



**STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
COMMUNICATIONS AND  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(2024-25)**

**EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA**

**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS  
(2025-26)**

**ELEVENTH REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

*March 2025/ Phalguna, 1946 (Saka)*

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(2025-26)**

*Presented to Lok Sabha on 21.03.2025*

*Laid in Rajya Sabha on 20.03.2025*



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

*March 2025/ Phalguna, 1946 (Saka)*

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**Composition of the Standing Committee on Communications and  
Information Technology (2024-25)\*\***

**Dr. Nishikant Dubey - Chairperson**

**Lok Sabha**

2. Shri C.N. Annadurai
3. Shri Anil Baluni
4. Dr. Rabindra Narayan Behera
5. Shri Anup Sanjay Dhotre
6. Shri Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer
7. Shri Sanjay Haribhau Jadhav
8. Shri S. Supongmeren Jamir
9. Shri Appalanaidu Kalisetti
10. Smt. Poonamben Hematbhai Maadam
11. Ms. Mahua Moitra
12. Shri G. Kumar Naik
13. Shri Shafi Parambil
14. Dr. M.K. Vishnu Prasad
15. Ms. Kangna Ranaut
16. Shri Radheshyam Rathiya
17. Shri Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy
18. Shri Arun Kumar Sagar
19. Shri Devesh Shakya
20. Shri Vishnu Datt Sharma
21. Shri Rajesh Verma

**Rajya Sabha**

22. Shri Saket Gokhale\*
23. Smt. Priyanka Chaturvedi
24. Shri Ilaiyaraaja
25. Shri Amar Pal Maurya
26. Dr. Sasmit Patra
27. Shri V. Vijayendra Prasad
28. Shri S. Niranjana Reddy
29. Shri Kartikeya Sharma
30. Shri Lahar Singh Siroya
31. Shri K.T.S. Tulsi

**SECRETARIAT**

- |    |                     |   |                      |
|----|---------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. | Shri Y.M. Kandpal   | — | Additional Secretary |
| 2. | Smt. A. Jyothirmayi | — | Director             |
| 3. | Smt. Rinky Singh    | — | Executive Officer    |

*\*\*Committee constituted w.e.f. 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2024 vide Para No.833 of Bulletin Part-II dated 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2024.*

*\* Shri Saket Gokhale has been nominated vide Para No. 853 of Bulletin Part –II dated 03<sup>rd</sup> October, 2024.*

## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology (2024-25), having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Eleventh Report on Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

2. The Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology (2024-25) was constituted on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2024. One of the functions of the Standing Committee, as laid down in Rule 331E of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, is to consider the Demands for Grants of the Ministry concerned and make a Report on the same to the Houses.

3. The Committee considered the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for the Financial Year 2025-26 which were laid on the Table of the House on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2025. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2025.

4. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their Sitting held on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2025.

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

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

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

New Delhi;  
18 March, 2025  
27 Phalguna, 1946 (Saka)

**DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY,**  
**Chairperson,**  
**Standing Committee on**  
**Communications and Information Technology.**

# REPORT

## PART - I

### I. INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is the face of the Government of India in reaching out to the masses. The crucial task of disseminating information about Government policies, schemes and programmes through different media vehicles is entrusted to the Ministry. Radio, television, films, press and print publications, digital and social media, posters, advertising, and traditional modes of communication such as dance, drama, folk recitals, puppet shows – all these are effectively brought into play by the Ministry and its media units in dissemination free flow of information. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is the focal point regarding policy matters relating to private broadcasting, administering 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.

2. The subjects of (i) content of publishers of news and current affairs on digital media and (ii) publishers of online curated content (OTT platforms) were transferred to Ministry of Information and Broadcasting through an amendment in Allocation of Business Rules, 1961 *vide* notification dated 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2020. The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 were notified under the Information Technology Act, 2000 on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2022, to provide an institutional mechanism for regulation of publishers of news and current affairs on digital media and publishers of online curated content (OTT platforms). Part-III of these Rules, *inter-alia*, provides for a Code of Ethics for publishers of news and current affairs on digital media and publishers of online curated content (OTT platforms) and a three-level Grievance Redressal Mechanism to look into complaints/grievances in relation to violation of the Code of Ethics by OTT platforms.

3. The Central Government *vide* notification dated 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 amended Allocation of Business Rules. Subject relating to online advertisements, and content made available by online content providers/publishers has been brought under the mandate of Ministry of I&B. Revised entry under Allocation of Business Rules of the Ministry is as under:-

“VA. **Digital/Online Media**

22A. Films and Audio-**Visual** programmes/content made available by online content providers/publishers.

22B. News and current affairs content on online platforms.

**22C. Online Advertisements”**

4. There are **7** media units/ attached & subordinate offices, **2** autonomous bodies, **3** Training Institutes and **2** Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under the Ministry.

The details are as follows:-

<b>Media units/attached &amp; subordinate offices</b>	<b>Autonomous Organizations</b>	<b>Training Institutes</b>	<b>Public Sector Undertakings</b>
i. Press Information Bureau (PIB) ii. Central Bureau of Communication(CBC)* iii. Press Registrar General of India (PRGI) [erstwhile Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI)] iv. Directorate of Publications Division (DPD) v. New Media Wing (NMW) vi. Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC) vii. Central Board of Films Certification (CBFC)	i. Press Council of India (PCI) ii. Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India)	i. Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) ii. Film and Television Institute of India, Pune (FTII) iii. Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata (SRFTI)	i. Broadcasting Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL) ii. National Films Development Corporation (NFDC) <sup>#</sup>
# 4 Film Media Units viz. Films Division (FD), National Film Archive of India (NFAI), Directorate of Films Festivals (DFF), Children Films Society of India (CFSI) merged into NFDC from 1.01.2023. * The erstwhile Bureau of Outreach and Communication (BOC) has been renamed as Central Bureau of Communication (CBC)* from 2022.			

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

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

Periodicals Act, 2023, and the Press Council Act, 1978.	Stations in rural and remote areas.	
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6. The expenditure of the Ministry is categorized under the following three categories:-

a.	<b>Establishment Expenditure of the Centre</b> – It includes establishment expenditure of Main Secretariat and attached/sub-ordinate offices of the Ministry;
b.	<b>Central Sector Schemes</b> - It includes scheme expenditure of four (04) Central Sector Schemes viz. (i) Development Communication & Information Dissemination (DCID), (ii) Development, Communication & Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC), (iii) Supporting Community Radio Movement in India, and (iv) Broadcasting Infrastructure & Network Development (BIND); and
c.	Other Central Expenditure, including those on Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and Autonomous Bodies {It includes Grants-in-Aid to five Autonomous Bodies of this Ministry, viz., Film and Television Institute of India (FTII); Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI); Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC); Press Council of India (PCI), Prasar Bharati (PB) and National Film Development Corporation - a central PSU}.  * <b>Note:-</b> Contribution to Payment of Annual Membership Subscription to Association of Moving Images Archivists (AMIA)& National Film Archive of India (NFAI)– These activities have now been merged within the Budgetary allocation of National Film Development Corporation from FY 2024-25.

7. The budget of the Ministry is further allocated to three sectors, viz. Film Sector, Information Sector and Broadcasting Sector (including Prasar Bharati). An overview of the aforesaid three categories, under three wings/sectors of the Ministry, is as under:-

	FILM SECTOR	INFORMATION SECTOR	BROADCASTING SECTOR (Other than Prasar Bharati)	BROADCASTING SECTOR (Prasar Bharati)
<b>Establishment Expenditure of the Centre</b>	i. Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC); ii. Payment of Annual Membership Subscription to Association of Moving Images (AMIA); and * iii. Contribution to membership of International Archive Organizations. * iv. National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)  * As per the decision of the Union Government, AMIA and contribution to International Archive Organizations have been merged with National Film Development Corporation w.e.f. FY 2024-25).	The provision under this Sector covers Establishment Expenditure of Main Secretariat of the Ministry and Media Units of Information Wing of the Ministry, viz.: i. Secretariat Expenditure; ii. New Media Wing (NMW); iii. Press Information Bureau (PIB); iv. Bureau of Outreach and Communication (BOC) (New name: Central Bureau of Communication); v. Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) (New name: Press Registrar General of India); vi. Publications Division (DPD)- Also includes provision for Employment	The provision under this Sector covers Establishment Expenditure of: i. Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC); ii. Private FM Radio Station; and ** ii. Payment of Annual Membership Subscription to Asia Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD).  i. **(Allocation in r/o of Private FM Radio Station has been made under Main Secretariat	

		vii. News from FY 2022-23; Contribution to International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC).	w.e.f. FY 2024-25)	
<b>Central Sector Schemes</b>	Development, Communication and Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC). The Scheme National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM) and Champion Services Sector Schemes (CSSS) have also been merged with the DCDFC Scheme from FY 2020-21 and 2022-23 respectively.	Under Central Sector Schemes the provisions cover the scheme 'Development and Communication Information Dissemination'. (DCID)	Under Central Sector Schemes the provisions cover the scheme 'Supporting Community Radio Movement in India'. (CRS)	The provisions under this Sector cover expenditure on Central Sector Scheme namely, Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND)
<b>Other Central Expenditure, including those on Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and Autonomous Bodies</b>	Other Central Expenditure of Autonomous Bodies under Films Wing covered in these provisions is as under: i. Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune; and ii. Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute (SRFTI), Kolkata. iii. National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)  National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) for Animation, Visual Effects (VFX), Gaming, Comics and Extended Reality( AVGC-XR)- Cabinet has approved setting up of NCoE with one time budgetary grant of ₹ 391.15 crore as Section 8 company under the Companies Act, 2013 with the sharing pattern of Government (48%), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (26%) and Confederation of Indian Industry (26%).	The provision under this Sector covers Other Central Expenditure of Autonomous Bodies of Information Wing of the Ministry, viz.  i. Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC); and ii. Press Council of India (PCI).		Salary and Salary related expenditure of Prasar Bharati

## **II. IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE CONTAINED IN THE THIRD REPORT ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2024-25)**

8. The Third Report of the Committee (2024-25) on the 'Demands for Grants' (2024-25) relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting was presented to the Lok Sabha/laid in the Rajya Sabha on 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2024. The Action Taken by the Government on the Third Report will be due by 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2025.

## **III. BUDGET OVERVIEW AND DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2025-26)**

9. Demand No. 61 was laid on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 in Parliament. It covers the expenditure of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) and their attached/sub-ordinate offices and autonomous/grantee bodies, including Prasar Bharati. The Budgetary allocations at Budget Estimate and Revised Estimate stage alongwith the Actual Expenditure (hereinafter referred to as BE, RE and AE) for MIB for last four

Financial years (FY) viz. 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 along with the allocations made for the FY 2025-26 at BE stage, are as under:-

(Rs. in Crore)				
Year	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. RE
2021-22	4071.23	3764.69	3728.99	99.05
2022-23	3980.77	4182.00	4024.13	96.23
2023-24	4692.00	4449.76	4314.24	96.95
2024-25	4342.55	4626.71	3382.99*	73.12
2025-26	4358.38	-	-	-
(*) - Actual Expenditure up to 30.01.2025)				

10. For the FY 2025-26, even though the Ministry had proposed Rs. 5588.01 crore, the allocation made is Rs. 4358.38 crore only. Details of the proposed and allocated amount, for the three categories of the Ministry, for the FY 2025-26, are as under:-

(Rs. in Crore)		
Categories	Proposed amount for 2025-26	Allocated amount for 2025-26 at BE stage
Establishment Expenditure of the Centre	897.87	582.50
Central Sector Schemes	1917.49	1118.49
Other Central Expenditure, including those on Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and Autonomous Bodies	2772.65	2657.39
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5588.01</b>	<b>4358.38</b>

11. Details of the budgetary allocations and actual expenditure (BE, RE & AE), under the aforesaid three categories during last four financial years and the BE allocations for the FY 2025-26, are as under:-

Year	(Rs. in Crore)															
	Establishment expenditure of the centre				Central sector schemes				Other central expenditure, INCLUDING those on central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) and autonomous bodies				TOTAL			
	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. RE	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. RE	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. RE	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. RE
2021-22	563.77	530.47	499.88	94.23	632.05	450.00	452.66	100.59	2875.41	2784.22	2776.45	99.72	4071.23	3764.69	3728.99	99.05
2022-23	582.87	584.84	569.41	97.36	630.00	639.00	569.67	89.15	2767.90	2958.16	2885.05	97.53	3980.77	4182.00	4024.13	96.23
2023-24*	535.50	551.00	524.45	95.18	1105.00	1027.28	1037.02	100.95	3051.50	2871.48	2752.77	95.87	4692.00	4449.76	4314.24	96.95
2024-25**	566.41	564.82	446.56	79.06	1004.31	984.21	507.27	51.54	2771.83	3077.68	2429.16	78.93	4342.55	4626.71	3382.99	73.12
2025-26	582.50	-	-	-	1118.49	-	-	-	2657.39	-	-	-	4358.38	-	-	-
(*) AE 2021-22 and AE 2023-24, in respect of Central Sector Schemes, is more than RE 2021-22 and RE 2023-24, on account of enhancement of allocation at Final Estimates stage at ₹ 476.35 crore and ₹ 1084.51 crore respectively.																
(**) Actual Expenditure as on 30.01.2025																

12. When the Ministry was asked as to what it intended to do as the sum proposed at BE stage had not been allocated, the Ministry replied as under:-

“Ministry had proposed ₹5588.01 crore for BE 2025-26. Against this proposed amount, ₹4358.38 crore has been allocated at BE 2025-26 to M/o Information

& Broadcasting. Depending upon expenditure, there is recourse to seek additional funds for mandated activities from M/o Finance at the stage of Supplementary Grants or the Revised Estimates stage. Therefore, if any requirement arises, Ministry may request for funds at the stage of Supplementary Grants or at Revised Estimates stage 2025-26”.

13. During the FY 2024-25, the BE and RE allocations for ‘Establishment Expenditure of the Centre’ were Rs. 566.41 crore and Rs. 564.82 crore respectively. The actual expenditure (till 30.01.2025) was Rs. 446.56 crore which is 79.06 % of RE allocations. For ‘Central Sector Schemes,’ the BE and RE for the FY 2024-25 were Rs. 1004.31 crore and Rs. 984.21 crore respectively, whereas the actual expenditure (till 30.01.2025), was Rs. 507.27 crore which is 51.54 % of RE allocations. The allocations for FY year 2025-26 for the above two categories are Rs. 582.50 crore and Rs. 1118.49 crore respectively.

14. When asked about the difference in BE allocations and utilisation of funds made for ‘Other Central Expenditure’ during the FYs 2024-25 and 2025-26, the representative of the Ministry, during evidence submitted as under:-

“Regarding the Other Central Expenditure which had been increased to RE of Rs. 3,077 crore from BE of Rs. 2,771 crore. There is a reduction also in the BE of Rs. 2,657 crore of 2025-26. The expenditure is, to some extent, attributable to the lower requirement for pension in Prasar Bharati because there are a number of retirements. xxxx....xxxx....xxxx....The Other Central Expenditure, as was pointed out, has gone down to Rs. 2,657 crore because of the outgo on salaries given to Prasar Bharati and they are all Central Government employees who are on deemed deputation to Prasar Bharati. As years go along, many of them are retiring and the outgo on their salary component is going down. So, this is the explanation for this reduction on account of Prasar Bharati.”.

15. Further with respect to increased RE allocations under ‘Other Central Expenditure’ during the FY 2024-25, the representative of the Ministry, during evidence submitted as under:-

“आपका ऑब्जर्वेशन बिल्कुल सही है। इसका एक्सप्लेनेशन यह है किजो 3,077 करोड़ रुपये हुआ था, तो इस बार इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ क्रिएटिव टेक्नोलॉजीज की स्थापना हुई है। उसका लगभग 390 करोड़ रुपये इसमें ऐड हुआ है। उसका एक वन टाइम आउटगो है। जैसा आपने अपने ओपनिंग रिमार्क्स में बताया है कि 52 परसेंट ओल्ड बाई सी आई आई और फिक्की है और 48 परसेंट इक्विटी में भारत सरकार के द्वारा समर्थन दिया जा रहा है नेशनल सेंटर ऑफ ऐक्सीलेंस कंपनी की स्थापना हो गई है, जिसका नाम इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ क्रिएटिव टेक्नोलॉजीज दिया गया है। उसका 390 करोड़ रुपये का आवंटन हुआ। अगर 2,771 में यह ऐड किया जाए तो उससे यह राशि बन जाती है। आने वाले वर्षों में सिग्नीफिकेंटली उसी प्रपोज़न में भारत सरकार का प्रसार भारती की तरफ आ उटगो कम होता जा रहा है। यह 390 करोड़ रुपये ऐड हुआ है, उसकी वजह से यह फिगर ज्यादा दिख रही है। Otherwise, it is in line with what is being proposed for next year”.

16. Regarding the status of utilization of funds during the FY 2024-25, the Ministry informed that 73.12% of its allocated RE allocations have been utilized upto 30.01.2025 and it was expected that funds will be fully utilized upto end of this Financial Year. Adding on the overall expenditure trend, the representative of the Ministry submitted the following during evidence:-

“The expenditure trend, as you have pointed out in the last four years, has ranged from 96 per cent to about 99 per cent in FY 2021-22. This year, that is, 2024-25, the utilization is about 73 percent, and we have another one and a half months left. The Ministry is making efforts to optimally utilize the remaining expenditure within the current Financial Year”.

17. During the FY 2024-25, though 73.12% of RE allocations were utilized upto 30.01.2025, yet it was found that there were a few shortcomings in the physical targets (Upto 3rd Quarter). When asked to furnish reasons for the same, the Ministry replied as under:-

<b>Prasar Bharati</b>					
<b>Schemes</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Achievement</b>	<b>Remark</b>
<b>Prasar Bharati – Broadcast Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND) (CS)</b>	Continuing projects of three-year BIND scheme (2017-20) remaining to be completed	Total number of FM Transmitters to be installed	7	1	Targetted for Quarter 4
	Strengthening of Border Area Coverage under continuing projects	Total Number of 5KW Mobile FM transmitters to be installed at J&K and LOC Border	5	0	Targetted for Quarter 4
	Expansion of reach of public service including in strategic/ area of National interest	Expansion of FM services in a year	26	0	Targetted for Quarter 4
	Digitization Modernization and expansion of Broadcast Infrastructure.	Number of new production set-up to be upgraded/added (including Studios, News Units & OB Vans)	16	0	Targetted for Quarter 4
		Number of Satellite Uplink Stations to be upgraded/added (including Earth Stations, DSNG Units & DTH Earth Stations)	14	0	Targetted for Quarter 4
		Number of existing Production/ Transmission Centers to be	11	0	Targetted for Quarter 4

		upgraded/ migrated to HD			
		Number of DTH Set Top Boxes(STBs) to be procured for Remote, Tribal and LWE areas (in Lakh)	7.5	0	Targetted for Quarter 4

Films					
Schemes	Outputs	Indicators	Targets	Achievements	Reasons/Remarks
<b>Development Communication and Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC) (CS)</b>	Conservation of Film reels	Number of Film reels to be covered under preventive conservation (including feature films/short films) Under category B and C	4066	6775	In this indicator, target of 4066 reels were envisaged under preventive conservation. Though the target is achieved in this category, but each reel takes requisite time to preserve completely which is also a time-consuming process.
	Digitization of films	Number of Regional(excluding Hindi) films(Features and Shorts) to be covered under Digitization in the Financial year	418	210	Since April 2024 till date, NFDC-NFAI has digitized more than 1350 films. Apart from other languages, maximum films are Hindi, English, music, and Silent films. Hence, there is shortfall in other regional language film digitization.
	Production of films and documentaries in various Indian languages	Number of Documentary, Feature films and children films and Co-production with other countries to be produced in the financial year.	49	20	Based on the applications received, and after thorough scrutiny and evaluation, the final shortlist meeting required parameters, number of films reduced from the initially projected target.

CRS					
Schemes	Outputs	Indicators	Targets	Achievement	Reasons/Remarks
<b>Supporting Community Radio Movement in India (CS)</b>	Organizing Community Radio awareness programmes	Number of Community Radio Awareness works shops	5	4	The allocation of RE under grant-in-aid was received in the last week of January 2025. The maximum expenditure are likely to be made under this head. The efforts will be made to fully utilize the expenditure by the end of March 2025.
		Number of capacity building programmes and Sammelans for Community Radios	4	1	
	Operational Community Radio Stations in the country	Number of Community Radio to start its operations	75	26	
		Number of Community Radio participation	200	120	

18. When asked for the details of Schemes that had maximum and minimum progress from FYs 2020-21 to 2024-25, the Ministry replied as under:-

Year	Scheme with minimum progress	% utilization of scheme with minimum progress (w.r.t RE)	Scheme with maximum progress	% utilization of scheme with maximum progress (w.r.t RE)
<b>2020-21</b>	1.Development Communication & Dissemination of Filmic Content	80.99%	Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development (PrasarBharati)	101.47%
	2. Champion Services Sector Scheme	0%		
<b>2021-22</b>	Supporting Community Radio Movement in India	76.80%	DCID	112.35%
<b>2022-23</b>	Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development (PrasarBharati)	50.77%	DCID	146.86%
<b>2023-24</b>	Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development (PrasarBharati)	72.71%	DCID	176.16%
<b>2024-25</b> Based on actual expenditure as on 30.01.2025	Supporting Community Radio Movement in India	26.02%	DCID	71.45%

19. On being asked the reasons for minimum progress from FYs 2020-21 to 2024-25, the Ministry submitted as under:-

- Due to cancellation of few tenders on administrative and technical grounds.
- With regard to 'Development Communication & Dissemination of Filmic Content' scheme during 2019-20, the actual expenditure was lower than the expenditure estimated for 50th edition of International Film Festival of India.

- c) With regard to DCDFC Scheme during 2020-21, major film festivals like Cannes Film Festival, Toronto International Film Festival were held in virtual/hybrid mode due to outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic. International Film Festival of India was organized in Goa in hybrid mode in the second half of the January, 2021.
- d) The Government of India approved the proposal of Department of Commerce on 28.02.2018 to develop Audio Visual Services and Media and Entertainment Sector as Champion Services Sector Scheme (CSSS). The draft SFC proposal for Champion Services Sector Scheme (CSSS) was circulated by this Ministry on 17.09.2020, seeking the comments of NITI Aayog and D/o Expenditure. NITI Aayog supported the SFC proposal of this Ministry. However, D/o Expenditure did not initially support the SFC proposal stating that “ No new proposal for a scheme/sub-scheme, whether under delegated powers to Administrative Ministry including SFC proposal should be initiated this year (FY 2020-21)”. The scheme received in-principle approval from Department of Expenditure on 20.11.2020. Thereafter, note was placed before Standing Finance Committee for their concurrence and approval of the Scheme. Due to these reasons implementation could not be taken up during 2020-21.
- e) Procedural delay in ordering of equipment or not supplying of equipment by supplier as per delivery schedule (Prasar Bharati).
- f) Delay in the erection of FM Tower at various sites under FM Expansion.
- g) Under the Scheme “Supporting Community Radio movement in India” Various activities such as Community Radio Workshops, Capacity Building for existing Community Radios were carried out in an online mode, which resulted in savings. Further No demand for financial assistance was received from CRS hailing from North Eastern Region.

20. The reasons for the shortfalls in respect of the projects/ schemes/ sub-schemes/ programmes during the year 2024-25, as provided by the Ministry are as under:-

<p><b>DCDFC</b></p> <p>The World Audio-Visual &amp; Entertainment Summit (WAVES 2025) was originally scheduled to be held in the Financial Year 2024-25. It is a critical platform for global dialogue and exchange on topics such as broadcasting, digital media innovation, AVGC-XR (Audio-Visual Graphics &amp; Extended Reality), and films, with a focus on collaboration and exploring global opportunities in these rapidly evolving sectors. As the event is poised to be significantly larger than before, with expanded international participation and a notable increase in the number of 'Create in India' challenges from 25 to 31, with 22 of them featuring international involvement, it is now scheduled to be held during the Financial Year 2025-26.</p>
<p><b>BIND</b></p> <p>Some of the project tenders have been cancelled under BIND scheme.. Delays due to technical and administrative reasons have also led to shortfall in expenditure.</p>
<p><b>CRS</b></p> <p>Financial Assistance- Grant in Aid is a demand driven subsidy. In the current FY, so far no demand has been received for financial assistance in North East Region by any operational community radio station, which has resulted in less expenditure.</p>

21. On being asked about the initiatives taken for timely utilization of funds and achievement of physical targets during 2024-25 along with the plans for the year 2025-26, the Ministry replied as under:-

Initiatives taken for timely utilization of funds as well as achievement of physical targets for 2024-25	Concrete outcome of the initiatives taken in 2024-25	Initiatives planned for timely utilization of funds for 2025-26	Initiatives planned for timely achievement of physical targets for 2025-26
<b>Films</b>			
Regular monitoring of physical and financial parameters by senior officers.	67.42% of BE and 59% of RE has been utilized till 03.02.2025	Proper processing of related expenditure and thorough monitoring of physical activities.	Regular meetings with the stakeholders, consistent monitoring and implementing the roadmap for utilization of the funds to achieve the physical targets.
<p><b>SRFTI:</b> Regular monitoring of physical and financial parameters by senior officers of the Institute.</p> <p>Regular follow up with UGC for Deemed University Status</p>	<p>Due to the initiatives taken, <b>86%</b> of the project has been completed at FTI, Arunachal Pradesh.</p> <p>Online classes of three PG courses have been started at newly constructed FTI, Arunachal Pradesh</p> <p>Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education has issued Letter of Intent to SRFTI on 28.08.2024 wherein they have mentioned conditions for fulfillment before awarding Deemed</p>	<p>Completion of construction of FTI, Arunachal Pradesh.</p> <p>Approval of creation of 84 posts in FTI, Arunachal Pradesh</p>	<p>Grant of Deemed University status by UGC</p> <p>Starting of physical classes of three PG courses at FTI, Arunachal Pradesh.</p>

	University Status.		
<b>FTII:</b> Fast tracking of construction of New Auditorium - Rs. 28 crore approx.  Regular follow up with UGC for Deemed University Status	Completion of New Auditorium  Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education has issued Letter of Intent to FTII on 28.08.2024 wherein they have mentioned conditions for fulfillment before awarding Deemed University Status.	Start of work for two Indoor Studios.	Grant of Deemed University status by UGC  Increasing short courses under Centre for Open Learning
<b>CRS</b>			
a) Timely disposal of proposals received for financial assistance b) Enhanced monitoring mechanism.	a) No. of grants have increased.	a) Develop effective coordination with the concerned departments.  b) Enhanced awareness about the scheme.	a) Develop effective coordination with the concerned departments.  b) Enhanced awareness about the scheme.
<b>BIND</b>			
Initiatives planned for timely utilization of funds and physical targets are as follows - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring mechanism has been strengthened considerably.</li> <li>Procurement procedures have been streamlined. Project review meetings are held regularly at Zonal level &amp; HQ level and various activities involved in procurement of capital equipment and execution of works are critically assessed &amp; targets are fixed.</li> <li>The frequency of monitoring meetings has been increased at all levels of Directorate &amp; Prasar Bharati Sectt.</li> <li>Use of digital platform viz e-office, e-tendering, procurement through GEM, Video conference is also being utilized.</li> <li>An apex committee has been constituted by Prasar Bharati Secretariat to monitor the progress of scheme.</li> </ul>			

22. Submitting the steps taken to improve the financial management of the Ministry and to increase transparency and accountability in its operations the Ministry has stated as under:-

“The Ministry actively monitors the progress of various schemes and fund utilization thereon. In addition, the Ministry keeps regular track of the Treasury

Single Account (TSA) balance through the PFMS portal. Further, Ministry keeps track of the physical and financial targets through Output Outcome Monitoring Framework of different schemes”.

23. Regarding the measures envisaged for effective utilization of the budgetary allocation during the year 2025-26, the Ministry replied as under:-

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

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

In respect of Community Radio Stations, awareness workshops would be organized to increase number of CRS and policy benefits. Timely disposal of proposals received for financial assistance would be ensured.

Regarding utilization of fund allocated under BIND specifically for States of North-East Region, regular review meetings are being held to monitor the physical and financial progress.

It is the constant endeavour of Prasar Bharati to complete the projects within the specified time frame. Monitoring mechanism has been strengthened considerably. Procurement procedures have been streamlined. Project review meetings are held regularly at Zonal level & HQ level and various activities involved in procurement of capital equipment and execution of works are critically assessed & targets are fixed. The frequency of monitoring meetings has been increased at all levels of Directorate & Prasar Bharati Sectt. Use of digital platform viz e-office, e-tendering, procurement through GEM, Video conference is also being utilized. In addition to above, an APEX committee has been constituted by Prasar Bharati Secretariat to monitor the progress of scheme. To strengthen programme manpower in Programme Wing, process for hiring manpower in various categories on contract basis is going on”.

24. When asked for the details of announcements w.r.t. new Schemes/Programmes in the Union Budget 2025-26, if any, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, categorically replied :-

“There are no specific announcements in Union Budget 2025-26 for M/o Information and Broadcasting”.

25. On being asked about the details of the new Schemes and Programs to be initiated during 2025-26, the Ministry replied as under:-

“World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) would be held from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 to 4<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

FTII has started construction work for two new studios with budgetary provision of Rs. 60 crores approx. The objective of the program is to develop two state of the art film studios with latest technologies as per the demand of the industry and to meet the requirement of Academic Institute”.

#### **IV. INTERNAL AND EXTRA BUDGETARY RESOURCES (IEBR) - REVENUE GENERATED AND UTILIZED**

26. The details regarding IEBR of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) for the year 2023-24 to 2025-26 are as under:-

					Rs. in crore
Description	BE 2023-24	RE 2023-24	BE 2024-25	RE 2024-25	BE 2025-26
<b>(A) Autonomous Bodies</b>	<b>1492.44</b>	<b>1717.45</b>	<b>2017.97</b>	<b>1575.14</b>	<b>2225.92</b>
CFSI	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-
FTII	5.70	5.70	6.25	6.25	6.50
SRFTI	4.31	3.89	3.97	3.90	4.10
IIMC	5.50	5.50	6.00	8.50	8.50
PCI	1.93	2.36	1.75	2.15	1.82
Prasar Bharti	1475.00	1700.00	2000.00	1554.34	2205.00
<b>(B) Public Sector Enterprises</b>	<b>356.24</b>	<b>22.48</b>	<b>9.28</b>	<b>6.70</b>	<b>14.50</b>
NFDC	159.90	22.48	9.28	6.70	14.50
BECIL	196.34	-	-	-	-
<b>Total (A) + (B)</b>	<b>1848.68</b>	<b>1739.93</b>	<b>2027.25</b>	<b>1581.84</b>	<b>2240.42</b>

27. The Revenue projection of Prasar Bharati for the FY 2025-26 is Rs. 2205.00 crore which is based on the income sources like Commercial, Platforms (PB Resources and DTH), Digital Operations, Miscellaneous Income and interest on term deposits. The following table indicates the Gross Revenue Projections, net revenue earned and Utilization of IEBR in respect of Prasar Bharati during the last five years:

			Rs. in crore
Financial Year	Revenue projection	Net Revenue earned	IEBR Expenditure (Net)
<b>2020-21</b>	1410.00	1298.90	1074.25
<b>2021-22</b>	1314.00	1417.10	1202.56
<b>2022-23</b>	1380.00	1380.23	1175.28
<b>2023-24</b>	1700.00	1996.56 <sup>#</sup>	1356.89
<b>2024-25</b>	2205.00	1216.81 <sup>*</sup>	991.59
(*) Upto November 2024			
# Provisional			

28. When asked for reasons for reduced expenditure of IEBR for last five years, the Ministry has remained silent.

29. Responding to a query about the level of self sufficiency achieved by Prasar Bharati with GBS allocation and IEBR raised during the FYs 2023-24 and 2024-25, the Ministry stated as under:-

“Prasar Bharati is meeting its operational expenses from its IEBR and has some surplus also. The revenue generated upto July 2024 is Rs 650.66 crore whereas Net operational expenses are Rs 316.53 crore. Further, Prasar Bharati is carrying various activities under Public Service broadcasting whose combined estimated cost that includes direct and opportunity cost. Broadly,

Public Service Broadcasting includes non-monetisable broadcast, pro-bono content sharing/syndication, pro-bono carriage & distribution, unviable Public Services channels/services, pro-bono campaigns, non-commercial terrestrial broadcasting TV, non commercial terrestrial broadcasting radio (only MW & SW + non commercial FM relay) etc”.

30. On being asked about the status of utilization of excess of IEBR generated during 2023-24, the Ministry replied as under:-

“Yes, Prasar Bharati generated excess revenue of approx. Rs.640.00 crore during the year 2023-24 over its operational expenditure. The same is being utilized in the current financial year for improving the content of Akashvani and Doordarshan and launch of OTT”.

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

“No study has so far been conducted to assess the assets under Doordarshan Kendras in India. Prasar Bharati Board has approved a draft monetization plan including feasibility study of Prasar Bharati land assets (both Akashvani & Doordarshan).

32. With respect to steps being taken to gainfully utilize idle assets for revenue generation, the Ministry provided the following draft monetization plan:-

- “1. Prasar Bharati will monetize land assets on PPP model without alienating the land.
2. The revenue generated will be used by Prasar Bharati making itself sustainable”.

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

33. According to the Ministry, Rationalization of Central Sector Schemes of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has been undertaken in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedure directed by Department of Expenditure in FY 2020-2021. At present Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has Four Central Sector Schemes with following objectives:-

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Central Sector Schemes</b>	<b>Objectives</b>
i.	Development Communication & Information Dissemination (DCID)  <b><u>(Information Sector)</u></b>	The scheme Development Communication Information Dissemination is an umbrella scheme which is targeted towards meeting the requirements of publicity for various Government Schemes. The scheme undertakes a multipronged publicity campaign with a synergetic approach to augment various programmes of the Government and their intended benefits to the people of the country. The primary objective of the scheme is to generate awareness that will enable targeted beneficiary

		to avail the benefits of developmental schemes of the Government, to elicit enhanced participation of the people in the process of development and governance, to ensure the upkeep of a healthy and clean environment for sustainable and green growth and to enable better public compliance. The scheme at the National level is implemented by Central Bureau of Communication, Press Information Bureau and New Media Wing.
ii.	Development, Communication & Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC) Scheme  <b><u>(Film Sector)</u></b>	The scheme Development, Communication and Dissemination of Filmic Content was launched to promote and preserve quality Indian cinemas by means of hosting film festivals, producing new films documentaries, collecting and maintaining film archives and adopting antipiracy initiatives. The scheme aims to synergize activities of various media units in participation with and organization of international film festivals in India and abroad for showcasing Indian cinema to a large and versatile audience. It wishes to facilitate production, distribution and marketing of all genres of Indian Cinemas, including films in regional languages. It also works to promote and build institutions that play a part towards conservation and preservation of the filmic heritage of India and to initiate steps to prevent unlawful use of filmic content. The scheme, by promoting Indian cinema at national and international level brings recognition to Indian cinema which further encourages filmmakers and artists to create the filmic masterpieces with cultural, regional and national values.
iii.	Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND) (Broadcasting Sector)  Prasar Bharati's Scheme:	The scheme Broadcast Infrastructure Network Development consists of a wide range of initiatives taken up by Prasar Bharati to cover the national television-based broadcaster, Doordarshan and radio-based broadcaster All India Radio. The scheme aims to improve physical infrastructure of both, Doordarshan and All India Radio to incorporate latest state-of-the-art technology as well as ensure universal and public access to their offerings. The objective of the scheme is to expand the networks and upgrade quality of programmes and transmission on both mediums through a list of interventions decided upon within the scheme. This will bring listeners and viewers a better and enhanced experience, purposefully in border and LWE affected areas of the country. Overall, the scheme supports the augmentation of physical infrastructure that allows both Doordarshan and All India Radio to keep up with latest state-of-the-art technology, while ensuring universal and public access to their offerings.
iv.	Supporting Community Radio	Community Radio stations play a significant role in empowering communities by means of dissemination of

Movement in India (Broadcasting Sector)	crucial information, particularly to rural and remote communities. The scheme aims to strengthen new and existing CRSs with resources, capacity and technology in order to upgrade the standard of the stations and increase reach and visibility to the interior regions of India. This would help promote growth of CRS in remote and rural areas thereby aiding socioeconomic and cultural development of communities by using CRS as a powerful medium of social mobilization. The scheme therefore aims to revitalize new and existing CRSs by providing required funds for resources, capacity and technology thereby increasing effectiveness of operational community radio stations.
Main Sectt. Schemes:	

34. Overall budgetary allocation and utilization (BE, RE and AE) under Central Sector Schemes for the years 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 and BE for the year 2025-26 are as under:-

<b>CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEME</b> (Rs. In crore)					
Year	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. BE	% w.r.t. RE
2020-21	740.00	346.73	333.34	45.05	96.14
2021-22*	632.05	450.00	452.66	71.62	100.59
2022-23	630.00	639.00	569.67	90.42	89.15
2023-24 <sup>#</sup>	1105.00	1027.28	1037.02	93.85	100.95
2024-25	1004.31	984.21	507.27 <sup>@</sup>	50.51	51.54
2025-26	1118.49				
(*) The total Allocation for schemes was enhanced to ₹ 476.35 cr in Final Estimates					
(#) The total Allocation for schemes was enhanced to ₹ 1084.51cr in Final Estimates					
@Actual expenditure as on 30.01.2025					

35. Detailed budgetary allocation and utilization under each Central Sector Scheme for the last five years are as under:-

<b>INFORMATION SECTOR</b> (Rs. in crore)					
<b>Development Communication &amp; Information Dissemination (DCID)</b>					
Year	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. BE	% w.r.t. RE
2020-21	220.00	103.40	100.39	45.63	97.09
2021-22*	188.00	188.00	211.21	112.34	112.34
2022-23**	184.00	194.00	284.90	154.84	146.86
2023-24 <sup>#</sup>	200.00	197.28	347.52	173.76	176.16
2024-25	149.31	169.48	121.10 <sup>@</sup>	81.11	71.45
2025-26	238.09	-	-	-	-
(*) The Allocation under DCID scheme was enhanced to ₹ 214.35 cr in Final Estimates					
(**) The Allocation under DCID scheme was enhanced to ₹298.04 cr in Final Estimates					
(#) The Allocation under DCID scheme was enhanced to ₹ 353.52cr in Final Estimates					
@Actual expenditure as on 30.01.2025					
<b>FILM SECTOR</b>					
<b>Development Communication &amp; Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC)</b>					
Year	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. BE	% w.r.t. RE
2020-21	115.50	63.51	54.52	47.20	85.84
2021-22	122.62	84.50	77.85	63.49	92.13

<b>2022-23</b>	127.16	127.00	122.86	96.62	96.74
<b>2023-24</b>	300.00	350.00	339.88	113.29	97.11
<b>2024-25</b>	350.00	400	236.01 <sup>@</sup>	67.43	59.00
<b>2025-26</b>	363.00	-	-	-	-
<i>@Actual expenditure as on 30.01.2025</i>					
<b>BROADCASTING SECTOR</b>					
<b>Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND of Prasar Bharati)</b>					
<b>Year</b>	<b>BE</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>AE</b>	<b>% w.r.t. BE</b>	<b>% w.r.t. RE</b>
<b>2020-21#</b>	370.00	173.90	176.46	47.69	101.47
<b>2021-22</b>	316.00	175.00	161.68	51.16	92.39
<b>2022-23</b>	315.00	315.00	159.91	50.77	50.77
<b>2023-24</b>	600.00	475.00	345.38	57.56	72.71
<b>2024-25</b>	500.00	400	146.33 <sup>@</sup>	29.27	36.58
<b>2025-26</b>	500	-	-	-	-
(#) The allocation under this scheme was enhanced to R 182.03 Cr in Final Estimates 2020-21 <i>@Actual expenditure as on 30.01.2025</i>					
<b>Supporting Community Radio Movement in India (SCR)</b>					
<b>Year</b>	<b>BE</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>AE</b>	<b>% w.r.t. BE</b>	<b>% w.r.t. RE</b>
<b>2020-21</b>	4.50	2.12	1.97	43.78	92.92
<b>2021-22</b>	3.84	2.50	1.92	50.00	76.80
<b>2022-23</b>	3.84	3.00	2.00	52.08	66.66
<b>2023-24</b>	5.00	5.00	4.24	84.80	84.80
<b>2024-25</b>	5.00	14.73	3.83 <sup>@</sup>	76.60	26.02
<b>2025-26</b>	17.40	-	-	-	-
<i>@Actual expenditure as on 30.01.2025</i>					

36. Regarding utilization of funds allocated under Central Sector Schemes during 2024-25, the Ministry replied as under:-

“Ministry has utilized 51.54% of its allocated RE 2024-25 upto 30.01.2025. It is expected that funds will be optimally utilized upto end of this Financial Year”.

37. The reasons provided by the Ministry for less expenditure of funds/slow progress under Central Sector Schemes during 2024-25 are as under:-

**BIND**

- Up-gradation of Earth station at DTH Pitampura (C Band)- SITC of equipment's (Compression and monitoring System equipment etc.):** Envisaged to float single tender for complete earth station chain including Input & Base-band; Compression & Monitoring and RF chain)
- Balance work for completion of TV tower at Amritsar, shifting of Transmitter and other associated works:** Due to some administrative reasons work halted. Appropriate measure is being taken up by the Zonal Office in consultation with DG:DD and PBS.
- Setting up of Geo Diversity Centre for DD DTH platform similar to main site capacity:** Site for project handed over for customization work of existing Building. Specification drafting in respect of project is under process.
- Expansion of DD Free Dish Platform by SITC of Additional two streams with RF System at Earth Station Todapur Delhi:** NIT issued earlier-on in regard to C band DTH Pitampura project cancelled and further the project envisaged for current year to float single tender for complete C band earth station chain system for DTH Pitampura along with (1+1) HPA system for DDK New Delhi

**DCDFC**

The World Audio-Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES 2025) was originally scheduled to be held in the Financial Year 2024-25. It is a critical platform for global dialogue and exchange on topics such as broadcasting, digital media innovation, AVGC-XR (Audio-Visual Graphics & Extended Reality), and films, with a focus on collaboration and exploring global opportunities in these rapidly evolving sectors. As the event is poised to be significantly larger than before, with expanded international participation and a notable increase in the number of Create in India challenges from 25 to 31, with 22 of them featuring international involvement, it is now scheduled to be held during the Financial Year 2025-26.

**CRS**

Financial Assistance- Grant in Aid is a demand driven subsidy. In the current FY, so far no demand has been received for financial assistance in North East region by any operational community radio station, which has resulted in less expenditure.

38. The fund utilized during the year 2023-24 was Rs.1037.02 crore and during the year 2024-25 it was around Rs. 507.27 crore (till 30.01.2025). The Ministry was asked to provide reasons for proposing Rs. 1979.24 crore for the year 2025-26. To this, the Ministry replied as under:-

“The Ministry had proposed an amount of ₹ 1917.49cr in respect of Central Sector Schemes to M/o Finance during the pre-budget meeting which was held on 07.11.2024. However, the overall ceiling communicated by M/o Finance for BE 2025-26 is ₹ 1118.49cr (reduction of funds of ₹ 799.00 crore). Major aforesaid additional projections have been made under the following activities/Schemes.

(a) BIND Scheme (₹ 372.01 cr)- Most tenders were expected to materialize in FY 2025-26. However, after critical review, allocations were reduced.

(b) DCID Scheme (347.95 cr)- The existing EFC limits have been exhausted and, hence additional funds of ₹ 211 cr for DCID were sought through appraisal of Revised Cost Estimates (RCE)for the DCID Scheme. Moreover, a new component, namely Digital outreach for Bharat, has been projected, in order to leverage the dimensions and reach of digital media for messaging of the Government. At the time of the pre-budget meeting for finalizing RE 2024-25 ceiling for DCID Scheme, approval of Cabinet was not in place. Hence, M/o Finance could not agree for the additional RE requirement but assured to provide the same once cabinet approval was accorded. Subsequently, funds have been provided.

(c) DCDFC Scheme (₹ 72 cr)-

(i) The work under "Digitization of film Content at NFAI" will be in full swing and the expenditure will be enhanced;

(ii) For FFO, additional fund of ₹5 crore required for website updation and enhancement of the FFO portal, as this work is in 2<sup>nd</sup> phase;

(iii) Additional fund is also required for organizing of 55th IFFI as many new activities are proposed and also this year Ministry is celebrating birth centenary of many legends at IFFI and also for conducting World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES);

(iv) The revised incentive guidelines have been approved with an increase in capping for providing incentives to shooting of foreign films/coproduction films; and

(v) Funds of Rs. 20 crore have been allocated to Indian Missions for promotion of Indian Cinema.

(d) Supporting Community Radio Movement in India (₹ 6.70 cr) - for setting up of Community Radio Stations (CRSs) infrastructure and grant for content creation, as the number of CRSs has increased. Funds are also required for activities such as, Study for CRS, Regional Sammelans, CRS workshops & National Sammelans.

M/o Finance reviewed the progress and expenditure trend of DCDFC & Supporting Community Radio Movement in India scheme for the approved outlay period (from FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26) and kept the ceiling at ₹ 363.00 cr & ₹ 17.40 cr in respect of DCDFC & Supporting Community Radio Movement in India schemes as per the EFC approved outlay limit for FY 2025-26”.

39. Status of fund utilization allocated for each Central Sector Schemes during the year 2024-25 along with the reasons for under-utilisation are as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	The impact of the reduced allocation of fund, at RE stage during the year 2024-25, on the Central Sector Schemes	Reasons for under-utilization of funds on the Central Sector Schemes at BE stage during 2024-25, if any
(i)	<b>Development Communication &amp; Information Dissemination (DCID)</b>	No reduction in allocation of funds has been made at RE stage in FY 2024-25.	There is no underutilization of funds.
(ii)	<b>Development Communication &amp; Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC)</b>	Allocations were increased at RE stage.	There have been no challenges and there has been optimum utilization of funds.
(iii)	<b>Champion Service Sector</b>	The scheme has been merged with DCDFC from 2022-23 onwards	
(iv)	<b>Broadcasting Infrastructure Development (Prasar Bharati)</b>	Allocation has been decreased to Rs 400 Cr at RE stage.	<p>a) <b>Distribution of 1.2 Lakh DTH receive Set top boxes for LWE remote &amp; tribal areas of the country:</b> Financial Bids opened on 29.02.2024. Distribution of STBs through DBT scheme is being deliberated.</p> <p>b) <b>Up-gradation of Earth station at DTH Pitampura (C Band)- SITC of equipment's (Compression and monitoring System equipment etc.):</b> Envisaged to float single tender for complete earth station chain including Input &amp; Base-band; Compression &amp; Monitoring and RF chain)</p> <p>c) <b>Balance work for completion of TV</b></p>

			<p><b>tower at Amritsar, shifting of Transmitter and other associated works:</b> Due to some administrative reasons work halted. Appropriate measure is being taken up by the Zonal Office in consultation with DG:DD and PBS.</p> <p>d) <b>Setting up of Geo Diversity Centre for DD DTH platform similar to main site capacity:</b> Site for project handed over for customization work of existing Building. Specification drafting in respect of project is under process.</p> <p>e) <b>Expansion of DD Free Dish Platform by SITC of Additional two streams with RF System at Earth Station Todapur Delhi:</b> NIT issued earlier-on in regard to C band DTH Pitampura project cancelled and further the project envisaged for current year to float single tender for complete C band earth station chain system for DTH Pitampura along with (1+1) HPA system for DDK New Delhi.</p>
(v)	<b>Supporting Community Radio</b>	Allocations were increased at RE stage.	Not applicable.

40. When asked to enumerate the major challenges/hindrances witnessed under each Central Sector Scheme as well as the steps taken to overcome them, the Ministry replied as under:-

	<b>Major challenges/hindrances witnessed under the Scheme</b>	<b>Steps taken to overcome the challenges/hindrances encountered under the Scheme</b>	<b>Tangible Outcome of the measures taken to address the challenges/hindrances encountered under the Scheme</b>
<b>Champion Service Sector</b>	As the objectives of the Champion Services Sector Scheme (CSSS) for Audio Visual Services are closely related with the Development Communication and Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC) scheme of the Ministry, CSSS has been merged with DCDFC scheme from FY 2022-23 onwards.		
<b>Supporting Community Radio</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low awareness about the Community Radio Scheme amongst eligible applicants</li> <li>• Lack of financial resources with applicants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizing workshops in places where no community Radio exists</li> <li>• Increasing grant size For Operational Stations</li> <li>• Training and capacity building of CRSs.</li> </ul>	Increase in the number of Community Radio Stations (CRS) in the recent years. The number of stations has increased from 503 to 530 CRS in last Financial Year.
<b>Development Communication &amp;</b>	The World Audio-Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES 2025) was originally	Now, World Audio-visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES) is to	Not Applicable.

<b>Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC)</b>	scheduled to be held in the Financial Year 2024-25. It is a critical platform for global dialogue and exchange on topics such as broadcasting, digital media innovation, AVGC-XR (Audio-Visual Graphics & Extended Reality), and films, with a focus on collaboration and exploring global opportunities in these rapidly evolving sectors. As the event is poised to be significantly larger than before, with expanded international participation and a notable increase in the number of Create in India challenges from 25 to 31, with 22 of them featuring international involvement, it is now scheduled to be held during the Financial Year 2025-26.	be organized in FY 2025-26.	
<b>Broadcasting Infrastructure Development (Prasar Bharati)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most of the broadcast equipment are imported with no production in India. Make –in –India (MII) clause exemptions are to be taken for each project in regard to Broadcast Equipment. This procedure takes considerable time.</li> <li>• Man power shortage was also one of the reasons for the late completion of projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring mechanism has been strengthened considerably.</li> <li>• Procurement procedures have been streamlined. Project review meetings are held regularly at Zonal level &amp; HQ level and various activities involved in procurement of capital equipment and execution of works are critically assessed &amp; targets are fixed.</li> <li>• The frequency of monitoring meetings has been increased at all levels of Directorate &amp; Prasar Bharati Sectt.</li> <li>• Use of digital platform viz e-office, e-tendering, procurement through GEM, Video conference is also being utilized.</li> <li>• An apex committee has been constituted by Prasar Bharati Secretariat to monitor the progress of scheme.</li> </ul>	
<b>Development Communication &amp; Information Dissemination (DCID)</b>	No specific issues/ hindrances have been witnessed under the scheme.		

41. Regarding plans to improve the performance under each Scheme under Central Sector Schemes during the year 2025-26, the Ministry replied as under:-

Central Schemes	Sector	Plans to improve the performance under each Scheme/Media Units under Central Sector Schemes for the year 2025-26
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<b>Development Communication &amp; Information Dissemination (DCID)</b>	Based on the track record of achievements made under the DCID scheme during the previous year, the targets for 2025-26 have been enhanced. Various ongoing activities under the Scheme will also be continued during the FY 2025-26
<b>Development Communication &amp; Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC)</b>	<p>i) In order to make the implementation more effective and to improve plan expenditure, the various measures taken by the Ministry include periodic review, mid-term appraisal of all major schemes and regular monitoring of expenditure and implementation.</p> <p>ii) Quarterly/ Monthly performance review of the progress of physical and financial targets in respect of the schemes is held at the meetings of the Senior Officers of the Ministry chaired by Secretary (I&amp;B). The concerned Joint Secretary also regularly monitors the implementation of schemes under their charge. Various midcourse corrections are suggested to ensure full utilization of allocated resources.</p> <p>iii) World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) is to be held in 2025. In this regard, Create in India Challenge (CIC) Season-1 was launched by HMIB as a run-up to WAVES on 22.08.2024 at National Media Centre. Further, WAVES Bazaar has been launched on 27.01.2025. With its focus on growth, collaboration, and innovation, WAVES offers a unique opportunity for industries to capitalize on the dynamic M&amp;E landscape. India looks forward to collaborating with global business partners to achieve the objective of creating a sustainable and vibrant M&amp;E ecosystem.</p>
<b>Broadcasting Infrastructure Development (Prasar Bharati)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring mechanism has been strengthened considerably.</li> <li>Procurement procedures have been streamlined. Project review meetings are held regularly at Zonal level &amp; HQ level and various activities involved in procurement of capital equipment and execution of works are critically assessed &amp; targets are fixed.</li> <li>The frequency of monitoring meetings has been increased at all levels of Directorate &amp; Prasar Bharati Sectt.</li> <li>Use of digital platform viz e-office, e-tendering, procurement through GEM, Video conference is also being utilized.</li> <li>An apex committee has been constituted by Prasar Bharati Secretariat to monitor the progress of scheme.</li> </ul>
<b>Supporting Community Radio</b>	<p>a) Organising National Community Radio Sammelan</p> <p>b) Offering Internship and fellowship in Community Radio Stations.</p> <p>c) Organizing 5 community radio workshops in community radio dark areas</p> <p>d) Organizing 4 regional Sammelans</p> <p>e) Capacity building workshops through Indian institute of mass communication (IIMC).</p> <p>f) Study/ Survey for assessing reach and effectiveness for community radio Stations.</p> <p>g) Increase in amount of financial assistance</p>

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

42. The Broadcasting Sector is broadly categorised into two categories viz. 'Content' and 'Carriage' services. This Ministry regulates the content of private satellite channels and networks of Multi-System Operators (MSOs) and Local Cable Operators (LCO) through the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, and policy guidelines issued from time-to-time. Broadcasting carriage services include MSOs, LCOs, Direct-

to-Home (DTH) operators, Headend-In-The-Sky (HITS) operators and Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) service providers. This Ministry gives license/permission to DTH/HITS operators for their respective operations. Broadcasting sector has following two main constituents, i.e. Prasar Bharati and Main Secretariat.

<b>Prasar Bharati's Scheme:</b>	<b>Main Sectt. Schemes:</b>
Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development (BIND)	Supporting Community Radio Movement in India

43. The BE, RE and actual utilization for Prasar Bharati for the last five years and BE for the year 2025-26 are as under:-

<b>Broadcasting Sector – Prasar Bharati</b>					
<b>year</b>	<b>BE</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>AE</b>	<b>% w.r.t BE</b>	<b>% w.r.t RE</b>
<b>2020-21</b>	2889.36	2725.10	2494.97	86.35	91.56
<b>2021-22</b>	2640.11	2629.03	2629.03	99.58	100.00
<b>2022-23</b>	2555.29	2764.51	2710.82	106.09	98.06
<b>2023-24</b>	2808.36	2644.02	2554.41	90.96	96.61
<b>2024-25</b>	2509.94	2448.81	2252.91 @	89.76	92.00
<b>2025-26</b>	2379.70				
@Actual expenditure as on 30.01.2025					

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

44. The scheme Broadcast Infrastructure Network Development (BIND) consists of a wide range of initiatives taken up by Prasar Bharati to cover the national television-based broadcaster Doordarshan and radio-based broadcaster All India Radio. The scheme aims to improve physical infrastructure of both, Doordarshan and All India Radio to incorporate latest State-of-the-Art technology as well as ensure universal and public access to their offerings. The objective of the scheme is to expand the networks and upgrade quality of programmes and transmission on both mediums through a list of interventions decided upon within the scheme. This will bring listeners and viewers a better and enhanced experience, purposefully in border and LWE affected areas of the Country.

45. The budgetary allocation and utilization for Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development (Prasar Bharati) for last five years and BE for the year 2025-26 are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)					
<b>Broadcasting Infrastructure Development (Schemes of Prasar Bharati)</b>					
<b>Year</b>	<b>BE</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>AE</b>	<b>% w.r.t. BE</b>	<b>% w.r.t. RE</b>
<b>2020-21#</b>	370.00	173.90	176.46	47.69	101.47
<b>2021-22</b>	316.00	175.00	161.68	51.16	92.39
<b>2022-23</b>	315.00	315.00	159.91	50.77	50.77
<b>2023-24</b>	600.00	475.00	345.38	57.56	72.71
<b>2024-25</b>	500.00	400	146.33@	29.27	36.58
<b>2025-26</b>	500	-	-	-	-
(#) The allocation under this scheme was enhanced to Rs.182.03 Cr in Final Estimates 2020-21 @Actual expenditure as on 30.01.2025					

46. When asked for reasons for under-utilisation of funds under BIND Scheme, the Ministry replied as:-

“Most of the broadcast equipment are imported with no production in India. Make –in –India (MII) clause exemptions are to be taken for each project in regard to Broadcast Equipment. This procedure takes considerable time. Matter is being pursued in the Ministry on day-to-day basis. Further, during this duration, impact of Covid-19 pandemic on the projects/schemes/sub-schemes/programmes was felt. There has been some delay in supply of equipment due to global pandemic covid-19 situations and due to chip shortage. Man power shortage was also one of the reasons for the late completion of projects.

It is the constant endeavor of Akashvani to complete the projects within the specified time frame. Monitoring mechanism has been strengthened considerably. Procurement procedures have been streamlined. Project review meetings are held regularly at Zonal level & HQ level and various activities involved in procurement of capital equipment and execution of works are critically assessed & targets are fixed. The frequency of monitoring meetings has been increased at all levels of Directorate & Prasar Bharati Sectt. Use of digital platform viz e-office, e-tendering, procurement through GEM, Video conference is also being utilized”.

47. Detailed reasons for the shortfall in respect of each of such projects/schemes/sub schemes/programmes of Prasar Bharati, as furnished by the Ministry are as under:-

- a) **Distribution of 1.2 Lakh DTH receive Set top boxes for LWE remote & tribal areas of the country:** Financial Bids opened on 29.02.2024. Distribution of STBs through DBT scheme is being deliberated.
- b) **Up-gradation of Earth station at DTH Pitampura (C Band)- SITC of equipment's (Compression and monitoring System equipment etc.):** Envisaged to float single tender for complete earth station chain including

- Input & Base-band; Compression & Monitoring and RF chain)
- c) **Balance work for completion of TV tower at Amritsar, shifting of Transmitter and other associated works:** Due to some administrative reasons work halted. Appropriate measure is being taken up by the Zonal Office in consultation with DG:DD and PBS.
  - d) **Setting up of Geo Diversity Centre for DD DTH platform similar to main site capacity:** Site for project handed over for customization work of existing Building. Specification drafting in respect of project is under process.
  - e) **Expansion of DD Free Dish Platform by SITC of Additional two streams with RF System at Earth Station Todapur Delhi:** NIT issued earlier-on in regard to C band DTH Pitampura project cancelled and further the project envisaged for current year to float single tender for complete C band earth station chain system for DTH Pitampura along with (1+1) HPA system for DDK New Delhi.

48. On being asked about the action plan to improve the physical and financial performance of the Prasar Bharati during the year 2025-26, the Ministry replied as under:-

“It is the constant endeavour of Prasar Bharati to complete the projects within the specified time frame. Monitoring mechanism has been strengthened considerably. Procurement procedures have been streamlined. Project review meetings are held regularly at Zonal level & HQ level and various activities involved in procurement of capital equipment and execution of works are critically assessed & targets are fixed. The frequency of monitoring meetings has been increased at all levels of Directorate & Prasar Bharati Sectt. Use of digital platform viz e-office, e-tendering, procurement through GEM, Video conference is also being utilized.

In addition to above, an APEX committee has been constituted by Prasar Bharati Secretariat to monitor the progress of scheme”.

49. The road map for making Prasar Bharati more competitive in National and International market, as furnished by the Ministry is as under:-

“As a Public Service Broadcaster, Prasar Bharati is faced with the twin challenge of fulfilling its mandate as laid down in the Act, while being commercially viable in competition with private broadcasters. Balancing these twin challenges has been the focus of policies and initiatives of Prasar Bharati. A large part of the content developed by Prasar Bharati (DD & Akashvani) to showcase national development initiatives to accelerate socio-economic change in the country, promote national integration, inculcate scientific temper, disseminate knowledge through educational programmes, create public awareness on health, family welfare, preservation of environment and ecology, welfare of women, children and the under-privileged, and empowerment of all sections and strata of society is non-commercial and unmonetizable. As a public institution, Prasar Bharati operates within a content acquisition environment based on policies that are codified and placed in public domain to ensure transparency and accountability.

Doordarshan is taking several steps to grab more eyeballs and for becoming more competitive in national and international market.

Doordarshan is making continuous planning and effort to invigorate its programming landscape. It is working upon several new, interesting and innovative programme concepts in times to come. These efforts include a range of initiatives aimed at enriching the viewer experience and elevating the channels standing in the broadcasting arena: They include, inter alia,

(i). Keeping in mind of Ease of Doing Business, Transparency, Accountability and Efficiency, Prasar Bharati has notified "Prasar Bharati Content Sourcing Policy 2024" for sourcing of content from outside through various modes.

(ii). Revision of Rate Card for booking Artists and Casual Assignees

(iii). A number of fresh programmes such as Sardar– the game changer, Hum toh middle class hain ji, Cyber Crime ki duniya ... bach ke rehna, Kakhbhusundi Ramayan, Fauji 2, Bhed Bharam... Rahasyon ka mayajal, Jahan Chand Rehta hai, Bharat ka amrit kalash etc. have been introduced to attract viewers.

(iv). Extensive OB Coverages: Doordarshan has undertaken a series of ambitious outside broadcasting (OB) initiatives, ranging from the live telecast of significant events such International Film Festival of Goa and the ISRO launches to immersive coverage of the Mahakumbh 2025 in Prayagraj.

(v). Production of programmes of various genres by the Development Communication Division (DCD) in collaboration with Ministries and various Government institutions and bodies. Recently Doordarshan has done projects for the Ministry of Home Affairs, Election Commission of India, Environment Ministry etc.

(vi). Programme "Krish Trish and Baltiboy: Bharat Hain Hum" telecast by Doordarshan Network was mentioned by Hon'ble Prime Minister in his monthly programme "Mann Ki Baat". It successfully completed the telecast of Season 01 & Season 02 episodes are being telecast from 01st December 2024 onwards.

(vii). Dooradrshan became a part of AI revolution when DD KISAN became the first channel of the network with AI anchors- *Krish & Bhoomi*.

(viii). On 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024 DD Podhigai was relaunched as DD Tamil with new look and fresh programmes. Feature films are also introduced to garner viewership.

(ix). DD Sports has been launched in HD.

(x). Feature Film Resumption: The practice of Hindi Feature Film telecast on DD National recommenced from 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2023 after a break of a few years. Introduction of feature films gave the desired result and there was a marked increase in the viewership. Later, weekend Hindi Feature Films in evening prime time were also introduced.

Telecast of feature films are also being started in few regional channels.

(xi). In-house Serial Production: Attention has been given to in-house serial productions at Regional channel level. This encouragement led DD Jalandhar,

DD Gujarati and DD Mumbai to produce in-house serials.

(a) **DOORDARSHAN**

50. According to the Ministry, there are 35 satellite TV channels including 7 All India channels and 28 Regional/State channels. Further, there are 29 channels that are being telecast 24x7.

51. An amount of Rs.872.35 Cr has been proposed in BE 2025-26 for Prasar Bharati, out of which an amount of Rs.709.85 Cr has been earmarked for Doordarshan.

52. When asked to provide details of the financial targets set and achieved by Doordarshan during the year 2024-25 along with shortfall(s) in achieving them, the Ministry replied as under:-

“Out of Rs.400 crore allocated to Prasar Bharati in RE 2024-25 under BIND, an amount of Rs.310.86 Crore has been allocated to Doordarshan against which an expenditure of Rs.67.49 Crore has been incurred till December, 2024.

Distribution of DTH receive Set top Boxes for LWE remote & tribal areas of the country, distribution plan under DBT is being deliberated with Ministry. Work on some projects initiated. However, project is now envisaged in next year of BIND scheme 2021-26. Due to administrative reasons, NIT issued earlier on in **eragrd** to C band DTH Pitampura project cancelled and further the project envisaged for current year to float a consolidated tender’.

53. The Committee sought details of the problems witnessed in Doordarshan, during the year 2024-25, along with the steps taken to overcome them and outcome of the same. To this, the Ministry replied as under:

	<b>Major challenges/ hindrances witnessed under the Scheme</b>	<b>Steps taken to overcome the challenges/ hindrances encountered under the Scheme</b>	<b>Tangible Outcome of the measures taken to address the challenges/ hindrances encountered under the Scheme</b>
<b>Broadcasting Infrastructure Development (Prasar Bharati)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most of the broadcast equipment are imported with no production in India. Make –in –India (MII) clause exemptions are to be taken for each project in regard to Broadcast Equipment. This procedure takes considerable time.</li> <li>Man power shortage was also</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring mechanism has been strengthened considerably.</li> <li>Procurement procedures have been streamlined. Project review meetings are held regularly at Zonal level &amp; HQ level and various activities involved in procurement of capital equipment and execution of works are critically assessed &amp; targets are fixed.</li> <li>The frequency of monitoring meetings has been increased at all levels of Directorate &amp; Prasar Bharati Sectt.</li> <li>Use of digital platform viz e-office, e-tendering,</li> </ul>	

	one of the reasons for the late completion of projects	procurement through GEM, Video conference is also being utilized.  • An apex committee has been constituted by Prasar Bharati Secretariat to monitor the progress of scheme.
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54. In the light of stiff competition from private channels, the Ministry was asked about the challenges being faced by Doordarshan in expanding their outreach along with the measures taken to tackle those challenges. To this, the Ministry replied as under:-

“As a Public Service Broadcaster, Prasar Bharati, with Akashvani and Doordarshan as its pillars, is mandated to inform, educate, and entertain while ensuring balanced broadcasting across radio and television. However, Prasar Bharati faces the dual challenge of adhering to its public service mandate, as outlined in the Prasar Bharati Act, and competing with private broadcasters in a commercially viable manner. Balancing these priorities has been central to its policies and initiatives.

Being a destination for family-friendly and clean entertainment while staying relevant in today’s rapidly evolving media landscape is both a challenge and an opportunity for Doordarshan. The entertainment industry is undergoing a dual revolution—technological advancements and a shift in viewer preferences. Traditional platforms like radio and television are increasingly complemented, if not replaced, by OTT platforms and social media channels such as Instagram Reels, Facebook Feeds, and X posts.

This expanded landscape, with hundreds of channels and numerous OTT platforms, has unfortunately also given rise to content that often trivializes relationships, promotes vulgarity, and indulges in superstitions and sensationalism.

A significant portion of Prasar Bharati’s programming focuses on promoting national development, socio-economic progress, and national integration. The content raises awareness about health, family welfare, environmental preservation, and the empowerment of women, children, and marginalized communities. This often non-commercial programming aligns with Prasar Bharati’s commitment to public service and operates within a codified and transparent framework."

These efforts include a spectrum of initiatives aimed at enriching the viewer experience and elevating the channel's standing in the broadcasting arena.

Key milestones achieved are as under:

1. A number of fresh programmes such as Sardar – the game changer, Hum toh middle class hain ji, Cyber Crime ki duniya ... bach ke rehna, Kakbhusundi Ramayan, Fauji 2, Bhed Bharam etc. have been introduced to attract viewers.

2. Channels of Doordarshan Network, DD National as well as various regional channels telecast Femina Miss India 2024.

3. **Extensive OB Coverages:** Doordarshan has undertaken a series of ambitious outside broadcasting (OB) initiatives, ranging from the immersive coverage of the **Mahakumbh 2025 in Prayagraj** to the live telecast of significant events such International Film Festival of Goa (IFFI)" and the ISRO launches.

4. Mahakumbh 2025 - Various channels of Doordarshan Network, National as well as Regional Channels and Prasar Bharati OTT Platform WAVES ,are LIVE telecasting Amrit snans of Mahakumbh.

Further daily Aarti from Sangam at Prayagraj , during this Mahakumbh,is also being telecast by DD Bharati Channel as well as on Prasar Bharati OTT Platform WAVES.

On the occasion of Mahakumbh, special Mahakumbh songs, short films, and a TV series are also being telecast.

Digital Platforms of Doordarshan Network, National as well as Regional, are posting promos and various other creatives related to Mahakumbh.

A special programme centric on Mahakumbh covering its various aspects including Kalagram, an initiative highlighting India's heritage and tradition has been telecast on DD UP channel.

5. Doordarshan Network played a key role in disseminating information and promoting voter awareness during the 2024 General Elections, for citizens from diverse backgrounds. In collaboration with the Election Commission of India (ECI), Doordarshan, expanded its reach through social media. The network also enhanced transparency and accountability by smooth adoption of innovative digital time vouchers for National and Regional political parties to utilize their telecast time. To further engage viewers, Doordarshan did telecast of a variety of content, including songs, shorts films, messages from celebrities and dignitaries, talk shows and discussions, in regional languages, fostering enthusiasm for the electoral process.

6. Production of documentary films by the Development Communication Division (DCD), including projects for the Ministry of Home Affairs, Election Commission of India, Environment Ministry. Production of short success

7. Programme "Krish Trish and Baltiboy : Bharat Hain Hum" telecast by Doordarshan Network was mentioned by Hon'ble Prime Minister in his monthly programme "Mann Ki Baat". It successfully completed the telecast of Season 01 & Season 02 episodes were telecast from Sunday ,01 December 2024 onwards".

55. When asked for the details of the States/UTs that do not have any separate Channels or even Limited Hours, the Ministry provided the following details alongwith reasons:-

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name of State/UT</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
1.	Sikkim	PGF Gangtok has limited hour local cable and terrestrial transmission. It has dedicated 2 hour window on DD Arunprabha channel, which is a satellite channel available over almost all over the country.
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands(Port Blair)	PGF Portblair has limited hour terrestrial transmission
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (Daman)	Issues related to Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (Daman) are being covered by DD Girnar time to time
4.	The Government of NCT of Delhi(Delhi)	Apart from DD India, 6 National Channels are operating from Delhi.
5.	Ladakh(Leh)	PGF Leh has limited hour terrestrial transmission. It has dedicated slots on DD Kashir channel, which is a satellite channel available over almost all over the country.
6.	Lakshadweep(Kavaratti)	Issues related to Lakshadweep(Kavaratti) are being covered by DD Malayalam time to time
7.	Chandigarh(Chandigarh)	DD Haryana, a channel with 24x7 operations is being beamed from DDK Chandigarh.
8.	Puducherry(Puducherry)	A dedicated channel is being operated by PGF Puducherry beamed from DDK Chennai on test transmission basis.

56. While observing that there are 8 States/UTs which did not have any separate Channels or even Limited Hours, the Ministry was asked whether any request had been received from those States/UTs for having separate channels or to increase the time for content related to their State/UT. To this, the Ministry replied that the States/UTs which do not have a dedicated 24x7 channel are being catered as under:-

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name of State/UT</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
1.	Sikkim	PGF Gangtok has limited hour local cable and terrestrial transmission. It has dedicated 2 hour window on DD Arunprabha channel, which is a satellite channel available over almost all over the country.

2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands(Port Blair)	PGF Portblair has limited hour terrestrial transmission
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (Daman)	Issues related to Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (Daman) are being covered by DD Girnar time to time
4.	The Government of NCT of Delhi(Delhi)	Apart from DD India, 6 National Channels are operating from Delhi.
5.	Ladakh(Leh)	PGF Leh has limited hour terrestrial transmission. It has dedicated slots on DD Kashir channel, which is a satellite channel available over almost all over the country.
6.	Lakshadweep (Kavaratti)	Coverage issues related to Lakshadweep (Kavaratti) are being covered by DD Malayalam from time to time.
7.	Chandigarh(Chandigarh)	DD Haryana, a channel with 24x7 operations is being beamed from DDK Chandigarh.
8.	Puducherry	A dedicated channel is being operated by PGF Puducherry beamed from DDK Chennai on test transmission basis.
Presently Doordarshan is not working upon any proposal for starting any new channel.		

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

57. An amount of Rs.872.35 Cr has been proposed in BE 2025-26 for Prasar Bharati, out of which an amount of Rs.162.50 Cr has been kept for AIR. The Budgetary allocation and utilization for the AIR for the last five years are as follows:-

(Rs. in crore)					
AIR					
Year	BE	RE	AE	AE % w.r.t BE	AE % w.r.t RE
<b>2020-21</b>	132.00	58.72	57.22	43.35%	97.45%
<b>2021-22</b>	140.05	60.68	60.26	43.03%	99.31%
<b>2022-23</b>	160.51	71.69	63.06	39.29%	87.96%
<b>2023-24</b>	78.88	42.38	30.48*	38.64%	71.92%
<b>2024-25</b>	145.02	89.14	17.62\$	12.15%	19.77%
*Provisional. \$Expenditure upto December 2024					

58. When asked to provide details of the financial targets set and achieved under AIR during the year 2024-25 along with shortfall(s) in achieving them, the Ministry replied as under:-

“An amount of Rs. 500 crore to Prasar Bharati in BE 2024-25 and reduced to Rs.400 crore in RE stage under BIND, Out of which an amount of Rs.89.14

crore has been allocated to Akashvani against which an expenditure of Rs.17.62 Crore has been incurred till December, 2024.

Tender of FM transmitters has been cancelled due to administrative reasons. Replacement of STL, the tender has been cancelled due to vacation of frequency. Specification will have to be revised.

Additional space is to be created at Bhavnagar due to the existing building is in bad condition”.

59. The Ministry was asked to provide details of the problems witnessed by AIR, during the year 2024-25, along with the steps taken to overcome them and outcome of the same. To this, the Ministry replied as under:-

“Most of the broadcast equipment are imported with no production in India. Make –in –India (MII) clause exemptions are to be taken for each project in regard to Broadcast Equipment. This procedure takes considerable time. Man power shortage was also one of the reasons for the late completion of projects.

It is the constant endeavor of Akashvani to complete the projects within the specified time frame. Monitoring mechanism has been strengthened considerably. Procurement procedures have been streamlined. Project review meetings are held regularly at Zonal level & HQ level and various activities involved in procurement of capital equipment and execution of works are critically assessed & targets are fixed. The frequency of monitoring meetings has been increased at all levels of Directorate & Prasar Bharati Sectt. Use of digital platform viz e-office, e-tendering, procurement through GEM, Video conference is also being utilized.

In addition to above, an APEX committee has been constituted by Prasar Bharati Secretariat to monitor the progress of scheme”.

60. When asked for the updated status of the AIR stations in the Country alongwith the status of their digitization, the Ministry replied that most of the Studios of All India Radio stations have been digitized and rest of the Studios is being digitized in the plan 2021-26. The details provided by the Ministry are as under:-

- Total No. of Broadcasting Stations – 591
- Nos. of transmitters – 755
- MW Transmitters – 122
- SW Transmitters – 7
- FM transmitters – 626
- Nos. of MW transmitters digitalized –41
- Nos. of SW transmitters digitalized – 3
- Nos. of Studios – 230
- Studios digitalized – 127

61. Regarding plans for improving the performance of AIR during the year 2025-26, the Ministry replied as under:-

“Technological performance for improvement of the Akashvani Network is being taken up as per approved schemes under BIND Scheme of Prasar Bharati and schemes/ projects are under implementation for improving Akashvani performance as mentioned under:

1. Setting up of 59 FM transmitters.
2. Setting of visual radio system at 33 Akashvani station.
3. Refurbishing of Studios at 34 stations.
4. Replacement of AC Plant at 38 stations
5. Replacement of DG at 15 stations
6. Replacement/ provision of STL: 20 nos.
7. Provision of DSNG Van at Delhi”

62. On being asked about the the shortcomings of AIR and the grievances of their employees, the Ministry submitted:-

“Akashvani is facing shortage of Staff in all its cadres and wings. Attempt is being made to overcome the same to some extent by engaging officials on short term contract basis.

Grievance Redressal and Access Mechanism have been functioning in accordance with the guidelines of Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievance and monitored through the Centralized Public Grievances Redressal and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS).

Public grievances and pension redressal petitions are being attended to promptly and disposed of at the earliest. In this regard an SOP was issued to handle the grievances on CPGRAMS Portal.

Grievance redressal status reports on disposal of Grievances are submitted to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting as and when Ministry of I & B asked. ATRs/ replies sent to petitioners are also uploaded on the CPGRAMS Portal”.

63. While deposing before the Committee, the representative of the Ministry informed that the proposal for the auction of FM Radio Phase-3 has been approved by the Union Cabinet on 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2024. They also submitted:-

“सर, अभी इसका ईओआई जारी किया गया है। 20 कंपनियों ने इस में पार्टिसिपेशन किया है। उनका सिक्योरिटी क्लियरेंस का काम चल रहा है। जैसे ही उनका सिक्योरिटी क्लियरेंस का प्रोसेस पूरा हो जाएगा तो 10 से 15 दिनों में उसकी बिडिंग का प्रोसेस भी चालू हो जाएगा। सर, यह कार्य ट्रैक पर है। 234 नए शहरों में प्राइवेट एफएम का बहुत ही वृहत् एक्सपेंशन का कार्यक्रम है।...xxx...xxx.. फेज - 3 का फोकस टीयर - 3 और पट टीयर - 4 कैटेगरी के शहरों में रहेगा”।

64. Regarding the details of the proposal for the auction of FM Radio Phase-3, the physical and financial targets set and achieved for the years 2023-24 and 2024-25 and the target set for the year 2025-26, the Ministry replied as under:-

“Ministry of Information & Broadcasting issued a Notice inviting Applications (NIA) for 3<sup>rd</sup> Batch e-auction in 234 uncovered (tier II/tier III) cities on 14.10.2024. Auction Rules were notified on 27.11.2024. 20 applications were received from the prospective bidders. The actual Auction will commence after the announcement of the pre-qualified bidders. Physical and Financial Targets are as under-

Particulars	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26
Physical Targets	Nil	Nil	Estimate: Coverage of private FM radio in 234 new/uncovered cities

			through 730 channels.
Financial Targets	Nil	Nil	Estimate: The reserve price for the above 730 channels is Rs. 784.87 crores.

(c) **HUMAN RESOURCE IN PRASAR BHARATI**

65. The status of vacancies in Akashvani and Doordarshan are as under:-

Units	Sanctioned Strength	In-position	Vacant
All India Radio	26,129	9,878	16,251
Doordarshan	19,662 (excluding 2,038 posts which were abolished under ADRP's 2002 to 2008-09)	5,692	13,970
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,791</b>	<b>15,570</b>	<b>30,221</b>
*Data obtained by PBRB Cell/PPC through HRIS			

66. When asked for the details of the steps taken by the Ministry to cater to the Human resource needs of AIR and Doordarshan along with the outcome of the same, the Ministry responded as under:-

“(a) Prasar Bharati Recruitment Board had been constituted for filling up vacancies for the posts in Akashvani and Doordarshan, having scale of pay less than that of the Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India, through Direct Recruitment/ Departmental Competitive Examination/ Deputation, as per the extant RRs.

(b) The exercise of HR Transformation is underway to assess optimal no. of posts in various streams and levels as per the current and future requirement of Prasar Bharati. Amongst others, recommendations have been proposed by the Agency for filling up of vacancies of different stream (mainly in programme stream) in a phased manner. However, only on conclusion and acceptance of the recommendations of this exercise, a clear picture on the vacancies to be filled will emerge and appropriate action will be taken accordingly.

(c) Notwithstanding the above, contractual engagement is being undertaken under Contractual Engagement Policy (CEP) of Prasar Bharati to support production & related activities of the organization as well as to tide over the acute manpower shortage and to sustain efficiency, bridge the skill gap, manage technological advancements and to meet its urgent requirement. Besides, Prasar Bharati has launched its OTT platform which requires a dedicated workforce with specialized industry skills. Since the organization lacks expertise in digital broadcasting, a mix of in-house and outsourced professionals engaged to ensure smooth operations and high-quality content delivery.

67. On seeking reasons for hiring large number of staff on contractual basis in order to mitigate the acute shortage of permanent employees for the organization, the Ministry replied as under:-

“Besides meeting the acute manpower shortage in Prasar Bharati to meet its urgent requirement, other reasons for hiring large number of staff on contractual basis are bulleted below.

- To sustain efficiency;
- To bridge the skill gap;
- To manage technological advancements; and
- Ensuring smooth operations and high-quality content delivery on Prasar Bharati's OTT platform.

68. When asked about the impact on quality standard of the output of the organization due to hiring of staff on contractual basis, the Ministry enumerated the following:-

- “Creation of a pool for dedicated workforce with specialized industry skills;
- Engagement of and collaboration with in house and outsourced professionals with one another leading to development of novel ideas and innovation;
- Enhancing competitiveness;
- Employment generation to 1,500 skilled persons through outsourced hiring in the entire Prasar Bharati;
- Driving innovation;
- Strengthening human resources in both traditional and digital media platforms;
- Ensuring long term growth in evolving media landscape; and
- Supporting organization's endeavor to modernization”.

69. Regarding the preparedness of the Ministry to address the problem of Human Resource in both AIR and Doordarshan along with the action plan for filling up the vacancies, following reply was provided:-

“Pending the outcome of the ongoing exercise related to HR Transformation...xxx...xxx, the existing officers of, primarily Engineering cadre and, to some extent, of News cadre have been assigned with additional responsibilities of programme policy, sales/marketing, admin as well as support functions such as legal, regulatory etc. at zonal, Directorate and PB Secretariat levels whereas at field offices/production centres, the existing programme officers are shouldering the responsibilities of programming activities and, Engineering officers and employees for technical operations. Besides this, to meet certain urgent requirements, contractual engagement is being undertaken under Contractual Engagement Policy 2021(CEP-2021) of Prasar Bharati to support production & related activities of the organization including manning operations related to its newly launched OTT platform. On completion of the HR Transformation exercise, steps for the recruitment process shall be initiated”.

70. Asked to provide the updated status of the progress made after implementation of Manpower Audit Exercise and subsequent changes in the Prasar Bharati Network/Services/ Manpower, the Ministry replied as under:-

“Presently, Prasar Bharati is engaged in HR Transformation exercise through a manpower audit agency. Only on conclusion of this exercise, submission of its report and subsequent acceptance/ approval of the same by Prasar Bharati/ Ministry of I&B, a clear picture regarding the recruitments to be made will emerge”.

**(ii) SUPPORTING COMMUNITY RADIO MOVEMENT IN INDIA (BROADCASTING SECTOR)**

71. Community Radio stations play a significant role in empowering communities by means of dissemination of crucial information, particularly to rural and remote communities. The Scheme aims to strengthen new and existing CRSs with resources, capacity and technology in order to upgrade the standard of the stations and increase reach and visibility to the interior regions of India. This would help promote growth of CRS in remote and rural areas thereby aiding socio-economic and cultural development of communities by using CRS as a powerful medium of social mobilization. The scheme therefore aims to revitalize new and existing CRSs by providing required funds for resources, capacity and technology thereby increasing effectiveness of operational community radio stations. To support the Community Radio movement, a Central Sector Scheme namely “Supporting Community Radio Movement in India” is being implemented.

72. Regarding the growth and significance of Community Radio in the country, the Ministry, during evidence submitted the following:-

“सर, इसके साथ-साथ कम्युनिटी रेडियो से संबंधित हमारी स्कीम है। आज विश्व रेडियो दिवस भी है। उससे संबंधित कम्युनिटी रेडियो का भी हमारे यहां पर काफी अच्छा विस्तार हुआ है। वर्ष 2014 में, जहां हमारे यहां 140 कम्युनिटी रेडियो थे, वहीं आज हमारे देश में 550 कम्युनिटी रेडियो हैं। यह सरकार के अनुदान से भी चलते हैं। इनको इनिशियल सेट-अप के कुछ ग्रांट्स भी दिए जाते हैं। लोकल और हाइपर लोकल कॉन्टेंट के मामले में कम्युनिटी रेडियो का बड़ा अच्छा योगदान है, जिसको हम एक हमारी स्कीम के तहत भी सपोर्ट करते आ रहे हैं”।

73. The BE, RE and actual expenditure under the Scheme for the last five years and BE allocation for the year 2025-26 are as follows:-

<b>Supporting Community Radio</b> (Rs. in crore)					
Year	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. BE	% w.r.t. RE
<b>2020-21</b>	4.50	2.12	1.97	43.78	92.92
<b>2021-22</b>	3.84	2.50	1.92	50.00	76.80
<b>2022-23</b>	3.84	3.00	2.00	52.08	66.66
<b>2023-24</b>	5.00	5.00	4.24	84.80	84.80
<b>2024-25</b>	5.00	14.73	3.83@	76.60	26.02
<b>2025-26</b>	17.40	-	-	-	-
@Actual expenditure as on 30.01.2025					

74. The reasons for under-utilization of funds under the Supporting Community Radio Movement in India Scheme, for last four years, i.e. from 2020-21 to 2023-24, as submitted by the Ministry are as under:-

<b>Year</b>	<b>Reasons for under-utilization of funds under the Supporting Community Radio Movement in India Scheme</b>
FY 2020-21	Most of the activities could not be held due to the Corona Pandemic. Activities planned in the physical mode, such as community radio awareness workshops, Regional Sammelans and training and capacity building workshops, were held in the online mode.
FY 2021-22	4 Regional Sammelans planned in various parts of the Country could not be held, awareness workshops were held in the online mode, hiring of PMU staff with full strength could not be made etc., resulting in additional savings.
FY 2022-23	(i) Publication of compendium in soft copy format, resulted in savings; (ii) Regional sammelans and Radio Community Awareness Workshops could not be held in the physical mode; (iii) No advertisement orders were received from entities and vacant positions in the project monitoring unit could not be filled up.
FY 2023-24	Under the NE Region (MH 2552), the funds requirement is demand driven and no demand in the FY 2023-24 for financial assistance was received from the existing and new Community Radio Stations, which resulted in savings. Moreover, austerity measures were taken in organization of workshops. A complete action plan was made for carrying out the activities under the Scheme in a time bound manner and to maximise the expenditure. However, No demand for grants was received from NER Region which resulted in savings. But, Efforts are being made through workshops to increase demand from NER.

75. At present there are 530 Community Radio Stations (CRSs) in India. As per the information available with the Ministry, all 530 CRSs are functional. Out of 530 CRS, a total of 511 CRS are having valid Grant of Permission Agreement (GOPA). The GOPA of remaining CRS are in the process of renewal/extension. The details of CRSs in India – State/UT wise are given below:-

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Number of Community Radio Stations
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1
2	Andhra Pradesh	12
3	Arunachal Pradesh	2
4	Assam	6
5	Bihar	14
6	Chandigarh	4
7	Chhattisgarh	16
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	0
9	Delhi	5
10	Goa	0
11	Gujarat	18
12	Haryana	25
13	Himachal Pradesh	6
14	Jammu and Kashmir	14
15	Jharkhand	6
16	Karnataka	26
17	Kerala	24
18	Ladakh	1
19	Lakshadweep	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	43
21	Maharashtra	59
22	Manipur	6
23	Meghalaya	2
24	Mizoram	1
25	Nagaland	1
26	Odisha	42
27	Puducherry	2
28	Punjab	10
29	Rajasthan	29
30	Sikkim	1
31	Tamil Nadu	48
32	Telangana	9
33	Tripura	1
34	Uttar Pradesh	65
35	Uttarakhand	16
36	West Bengal	15
	<b>Total</b>	<b>530</b>

76. The Ministry was asked to provide reasons for not having Community Radio Stations (CRSs) in Goa, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep. To this, the Ministry replied as under:-

“In Goa, Lol has been issued for setting up of 01 CRS station which is in the pipeline to become operational soon.  
Further, no application has been received from Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep for setting up of CRS”.

77. About the steps taken to strengthen the Community Radio Movement in the Country alongwith the road map and target for the year 2025-26, the Ministry replied as under:-

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has taken several steps for strengthening the Community Radio Sector. The amount of financial assistance given to a Community Radio Station has been increased from Rs. 10Lakhs to an amount varying from Rs. 16.20 Lakhs to Rs. 24 Lakhs (Depending upon various criterion). Special provisions have been kept incentivizing CRS to use Green Energy and women participation. In addition to this, to facilitate research, innovation and skilling in the sector, the Government of India has launched fellowship programmes and internship programmes under the Scheme. The following activities have been planned during the FY 2025-26 for the Sector.

- (i) Organising National Community Radio Sammelan
- (ii) Launch of CRS Fellowship
- (iii) Offering Internship in Community Radio Stations.
- (iv) Organising 5 community radio workshops in community radio dark areas
- (v) Organizing 4 regional Sammelans
- (vi) Capacity building workshops through Indian institute of mass communication (IIMC).
- (vii) Study/ Survey for assessing reach and effectiveness for community radio Stations”.

78. Asked about the major challenges/ hindrances witnessed under the Scheme, the Ministry replied as under:-

- a) Awareness about the Community Radio Schemes amongst eligible applicants
- b) Lack of financial resources with applicants
- c) delay in Clearance from WPC/ MHA/MOD.

79. Regarding the pending applications for Community Radios Station license, the Ministry informed that a total of 77 applications for Community Radios Station are pending with the MIB/ WPC/MHA/MOD, which are at various stages of processing for grant of permission for setting up of Community Radio Station. Further, regarding the the applications received during 2024-25 and status of licenses sanctioned, the Ministry responded as under:-

<b>Total applications received in FY 2024-25 so far</b>	<b>LoI issued (including last year applications)</b>	<b>Rejected (including last tear application)</b>	<b>Commissioned CRS</b>
<b>135</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>27</b>

13 applications were rejected due to non-meeting the eligibility criterion or due to clearances not given by the concerned Departments/ Ministries (As per the extant guidelines, the applications are required to be cleared from MHA, Ministry of Defence(MOD) and Ministry of Communications). It is pertinent to mention that after obtaining LOI, applicant applies to Ministry of Communication for Wireless Operating License before commissioning the

CRS. The License for operating CRS is issued by the Ministry of Communication.

80. Regarding the timeline and plan of action to remove the pendency of applications the reply of the Ministry was silent.

81. When asked for the status of Community Radio Stations in the scheduled languages of the Constitution, the Ministry furnished the following information:-

Sl. No.	Language	States	No. of CRS in the States/UTs
1.	Assamese	Assam	5
2.	Bengali	West Bengal	15
3.	Gujarati	Gujarat	15
4.	Hindi	North India	219
5.	Kashmiri	Jammu & Kashmir	11
6.	Kannada	Karnataka	26
7.	Malayalam	Kerala	23
8.	Marathi	Maharashtra	57
9.	Odia	Odisha	41
10.	Punjabi	Punjab	10
11.	Sanskrit	Karnataka (Shivamogga District)	1
12.	Tamil	Tamil Nadu	48
13.	Telugu	Andhra Pradesh, Telangana	21
14.	Urdu	Jammu & Kashmir, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh	83
15.	Sindhi	Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh	86
16.	Konkani	Goa	0
17.	Manipuri	Manipur	6
18.	Nepali	Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh	8
19.	Bodo	Assam and Meghalaya	7
20.	Dogri	Jammu and Himachal Pradesh	8
21.	Maithili	Bihar and Jharkhand	19
22.	Santhali	West Bengal, Jharkhand and Odisha	62

As per the list mentioned above, there are no Community Radio Stations (CRSs) broadcasting in Konkani and Sanskrit spoken states/places. The permission for setting up of CRS in Goa has been given and the applicant is in the process of setting up of CRS.

## **VII. FILM SECTOR**

### **(i) NATIONAL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (NCOE) FOR ANIMATION, VISUAL EFFECTS (VFX), GAMING , COMICS AND EXTENDED REALITY( AVGC-XR)**

82. The Ministry informed that subsequent to Budget Speech 2022-23 an AVGC Promotion Task Force was constituted on 08.04.2022 headed by Secretary, MIB. It

included representatives from Central and State Governments, AVGC Industry, its associations and academia. Four Sub-Task Forces were constituted to focus on areas of Education, Skilling, Gaming and Industry & Policy. The AVGC Promotion Task Force submitted its report in December, 2022, which included:-

- ii. Report of the AVGC Promotional Task Force on realizing AVGC-XR Sector potential in India.
- iii. Draft National Policy for Growth of AVGC Sector in India.
- iv. Draft Model State Policy for Growth of AVGC sector in the States.
- v. Recommendation for setting up of a National centre of Excellence (NCoE) for AVGC.

83. The Ministry also informed:-

“Based on the recommendations of the Task force and gauging the importance of the AVGC sector the Central Government decided to setup the NCoE now known as the Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT). The IICT is based on the AVGC policy that will open avenues for future generations in the extremely promising AVGC segment. The IICT will also support at least 5 Regional Centers of Excellence in collaboration with the States through the hub and spoke model. The IICT would be the Hub and State Regional Centers will be the Spokes to ensure that the progress made in the field of AVGC is equally benefitted by people in tier 2 & tier 3 cities across the country. Along with conducting academic courses, the IICT will involve setting up of incubation centers with latest infrastructure and technology. The IICT will function as a mentoring institution to the AVGC industry.

### **WAVES**

India occupies a dominant position in Media & Entertainment with talents spread across different geographies of the country, creating compelling contents through its rich cultural heritage. It is poised to become one of the leaders in Media and Entertainment sector. WAVES will promote India as one stop destination for content creation, Investment destination and leverage ‘Create in India’ opportunities as well as for global outreach. WAVES is a key forum for promoting discussions, collaboration, and innovation in the M&E industry. The event will bring together industry leaders, stakeholders and innovators to discuss prospects, challenges, promote global trade and influence the sector’s future.

WAVES provides avenues for job creation, skill development, economic growth, knowledge exchange, cross-cultural dialogue, collaborations with global stakeholders, and the leveraging of cutting-edge technologies to boost the entrepreneurial spirit”.

84. The Union Cabinet approved the Cabinet Note on 18.09.2024 for setting up of a ‘National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) known as the ‘Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT)’ which will act as the anchor institution for the growth of AVGC-XR sector in the Country on the lines of IITs and IIMs. World Audio-Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES), a global summit is being organized by the Ministry in 2025. The Cabinet has approved setting up of NCoE with one time budgetary grant of Rs. 391.15 crore as Section 8 company under the Companies Act, 2013 with the sharing pattern of

Government (48%), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (26%) and Confederation of Indian Industry (26%). Lease Deed between Govt. of India and Govt. of Maharashtra was signed on 08.10.2024 to set up the institute at Goregaon, Mumbai. The Company under Section 8, Company Act 2013 got registered and incorporated on 25.12.2024. The first Board meeting of the Company was held on 17.01.2025.

85. The World Audio-Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES 2025) which was originally scheduled to be held in the Financial Year 2024-25 is now scheduled to be held during the Financial Year 2025-26. In this regard, Create in India Challenge (CIC) Season-1 was launched by HMIB as a run-up to WAVES on 22.08.2024 at National Media Centre. The Create in India Challenge – Season 1, with over 70,000 registrations, has generated significant excitement ahead of the World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES). Further, WAVES e-Bazaar along with WAVES Awards was launched on January 27, 2025 including Best of the Year Global Awards and Special Mention Awards.

86. On enquiring about the concerns associated with the Industry related to 'Animation, Visual Effects (VFX), Gaming, Comics and Extended Reality' and measures taken for the same, the Ministry replied as under:-

“India's AVGC-XR sector faces a critical skill gap due to insufficient formalized education and infrastructure limitations. Original IP development lags, hindering global competitiveness. Regulatory uncertainties, particularly in gaming, stifle investment. Funding scarcity further impedes growth. Emerging AI technologies present both opportunities and ethical challenges, impacting job security and creative processes. These issues collectively hinder India's potential to become a leading force in animation, VFX, gaming, comics, and extended reality”.

**Measures:**

The Government's planned Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT) aims to revolutionize India's AVGC-XR sector. Approved by the Union Cabinet, it focuses on skill development with a cutting-edge curriculum and infrastructure. This IICT will foster industry collaborations, nurturing creators and startups to establish India as a global creative leader.

Create in India Mission" aims to boost indigenous AVGC-XR content. It incentivizes local IP creation, reducing outsourcing. By fostering a creative ecosystem, it seeks to establish India as a global content hub. This mission promotes skill development and investment, driving economic growth and cultural influence”.

87. The road map w.r.t WAVES for the year 2025, as furnished by the Ministry, is as under:-

“The Government has allocated a sum of 40 crores for WAVES from the Budget of the FY 2024-25. WAVES is also being supported by the various Associations from the Media and Entertainment Industry. WAVES 2025, which is to be held from 1<sup>st</sup>- 4<sup>th</sup> May 2025, being the first edition of the

summit, a year-wise fund and milestones would be deliberated upon post conclusion of the Summit”.

88. Adding on WAVES, the Ministry, during evidence submitted as under:-

“WAVES is envisaged as a platform for global dialogue and exchange on topics such as broadcasting, digital media innovation, and Audio, Visual Gaming and Comics, and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR). WAVES will have 31 Create in India challenges of which 22 will have international involvement.

If we briefly go into the components of WAVES, there will be a CEO roundtable with the hon. Prime Minister of India with the global top CEOs. There will be a global media dialogue with key global policy-makers. This will culminate in a WAVES Declaration of 2025. There will be a thought-leaders track, which will engage global and Indian industry leaders, policy-makers and innovators. Then, there is also a Bharat Pavilion at WAVES 2025, which will showcase the journey of India through India's storytelling heritage. There will also be a WAVES Bazaar, which is a dedicated marketplace for media and entertainment business partnership. This also includes an e-Bazaar.

We are also planning for a wave-accelerator which is a dynamic platform, which will connect the promising media and entertainment start-ups with investors and mentors. And, this will be done through live pitching sessions basically to showcase their innovative ideas and to secure funding. We are also planning an Exhibition to showcase technologies and innovative solutions. There is also a WAVES cultural component, which will include live concerts, classicals and national / international fusion and so on. Also, there will be a Creators Fair that will include masterclasses, workshops and the grand finale of the Create in India Challenge Season 1.

Further, It was added that:

सर, मैं सम्माननीय कमेटी को बताना चाहूंगा कि माननीय प्रधानमंत्रीजी ने वर्ष 2019 में एक परिकल्पना की थी, हमारी रिच हेरिटेज को दुनिया तक पहुंचाने के लिए, हमारी सॉफ्ट प्रजेस को दुनिया तक पहुंचाने के लिए एक ऐसा समिट तैयार किया जाए जो एक इवेंट न रहे, एकप्लेट फॉर्म बने, अपने आपमें ऐ मूवमेंट बने, जिससे न केवल हमारे लोकल कंटेंट को दुनिया भर तक पहुंचा सकें, नेट कंटेंट एक्सपोर्ट बन सकें और हमारी दुनिया भर में जो सॉफ्ट प्रजेस है, उसको भी हम चिन्हित कर सकें। अपने मन की बात में उन्होंने दिसंबर महीने में ऑलमोस्ट 15 मिनट तक इस बारे में बातचीत की और हाल ही में पेरिस जाने के पहले दो घंटे की माननीय प्रधानमंत्री जी ने वेक्स की हाई लेवल एडवाइजरी बोर्ड, जिसमें इंडस्ट्री के टॉप प्रोफेशनल्स चाहे वे हिन्दुस्तान के हों या बाहर के हों, उनके साथ उन का वार्तालाप हुआ। माननीय प्रधानमंत्री जी ने पूरी कमेटी का मार्गदर्शन भी किया। सर, हमें यह बताने में हर्ष हो रहा है कि वेक्स की तैयारी बहुत जोर-शोर से चल रही है। मई, 1 से 4 के बीच में मुंबई में इसका आयोजन किया जाएगा। इन सारे कम्पोनेंट्स के बारे में हमारे एडिशनल सेक्रेटरी ने यहां बताया। यह इम्पोर्टेंट माइलस्टोन हमारे देश की जर्नी में होगा, जहां हम अपनी रिच कल्चरल हेरिटेज एंड स्टोरी टेलिंग एबिलिटीज को दुनिया तक हम पहुंचा पाएंगे। साथ ही साथ हमारे देश की जो क्रिएटिव इकोनॉमी है, उसको समर्थन देने में वेक्स का एक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण योगदान रहेगा”। xxx..xxx...xxxx....The biggest thrust area for us is to go to the World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES). जैसा माननीय प्रधानमंत्री जी ने कहा कि वेव एक समिट नहीं रहेगा, यह अपने आप में एक मूवमेंट है। भले ही यह चार दिन का इवेंट होगा लेकिन उससे रिलेटेड एक्टिविटी पूरे साल चलती रहनी चाहिए। हमारा क्रिएट इनइंडिया चैलेंज सीजन-1 प्रारम्भ हुआ, उसमें

हमारे 31 चैलेंजेज चल रहे हैं। देश भर से 80 हजार रजिस्ट्रेशनस हुए हैं। डिफरेंट इंडस्ट्री, वर्टिकल्स के तहत ये चैलेंजेज चल रहे हैं। जिसे ऑरेंज इकोनॉमी कहा जाता है, उस पर हमारा मेजर फोकस रहेगा। जैसा आपने कहा कि हमारे पास जो एग्जिस्टिंग स्कीम्स हैं, उनमें हमारे जो आबंटन हैं, उसके बियांड भी परिकल्पना क्रिएट इन इंडिया बनाने की जा रही है। यदि के बिलेट अनुमोद न हो जाता है, तो फाइनेंस मिनिस्ट्री से बजट आबंटन की भी सप्लिमेंटरी बजट में अगले साल रिक्वेस्ट करेंगे। इसमें प्रोडक्शन फंड और अन्य चीजें भी लाने की कोशिश की जाएगी”।

89. Adding on IICT, the representative of the Ministry while deposing before the Committee also submitted:-

“सर, आईआईसीटी हमारा एक मेजर इनिशिएटिव है। यह लगभग 12 सालों से चालू था। अभी कैबिनेट एप्रूवल के पश्चात् कंपनी इनकॉर्पोरेट कर दी गयी है। इसके टेम्पोरैरी कैम्पस का काम भी जोर-शोर से चल रहा है। हमने हमारी मुम्बई में एनएफडीसी की चार फ्लोर्स को इन्हें कैम्पस बनाने के लिए टेम्पोरैरिली दिया है। अप्रैल, 2025 से आईआईसीटी के बैचेज, उसमें मास्टर ट्रेनिंग प्रोग्राम्स, आईआईसीटी में इन्व्यूबेशन के स्पेस, सबको हम क्रिएट करेंगे। भारत सरकार द्वारा 391 करोड़ रुपये का जो अनुदान इस बजट में आवंटित किया गया है, उसका उपयोग करके आगामी दो वर्षों में वहां पर एक परमानेंट कैम्पस की भी स्थापना करेंगे।xxx...xxx...xxx....Yes, Sir. IICT is actually a combination of creative world and technology. चूंकि आज क्रिएटिव वर्ल्ड टेक्नोलॉजी से बहुत ज्यादा डिसेप्टेड है और इम्पैक्टेड है। इन सब सारी व्यवस्थाओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए ही आईआईसीटी की स्थापना की गयी है। यह उस किस्म का होगा, जैसे आईआईटी इंजीनियरिंग के लिए है, आईआईएम मैनेजमेंट के लिए है, वैसे ही मीडिया और एंटरटेनमेंट जगत में जब यह आईआईसीटी स्थापित होगा तो यह अपने आप में मीडिया एण्ड एंटरटेनमेंट में एक आईआईटी की तरह तैयार होगा। इसको ‘हब एण्ड स्कोप’ मॉडल में तैयार किया गया है। इसकी हब भले ही मुम्बई में स्थापित की जा रही है, पर स्पोक्स हैदराबाद, बेंगलुरु और भारत के 12-13 शहरों में, जहां-जहां पर एनीमेशन, विजुअल इफेक्ट्स, ग्राफिक्स, एक्सटेंडेड रिएलिटी, आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस से संबंधित मीडिया एंटरटेनमेंट टेक्नोलॉजीज से संबंध होगा, वहां पर इसका उपयोग किया जाएगा”।

90. On a query related to Board meant for IICT, the Ministry, during evidence submitted as under:-

“सर, सेक्शन 8 कंपनी बनाई गई है। सितम्बर में इस पर कैबिनेट का अप्रूवल हुआ है। Around 52 per cent of this company is owned by FICCI and CII, 48 per cent is owned by the Government of India, जिसमें महाराष्ट्र गवर्नमेंट को इसमें से 14 परसेंट का शेयर दिया जाएगा। इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ क्रिएटिव टेक्नोलॉजी की स्थापना फिल्मसिटी गोरेगांव में की जाएगी। इसके लिए वन टाइम बजटरी सपोर्ट हमने इस साल के बजट में बताया है। इसके लिए 391 करोड़ का बजट भारत सरकार ने अप्रूव किया है। इसको बोर्ड के द्वारा चलाया जाएगा। इस बोर्ड में चार मैम्बर्स सरकार के रहेंगे, चार मैम्बर्स प्राइवेट सेक्टर के रहेंगे। सेक्रेटरी आई एंड बी इस बोर्ड के वन ऑफ दी डायरेक्ट हैं और चेयरमैन भी हैं। यह पूरी तरह से बोर्ड के द्वारा संचालित रहेगा। अभी इसका टेम्पोरैरी कैम्पस प्रारम्भ किया जाएगा। आने वाले दो वर्षों में इसके पर्मानेंट कैम्पस को तैयार करना अपने-आप में क्रिएटिव टेक्नोलॉजीज के

लिए एक बहुत अहम कदम है, जिसका अभी हाल ही में यूनियन कैबिनेट ने अप्रूवल दिया है और अब यह कंपनी इन्कॉर्पोरेट हो गई है”।

91. When asked to furnish details of the Board meant for WAVES along with their role and function, the Ministry stated that it is envisaged that the Global summit WAVES is driven by the Media and Entertainment industry itself.

92. On being asked whether there was any Rule or Law being formulated with respect to ‘Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC), the Ministry replied as under:-

“There is no rule of law at the moment with respect to ‘Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC). However the Ministry is in the process of finalizing a National level policy for the growth of AVGC-XR in the country”.

93. Regarding the status of the National level policy for the growth of AVGC-XR in the Country, the Ministry in its written reply stated that it is under consideration.

## **VIII. INFORMATION SECTOR**

### **(i) PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (PIB)**

94. The Press Information Bureau (PIB) is the nodal agency of the Government of India to disseminate information through print, electronic and social media on Government policies, programmes, initiatives and achievements. It functions as an interface between the Government and the media and also provides feedback to the Government on people’s reaction as reflected in the media. It also advises the Government on communication strategies best suited to meet the needs of the media.

95. The PIB disseminates information through different means, such as press releases, press notes, feature articles, backgrounders, press briefings, interviews, press conferences, press tours, etc. PIB also uses social media platforms like X (earlier - Twitter), YouTube, Facebook, Instagram etc. to disseminate information. The information is released in English, Hindi, and Urdu along with 11 other regional languages which reaches newspapers and media organisations all over the country. PIB also provides accreditation to media persons to facilitate access to information from Government sources.

96. The details of the budgetary allocations and actual expenditure (BE, RE & AE), for PIB during last five years and the BE allocations for the year 2025-26, are as under:

(Rs. in crore)					
year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure (AE)	AE % w.r.t BE	AE % w.r.t RE
2020-21	99.61	81.75	82.63	82.95%	101.08%
2021-22*	102.99	103.41	104.20	101.17%	100.76%
2022-23	107.48	108.53	100.38	93.39%	92.49%

<b>2023-24</b>	111.46	111.05	103.81	93.14%	93.48%
<b>2024-25</b>	121.99	112.57	92.28	75.65%	81.98%
<b>2025-26</b>	115.09				
* Final Estimates of PIB for FY 2021-22 were enhanced to ₹ 105.60 cr.					

97. As per allocation to PIB, a reduction of Rs 9.41 crore has been made in RE 2024-25 compared to BE 2024-25, in the establishment expenditure. It is highlighted that the most significant impact of this overall reduction has incurred under the non-salary head (revenue section), with a decrease of Rs 1.97 crore. The Ministry informed that this cut has resulted in shortage of funds, thereby affecting the clearance of bills and committed liabilities, specifically under Object- Heads rent for others, professional services, repairs and maintenance, digital equipment, domestic travel expenses, rent, rates and taxes for land and buildings. Consequently, this has resulted in a backlog of pending bills under establishment expenditure.

98. The reasons for underutilization under PIB, as provided by the Ministry, are as under:-

**1.Surrendered Funds:** An amount of Rs. 9.17 Crore was surrendered under the RE 2024-25, against the allocated BE for 2024-25, specifically for the 'Salaries' and 'Allowances' heads. This surrender was due to the funds being reserved for vacant posts, which were not filled during the year.

**2.Technical Issues with GeM Portal:** A technical fault in the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) platform led to the non-processing and non-payment of bills amounting to Rs. 99.85 Lakhs under the ICT head. This issue has delayed the payment process for certain bills.

**3.Delayed Bill Processing:** Recent guidelines issued by the Principal Accounts Office (PAO) require bills to be processed through the GeM portal, which has caused delays in processing several bills amounting to over Rs. 1.50 Crore across various heads of Establishment Expenditure. These delays have contributed to the underutilization of allocated funds. Efforts are being made to expedite the processing of pending bills as per the new guidelines and to resolve the technical issues in the GeM system to ensure smooth expenditure utilization".

99. When asked about new developments in PIB, the Ministry, during evidence, submitted as under:-

सर, प्रेस सूचना ब्यूरो का जो हमारा पूरा नेटवर्क है, उसको रीवैम्प किया गया है। उसी के तहत हमारा जो इंटीग्रेटेड डैशबोर्ड 'संवाद', जो हमारी इंफॉर्मेशन विंग का एक मेजर सॉफ्टवेयर टूल है, जिससे हम हर मिनिस्ट्री को एलर्ट भेज पाते हैं, इंफॉर्मेशन से संबंधित मीडिया में जो भी चलता है, उसकी ट्रेंड एनालिसिस कर पाते हैं। साथ ही साथ, पीआईबी की पूरी व्यवस्था को भी री-ऑर्गेनाइज किया गया है। प्रत्येक सुबह हर मिनिस्ट्री को एक डेली परसेप्शन रिपोर्ट भेजी जाती है, पीएमओ को भेजी जाती है। उसके ऊपर एक्शन लिया जाता है। जो एक्शन लिया

जाता है, उसका हम साप्ताहिक तीन रिपोर्ट्स के तौर पर सारी मिनिस्ट्रीज़ से संकलन करते हैं। हम मंत्री जी और पीएमओ को उसका एक्शन-टेकेन रिपोर्ट बताते हैं। साथ ही साथ, सोशल मीडिया और इलेक्ट्रॉनिक चैनल्स पर चल रही कार्यवाही की भी मॉनिटरिंग करते हैं। उस मॉनिटरिंग से संबंधित जितने भी ट्रेन्ड्स या अलर्ट्स आते हैं, उन सारे अलर्ट्स को संग्रहीत करके संबंधित मंत्रालय को इसके बारे में बताया जाता है।

100. Details about 'SAMWAD' and the problems faced by PIB as provided by the Ministry are as under:-.

“The reduction in funds allocated under the Non-Salary Component in the Revised Estimates 2024-25 under Establishment Expenditure has resulted in an inability to meet the actual demand for funds under some object-heads, leading to delays in processing and clearance of bills pertaining to the Non-Salary Component in Establishment Expenditure. Accordingly, a request for allocation of additional funds has been made in Final Grant 2024-25.

New Media Wing(NMW) promotes citizen centric governance by taking and scrutinizing the feedback received from for various social media platforms with the help of its tool Integrated Dashboard (SAMVAD).

A part of Central Sector Scheme – Development, Communication and Information Dissemination (DCID) – social media platform is being implemented by NMW. Under this scheme, two projects – Social Media Activities and Integrated Dashboard (SAMVAD) are being implemented.

SAMVAD Integrated Dashboard is a portal for providing Systematic Analysis of Media Views for Decision-making to PIB Officials. It covers Print, Online, Social and Electronic (YouTube channels of TV News channels) media. PIB Officials use the dashboard to generate various media feedback reports”.

**(ii) Press Registrar General of India (PRGI) [erstwhile Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI)]**

101. The office of Registrar of Newspapers for India has been renamed as Press Registrar General of India – PRGI with the enactment of the Press and Registration of Periodicals Act, 2023 and the simultaneous repealing of the old Press and Registration of Books Act 1867. The new Act came into effect from March 1, 2024. The new Act has provisions for new procedures and processes for the registration of periodicals in India. Accordingly, a new digital platform – Press Sewa Portal ([https:// presssewa.prgi.gov.in/](https://presssewa.prgi.gov.in/)) – has been developed. The new portal along with the new website were launched by the Hon'ble Minister for Information & Broadcasting on February 22, 2024. The Press Sewa Portal is designed to facilitate services such as title verification, registration, and filing of Annual statements using Aadharbased e-signatures while ensuring transparency and real-time status updates to applicants. The ongoing automation and digitisation project is also part of the Government's efforts to ensure 'ease of doing business' for all.

102. The primary function of PRGI is to facilitate the registration of periodicals (print) in the Country as per the provisions of the PRP Act, 2023. As a statutory establishment under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, this office strives to streamline regulatory functions through the adoption of digital technology and to promote transparency in all the processes it facilitates.

103. The details of the budgetary allocations and actual expenditure (BE, RE & AE), for PRGI (erstwhile RNI) during last five years and the BE allocations for the year 2025-26, are as under:-

year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure (AE)	(Rs. in crore)	
				AE % w.r.t BE	AE % w.r.t RE
2020-21	7.81	5.66	5.87	75.16%	103.71%
2021-22	8.52	8.22	7.70	90.38%	93.67%
2022-23#	7.95	8.80	9.77	122.89%	111.02%
2023-24	12.36	11.20	10.23	82.77%	91.34%
2024-25	11.66	13.47	9.22	79.07%	68.45%
2025-26	12.52	-	-	-	-
(#)Final Estimates of PRGI for FY 2022-23 were enhanced to ₹10.27Cr					

104. Work output of PRGI, in brief (April 2023 – March 2024) is as under:-

Sl. No.	Particulars	Total
1.	Title Applications processed	10,440
2.	Titles verified	5,405
3.	Periodicals registered	3,058
4.	Titles de-blocked	1,972

105. PRGI identified 1,04,403 defunct periodicals the publishers of which were not filing Annual Statement for the last 5 years consecutively. The Specified Authorities (SA) in the State Governments have been officially informed to enquire about the matter. Further, registration of around 246 publications has been cancelled and 1,480 publications have been re-activated so far, based on reports from SAs of various districts.

106. Asked for the details of the Press and Registration of Periodicals Act, that came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2024, the Ministry submitted as under:-

“The Press & Registration of Periodicals Act, 2023 (PRP Act, 2023), which was notified on December 29, 2023, came into force on March 1, 2024. The PRP Act, 2023 mandates the Press Registrar General (PRG) to allot titles and register periodicals containing public news or comments on public news. Books and journals, including academic and those on science and technology, do not fall under the purview of PRP Act, 2023. The Act replaces the colonial era statute, called ‘the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867’ (PRB Act, 1867), which formulated the duties and functions of the office of the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI). With the change in the Act, the nomenclature of RNI has also changed to the Press Registrar General of India (PRGI).

The PRB Act, 1867 necessitated the involvement of multiple offices of the State and the Central Governments, and was not in sync with the changing media landscape. The new mode of governance, with its emphasis on facilitating faster and easier access to citizens, required a new Act.

The PRP Act, 2023 makes the process of allotment of titles and registration of periodicals simple and simultaneous, through an online system, doing away with the need for physical interface. This enables PRGI to fast-track the process, thereby, making it easier for publishers to start a periodical.

Upholding the importance of a free media, the new Act has substantially decriminalized procedural irregularities on the part of publishers, and removed imprisonment provisions for minor violations of the Act. The Act is, therefore, a testimony to the Government's efforts to remove obsolete and restrictive regulations for news periodicals. With its emphasis on faster and efficient services through the use of digital technology, the Act is bound to enhance the ease of doing newspaper business.

In line with the mandate of the Act, The Office of the Press Registrar General of India (PRGI) has launched the Press Sewa Portal as a pivotal requirement under the Press & Registration of Periodicals Act (PRP Act), 2023. The portal envisions to facilitate services related to the registration of newspapers/periodicals online by providing an integrated online dashboard for owners of periodicals, publishers, printing Presses, Specified Authorities and PRGI officials. The facility for receiving online applications for new registration from the publishers was launched on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2024.

The Press Sewa Portal aims to simplify and digitize the registration process for newspapers and periodicals, enhancing operational efficiency and transparency while reducing processing time. The online portal attempts to ensure ease of doing business, ease of access to information and services, and also to create a paperless administrative environment, and align with the Government's Digital India initiative to create a more conducive business environment for media entities”.

107. When asked to provide details of the changes in the Registration Act, the representative of the Ministry during evidence submitted as under:-

“सर, यह जो हमारा नया एक्ट Press and Registration of Periodicals Act आया है, यह 1 मार्च, 2024 से प्रभाव में आया है। इसमें हमने ईज-ऑफ-डूइंग-बिजनेस के उद्देश्य से बहुत सरल कर दिया है। जो प्रकाशक हैं, पहले जो अलग से अपने प्रकाशन के टाइटल के लिए एप्लाइ करते थे, पंजीकरण के लिए एप्लाइ करते थे, अब वे अपने पोर्टल के थ्रू एक साथ एप्लाइ कर देते हैं। उससे उनको बड़ी सुविधा हो गयी है। दूसरी बात कि अब हमारा पूरा प्रोसेस ही ऑनलाइन हो गया है। पहले जो प्रकाशकों को अपने-अपने स्थानों से दिल्ली आना पड़ता था, हमारे ऑफिस में आकर अपनी समस्याएं बतानी पड़ती थीं, अब वे अपने पोर्टल और हमारे हेल्पलाइन के माध्यम से डायरेक्टली सम्पर्क कर सकते हैं”।

108. According to the Ministry, the main features of Press Sewa Portal when it fully develops and becomes operational are as under:-

- Online Application System.
- Parallel processing facility for application at Specified Authority in the States and PRGI.
- User-friendly interface with e-sign facility.
- Digital payment gateway integrated through Bharat Kosh.
- Real-time status updates via SMS and email.
- QR code-based digital certificate.
- Better access to information for publishers.
- Profile creation and management for owners, publishers, and printers.
- Chat bot-based grievance resolution mechanism.
- Deficiency communication with a 30-day response window.
- Faster, efficient, and transparent processing of applications.

109. On enquiring about the pending registration, the representative of the Ministry, deposing before the Committee submitted as under:-

“सर, हमारे यहां जो फिज़िकल एप्लिकेशंस थे, वे तो 13 हजार थे, जिनको हमने 30 सितंबर तक ज़ीरो कर दिया था। उसके बाद ऑनलाइन में जो अब आ रहे हैं, उनमें तरह-तरह के कुछ प्रॉब्लम्स हैं, जैसे कई राज्यों के डीएम अभी स्पेसिफाइड अथॉरिटी के तौर पर नोटिफाइड नहीं हैं तो उनके पास जितनी एप्लिकेशंस गई हैं, वे उन्हीं के पास पड़े हुए हैं और वे प्रोसेस नहीं किए गए हैं। तो हम अपनी तरफ से प्रोएक्टिवली चीफ सैक्रेट्रीज़ को लिख रहे हैं, डीएम को हम ईमेल से भी एलर्ट कर रहे हैं कि आपके पास जो एप्लिकेशंस पड़े हुए हैं, कृपया उनका संज्ञान ले कर कार्यवाही करें”।

110. While examining pendency, the Committee wanted to know if there was any provision in the Act regarding stipulating the time period within which an application had to be processed. To this, the representative of the Ministry, during evidence submitted as under:-

“सर, वह प्रॉविजन एक्ट में है।  
उसमें प्रावधान तो यह है कि यदि 60 दिनों के अंदर स्पेसिफाइड अथॉरिटी या तो जिला मजिस्ट्रेट या कमिश्नर उसे एप्रूव नहीं करते हैं तो वह ऑटो एक्सेप्ट हो कर हमारे पास आ जाता है।

111. Noting the above submission, the Committee sought reasons for pendency of applications. To this, the representative of the Ministry, during evidence submitted as under:-

“सर, जो हमारे पास आ रहे हैं, उसमें कभी-कभी यह दिक्कत आती है कि हमें ही थोड़ा संदेह होता है प्रकाशक के बैकग्राउंड की कोई जांच नहीं हुई और आगे जा कर कहीं प्रॉब्लम न हो तो हम ऐसे केसेज़ को दोबारा रेफर करते हैं और जो ऑटो एक्सेप्ट हो कर बाकी आ गए हैं, उन पर हम इमिजिएटली एक्शन लेते हैं और रजिस्ट्रेशन कर देते हैं।

सर, इस पर आपका जो मत है, हमने भी आपके साथ मीटिंग के उपरांत इनके साथ एक रिव्यू किया था, जो नंबर्स पेंडिंग थे, चूंकि यह इस एक्ट का शुरूआती तौर है, मैंने कई चीफ सैक्रेटरीज के साथ पर्सनली भी बात की है, कई जगह पर जहां नोटिफाइड नहीं थे, वहां नोटिफाई भी किया गया है। अब कुछ जगहों पर हम डीमंड प्रोविजन को भी इस्तेमाल करेंगे। शुरूआती दौर था, इसलिए हम थोड़ा ज्यादा केयरफुल रहना चाहते थे कि कहीं ऐसा नहीं हो कि हम कोई ऐसी चीज अप्रूव कर दें जो देश विरोधी रहे और गलत अप्रूव हो जाए। परंतु इस पूरी पेंडेंसी को काफी कंट्रोल किया जाएगा। एक साल में बहुत उल्लेखनीय कार्य हुआ है। 13 हजार एप्लिकेशंस जहां प्रेस रजिस्ट्रार के पास पेंडिंग पड़ी हुई थीं, उसको वॉर फुटिंग पर जीरो किया गया।

112. Assuring the Committee about the benefits of digitizing the process, the representative of the Ministry, submitted the following:-

“जी बिल्कुल सर और उसके साथ ही इस एक्ट को संशोधित किया गया है। इनके पोर्टल को भी पूरी तरह से लाइव कर दिया गया है। उसमें भी थोड़े टीडिंग इश्यूज हैं, जिनको लाइव किया है, उससे चूंकि ट्रांसपेरेंसी बढ़ जाती है, तो वहां पर कल-परसों भी कई लोग आए, शिकायत कर रहे थे कि हमारा धंधा खत्म हो रहा है। क्योंकि पहले तो उनका काम बगैर वेरिफिकेशन पर चल रहा था, सर्कुलेशन का कोई प्रावधान पहले नहीं था। हर व्यक्ति अपने आप को 70-80 हजार का सर्कुलेशन दिखाता है, एडवर्टाइजमेंट्स पाता है। पर अब चूंकि बहुत ट्रांसपेरेंसी हो गई है, पूरा इनका फेसलेस ऑनलाइन सिस्टम है तो वहां पर उसको अपनी ऑडिट रिपोर्ट्स डालनी पड़ती है, सिस्टम ट्रैक कर लेता है कि ये नंबर्स मैच नहीं हो रहे हैं। थोड़े इस टाइप के टीडिंग इश्यूज हैं, पर ये सारे रिजॉल्व होंगे और यह नया जो संशोधन पार्लियामेंट ने किया है, यह बहुत प्रोग्रेसिव है, ट्रांसपेरेंसी को बढ़ाने वाले हैं, ईज ऑफ डूइंग बिजनेस को बढ़ाने वाले हैं और हम पूरी कोशिश करेंगे कि अगली मीटिंग जब आप हमें बुलाएं, तब तक हम इस पेंडेंसी को मैक्सिमम तरीके से कम करने की कोशिश करेंगे। जो कार्य इन्होंने ऑफ लाइन में किया था, वह ऑनलाइन में भी डेफिनेटली आपको अगली मीटिंग तक दिखाई पड़ेगा”।

113. When the Committee expressed concerns related to circulation of papers/periodicals and its relation with the Government advertisements to those periodicals, the representative of the Ministry, submitted as under:-

“सर, आपका कहना बिल्कुल सही है। हमारी गाइडलाइंस के हिसाब से सर्कुलेशन के बेसिस पर विज्ञापन जाता है। पहले जो सिस्टम चल रहा था, उसमें हमारे पीआईबी के ऑफिसर्स फील्ड में जाते थे। वे दो साल में एक बार वेरिफिकेशन के कुछ नंबर्स देते थे। चूंकि उसका कुछ बेसिस नहीं रहता था। उनका ऑडिट रिपोर्ट, खरीदी और फाइनेंशियल फीगर्स से संबंध नहीं होता था। चूंकि उसमें ऑनलाइन सिस्टम नहीं था, जिसमें कोई ट्रांसपेरेंसी नहीं थी, कोई ट्रल्स इन-बिल्ट नहीं थे। उसी तरह से सिस्टम चला आ रहा था। ऐसे कई न्यूजपेपर्स थे, जो अपने आप को 80 हजार सर्कुलेशन डेली का बताते हैं। जबकि उतना सर्कुलेशन उनका नहीं है। अगर आप उनके फीगर्स देखें तो सिर्फ विज्ञापन लेने के लिए उस प्रकार की व्यवस्थाएं बैठी हुई थीं। अभी जो इनका ऑनलाइन सिस्टम हुआ है, उसके उपरांत अब सब सारी चीजें सिस्टम के माध्यम से आनी हैं। Everything is now based upon desk verification. अब पीआईबी का ऑफिसर फील्ड में जाकर उनकी रिपोर्ट नहीं करेगा। वे सिर्फ अपनी एक ऑडिट रिपोर्ट लगाएंगे। उससे संबंधित ट्रांसपेरेंसी होनी चाहिए। आप जो कह रहे हैं, उसके अनुसार

मूलभूत तौर पर बहुत सुधार आएगा। विज्ञापन का हमारा जो बजट है, वह उन अखबारों को जाना चाहिए, चाहे वे छोटे अखबार हो या मीडियम अखबार हो, उन अखबारों को जाए, जिनका सर्कुलेशन ट्रांसपैरेंट और सही है। ऐसे कई अखबार हैं, जो सिर्फ सरकार के विज्ञापन लेने के लिए रजिस्ट्रेशन कराते हैं और अपना डेली सर्कुलेशन का कुछ एक नंबर कोट करते हैं। वे हमारी लिस्ट में एम्पैन्लड होकर बैठे हुए हैं”।

114. Adding on the issue of fake circulation and role of online portal, the representative of the Ministry, deposing before the Committee submitted as under:-

“सर, नए एक्ट्स एवं ऑनलाइन पोर्टल से इसमें सुधार होने की बहुत संभावनाएं हैं। कई लोग इससे प्रभावित भी हो रहे हैं। हाल ही में काफी लोग आए थे। उन्होंने कहा कि इससे तो हमारा धंधा ही बंद हो जाएगा। हम इतने सालों से चल रहे हैं, हमारा धंधा बंद हो जाएगा। लेकिन, यह बहुत जरूरी है कि जो छप रहे हैं, सही ढंग से सर्कुलेट हो रहे हैं, उन अखबारों का हम समर्थन करें। इसमें हमारा ऑनलाइन पोर्टल काफी हेल्पफुल साबित होगा। आने वाली मीटिंग तक हम काफी हद तक इसकी पैडेंसी को कम करके आपके समक्ष प्रस्तुत होंगे”।

115. Responding to a query related to categorization of Newspapers/periodicals, the representative of the Ministry, during evidence submitted as under:-

“सर, आप बिल्कुल सही कह रहे हैं। सरकार का अगर कोई विज्ञापन है तो उसका एक पूरा फॉर्म्युला बना हुआ है। xxx.xxx.xxx...सर, न्यूजपेपर्स को तीन कैटेगरीज में बांटा गया है – बिग, मीडियम एंड स्मॉल। 75 हजार से ऊपर सर्कुलेशन वाले जो अखबार हैं, वे बिग कैटेगरी में आते हैं। 25 हजार से लेकर 75 हजार सर्कुलेशन वाले मीडियम कैटेगरी में आते हैं और 25 हजार से कम वाले स्मॉल कैटेगरी में आते हैं। इन तीनों का रेशियो फिक्स्ड है और उसी अनुसार में उनको विज्ञापन दी जाती है।

यह 50, 35 और 15 है। बिग 50, मीडियम 35 और स्मॉल 15 है।

50, 35 और 15 का जो रेशियो है, उसमें जो सबसे ज्यादा समस्या वाला एरिया है, वह 75 हजार से 25 हजार वाले के बीच वाला है। इनका इतना सर्कुलेशन नहीं है, परंतु अपने आप को 25 हजार के ऊपर करने के लिए बी में बताते हैं। अगर 10 करोड़ रुपये का ऐड है तो साढ़े तीन करोड़ रुपये अनिवार्य रूप से उन अखबारों को जाना है। यही पर मेजर प्रॉब्लम है। इसे यह एक्ट और हमारा नया पोर्टल सॉल्व करने की कोशिश कर रहा है। इसमें बहुत चुनौतियाँ आएंगी, क्योंकि इसमें कई वेस्टेड इंटेस्ट हैं, जो प्रभावित होंगे। अभी तक वे बगैर सर्कुलेशन के भी सिर्फ विज्ञापन के बेसिस पर अपना अखबार चला रहे थे। इससे एक इम्पैक्ट आएगा” xxx...xxx...xxx... हमारी ज्यादातर ऐड डेली न्यूजपेपर को जाती है, सप्ताहिक को कम जाती है। ज्यादातर ऐड डेटेड होती हैं, सप्ताहिक को बहुत कम जाती है, ज्यादातर दैनिक अखबार को जाती है”।

116. When asked for data related to different categories of periodicals/Newspapers, the Ministry, submitted:-

“सर अभी इमिडिएटली एवलेबल नहीं है, 4800 डेली इम्पैनलड हैं। मंथली और सप्ताहिक मिला दिया जाए। तो कुल लगभग 7000/4 निकाय इम्पैनलड हैं।

117. When asked for the updated status of the periodicals/Newspapers that fall under different category, the Ministry has not replied.

118. About the concerns associated with registration process and circulation of News papers of different categories, the Ministry has submitted:-

“Concerns raised by registered publishers regarding rate of Postal Concessions.

Representations have been received in PRGI regarding some periodicals not getting concessional rate of postage in view of their periodicity being above ‘Weekly.’ PRGI has informed that as per the recent Post Office Rules, 2024 wherein the definition of newspapers has been taken from Press and Registration of Periodicals Act, 2023, periodicals with a periodicity above weekly will not be categorised as ‘Newspapers’. The matter is being examined in the Ministry.

#### **(a) Concerns associated with Circulation Verification through Desk Audit**

The PRP Act, 2023 provides for a new methodology for Circulation Verification (CV) of Newspapers through a desk study approach wherein physical verification of printing press, distribution centres etc. are only a rarity and the processing is to be done electronically. Here is a list of changes in the methodology of the CV vis-a-vis PRP Act, 2023.

#### ***Circulation Verification through Desk Audit***

*As per 6 (b) of the PRP Act, 2023, the Press Registrar General may verify the circulation figures of a periodical, in the manner laid down under the Press and Registration of Periodicals Rules, 2024, in respect of the following classes and categories of periodicals:*

- a daily newspaper, having an average circulation of twenty-five thousand copies or more each day, as reported in the annual statement furnished by the newspaper in the preceding two financial years, and is empanelled with the Central Bureau of Communication for the purpose of obtaining advertisements of the Central Government;*
- a daily newspaper, having an average circulation of twenty-five thousand copies or more each day, as reported in the annual statement furnished by the newspaper in the preceding two financial years, and intends to be empanelled with the Central Bureau of Communication for the purpose of obtaining advertisements of the Central Government; and*
- any other periodical which, in the opinion of the Press Registrar General, and for reasons to be recorded by him in writing, requires such verification, on the basis of any information, reference or complaint received by him in respect of that periodical.*

*For the purposes of verifying the circulation of a periodical, the Press Registrar General or any officer of the Central Government so authorised by him, may undertake a desk audit of the information furnished by the publisher in the latest annual statement, in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Press Sewa Portal, and determine the circulation figures.*

The PRGI, after consultation with the Ministry, Central Bureau of Communication, and Press Information Bureau, drafted and published the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Circulation Verification. The new CV Guidelines were drafted with a view to ensure faceless, transparent, and efficient processes. As physical verification was not part of the process, the audit exercise was fully based on documents/data submitted by the publisher. An internal SOP for the same was also being drafted.

As the functionality for Circulation Verification was under development on Press Sewa Portal, PRGI issued Advisory No.32 for receiving CV applications through official email for undertaking verification based on the new Guidelines. Dedicated email accounts have been created for the same.

The publishers of small and medium newspapers raised certain concerns such as the following:

- The preparation of documents requires more time; therefore, the implementation may be postponed.
- Documents for 2-3 months can be provided, instead of 1 year.
- The list of documents to be submitted may be reviewed.
- GST documents for Purchase of Newsprint cannot be provided
- Medium Newspapers cannot afford the services of Chartered Accountants for the preparation of documents
- Validity of CV Certificate should be 2 years, instead of 1 year. (Clause 3.2.3)
- Cash deposit to the bank on the next working day is not practically possible (Clause 5)
- Debarring for CV on submission of fake/forged documents – not reasonable (Clause 11)

119. Asked about the action taken/planned to be taken to address the concerns associated with registration process, the Ministry replied as under:-

“As per the directions from and in consultation with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, PRGI is in the process of simplifying the SOP for Circulation Verification, especially the list of documents to be submitted/uploaded by the publisher. An amended SOP/Guidelines will be issued by PRGI in this regard. The provision for cut off date for receiving CV Application through email was removed; any publisher whose CV Certificate expires within the next 3 months can submit the application to PRGI through email”.

120. Regarding details of the pending registrations of periodicals and Newspapers along with the reasons and action taken for the same, the Ministry has submitted as under:-

“The Registration of periodicals has been simplified and streamlined with the online Press Sewa Portal. The portal was set up after the Press and Registration

of Periodicals Act, 2023, came into effect on 1st March, 2024. There are applications received prior to 1st March, 2024 (since the PRB Act era) with incomplete and incorrect documents submitted by the publisher. Discrepancy Letters have been issued to them and response from the publishers are still awaited in these cases. The registration certificates will be issued once correct documents are received.

During the transition from PRB Act framework to PRP Act, there have been concerns on making the publishers aware of Press Sewa Portal and online application process and migration of data of existing publishers to the online data base. This has been successfully done as more than 40,000 users have been on-boarded and around 38,000 Annual Statements filed.

From 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2024 onwards, as mandated by the PRP Act, 2023, Registration applications are received and processed online through Press Sewa Portal. Many applications are pending on Press Sewa Portal without the comments of the Specified Authorities from the State Government. The major concern in this regard is the on-boarding of Specified Authorities from the State (District Magistrates) on Press Sewa Portal so that they can access the application and provide their comments within 60 days.

The matter pertains to notification of Specified Authorities (SAs) under Press & Registration of Periodicals Act by respective State Governments. Only 9 States/UTs have notified the Act so far. However, some of the states, even after notifying the Act, have not shared the necessary details (Name as per Aadhaar, official Email ID, Official Phone No) required for their Account creation on Press Sewa Portal.) PRGI has been trying to collect the same from the respective districts. Accordingly, 400 plus Districts have been on-boarded on Press Sewa Portal as on date.

Further, as per the process envisaged in Press Sewa Portal, all applications for registrations require comments by Specified Authorities (SAs) primarily to verify if the applicant is not convicted under UAPA Act or for terrorism related activities or on the ground of anything done against the security of the State.

As per the design of the Press Sewa Portal, the official email ID, official phone number, and name as per Aadhaar of the District Magistrate are mandatory as they can process the applications by using Aadhaar based E-sign only.

#### **The following Actions have been taken by PRGI**

- (i) In cases where Accounts for Specified Authority have been created and the applications have moved to PRGI without any comments by SAs after the automatic time-window of 60 days, PRGI is reverting the applications again for comments to SAs for their comments.
- (ii) In cases where Accounts for Specified Authority have not been created so far, efforts have been made to co-ordinate with and contact directly the DMs/Directorate of Public Relations in State Governments through phone and email.

- (iii) Two DO Letters have been written by Secretary (I&B) to Chief Secretaries of all States/Administrators of UTs. PRGI has coordinated for the same.
- (iv) As a follow up measure, two DO Letters have been sent by Press Registrar General to Chief Secretaries of all States via post as well as official Email.
- (v) 20 Online Training sessions have been organized for Specified Authorities. The participation has been not very encouraging as relatively lower-level staff was attending the training representing the DM office. PRGI is organizing the training sessions every 15 days through [www.bharatvc.nic.in](http://www.bharatvc.nic.in), NIC's official VC platform. It was being organized every week initially.
- (vi) A special online portal has been created by NIC to capture the data required for creation of Accounts for Specified Authorities/DMs: [https://egov.mni.nic.in/Webforms/DM\\_Details.aspx](https://egov.mni.nic.in/Webforms/DM_Details.aspx). Multiple Emails and reminders have been sent to all District Magistrates for providing the details for account creation.
- (vii) 27 states/UTs are yet to notify the PRP Act, 2023. However, from the same states, a few District Magistrates have sent their details directly to PRGI for creation of Accounts on Press Sewa Portal. Accordingly, they have been made part of Press Sewa Portal.
- (viii) The Applications which reached PRGI without the comments of Specified Authority (because the specified authorities are yet to be on-boarded on Press Sewa Portal) have been shared with the Specified Authority through official email for their comments.
- (ix) It has been conveyed to the Specified Authority that if the DM/Specified authority after receiving an application in their inbox on Press Sewa Portal or email and he/she doesn't respond to it for 60 days, the O/o PRGI will take it as a deemed NOC from DM/SA as per the provisions of the Act.
- (x) Since the launch of the Press Sewa Portal, efforts have been made to contact and co-ordinate with the Specified Authorities, the Department of Public Relations in the States – through phone and emails. Efforts are on to onboard all Specified Authorities (District Magistrates) on Press Sewa Portal on urgent basis.

## **IX. NORTH EASTERN REGION (NER)**

121. The detailed statement of BE, RE and AE of funds marked for North-East Region for the last five years, along with the allocations made for the year 2025-26, as furnished by the Ministry are:-

Year	(Rs. In crore)				
	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. BE	% w.r.t. RE
2020-21	74.00	45.29	51.79	70%	120.67%
2021-22	63.24	45.00	24.61	38.92%	54.69%
2022-23	63.00	63.90	25.24	40.06%	39.50%
2023-24	110.50	102.73	86.80	78.55%	84.50%
2024-25*	100.43	98.40	57.17	56.93%	58.10%
2025-26	111.85	-	-	-	-
(*) Actual Expenditure is upto 31.01.2025					

122. On seeking details regarding the physical targets set and achieved under the Schemes/projects being implemented in North-East Region (NER) for last two years and the reasons for their shortfall in targets, the Ministry replied as under:-

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

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

123. On being asked for the details of financial allocations and utilisation under all the Schemes/projects being implemented in North-East Region (NER) during 2024-25, the Ministry provided the following statement:-

Scheme	BE	RE	AE*	AE( % of RE)	Reason for shortfall
DCID	14.93	14.93	13.94	93.37%	There is optimal utilization
DCDFC	35.00	40.00	23.00	57.5%	A concept plan with detailed roadmap of an amount of Rs. 40 crore for carrying out various activities under this scheme in NER has been approved.
CRS	0.50	1.47	0.23	15.65%	Financial Assistance- Grant in Aid is a demand driven subsidy. In the current FY, so far no demand has been received for financial assistance by any operational community radio station, which has resulted in less expenditure
BIND	50.00	40.00	20.00	50%	The shortfall in expenditure is mainly due to the following: i) Stall of procurement process of broadcasting equipment for seeking clearance regarding applicability of Make in India clause exemption granted earlier. ii) Scrapping of tender for procurement of 6 camera OV vans ii) Change of procurement mode of Set Top Boxes from SITC mode to DBT mode.
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.43</b>	<b>96.40</b>	<b>57.17</b>	<b>58.10%</b>	

124. Measures taken for optimal utilization of funds earmarked for the Region in 2025-26 as submitted by the Ministry are as under:-

**“Films** - The National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) has initiated the process of acquiring projects from film festivals supported by the Ministry, including the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), the Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF), and other such events. Additionally, an E-Bazaar has been launched to facilitate networking within the film industry, enabling filmmakers and producers to connect and present their projects for funding consideration.

Moving forward, NFDC will evaluate and consider projects across multiple categories—including Feature Films, Documentaries, Animation, and Web

Series—on a quarterly basis through these online platforms. This initiative is expected to streamline the allocation of funds earmarked for the region under DCDFC scheme in the financial year 2025-26 and enhance the accessibility of funding opportunities for filmmakers.

### **Prasar Bharati**

**Akashvani:** It is the constant endeavor of Akashvani to complete the projects within the specified time frame. Monitoring mechanism has been strengthened considerably. Procurement procedures have been streamlined. Project review meetings are held regularly at Zonal level & HQ level and various activities involved in procurement of capital equipment and execution of works are critically assessed & targets are fixed. The frequency of monitoring meetings has been increased at all levels of Directorate & Prasar Bharati Sectt. Use of digital platform viz e-office, e-tendering, procurement through GEM, Video conference is also being utilized.

In addition to above, an APEX committee has been constituted by Prasar Bharati Secretariat to monitor the progress of scheme.

**Doordarshan:** To strengthen programme manpower in Programme Wing, process for hiring manpower in various categories on contract basis is going on.

**CRS:** The Annual Planning of the Scheme has been charted out. The efforts will be made for timely completion of each activity. And also, stringent monitoring mechanisms has been developed”.

125. When asked about the new initiatives planned for NER for better performance under the Schemes/projects being implemented in North-East Region for the year 2025-26, the Ministry submitted as under:-

**“DCDFC** - A detailed concept plan for carrying out activities under DCDFC Scheme in North-East region has been prepared. This concept note includes:

1. Production of feature films, DOCUMENTARY, animation films in various NE languages.
2. Exhibition of Children’s Film in NE Schools.
3. Support for organization of Film Festivals in NE Region.
4. Participation of NE delegates for various Domestic & International Film Festivals.
5. Distribution of completed films/ projects of NER
6. Procuring Digital Rights of the films from NE for OTT Platforms.
7. Script Writing/Movie Direction/ workshop in film Making including Animation/VFX-Gaming Course/Master Classes for interested Film makers/students from NE.

**BIND** - It is the constant endeavour of Doordarshan to complete the projects within the specified time frame. Monitoring mechanism has been strengthened considerably. Procurement procedures have been streamlined. Project review meetings are held regularly at Zonal level & HQ level and various activities involved in procurement of capital equipment and execution of works are critically assessed & targets are fixed. The frequency of monitoring meetings has been increased at all levels of Directorate & Prasar Bharati Sectt. Use of digital platform viz e-office, e-tendering, procurement through GEM, Video conference is also being utilized.

In addition to above, an Apex committee has been constituted to monitor the progress of projects under the Scheme.

**CRS** -Under the Scheme amount of financial assistance has been increased to encourage more and more eligible organisations to come forward and set up Community Radio Stations in the larger public interests. The amount of financial assistance has been increased from Rs. 12 Lakhs to an amount varying from Rs. 18.20 lakhs to Rs. 24.00 Lakhs. Awareness programme/seminar are being conducted to create interest among the prospective agencies to come forward to set up CRS.

**DCID** - Activities such as setting up of Regions/ Unit-wise Annual & Quarterly Targets, Centralized Monthly Schedule of Activities for each Quarter, Vartalaps, Press Tours, Information and Dissemination & Awareness Campaigns through various Media Vehicles viz, Print, Audio Visual, Outdoor on the matter of National Importance will be taken up under the Scheme during 2025-26 on a continuing basis, as has been done in the past”.

126. Details of the problems faced by DD and AIR stations in North Eastern Region (NER) as furnished by the Ministry are as under:-

Units	Sanctioned Strength	In-position	Vacant
All India Radio	2552	801	1751
Doordarshan	2148	810	1338
<b>Total</b>	4700	1611	3089

There is shortage of Senior Officers and operational Staff in different streams of programming/technical/admin, shortage of faculty at Training institute etc. due to lack of recruitment and promotions.

As an interim measure, process is going on for hiring of manpower for programme wing on contractual basis in the categories of Broadcast Executive, Post Production Assistant (Editing), Post Production Assistant (Graphics), Videographer and Set Arranger”.

## **X. MISCELLANEOUS**

### **(iv) AI-based solutions in Information Broadcasting Sector**

127. When asked whether anything was being planned for adopting and implementing AI-based solutions in Information Broadcasting Sector and in Governance within MIB, the Ministry replied as under:-

“Embracing the era of AI, DD Kisan introduced two AI news anchors, AI Krish and AI Bhoomi, on May 26, 2024. These AI anchors can speak in fifty languages and are capable of delivering news 24X7. These AI anchors are providing information to viewers about:

- Agricultural happening including research in the country as well as at global level
- Trends in agriculture mandis (markets)
- Weather related News
- Information related to government schemes.

128. Adding on the issue, the representative of the Ministry while deposing before the Committee submitted as under:-

“एआई के लिए भी हमारी मिनिस्ट्री में दो मेजर आरएफपीज शुरू की हैं। उसमें जो मेजर आरएफपी है और चाहे जिस भी माध्यम से मीडिया में न्यूज आती है, हमारा एक डैश बोर्ड है जो सारे सरकारी विभागों को हर दिन रियल टाइम बेसेज पर क्या सूचना आ रही है या न्यूज चल रहे हैं, उसकी जानकारी देते हैं। उस टूल का नाम संवाट है। उसका रिवैम्प एआई बेस्ड सिस्टम के द्वारा किया गया है। उसके लिए भी बजटरी प्रावधान हमारी स्कीम में है।

महोदय, इसके साथ हमारा एक ट्रांसलेशन मोड्यूल जिसे कि भारत की किसी भी भाषा में दूरदर्शन द्वारा प्रसारण हो या वैब पोर्टल्स या सोशल मीडिया द्वारा प्रसारण होता हो, उसे भी भारत की किसी भी भाषा में रियल टाइम बेसेज पर ट्रांसलेट करने के लिए एआई टूल्स का इंटीग्रेशन दूसरी आरएफपी में किया जा रहा है। जहां तक पब्लिक सेक्टर कम्पनीज का सवाल है, हमारे आर्गेनाइजेशन में दो ही कम्पनीज एनएफडीसी और बेसिल है। इनका बहुत ज्यादा कमर्शियल कार्य नहीं है। यह भारत सरकार की स्कीम्स को इम्प्लीमेंट करने के लिए हैं। इनकी कोई मेजर सीएसआर फंडिंग भी नहीं है। हम इनकी एनुअल रिपोर्ट्स को संसद में ले करते हैं।

#### (v) **BROADCASTING SERVICES (REGULATION) BILL**

129. According to the Ministry, the draft Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill was placed in the public domain on 10.11.2023 seeking views/ comments/ suggestions from the general public and stakeholders till 09.12.2023 which was later extended upto 15.01.2024. Based on the wide range of views expressed during consultations with stakeholders, additional time was provided for comments till 15.10.2024. The Ministry has submitted that it does not intend to introduce the bill in the current session.

130. On being asked for further details w.r.t to draft Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, following was furnished by the Ministry:-

Sl. No.	Details sought	Remarks of Ministry
1.	List of provisions that the Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill contains;	1. With the advent of new technologies and platforms, various categories of broadcasting services emerged such as internet-based services like IPTV, OTT platforms etc. and also existing technologies like DTH and cable television undergoes through substantial change. Relevant laws and Rules made thereunder were amended from time to time to keep pace with technological changes.  2. The Ministry had prepared the draft Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill seeking to replace the existing Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. The Bill proposed to streamline the regulatory processes, extend its purview to cover the Over-the-Top (OTT) content and digital news introduces
2.	Provisions that are taken from previous	

	Act/ guidelines/ Rules/ Codes;	contemporary definitions and provisions for emerging technologies and seeks to strengthen the self-regulatory regime through Broadcast Advisory Council for content regulation, etc. The Bill sought to improve over the existing laws governing broadcasting services and proposed to;-
3.	Details of the amended/ New Provisions incorporated in the Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill;	(i) address the critical need by consolidating and updating the regulatory provisions for various broadcasting services under a single legislative framework.
4.	Details of the stages (along with dates) that the Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill has undergone since its inception;	<p>(ii) introduce comprehensive definitions for contemporary broadcasting terms and incorporating provisions for emerging broadcasting technologies and services, the bill proposed to align itself to the requirements of present and needs of the future.</p> <p>(iii) provide primacy to the commitment to consumer protection and media transparency. The idea of self-regulating bodies has been further improved with addition of feature of content evaluation committees. The present all official IDC has been evolved into more participative and broad Broadcast Advisory Council.</p> <p>(iv) ensure adherence to Programme and Advertisement Codes across various services, implementing self-classification by broadcasters and emphasizing access control measures for restricted content.</p> <p>(v) regulate OTT content as well as digital news and current affairs, which are at present regulated under the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. This will align statutory regulatory framework with allocation of business to the Ministry.</p> <p>(vi) cater to the specific needs of persons with disabilities by setting comprehensive accessibility guidelines for them.</p> <p>(vii) introduce the statutory penalties for the first time with varying options like advisory, warning, censure or monetary penalty for the operators and broadcasters. The provisions for imprisonment and/or fines have been kept but only for few serious offences.</p> <p>(viii) link the monetary penalties and fines to the financial capacity of the entity measured in the form of investment and turnover to ensure equity.</p> <p>(ix) include provisions for infrastructure sharing among broadcasting network operators and carriage of platform services. Further, it streamlines the Right of</p>

		Way section to address relocation and alterations more efficiently, and establishes a structured dispute resolution mechanism.  (3) The draft Bill was placed in public domain with an explanatory note (Annexure-I) on 10.11.2023 seeking views/ comments/ suggestions from the general public and stakeholders till 09.12.2023 which was later extended upto 15.01.2024.
5.	Details of the consultations with stakeholders done till date;	(a) Consultations with stakeholders were held on 18.04.2024, 29.05.2024, 14.06.2024 and 09.07.2024 and comments were sought from them upto 10.08.2024.
6.	Details of the comments/ Memoranda received till date;	(b) Based on the wide range of views expressed during consultation with stakeholders, additional time was provided for comments till 15.10.2024.
7.	Latest stage of the draft Bill;	The Ministry does not intend to introduce the Bill in the Parliament, presently.
8.	Details of the stages that the draft Bill will undergo;	
9.	Timeline by which the Ministry is planning to introduce the Bill in the House.	

**(vi) Issues related to Code of Ethics**

131. While examining other issues, the Committee sought details on the verdict given by Punjab and Haryana High Court with respect to songs glorifying alcohol, liquor, wine, drugs and violence (CWP.PIL.NO. 27011 of 2016), vide order dated 22.07.2019. The Ministry was asked to provide a brief note on the verdict given by these Courts. To this, it was replied as under:-

“The Hon’ble High Court of Punjab and Haryana vide order dated 22-07-2019 disposed of the case by referring to the detailed reasons recorded in a separate order of even date passed in CWP No. 6213 of 2016 Reet Mohinder Singh Virk vs State of Punjab and others. The writ petitions were disposed of with directions to the Chief Secretaries of the States of Punjab, Haryana and Home Secretary, Union Territory, Chandigarh, for compliance.

With respect to songs glorifying alcohol, liquor, wine, drugs and violence, the High Court of Punjab and Haryana, vide order dated 22-07-2019, issued mandatory directions as under –

- i. The Director General of Police in the States of Punjab, Haryana and Union Territory, Chandigarh, to ensure that no songs are played glorifying the liquor, wine, drugs and violence in any song even in live shows.

- ii. The States of Punjab, Haryana and Union Territory, Chandigarh are also directed that no child below the age of 12 years is permitted to enter cinema halls/multiplexes, where “A” certificate films are screened.
- iii. The District Administration is directed to ensure that nude posters, semi-nude posters, obscene posters should not be fixed/ displayed in any district near the educational institutions in the States of Punjab, Haryana and Union Territory, Chandigarh.
- iv. The recommendations made by the Committee constituted by this Court are ordered to be implemented in letter and spirit for proper enforcement of law.
- v. The District Magistrates/ Senior Superintendents of Police/ Superintendents of Police of each district shall be personally responsible to ensure due compliance of the directions issued hereinabove”.

132. When asked to furnish details of the existing guideline with respect to songs glorifying alcohol, liquor, wine, drugs and violence that may impact/affect children adversely and action taken after the aforesaid related verdict of the Courts, the Ministry replied as under:-

“In this regard it is stated that Ministry of Information & Broadcasting is concerned with the Films and Audio-Visual programmes/ content made available by online content providers/publishers. The Government of India has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media, Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 on 25.02.2021. This Rule provide for a Code of Ethics to be followed by the Digital News Publishers and publishers of OTT platforms, and a three level institutional mechanism for redressal of grievances relating to violation of the Code of Ethics.

2. These Rules provide for a Code of Ethics for publishers of online curated content (OTT platforms) which, inter alia, require the publishers not to transmit any content which is prohibited by law for the time being in force and to undertake age-based classification of content into 5 categories, based on general guidelines provided in the Schedule to the Rules.

3. The Schedule prescribed under the IT Rules, 2021 provides for the guidelines for Classification of any curated content, inter-alia,

Theme: Classification decisions may take into the theme of any content but will depend significantly on the treatment of that theme, especially the sensitivity of its presentation. The most challenging themes (for example, drug misuse, violence, pedophilia, sex, racial or communal hatred or violence etc.) are unlikely to be appropriate at the junior levels of classification.

Tone and impact: Curated content may be judged in its entirety from the point of view of its overall impact. The tone of content can be an important factor in deciding the influence it may have on various groups of people. Thus, films/serials that have a stronger depiction of violence may receive a higher classification.

4. Part-II of the Schedule prescribed under the IT Rules, 2021 provides for the Issue Related Guidelines.

Psychotropic substances, liquor, smoking and tobacco: Films or serials, etc. that as a whole portray misuse of psychotropic substances, liquor, smoking and tobacco would qualify for a higher category of classification.

Imitable behaviour: Portrayal of potentially dangerous behaviour that are likely to incite the commission of any offence (including suicide, and infliction of self-harm) and that children and young people may potentially copy, shall receive a higher classification.

Violence: Classification decisions shall take account of the degree and nature of violence in a work.

5. This Ministry has issued advisory date 26.11.2024 for OTT Platforms on Streaming Content Related to Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

CBFC -

As per Guidelines issued by the Govt. of India under Section 5B(2) of the Cinematograph Act 1952, the following are existing guidelines which relates to songs glorifying alcohol, liquor, wine, drugs, and violence that may impact/affect children adversely –

Guideline 2 (iii)(a) - the Board of Film Certification shall ensure that - Scenes showing involvement of children in violence as victims or as perpetrators or as forced witness to violence, or showing children as being subjected to any form of child abuse are not presented needlessly;

Guideline 2(iv) - pointless or avoidable scenes of violence, cruelty and horror, scenes of violence primarily intended to provide entertainment and such scenes as may have the effect of desensitizing or dehumanizing people are not shown;

Guideline 2(v) - scenes which have the effect of justifying or glorifying drinking are not shown;

Guideline 2(vi) - scenes tending to encourage, justify or glamorise drug addiction are not shown;

Guideline 2(vii) - human sensibilities are not offended by vulgarity, obscenity or depravity;

As per the directives of the Hon'ble High Court of Punjab and Haryana, the Central Board of Film Certification ensures that songs glorifying alcohol, liquor, wine, drugs, and violence are not approved for public exhibition. Since the degree of glorification is subjective in nature, songs containing visuals of alcohol, liquor, wine, drugs, and violence are examined carefully in its entirety. If necessary, excisions and modifications are recommended to ensure compliance with the guidelines and prevent any violations, following which an appropriate certification is granted.

*Further, as per the Programme Code under the Cable Television Network Rules, 1994, "no film or film song or film promo or film trailer or music video or music albums or their promos, whether produced in India or abroad, shall be carried through cable service unless it has been certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) as suitable for unrestricted public exhibition in India".*

## **OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **PART-II**

#### **BUDGET OVERVIEW AND DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2025-26)**

1. The Committee note that Demand No. 61 covers the expenditure of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) including its 7 media units/attached and subordinate offices, 2 autonomous bodies, 3 training institutes and 2 Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). For the Financial year (FY) 2025-26, as against the proposed sum of Rs. 5588.01 crore, an amount of Rs. 4358.38 crore has been fixed for MIB at the BE stage. Out of this, Rs. 582.50 crore has been earmarked for the 'Establishment Expenditure of the Centre' against the proposed amount of Rs. 897.87 crore; Rs. 1118.49 crore has been fixed for the 'Central Sector Schemes' against the proposed sum of Rs. 1917.49 crore; and Rs. 2657.39 crore is fixed for 'Other Central Expenditure [including those on Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and Autonomous Bodies] against the proposed sum of Rs. 2772.65 crore.

The Committee note that during the FY 2024-25, the BE and RE allocations for '*Establishment Expenditure of the Centre*' were Rs. 566.41 crore and Rs. 564.82 crore respectively, whereas the actual expenditure (till 30.01.2025) was Rs. 446.56 crore which is 79.06 % of RE allocations. For '*Central Sector Schemes*,' the BE and RE for the FY 2024-25 were Rs. 1004.31 crore and Rs. 984.21 crore respectively, and the actual expenditure (till 30.01.2025), was Rs. 507.27 crore which is 51.54 % of RE allocations. For '*Other Central Expenditure*,' the BE and RE for the FY 2024-25 were Rs. 2771.83 crore and Rs. 3077.68 crore respectively, whereas the actual expenditure (till 30.01.2025), was Rs. 2429.16 crore which is 78.93 % of RE allocations. The Committee note that the utilization percentage (w.r.t RE) for these three categories i.e. 'Establishment Expenditure of the Centre', 'Central Sector Schemes', and 'Other Central Expenditure', during the FY 2024-25, were 79.06 %, 51.54 %, and 78.93 % of their RE allocations respectively. The Committee also note that during the FY 2024-25, the BE allocation was Rs. 4342.55 crore which was increased to Rs. 4626.71 crore at RE stage. The Committee note that during the FY 2024-25, though the actual expenditure till 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2025 was Rs. 3382.99 crore, which is 73.12 % of RE allocation, few shortcomings in the physical targets (Upto 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter) were observed. The targets that fell short, *inter-alia*, included (i) 'NIL' targets achieved under BIND

which were for (a) Strengthening of Border Area Coverage under continuing projects, (b) Expansion of reach of public service including in strategic area of National interest and (c) Digitization Modernization and expansion of Broadcast Infrastructure under Broadcast Infrastructure and Network Development Scheme; (ii) Under achievement of targets under Development Communication and Dissemination of Filmic Content which were for (a) Digitization of films and (b) Production of films and documentaries in various Indian languages; and (iii) Under achievement of targets under Supporting Community Radio Movement in India which were for (a) Organizing Community Radio awareness programmes and (b) Operational Community Radio Stations in the country.

While noting that the utilisation trend for last 4 years has improved and more than 90% of allocations made at RE stage has been utilized, the Committee hope that the Ministry will keep up their assurance of fully utilizing the funds allocated for the Financial Years 2024-25 and 2025-26. The Ministry may apprise of the updated status of the fund utilized during the FYs 2024-25 and 2025-26 along with the status of the physical targets for the period. Further, the Committee also hope that the initiatives planned by the Ministry for timely utilization of funds during FY 2025-26 would fructify and desire to be apprised of the outcome of their initiatives which include (i) Proper processing of related expenditure and thorough monitoring of physical activities and (ii) Regular meetings with the stakeholders, consistent monitoring and implementing the roadmap for utilization of the funds to achieve the physical targets. The Committee also recommend the Ministry to closely monitor the timely progress/implementation of the targets under DCDFC, BIND and CRS Schemes and ensure proper utilization of funds and keep the Committee apprised of the same.

#### **INTERNAL AND EXTRA BUDGETARY RESOURCES (IEBR), REVENUE GENERATED AND UTILIZED**

2. The Committee note that the revenue projection of Prasar Bharati, for the Financial year 2025-26, is Rs. 2205.00 crore which is based on the income sources like (a) Commercial, (b) Platforms (PB Resources and DTH), (c) Digital Operations, (d) Miscellaneous Income and (e) interest on term deposits. During the FY 2024-25, the revenue projection and revenue generated by Prasar Bharati were Rs. 2205.00 crore and Rs. 1216.81 crore (upto November, 2024) respectively and the Net expenditure has been Rs. 991.59 crore. In FY 2023-24, the revenue

projection and revenue generated by Prasar Bharati were Rs. 1700.00 crore and Rs. 1996.56 crore respectively and the Net expenditure has been Rs. 1356.89 crore (provisional). The Committee note that Prasar Bharati generated excess revenue of approximately Rs. 640.00 crore during the FY 2023-24 over its operational expenditure and the same is being utilized for improving the content of Akashvani and Doordarshan and launch of OTT. 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 lauding the efforts of Prasar Bharati to generate revenue under IEBR, call upon the Ministry to continue their unstinted efforts in future too. Further, while noting that excess revenue is being utilized for improving the content, the Committee recommend the Ministry to not only focus on improving the quality of content to broaden the viewership base of national and international viewers but also look into the feasibility of (i) Setting up a dedicated unit to drive revenue generation through content on both traditional and emerging platforms; (ii) Create a robust monitoring framework to evaluate the financial performance of new initiatives for content generation; (iii) Define clear Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) related to viewership, subscription rates, advertising revenue, etc., so as to ensure that the new initiatives and new OTT platforms of Prasar Bharati contribute positively to its financial sustainability.

The Committee observe that so far no study has been conducted to assess the assets under Doordarshan Kendras in India. Nevertheless, Prasar Bharati Board has approved a draft monetization plan including feasibility study of land assets (both Akashvani & Doordarshan). They intend to monetize land assets on PPP model without alienating the land and the revenue so generated will be used by Prasar Bharati for making it sustainable. The Committee recommend the Ministry to prioritize the completion of the feasibility study in a time-bound manner to identify and categorize idle assets across Doordarshan Kendras and All India Radio (Akashvani) units and apprise them of the timeline and framework for the same. While undertaking the feasibility study of land assets, the Ministry may ascertain whether any part of its land/property is under encroachment or under any court case. The Committee would like to know whether any Doordarshan/Akashvani or any of its other undertaking/organization is functioning from rental building. Details of the above study may be submitted

before the Committee at the earliest. The Committee may also be kept apprised of all the steps taken to enhance the effectiveness of IEBR utilization, generate more revenue from underutilized assets and boost Prasar Bharati's long-term financial sustainability.

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

3. The Committee note that after rationalization of Central Sector Schemes of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting there are four Central Sector Schemes (CSS) viz. Development Communication & Information Dissemination (DCID), Development Communication & Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC), Broadcasting Infrastructure & Network Development (BIND) and Supporting Community Radio Stations in India (CRS). During the FY 2024-25, the allocations for 'Central Sector Schemes' at BE and RE stage were Rs. 1004.31 crore and Rs. 984.21 crore respectively. The overall actual expenditure till 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2025 is Rs. 507.27 crore which is 51.54% of RE. Bifurcation of actual expenditure under all the four 'Central Sector Schemes' [DCID, DCDFC, BIND and Supporting Community Radio Stations (CRS) in India are Rs. 121.10 crore, Rs. 236.01 crore, Rs. 146.33 crore and Rs. 3.83 crore respectively. This reflects that they were 71.45%, 59.00%, 36.58% and 26.02% of RE allocations respectively. The Committee note that under two 'Central Sector Schemes' [DCID and DCDFC], the trend of utilization of funds during the last few years have been satisfactory. However, under BIND and Community Radio Stations (CRS), the situation is not the same and there have been very low utilization of funds during this period. Even with respect to achieving physical targets under the Central Sector Schemes like BIND, DCDFC and CRS, it has been observed that for some indicators the targets could not be achieved. For example only One out of Seven FM Transmitters is installed and the work progress is 'NIL' for indicators like (i) Five 5KW Mobile FM transmitters to be installed at J&K and LOC Border; (ii) 7.5 Lakh DTH Set Top Boxes(STBs) to be procured for Remote, Tribal and LWE areas; (iii) 14 Satellite Uplink Stations to be upgraded/added (including Earth Stations, DSNG Units & DTH Earth Stations); (iv) 16 new production set-up to be upgraded/added (including Studios, News Units & OB Vans); (v) 11 existing Production/Transmission Centers to be upgraded/migrated; etc. Even though during the FY 2023-24, while the actual expenditure under 'Central Sector Schemes' was Rs. 1037.02 crore which was 100.95 % of RE allocations, yet there were shortfalls with respect to targets set under 'Digitization for Conservation of Films and capacity building'; 'Restoration of Films'; 'Digitization Modernization

and expansion of Broadcast Infrastructure'; etc. Plausible reasons for non-utilization of allotted funds, shortfalls in achieving set targets and improper monitoring of projects may be submitted before the Committee.

The reasons adduced by the Ministry for less expenditure under BIND include (i) Decision to float single tender for complete earth station at DTH Pitampura (ii) Certain administrative reasons that halted completion of TV tower at Amritsar; (iii) Specification drafting is under process for setting up of Geo Diversity Centre for DD DTH platform similar to main site capacity; (iv) For expansion of DD Free Dish Platform by SITC of additional two streams with RF System at Earth Station Todapur Delhi - NIT issued earlier in regard to C band DTH Pitampura project cancelled etc. Under DCDFC, the World Audio-Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES 2025) was originally scheduled to be held in the Financial Year 2024-25, however, it is now scheduled to be held during the year 2025-26. Under CRS, the Ministry informed that Financial Assistance- Grant in Aid is a demand driven subsidy and in the current Financial Year, so far no demand has been received for financial assistance in North East region which resulted in less expenditure. In the light of these facts, the Committee, at the cost of sounding repetitive, opine that even after more than 3 years of rationalization of Schemes, under-achievement of both physical and financial targets w.r.t two of the four Central Sector Schemes reflects lackadaisical and ineffective implementation of rationalization. The Committee, therefore, call upon the Ministry to avoid such lag in the targets by addressing the recurrent hindrances impacting the Implementation 'Central Sector Schemes'. The Committee also urge the Ministry to ensure proper utilisation of funds for meeting the physical targets under all the Central Sector Schemes, during the financial year 2025-26 by gearing up their mechanism for implementation and achieving the physical targets as per defined timelines. The Committee may be apprised of the action taken in this regard. The Ministry may also provide tangible/quantifiable outcome of the steps taken by them on the following so as to reflect the effectiveness of the measures:

- i. Monitoring mechanism has been strengthened considerably;
- ii. Procurement procedures have been streamlined. Project review meetings are held regularly at Zonal level & HQ level and various activities involved in procurement of capital equipment and execution of works are critically assessed & targets are fixed;

- iii. The frequency of monitoring meetings has been increased at all levels of Directorate & Prasar Bharati Secretariat;
- iv. Use of digital platform *viz* e-office, e-tendering, procurement through GEM, Video conference is also being utilized;
- v. An apex committee has been constituted by Prasar Bharati Secretariat to monitor the progress of scheme.

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

### **BROADCASTING INFRASTRUCTURE AND NETWORK DEVELOPMENT (BIND)**

4. The Committee note that the Budgetary allocations for BIND Scheme, for the FY 2025-26 (at BE stage) is Rs. 500.00 crore. During the FY 2024-25, the BE and RE allocations were Rs. 500.00 crore and Rs. 400 crore respectively. However, the actual expenditure till 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2025 was just Rs. 146.33 crore which is 36.58 % of RE allocations. The actual expenditure during the years 2022-23 and 2023-24 were 50.77% and 72.71% of RE allocations respectively.

Reasons for under-utilisation, as furnished by the Ministry, *inter-alia*, include: (i) For distribution of 1.2 Lakh DTH Set Top Boxes for LWE remote & tribal areas of the Country, the financial Bids opened on 29.02.2024 and distribution of STBs through DBT scheme is being deliberated; (ii) The Ministry envisaged to float single tender for complete earth station at DTH Pitampura (C Band)- SITC of equipment's (Compression and monitoring System equipment etc.); (ii) Certain administrative reasons halted the completion of TV tower at Amritsar, shifting of Transmitter and other associated equipments; (iii) Specification drafting is under process for setting up of Geo Diversity Centre for DD DTH platform similar to main site capacity; (iv) For expansion of DD Free Dish Platform by SITC of additional two streams with RF System at Earth Station, Todapur, Delhi - NIT issued earlier-on in regard to C band DTH Pitampura project cancelled and further the project envisaged for current year to float single tender for complete C band earth station chain system for DTH, Pitampura along with (1+1) HPA system for DDK, New Delhi. The Ministry also informed that most of the broadcast equipments are imported with no production in India and Make-in-India (MII) clause exemptions are to be taken for each project in regard to Broadcast Equipment and this procedure takes considerable time. The Committee note that human resource shortage is also one of the reasons for the late completion of projects. However, they are managing the shortage with the help of Consultants. The Committee note that the Ministry has envisaged certain steps to improve performance during the year 2025-26. In view of the recurrent

under-achievement of both physical and financial targets under BIND, the Committee recommend the Ministry to apprise of the action taken to (i) Fully utilize the fund allocated for the financial year 2025-26; and (ii) Tangible/quantifiable outcome of the initiatives taken to achieve targets under BIND; (iii) Action taken to align the financial progress with physical/performance targets; (iv) Prepare a robust, proactive project tracking mechanism; (v) Increase the frequency of progress reviews and integrate scientific tools to forecast financial needs more accurately; (vi) Streamline the procurement process; (vii) Formulate time bound targets for execution of projects; (viii) Establish contingency plan to mitigate project delays caused by technical or administrative failures. Further with respect to distribution of DTH receive Set top boxes the Committee would like to be apprised of the decision taken for its distribution through DBT Scheme which was being deliberated last year; and (ix) Consider seeking blanket exemption for Make-in-India (MII) clause with respect to importing broadcast equipments which are not produced in India.

#### **DOORDARSHAN**

5. The Committee note that there are 35 satellite TV channels, of which 7 are All India channels and 28 are Regional/State channels and 29 channels are being telecast for 24x7. The Committee also note that out of Rs. 400 crore allocated to Prasar Bharati during RE stage for the year 2024-25 (under BIND), an amount of Rs. 310.86 crore was allocated to Doordarshan against which an expenditure of Rs. 67.49 crore has been incurred till December, 2024. While observing that there were 8 States/UTs which did not have any separate Channels or even Limited Hours of telecast, the Ministry was asked whether any request have been received from those States/UTs for having separate channels or to increase the time for content related to their State/UT. Responding to this, the Ministry provided details which, *inter-alia*, include (a) PGF Gangtok has limited hour local cable and terrestrial transmission. It has dedicated 2 hour window on DD Arunprabha channel, which is a satellite channel available over almost all over the Country; (b) PGF Portblair has limited hour terrestrial transmission; (c) Issues related to Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (Daman) are being covered by DD Girnar from time to time; (d) PGF Leh has limited hour terrestrial transmission. It has dedicated slots on DD Kashir channel, which is a satellite channel available over almost all over the Country; (e) Coverage issues related to Lakshadweep (Kavaratti) are being covered by DD Malayalam from time to time; (f)

DD Haryana, a channel with 24x7 operations is being beamed from DDK Chandigarh; (g) A dedicated channel is being operated by PGF Puducherry beamed from DDK Chennai on test transmission basis. The Committee further note that in the light of the stiff competition from private channels, the challenges being faced by Doordarshan in expanding their outreach include (a) Dual challenge of adhering to its public service mandate and competing with private broadcasters in a commercially viable manner; (b) In the expanded landscape where hundreds of channels and numerous OTT platforms, has unfortunately also given rise to content that often trivializes relationships, promotes vulgarity, and indulges in superstitions and sensationalism, being a destination for family-friendly and entertainment devoid of vulgarity while staying relevant in today's rapidly evolving media landscape is both a challenge and an opportunity for Doordarshan.

In view of the aforesaid, the Committee feel while providing vulgar free content for entertainment, Doordarshan can still continue to fulfill its public service mandate by remaining relevant in an increasingly competitive media environment and for this they may have to (i) Enhance its digital footprint- by boosting presence of Doordarshan content on social media, expanding content offerings on other digital platforms; (ii) Collaborate with influencers and social media creators to enhance reach among younger audience; (iii) Continue extensive coverage of cultural, social, and political events, but with modern presentation formats, appealing to younger demographics; (iv) Increase localized programming; and (v) introduce AI-powered project management and to track project timelines to prevent delays. The Committee also recommend the Ministry to undertake periodic analysis of their initiatives taken to increase their viewership and apprise them of the outcome on all the initiatives taken.

#### **ALL INDIA RADIO (AIR) AND FM**

6. The Committee note that under AIR, during the FY 2024-25 as against budgetary allocations of Rs. 145.02 crore (at BE stage) and Rs. 89.14 crore (at RE stage) the actual expenditure upto December, 2024 has been Rs. 17.62 crore which is a meagre 19.77% of RE allocations. Even during the FY 2023-24, AIR witnessed less utilization of funds and the actual expenditure for this period was Rs. 30.48 crore which was 71.92% of RE allocations. The Committee note that the common problem under BIND Scheme has also affected the performance of AIR

which include (i) Broadcast equipments being imported; and (ii) Man power shortage. Further, with respect to digitization of AIR, the Ministry informed that most of the Studios of All India Radio stations have been digitized and rest of the Studios is being digitized in the plan 2021-26. The Committee note that during the year 2025-26, as per approved Schemes under BIND, Schemes/projects under implementation included (a) Setting up of 59 FM transmitters; (b) Setting up of visual radio system at 33 Akashvani Station; (c) Refurbishing of Studios at 34 Stations; (d) Replacement of AC Plant at 38 Stations; (e) Replacement of DG set at 15 stations; (f) Replacement/provision of STL: 20 nos; (g) Provision of DSNG Van at Delhi. As informed by the Ministry, since it is the last financial year (2025-26) of the plan (2021-26) to digitize AIR, the Committee hope that all the targets are met and apprise them accordingly. The Committee also desire for the action taken alongwith the outcome on the following recommendations:

- (i) The Ministry should have concrete time-plan for digitization of all AIR stations and apprise of the Committee about the same;
- (ii) The Ministry should address the concerns impacting the financial and physical targets under AIR;
- (iii) The Ministry should improve the content of the AIR to attract the listeners and generate revenue; and
- (iv) The Ministry may achieve the targets set during 2025-26 for expansion/Coverage of private FM radio in 234 new/uncovered cities through 730 channels and apprise the Committee about the action taken and outcome of the auction of FM Radio Phase-3.

#### **HUMAN RESOURCE IN PRASAR BHARATI**

7. The Committee note that at present the sanctioned staff strength of Prasar Bharati is 45,791. Out of this, 26,129 are for Akashvani/All India Radio and 19,662 are for Doordarshan (excluding 2,038 posts which were abolished under Annual Direct Recruitment Plan 2002 to 2008-09). As against this sanctioned strength of 45,791, there are 30,221 vacancies in Prasar Bharati. Of this, 13,970 are in Doordarshan and 16,251 in All India Radio (AIR). The Committee note that due to acute shortage of permanent employees, Prasar Bharati is meeting its urgent requirements by hiring large number of staff on contractual basis under Contractual Engagement Policy 2021 (CEP-2021) of Prasar Bharati to support production and related activities of the organization including manning operations related to its newly launched OTT platform. The Committee also note that at present Prasar Bharati is engaged in HR Transformation exercise through a manpower audit agency and on completion of this exercise, steps for the

recruitment process shall be initiated. The Committee have been informed that pending the outcome of the ongoing exercise related to HR Transformation, the existing officers of primarily Engineering cadre and to some extent of News cadre have been assigned with additional responsibilities of programme policy, sales/marketing, administration as well as support functions (such as legal, regulatory etc.) at zonal, Directorate and PB Secretariat levels. Whereas at field offices/production centres, the existing programme officers are shouldering the responsibilities of programming activities and Engineering officers and employees for technical operations.

The Committee note that the situation of vacancies in Prasar Bharati has become perennial which is undesirable given the fact that in order to sustain efficiency, skill requirement is being met with stop gap arrangement which is not a plausible solution to the problem. Even while examining DFG (2023-24), the Committee were informed that the final report of Manpower Audit (MPA) has been accepted by Prasar Bharati wherein substantial restructuring in the organization has been recommended [Please refer 46<sup>th</sup> Report the Committee 2023-24 on DFG (2023-24)]. The Committee note that despite acute shortage of man power in the organisation over the years and acceptance of the final report of Manpower Audit (MPA), HR Transformation exercise is pending/still going on. Further, according to the Ministry after conclusion of this exercise and submission of its report and its acceptance/ approval of the same by Prasar Bharati/Ministry of I&B, a clear picture regarding the recruitments to be made will emerge. Taking exception with respect to the time taken for filling up the vacancies, the Committee recommend the Ministry to take it up on priority basis so as to have a pool for dedicated workforce with specialized technical/industry skills to cater to the need of both traditional and digital media /evolving dynamic media landscape. The Ministry may apprise the Committee about the (i) Final assessment of manpower required/number of posts required to be filled up along with the time line for the same; and (ii) Timeline and outcome of the HR Transformation exercise being carried out.

### **SUPPORTING COMMUNITY RADIO MOVEMENT IN INDIA**

8. The Committee note that the Community Radio Stations play a significant role in empowering communities by means of dissemination of crucial information, particularly to rural and remote communities. To support the

Community Radio Stations, a Central Sector Scheme namely 'Supporting Community Radio Movement in India' is being implemented by the Ministry. With respect to budgetary allocations for supporting Community Radio Stations, the Committee note that Rs. 17.40 crore has been earmarked for the FY 2025-26 (at BE stage). During the FY 2024-25, the BE and RE allocations were Rs. 5.00 crore and Rs. 14.73 crore, respectively and the actual expenditure till 30th January, 2025 was Rs. 3.83 crore which is 26.02 % of RE allocations. One of the reasons for less expenditure was that no demand was received for financial assistance by any operational Community Radio Station. The Committee also note that at present there are 530 Community Radio Stations (CRSs) in India and out of these, a total of 511 CRS are having valid Grant of Permission Agreement (GOPA) whereas the GOPA of remaining CRS are in the process of renewal/extension. While noting that there were 'No' Community Radio Stations (CRSs) in Goa, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep, the Committee sought reasons for the same. To this, the Ministry informed that in Goa, Letter of intent (LoI) has been issued for setting up of 01 Community Radio Station which is in the pipeline to become operational soon. Further, no application has been received from Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep for setting up of CRS. The Committee note that the major challenges/ hindrances witnessed under the Scheme include (a) Awareness about the Community Radio Stations amongst eligible applicants; (b) Lack of financial resources with applicants; (c) Delay in Clearance from WPC/MHA/MOD.

Regarding the pending applications for Community Radio Station license, the Ministry informed that a total of 77 applications for Community Radio Station were pending with the either MIB/Wireless, Planning and Coordination (WPC)/ MHA/ Ministry of Defence (MOD), which were at various stages of processing. Further, the Committee also note that a total of 135 applications were received during the FY 2024-25. Out of these, for 40 applications, Letter of intent (LoI) were issued. A total of 13 applications were rejected due to non-meeting the eligibility criterion or due to clearances not given by the concerned Departments/ Ministries (As per the extant guidelines, the applications are required to be cleared from MHA, Ministry of Defence(MOD) and Ministry of Communications). The Ministry also clarified that after obtaining LOI, applicant applies to Ministry of Communication for Wireless Operating License before commissioning the CRS

and the License for operating CRS is issued by the Ministry of Communications. Regarding the timeline and plan of action to remove the pendency of applications the reply of the Ministry was silent. The Committee also observed that there are no Community Radio Stations (CRSs) broadcasting in Konkani and Sanskrit spoken States/places. However, the permission for setting up of CRS in Goa has been given and the applicant is in the process of setting up of CRS. The Committee observe that CRS is a powerful tool of social change and a repository of local folk music, cultural heritage and has potential to strengthen people's participation in development programmes through its holistic approach. The Committee desire for action taken on the following observations/ recommendations:

- (i) Ensure that the procedural clearance are done in the current financial year for setting up of Community Radio Station in Goa;
- (ii) Hold comprehensive outreach campaign/awareness camps to raise awareness about the supporting Community Radio Movement in India, especially in regions with no or limited CRS presence, such as Lakshadweep and Daman and Diu. The Ministry may formulate SOP for setting up of CRS so that people are aware of the procedural hurdles and benefits of Community Radio Stations;
- (iii) Establish a fast-track system for the clearance of CRS applications pending with various Ministries/Organizations like WPC/MHA/MOD to address the bottleneck in license approval, if any;
- (iv) Focus on expanding CRS operations in under-represented linguistic areas, such as Konkani-speaking and Sanskrit-speaking regions. Also encourage Community Radio Stations to broadcast content in scheduled languages and promote the preservation and dissemination of local dialects, folk traditions, and regional heritage;
- (v) Invest in technological upgrades and training to improve the reach, quality, and operational efficiency of existing stations, especially in digital transmission and content delivery. Take measures to avoid under-utilization of funds observed during the year 2024-25.

## **FILM SECTOR**

### **NATIONAL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (NCOE) FOR ANIMATION, VISUAL EFFECTS (VFX), GAMING , COMICS AND EXTENDED REALITY( AVGC-XR)**

9. The Committee note that subsequent to presentation of Budget during the FY 2022-23, an AVGC Promotion Task Force was constituted on 08.04.2022 which

submitted its Report on December, 2022. It included (i) Report of the AVGC Promotional Task Force on realizing AVGC-XR Sector potential in India; (ii) Draft National Policy for Growth of AVGC Sector in India; (iii) Draft Model State Policy for Growth of AVGC sector in the States; and (iv) Recommendation for setting up of a National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) for AVGC. Based on the recommendations of the Task force and gauging the importance of the AVGC sector, the Central Government decided to setup the NCoE and approved the Cabinet Note on 18.09.2024 for setting up of a 'National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) known as the 'Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT)'. This IICT will act as the anchor institution for the growth of AVGC-XR sector in the Country on the lines of IITs and IIMs. The Committee note that IICT will open avenues for future generations in the AVGC segment and ensure that the progress made in the field of AVGC is equally benefitted by people in tier 2 & tier 3 cities across the Country. It is to conduct academic courses as well as involve in setting up of incubation centers with latest infrastructure and technology and will also function as a mentoring institution to the AVGC industry. The Committee also learnt that IICT will support at least 5 Regional Centers of Excellence in collaboration with the States through the hub and spoke model wherein IICT would be the Hub and State Regional Centers will be the Spokes. The Ministry has informed that the Cabinet has approved setting up of NCoE with one time budgetary grant of Rs. 391.15 crore as Section 8 company under the Companies Act, 2013 with the sharing pattern of Government (48%), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (26%) and Confederation of Indian Industry (26%). Lease Deed between Govt. of India and Govt. Maharashtra was signed on 08.10.2024 to set up the Institute at Goregaon, Mumbai. The company under Section 8, Company Act 2013 was registered and incorporated on 25.12.2024. The first Board meeting of the Company was held on 17.01.2025.

Further, the Committee note that a few factors are impeding growth of India's AVGC-XR sector like funding scarcity; a critical skill gap due to insufficient formalized education and infrastructure limitations; original IP development lags, hindering global competitiveness; Regulatory uncertainties, particularly in gaming; etc. The Committee hope that the initiatives undertaken by the Ministry will realize the potential of the Indian AVGC industry and recommend the Ministry to ensure:-

- (i) To fix year-wise and quarter-wise targets for each of the initiatives taken/planned under AVGC Sector;

(ii) To apprise the Committee about the timeline and targets fixed for NCoE/IICT/WAVES and about the tangible outcome of the initiatives taken under them along with the composition of the board of NCoE;

(iii) IICT should focus on developing a comprehensive curriculum and advanced world-class infrastructure for filling up the critical skill gaps in the sector. There should be an emphasis on nurturing talent from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities too;

(iv) Further, while noting that there is no rule of law related to 'Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC)' and the Ministry is in the process of finalizing a National level policy for the growth of AVGC-XR in the Country, the Committee feel that the Ministry should expedite the formulation of a Policy with clear guidelines and regulations as it will provide a conducive environment for the industry to thrive and attract global investors. The Committee would like to be apprised of the details of the Policy.

## **INFORMATION SECTOR**

### **PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (PIB)**

10. The Committee note that the Press Information Bureau (PIB) is the nodal agency of the Government of India to disseminate information through print, electronic and social media on Government policies, programmes, initiatives and achievements. It functions as an interface between the Government and the media and also provides feedback to the Government on people's reaction as reflected in the media. It also advises the Government on communication strategies best suited to meet the needs of the media. The Ministry has informed that the entire network of the Press Information Bureau has been revamped and they have integrated dashboard 'Samvad' which is a major software tool for their Information Wing. Through 'Samvad' they send alerts to every Ministry and conduct trend analysis of media-related information. Along with this, they also monitor activities on social media and electronic channels and trends or alerts are identified, collected and communicated to the relevant Ministry. The Ministry has also informed that as per allocation to PIB, a reduction of Rs 9.41 crore has been made in the establishment expenditure in RE 2024-25 when compared to BE 2024-25 and this has impacted the non-salary head (revenue section), thereby affecting the clearance of bills and committed liabilities resulting in a backlog of pending bills. In light of the above, the Committee recommend the Ministry to present their case to Ministry of Finance and seek adequate grant in future. The Committee also recommend:

(ii) PIB should expedite filling up vacant posts for which funds were allocated as it will improve overall operational efficiency and will not render surrendering of funds;

(ii) Regular audits of fund utilization, media outreach, and communication outcomes will ensure transparency and improve resource allocation efficiency;

(iii) The ongoing integration and expansion of 'SAMVAD' (Systematic Analysis of Media Views for Decision-making) should be supported by adequate financial and technical resources to ensure comprehensive and timely analysis across all forms of Media.

**PRESS REGISTRAR GENERAL OF INDIA (PRGI) [ERSTWHILE REGISTRAR OF NEWSPAPERS FOR INDIA (RNI)]**

11. The Committee note that the office of Registrar of Newspapers (RNI) for India has been renamed as Press Registrar General of India (PRGI) with the enactment of the 'Press and Registration of Periodicals Act, 2023' (PRP) on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2024. The Committee also note a new digital platform – 'Press Sewa Portal' (<https://presssewa.prgi.gov.in/>) has been launched on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2024. The Committee observe that the main features of Press Sewa Portal when fully developed would include (a) Online Application System; (b) Parallel processing facility for application at Specified Authority in the States and PRGI; (c) User-friendly interface with e-sign facility; (d) Digital payment gateway integrated through Bharat Kosh; (e) Real-time status updates via SMS and email; (f) QR code-based digital certificate; (g) Better access to information for publishers; (h) Profile creation and management for owners, publishers, and printers; (i) Chat bot-based grievance resolution mechanism; (k) Deficiency communication with a 30-day response window; (l) Faster, efficient, and transparent processing of applications.

With respect to pending registration, the Ministry informed that till 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2024, they had cleared 13,000 physical applications. They have also submitted that some new issues or problems had come up with the online application like District Magistrates (DMs) of some States are not yet the specified authority. Thereby, whatever applications reached them were not processed and hence the Ministry are writing to Chief Secretaries and mailing to DMs to take action on the pending applications with them. Further responding to a query whether there is a provision in new Act if the applications are not approved within the specified period of time, the Ministry informed positively and stated that in the new Act, if the Specified Authority (SA), whether District Magistrate or

Commissioner does not approve the application within 60 days it will be automatically accepted and come back to the Ministry. They have also submitted that when the applications come back to them, they doubt about the background checks and that is why they refer those cases again so as to avoid any problem later on. The Ministry also informed that these challenges are witnessed in the initial phases and they are in discussion with several Chief Secretaries where applications have come back automatically. They are even taking actions proactively to address all the challenges witnessed. The Committee also note that apart from issue involved in processing and clearance of applications for registration, there are other challenges associated with circulation (like fake circulation) and advertisements dependent on circulation, etc. The Ministry has informed that PRGI is in the process of simplifying the Standard Operating Procedure (specially the list of documents to be submitted/uploaded by the publisher) and an amended Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) or guideline will be issued by PRGI in this regard. With respect to concerns associated with Circulation Verification through Desk Audit, the Ministry also informed that the PRP Act, 2023 provides for a new methodology for Circulation Verification (CV) of Newspapers through a desk study approach wherein physical verification of printing press, distribution centres etc. are only a rarity and the processing is to be done electronically. In view of the issues concerning registration and circulation of periodicals/Newspapers and implementation of PRP Act, 2023, the Committee desire for action taken on the following Observations/Recommendations:

- (i) The amended SOP or guideline for circulation verification may be issued at the earliest;
- (ii) The Ministry may address the concerns regarding on-boarding of Specified Authorities (SAs) from the State(s) (District Magistrates) on Press Sewa Portal so that they can access the application and provide their comments within 60 days;
- (iii) To ensure that the remaining 27 States/UTs notifies the 'PRP Act, 2023' at the earliest;
- (iv) To implement atomization as envisaged under PRP Act at the earliest and keep the Committee apprised of in this regard;
- (v) Provide updated information (issue-wise) about action taken on all the issues related to allotment of titles and registration of periodicals and circulation of the same.

## **NORTH EASTERN REGION (NER)**

12. The Committee note that the budgetary allocations for the financial year 2025-26, under 10% Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) for the North Eastern Region, has been earmarked at Rs. 111.85 crore. The budgetary allocations for NER during the FY 2024-25 at BE and RE stage, were Rs. 100.45 crore and Rs. 98.40 crore respectively. Whereas the actual expenditure till 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2025 was Rs. 57.17 crore which was 58.10 % of RE allocations. Considering the fact that during the FY 2023-24, the trend of fund utilization was 84.50% of RE allocations showed improvement from previous years, the Committee expect the same trend will be continued and the Ministry will overcome the hurdles under various Schemes and ensure full utilization during FYs 2024-25 and 2025-26. The Committee recommend the Ministry to strengthen the monitoring mechanisms so as to ensure that the physical targets implementation align with financial targets. Besides, to overcome the hurdles witnessed by the Ministry in NER, they may (i) Conduct more awareness programmes and seminars to highlight the benefits and financial incentives for setting up Community Radio Stations; (ii) Take rigorous efforts to streamline procurement procedures and improve the efficiency of the equipment procurement process under BIND.

Further, the Committee also note that against the sanctioned strength of 4700 posts in DD and AIR of NER, there are 3089 vacancies (1338 in DD and 1751 in AIR). The Ministry also informed that there is shortage of Senior Officers and operational Staff in different streams of programming/technical/administration, shortage of faculty at Training Institute etc., due to lack of recruitment and promotions .As an interim measure, the process for hiring of manpower for programme wing on contractual basis in the categories of Broadcast Executive, Post Production Assistant (Editing), Post Production Assistant (Graphics), Videographer and Set arranger is going on. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend the Ministry to pay immediate attention to the significant shortage of staff in All India Radio (AIR) and Doordarshan Kendras (which has nearly 43.31% and 56.59% of positions vacant, respectively) by accelerating the recruitment process. The Committee may be kept apprised of the steps taken on all the recommendations made for improving financial and physical performance in NER along with their outcome.

## **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) BASED SOLUTIONS IN INFORMATION BROADCASTING SECTOR**

13. The Committee note and appreciate that embracing the era of Artificial Intelligence (AI), on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2024, DD Kisan had introduced two AI news anchors, AI Krish and AI Bhoomi. These AI anchors can speak in fifty languages and are capable of delivering news 24X7 and are providing information to viewers about (a) Agricultural happening including research in the Country as well as at global level; (b) Trends in agriculture mandis (markets); (c) Weather related News; and (d) Information related to Government schemes. The Committee also note that the Ministry has started 'Samvad' - a dashboard which provides information on real-time basis and they are integrating AI tools in the translation module of DD or their web portal/social media. The Committee, while lauding the Ministry's efforts to integrate AI-based real-time translation tools for broadcasting and digital platforms across multiple languages, opine that the following areas may also be explored for integrating AI in functioning of MIB and apprise them of the outcome:

- (i) To explore partnerships with academic institutions and private-sector AI companies to develop new AI applications in broadcasting.
- (ii) To monitor misinformation and disinformation trends and in identifying potential challenges;
- (iii) To integrate AI tools into content creation process ;
- (iv) To automate and integrate AI tools with services that require minimal human interference;
- (v) AI solutions for document management, predictive analysis in policy-making and optimizing administrative processes, etc; and
- (vi) To enhance the efficiency, accessibility, and engagement of Ministry's information dissemination processes through AI-driven innovation.

## **BROADCASTING SERVICES (REGULATION) BILL**

14. The Committee note that with the advent of new technologies and platforms, various categories of broadcasting services emerged such as internet-based services like IPTV, OTT platforms etc., and also existing technologies like DTH and cable television underwent substantial changes. The Ministry have been amending relevant laws and Rules made thereunder from time to time to keep pace with technological changes. Likewise, they had prepared the draft Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill which sought to replace the existing Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. The Ministry informed that the

said Bill intends to streamline the regulatory processes; extend its purview to cover the Over-the-Top (OTT) content and digital news; introduce contemporary definitions and provisions for emerging technologies and seeks to strengthen the self-regulatory regime through Broadcast Advisory Council for content regulation; etc. The Bill also sought to improve the existing laws governing broadcasting service. The Committee also understand that the draft Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill was placed in the public domain on 10.11.2023 seeking views/comments/suggestions from the general public and stakeholders till 09.12.2023 which was later extended upto 15.01.2024. Based on the wide range of views expressed during consultations with stakeholders, additional time was provided for comments till 15.10.2024. Now the Ministry has informed that they do not intend to introduce the bill in the current session.

Given the pace of technological advancements, the Committee appreciate the objectives and the intent behind the Broadcasting Bill and recommend that (a) A comprehensive review of the feedback received during consultations should be done; (b) Key suggestions from stakeholders be incorporated; (c) To ensure that the Bill is holistic, robust and technology proof. (d) The Ministry may also incorporate a provision in the Bill for periodic reviews and updates as this will ensure that the legislation remains relevant with emerging technologies and trends in the Broadcasting Sector. Now that the Ministry is intending to bring Broadcasting Bill, they may as well bring a comprehensive Media Bill which addresses the concerns related to Broadcasting, Cable TV, OTT platforms etc. If need be, the Ministry may also look into the feasibility for:

- (i) Constituting a Media Council involving various forms of Media like Print, Broadcasting, Digital, etc. under one umbrella for better coordination and implementation of laws governing them. While doing so the inputs from related Ministry/Organisations like Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology may also be sought;
- (ii) Consider bringing the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Department of Telecommunications and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting under one umbrella for better coordination for issues emerging due to convergence of technologies.

### **ISSUES RELATED TO RULE/CODE OF ETHICS**

15. The Committee note that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is concerned with the Films and Audio-Visual programmes/content made available

by online content providers/publishers. The Committee note that on a related issue, there is a song glorifying alcohol, liquor, wine, drugs and violence that may impact/affect children adversely, directions were issued by the High Court of Punjab and Haryana, *vide* order dated 22-07-2019 to ban/take action against the culprits.

Further, the Committee note that there exist guidelines w.r.t. songs glorifying alcohol, liquor, wine, drugs and violence that may impact/affect children adversely which, *inter-alia*, include (A) Part-II of the Schedule prescribed under the IT Rules, 2021 provides - Psychotropic substances, liquor, smoking and tobacco: Films or serials, etc., that as a whole portray misuse of psychotropic substances, liquor, smoking and tobacco would qualify for a higher category of classification; (B) As per Guidelines 2(v) and (vi) issued under Section 5B(2) of the Cinematograph Act 1952, scenes which have the effect of justifying or glorifying drinking and scenes tending to encourage, justify or glamorise drug addiction are not shown; (C) As per the Programme Code under the Cable Television Network Rules, 1994, no film or film song or film promo or film trailer or music video or music albums or their promos, whether produced in India or abroad, shall be carried through cable service unless it has been certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) as suitable for unrestricted public exhibition in India. The Ministry also informed that as per the directives of the Hon'ble High Court of Punjab and Haryana, the Central Board of Film Certification ensures that songs glorifying alcohol, liquor, wine, drugs, and violence are not approved for public exhibition. The Committee note that irrespective of the classification, clips of films or songs that are used for promotion and songs are played live or on digital platforms. In light of the fact that songs/clips glorifying alcohol, liquor, wine, drugs and violence can have significant impact on the minds of vulnerable children especially the youth, the Committee would like to be apprised of the steps take on the following recommendations:

- i. Formulate a policy/framework to strengthen the existing Guidelines and ensure that the guidelines issued by the Court are complied with while bring any such policy on this issue;
- ii. The Committee, while drawing analogy from the aforesaid verdict of the Court of Punjab and Haryana, recommend the Ministry to ensure stronger code of ethics that mitigates the glorification of harmful substances in the media, thereby protecting vulnerable audiences, particularly children and young adults;

- iii. Ensure that the advisory issued by the Ministry on 26.11.2024 related to streaming content on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances should be periodically reviewed and updated to keep up with evolving trends in content creation;
- iv. Apprise about the details of the said advisory issued on 26.11.2024 for OTT Platforms on streaming content related to narcotic drugs and Psychotropic Substances;
- v. Coordinate with State Governments and law enforcement to ensure these orders are being implemented effectively;
- vi. Give wide publicity to the existing Rules and guidelines so that the public is aware of their rights to report content that violates the Code of Ethics;
- vii. Engage with stakeholders in the music, film, and entertainment industries to create awareness about the harmful impact of glorifying alcohol, drugs, violence, vulgarity, obscenity or depravity, and to promote responsible and socially-conscious content.

New Delhi;  
18 March, 2025  
27 Phalguna, 1946 (Saka)

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY,  
Chairperson,  
Standing Committee on  
Communications and Information Technology.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (2024-25)**

**MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE**

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The Committee sat on Wednesday, the 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 from 1500 hours to 1645 hours in Committee Room No. 'C', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

**Dr. Nishikant Dubey - Chairperson**

**MEMBERS**

**Lok Sabha**

2. Shri C.N. Annadurai
3. Shri Anil Baluni
4. Dr. Rabindra Narayan Behera
5. Shri Anup Sanjay Dhotre
6. Shri Sanjay Haribhau Jadhav
7. Shri S. Supongmeren Jamir
8. Dr. M.K. Vishnu Prasad
9. Shri Arun Kumar Sagar
10. Shri Devesh Shakya
11. Shri Vishnu Datt Sharma

**Rajya Sabha**

12. Smt. Priyanka Chaturvedi
13. Shri Amar Pal Maurya
14. Dr. Sasmit Patra
15. Shri V. Vijayendra Prasad
16. Shri S. Niranjana Reddy
17. Shri Kartikeya Sharma
18. Shri Lahar Singh Siroya
19. Shri K.T.S. Tulsi

**Secretariat**

- |    |                     |   |                  |
|----|---------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Shri Y. M. Kandpal  | - | Joint Secretary  |
| 2. | Smt. A. Jyothirmayi | - | Director         |
| 3. | Shri Amrish Kumar   | - | Deputy Secretary |

## **LIST OF WITNESSES**

### **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
1.	Shri Sanjay Jaju	Secretary
2.	Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena	Sr. Economic Advisor
3.	Shri Deepak Narain	AS & FA
4.	Shri Gaurav Dwivedi	CEO, Prasar Bharati/ Member (Finance)
5.	Shri Dharendra Ojha	Pr. DG, PIB
6.	Shri Bhupendra Kainthola	Pr. DG, PRGI
7.	Shri Sanjiv Shankar	JS (B-I)
8.	Shri Prithul Kumar	JS (B-II)
9.	Dr. Ajay Shanker Singh	CCA
10.	Ms. Kanchan Prasad	DG, Doordarshan
11.	Dr. Pragya Paliwal Gaur	DG, AIR
12.	Ms. Priya Kumar	DG, DD News
13.	Shri Yogesh Kumar Baweja	DG, CBC
14.	Ms. Shilpa Rao Tanugula	Director

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the Sitting of the Committee convened to examine Demands for Grants (2025-26) related to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB).

### ***(Witnesses were then called in)***

3. The Chairperson welcomed the Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) and other officials accompanying him to the Sitting of the Committee convened to examine Demands for Grants (2025-26) relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB).

4. The Chairperson thereafter drew the attention of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) to Demand No. 61 which included the receipts and expenditure made during the Financial Year (FY) 2025-26 for their Schemes, Attached/Sub-ordinate offices and Autonomous bodies, including Prasar Bharati. Highlighting the mismatch between the funds allocated and utilized during the last 5 years under different Schemes/Categories/Sectors of MIB, he asked the Ministry to provide reasons for the same. Further, reasons for reduced allocation and underutilization of funds under Central Sector Schemes (CSS) and increased allocation under Establishment Expenditure, Autonomous Bodies and PSUs were also sought. The Chairperson asked the Ministry about the initiatives and preparedness for achieving their financial and physical targets and their plan for spending the rest of the amount within one and half month remaining in the financial year 2024-25. He also desired to be updated about the impact of rationalization of Central Sector Schemes as well as about the performance, achievements, growth and the standing of National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) in

comparison with similar international bodies. Explanation of the Ministry was sought about the adverse impact on their working due to reduced allocation of funds; non-utilisation of precious allotted funds; and the roadmap for affective and optimum utilization of funds. Ministry was asked to clarify whether all regional news bulletin units of All India Radio were shifted to their respective regions or whether some of them were still functioning from New Delhi. He sought to provide the action plan to improve the physical and financial performance of the Prasar Bharati during 2025-26 and to address the problem of Human Resource in Prasar Bharati (both AIR and Doordarshan) along with the reasons for hiring staff on contractual basis and its impact on quality and output of the organization.

5. Thereafter, the representatives of MIB made a Power Point presentation *inter-alia* highlighting the following broad areas:

- (i) Organizational Structure;
- (ii) Budget and Schemes which *inter-alia* included Budget Estimate and the action plan for 2025-26 and expenditure trends for last four years;
- (iii) Changes in Policy, Rules and Guidelines;
- (iv) Ease of Doing Business and improving efficiency of operations;
- (v) Thrust areas for the year 2025-26; and
- (vi) Recent initiatives and achievements including World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) to be held in 2025; WAVES platform, Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT), Master's Course at IIMC, Incubation Centre at IIMC at Delhi; Declaration of Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) as Deemed to be University; SRFTI and FTII as Deemed to be University; First Batch at the Film and Television Institute (FTII), Arunachal; Launch of 500<sup>th</sup> Community Radio Station at IIMC Aizawl; etc.

6. After the Power Point presentation by the Ministry, the Members sought clarifications on various issues which *inter-alia* included (i) Plans and roadmap to improve the financial management of the Ministry; (ii) New areas/Projects/Schemes where Ministry would seek Demands in future; (iii) Road map for making Doordarshan competitive; (iv) Issues related to vacancies in AIR, DD and steps taken to fill the same particularly in NER; (v) Budgetary allocations, utilization and other issues associated with Community Radio Stations (CRSs) specially in North Eastern Region (NER); (vi) Plans for having AI-based solutions in Information Broadcasting Sector, in governance within MIB as well as researches and budgetary allocations for the same; (vii) Plans with respect to the new Social Media guidelines and social media volunteers; (viii) Plans for having 24x7 News channel and expansion of sports channel by Prasar Bharati; (ix) Role, mandate, objective and targets set under 'IICT/NCoE and WAVES along with the details of Board Members meant for WAVES; (x) Problem faced by DD and AIR stations in North Eastern Region (NER); (xi) Issues related to Press Information Bureau (PIB); (xii) Pendency of application for registration of Periodicals and News Papers and other issues related to it; (xiii) Issues faced by Central Bureau of

Communication and erstwhile Bureau of Outreach and Communication (BOC)/DAVP);  
(xiv) Assistance provided to deceased journalist; etc.

7. Thereafter, the Committee in the light of the controversial remarks by Mr. Ranveer Allhabadia on social media platform, directed the Ministry to send a brief note regarding the amendments necessitated in various media laws due to challenges emanating from new forms of social media and emerging technologies.

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

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

**The witnesses then withdrew.**

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

**The Committee, then, adjourned.**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (2024-25)**

**MINUTES OF THE SIXTEENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE**

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The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2025 from 1700 hours to 1755 hours in Committee Room No. 'D', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

**DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY- Chairperson**

**MEMBERS**

***Lok Sabha***

2. Shri C.N. Annadurai
3. Dr. Rabindra Narayan Behera
4. Shri Anup Sanjay Dhotre
5. Shri Sanjay Haribhau Jadhav
6. Shri S. Supongmeren Jamir
7. Shri Appalanaidu Kalisetti
8. Smt. Poonamben Hematbhai Maadam
9. Shri Shafi Parambil
10. Dr. M.K. Vishnu Prasad
11. Ms. Kangna Ranaut
12. Shri Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy
13. Shri Rajesh Verma

***Rajya Sabha***

14. Smt. Priyanka Chaturvedi
15. Dr. Sasmit Patra
16. Shri V. Vijayendra Prasad
17. Shri S. Niranjana Reddy
18. Shri Lahar Singh Siroya

**SECRETARIAT**

- |    |                   |   |                      |
|----|-------------------|---|----------------------|
| 4. | Shri Y.M. Kandpal | - | Additional Secretary |
| 5. | Shri Amrish Kumar | - | Deputy Secretary     |
| 6. | Shri Rajesh Mohan | - | Deputy Secretary     |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the Sitting of the Committee convened to consider and adopt four draft Reports on Demands for Grants (2025-26) relating to the Ministries/Departments under the jurisdiction of the Committee.

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

(i) XXXX.....XXXX.....XXXX.....XXXX.....XXXX.....XXXX.....XXXX

(ii) XXXX.....XXXX.....XXXX.....XXXX.....XXXX.....XXXX.....XXXX

(iii) XXXX.....XXXX.....XXXX.....XXXX.....XXXX.....XXXX.....XXXX

(iv) Draft Report on Demand for Grants (2025-26) relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

4. The Committee adopted the Reports without modifications.

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

**The Committee then adjourned.**

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XXXX- Matter not related to this Report