1	0

- Since the Actual Expenditure during the year 2022-23 has been 65.02%, Central Bureau of Communication (CBC) has been advised to increase the activities in NE states and to ensure the utilization of funds under NER component of DCID scheme. For the FY 2023-24, CBC will conduct regular awareness generation campaigns about various schemes and policy announcements of the Government 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. Regular monitoring will also be done at the Ministry level to ensure full utilization of funds.
- An allocation of Rs.13.0 crore was made for North Eastern Region under Development, Communication and Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC) Scheme at Revised Estimates 2022-23. Out of the allocation of Rs.13.0 crore, an expenditure

of Rs.12.685 crore (97.58% of allocated RE 2022-23) was incurred towards various activities in the North Eastern Region.

- Under the capital component of Central Sector Scheme of Doordarshan the allocated BE(2022-23) and RE(2022-23) for NER is Rs. 7.41 Crore and Rs. 5.66 Crore respectively. The expenditure incurred in NER in FY (2022-23) under capital component of Central Sector Scheme of Doordarshan is NIL.

Reasons for NIL expenditure:

Multiple attempts were made for tender procurement of 1,20,000 DTH sets for distribution in tribal, remote and LWE areas. Even in the 3rd re-tendering, after technical evaluation and price bid opening, the tender had to be cancelled due to limited participation of bidders, unreasonable higher price bids/quoted rates. Due to repeated failure of the tenders, matter was reviewed by the Prasar Bharati and Ministry. Prasar Bharati was requested to approach Centre for Development of Telematics (CDOT) for demo of their Conditional Access System (CAS) technology and take a decision on empanelment of CDOT. Accordingly, demo of C-DoT CAS, SMS and C-DoT CAS compliant STB was carried out by C-DoT in the presence of DD team and the demo report submitted to Prasar Bharati. M/o Information & Broadcasting gave approval to procure FTA DTH, non-CAS, non-RPD Receive sets (with STBs) with the provision of app based/ call based/ SMS based authorization and activation facility under the BIND Scheme. Accordingly, procurement of 1.2 Lakh DTH Receive sets (Non-CAS) + 7.5 Lakh DTH receive sets envisaged to be procured under Project mode is initiated under proposed BIND scheme by Doordarshan. Draft technical Specification for procurement of 7.5 lakhs DTH Receive sets was uploaded on website and industry feedback is received which is being scrutinized by Design section. A portal has been developed by Prasar Bharti in consultation with Ministry of Home Affairs for collection of data of beneficiaries.

The allocated BE(2023-24) in NER under the capital component of Central Sector Scheme of Doordarshan is Rs. 34.50 Crore and is likely to be utilized fully.

- As far as Community Radio is concerned, the Ministry has planned to organize Community Radio Workshops especially in North East Regions. A total of 5 workshops have been planned during 2023-24. Besides this 8 Webinars have been proposed.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/17/2023-PC Cell
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CHAPTER- III

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

---NIL---

CHAPTER IV

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

(Recommendation Sl. No. 6)

CONTENT CREATION AND CONTENT PROCUREMENT POLICY

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.

Reply of the Government

The actual revenue generation during 2023-24 will be available only after March 2024. However, the commercial revenue generation for the FY 2022-23 (upto February 2023) is 363.44 Crore. Calculation sheet is as follows:

Sl. No	REVENUE OF AIR For the FY 2022-23 (Upto Feb 2023)		REVENUE OF Doordarshan For the FY 2022-23 (Upto Feb 2023)	
Figures in crore				
1	Commercial revenue From CBS Centres and CSU	182.02	Commercial revenue from channels including CRDs, DCD and Ministry of agriculture and farmer welfare	177.91
2	PB Resources (AIR Component)	55.25	PB Resources (DD Component)	37.06
3	PB Archives	0.41	DTH Carriage fees	674.72
4	Misc. deposits	0.36	Misc. deposits	0.56
5	Total Revenue	238.04	Revenue from Digital operations	3.1
Total				893.35
The commercial revenue of AIR is 182.02+0.41		= 182.43 Crore		
The commercial revenue of Doordarshan is 177.91+3.1		= 181.01 Crore		
Total Commercial Revenue during FY 22-23(upto Feb 2023) = 363.44 Crore				

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/17/2023-PC Cell
dated .06.2023]

Comments of the Committee (Please see Para No. 13 of Chapter I)

(Recommendation Sl. No. 12)

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

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:

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

Reply of the Government

To promote AVGC Sector in the country, an Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC) Promotion Task Force was constituted on 8th April, 2022 headed by Secretary (I&B) and inter alia include Secretary of relevant Ministries/Department with administrative secretaries handling AVGC policy in selected States, representative from Core Practitioners from AVGC Industry, FICCI, CII, etc.

As decided in the first meeting of the AVGC Promotion Task Force held on 4th May, 2022, four Sub-Task Forces were also constituted namely, for Education, Skilling, Gaming and Industry & Policy.

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 (1&B) on 15.12.2022. This Ministry has uploaded the AVGC Task Force's Report including draft National Policy and draft Model State Policy on Ministry's Website on 23rd January, 2023 for offering comments. All the concerned Ministries/ Departments of Central Government, States, UTs and Industry stakeholders were also requested to offer their comments on the AVGC Task Force's Report.

A National Workshop and consultation on Draft National Policy and Draft Model State Policy has been organised on 18th April, 2023 to take view of States/UTs and Industry stakeholders. Now further procedures of taking it to Cabinet is being initiated.

Further, Ministry is in process of establishing the National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) for AVGC. NCoE has been proposed to be set up on Shareholder agreement basis as Section 8 company in collaboration of FICCI, CII and State Government of Maharashtra. In-principal decision has been taken to establish NCoE in the Ministry. The same has been submitted to the Committee of Establishment Expenditure (CEE). Subsequently, Cabinet approval will be sought.

As this Ministry has to obtain Cabinet Approval on both National AVGC Policy and Setting of NCoE, it is not feasible to fix timelines creation of National AVGC-XR Mission and for establishing the National Centre of Excellence (NCOE).

(Prithul Kumar)
Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/17/2023-PC Cell
dated .06.2023]

Comments of the Committee
(Please see Para No. 19 of Chapter I)

CHAPTER V

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

DOORDARSHAN

(Recommendation Sl. No. 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 21st 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.

Reply of the Government

The point-wise comments of the Ministry are as follows:

- i. 91 numbers of 100W FM transmitters were inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 28th April, 2023. The Integrated Project Monitoring Cell (IPMC) created under the chairmanship of CEO (PB) is monitoring the progress of projects and improvement in their implementation.
- ii. All Doordarshan channels including South Indian language channels are available on DD Free Dish. Further, as far as private channels are concerned, slots on DD Free Dish are allocated based on an annual e-auction. A separate bucket is kept during the e-auction as a category for Indian language channels that are not represented on DD Free Dish which makes it easier for them to have a slot allocated for themselves.
- iii. Prasar Bharati is taking steps for compliance of the instructions of the Committee regarding distribution of STBs.
- iv. In this regard, it is informed that BIS on 21.12.2022 had finalized Standard No. IS 18112:2022 Digital Television Receivers for Satellite Broadcast Transmission-Specification. Thereafter, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, through Gazette Notification dated 26.04.2023 made amendments to the "Electronics and Information Technology Goods (Requirements of Compulsory Registration) Order, 2021" mandating "Television Sets" to conform to the Indian Standard IS 18112:2022 Digital Television Receiver for Satellite Broadcast Transmission - Specification, of the Bureau of Indian Standards, on the expiry of two years from the date of publication of this Notification in the Official Gazette.
- v. As the new standard of BIS is only applicable to new TV sets being manufactured and imported in the country, penetration of the same, especially among the weaker section of the country will take considerable amount of time. Distribution plan for STBs is to be finalized in consultation with all the stakeholders concerned i.e. Ministry of Home Affairs, Prasar Bharati, State Govts./UTs etc.

- vi. Prasar Bharati has informed that at present Doordarshan is subscribing for Viewership data relating to 21 channels with Broadcasting Audience Research Council (BARC). This viewership data is shared amongst concerned officials for monitoring and analysis purposes.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/17/2023-PC Cell
dated .06.2023]

(Recommendation Sl. No. 5)

All India Radio (AIR) and FM

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 December, 2022 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.

Reply of the Government

- i. In Akashvani, 41 Nos. of new FM transmitters of various capacities are to be setup under new approved scheme. Tendering for purchase of transmitters and associated equipment has been done.
- ii. The digitalization of 127 studios has been achieved during the 2022-23. Digitalization of remaining studios will be done depending upon availability of funds. The new AIR studios being set up are born digital. Partial digitalization of 90 studios has also been done and will be fully digitalized in coming years as per approval of schemes.
- iii. Prasar Bharati has informed that Akashvani is constantly re-calibrating its content in order to make it more attractive and listener friendly. The endeavor is to make the content more participatory to attract audience and also generate revenue.

Further, Akashvani has recently introduced more News based Programmes/ News Bulletins in all the Channels operated by Akashvani (FM Gold, FM Rainbow, Vividh Bharati, Primary Channels) to attract the listeners and to give them the content which is not served to them by other Private FM Radio Channels.

- iv. BSNL & Power Grid have been approached for tower sharing for installation of antenna of FM transmitters.
- v. Prasar Bharati has informed that during COVID-19 pandemic, most of the programmes were either relayed from Delhi or State Capitals. The normal broadcast was restored when the intensity of pandemic was reduced. Akashvani broadcasts programmes in National, regional and local dialects. Majority of National programmes are generally broadcast from National Capital Delhi, similarly State Capitals broadcast programmes for the state hook up. The local Akashvani Station relay programmes of National and State Capital, besides broadcast programme in its own local dialect where the station is located.

The budgetary allocations for Akashvani during the year 2022-23 at BE and RE stage, were Rs.160.47 crore and Rs.71.65 crore respectively, whereas the actual expenditure, till 31.03.2023, was Rs.63.02 crore. The actual expenditure percentage is 39.27% of BE & 87.96% of RE allocation respectively.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/17/2023-PC Cell
dated .06.2023]

(Recommendation SI. No. 7)

Human resource in Prasar Bharati

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.

Reply of the Government

The assessment of manpower as per recommendations of Manpower Audit (MPA) exercise is under process. It will not be out of place to mention here that Prasar Bharati has limited financial resources under IEBR which is not enough to shoulder the liabilities of the entire additional required manpower through recruitment of skilled, professional and young manpower. Accordingly, 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 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 MPA exercise and assessment of manpower required, an optimum number of posts shall be filled up in due course as per the financial strength of Prasar Bharati.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/17/2023-PC Cell
dated .06.2023]

(Recommendation Sl. No. 9)

Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR) and self sufficiency

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.

Reply of the Government

1. The media assets available at Central Archives Prasar Bharati have already been digitized.
2. Assessment of the media assets left for digitization at various Kendras across the country is underway.
3. An advisory has been issued to the Stations/Kendras of AIR/DD in Prasar Bharati network in order to complete the digitization of legacy media in a time bound manner. Stations are approaching Central Archives for resource crunch in terms of manpower and equipment in completing the task.
4. After gathering all relevant information from the network, Prasar Bharati will be able to complete the digitization by March 2025 in project mode.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/17/2023-PC Cell
dated .06.2023]

(Recommendation Sl. No. 11) **Film and Television Institute of India (FTII)**

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 31st 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.

Reply of the Government

Original time-line for completion of the construction of Auditorium-cum-Knowledge Centre at Pune was 08.09.2020, but is now expected to be completed by 30.11.2023. The progress of the project was badly affected due to COVID-19 and other hindrances. As of now, the work is in progress and 91% of civil work has been completed.

Regarding construction of two studios (at the extension campus of FTII, at Kothrud), preliminary estimates have been submitted to Director, FTII. Administrative approval and Expenditure Sanction is yet to be approved.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/17/2023-PC Cell
dated .06.2023]

(Recommendation Sl. No. 14)

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

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 11th 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 Aizawl has been inaugurated on 3rd 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, Amaravati. The matter was considered and it was decided in 2021 to construct the Western Regional Centre of IIMC at Badhera, Amaravati. 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, Aizawl 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.

Reply of the Government

New Building at IIMC, New Delhi:

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. IIMC has sent Letter of Intent (LoI) to CPWD to submit the drawings, estimate and time line for completion of the project, which is awaited. Meanwhile, tender for Topographical Survey of the plot and necessary clearances works have been awarded by CPWD, New Delhi and the construction may begin in FY 2023-24.

Western Regional Campus of IIMC at Amravati:

The lease agreement between IIMC & the Govt. of Maharashtra got 'time-barred/lapsed'. Therefore, a fresh 'Lease Agreement' has been signed. Accordingly, the LoI has been sent to the CPWD Nagpur to submit the drawing and costs estimates for the proposed new building. IIMC has already deposited Rs. 1.30 Crore to CPWD Nagpur for construction of boundary wall, entrance gate and sentry post at IIMC Amravati. The construction of the Campus may begin in FY 2023-24.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/17/2023-PC Cell
dated .06.2023]

(Recommendation Sl. No. 15)

Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI)

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.

Reply of the Government

Regular review of the progress of the Automation Project is being undertaken fortnightly/monthly by the Press Registrar in the Office of RNI and also in the Ministry. A fresh and simplified draft bill titled "Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill, 2022" has been prepared by the Ministry in consultation with Law Ministry after stakeholder/inter-ministerial consultation to replace the existing Press and Registration of Book Act, 1867. Presently, the draft Bill is at the stage of seeking Cabinet's approval.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/17/2023-PC Cell
dated .06.2023]

New Delhi;
7 August, 2023
16 Sravana, 1945 (Saka)

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

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

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTEENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee sat on Monday, the 07 August, 2023 from 1500 hours to 1645 hours in Committee Room '3' Extension to Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Prataprao Jadhav- Chairperson

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Karti P. Chidambaram
3. Smt. Sunita Duggal
4. Shri Jayadev Galla
5. Smt. Raksha Nikhil Khadse
6. Shri Santosh Pandey
7. Shri Sanjay Seth
8. Dr. M.K. Vishnu Prasad

Rajya Sabha

9. Dr. Anil Agrawal
10. Dr. John Brittas
11. Shri Syed Nasir Hussain
12. Shri Jawahar Sircar

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Satpal Gulati - Additional Secretary
2. Smt. Jyothirmayi - Director
3. 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 three draft Action Taken Reports on Demands for Grants (2023-24) relating to the Ministries/Departments under their jurisdiction and to have a briefing by the representatives of Department of Telecommunications, Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd, Bharti Airtel Ltd., Tele Communications Consultants India Ltd. and Bharti Hexacom Ltd. on the subject **‘Review of the performance of schemes under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) with special emphasis on North East and LWE affected areas’**.

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

(i) Draft Action Taken Report on Forty Third Report on ‘Demands for Grants (2023-24)’ relating to the Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications).

(ii) Draft Action Taken Report on Forty Sixth Report on ‘Demands for Grants (2023-24)’ relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

(iii) Draft Action Taken Report on Forty Fourth Report on ‘Demands for Grants (2023-24)’ relating to the Ministry of Communications (Department of Posts)

4. After due deliberations, the Committee adopted the Reports with some modifications.

5. The Committee authorized the Chairperson to finalize the draft Action Taken Reports and present the same to the House during the current Session of Parliament.

6. The Committee then called the representative of Department of Telecommunications, Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd, Bharti Airtel Ltd., Tele Communications Consultants India Ltd. and Bharti Hexacom Ltd. to have briefing on the subject '**Review of the performance of schemes under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) with special emphasis on North East and LWE affected areas**'.

6. xxxxxxxx.....xxxxxxx.....xxxxxxx*

7. xxxxxxxx.....xxxxxxx.....xxxxxxx

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

The Committee, then, adjourned.

* Matters not related to the Report

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

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

[Vide Paragraph No. 5 of Introduction]

(i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government Rec. Sl. Nos.: 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17	Total Percentage	8 52.95
(ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government	Total Percentage	NIL 0.00
(iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and require reiteration Rec. Sl. Nos.: 6 and 12	Total Percentage	02 11.76
(iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which the replies of the Government are of interim in nature Rec. Sl. Nos.: 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 14 and 15	Total Percentage	07 35.29