

19

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

EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

**[Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the
Committee contained in their Eleventh Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on
'Demands for Grants (2025-26)']**

NINETEENTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

August, 2025/ Sravana, 1947 (Saka)

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Committee contained in their Eleventh Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on
'Demands for Grants (2025-26)']**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 19.08.2025

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 19.08.2025



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

August 2025/ Sravana, 1947 (Saka)

CONTENTS

	PAGE
COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE.....	(iii)
INTRODUCTION.....	(v)
CHAPTER I Report.....	1
CHAPTER II Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government.....	13
CHAPTER III Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government.....	35
CHAPTER IV Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and require reiteration	36
CHAPTER V Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are of interim in nature.....	37

APPENDICES

I.	Achievements in NER for 2024-25 under BIND Scheme	56
II.	Physical targets under BIND Scheme for NER 2025-26	58

ANNEXURES

I.	Minutes of the 21 st Sitting of the Committee held on 11.08.2025.....	59
II.	Analysis of Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in their Eleventh Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha).	61

**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. 26th September, 2024 vide Para No.833 of Bulletin Part-II dated 26th September, 2024.**

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

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology (2024-25), having been authorized by the Committee, present this Nineteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Eleventh Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2025-26)' relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

2. The Eleventh Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 21st March, 2025 and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 20th March, 2025. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting furnished their Action Taken Notes on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report on 30th June, 2025.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their Sitting held on 11th August, 2025.

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

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

NEW DELHI;
11 August, 2025
20 Sravana, 1947 (Saka)

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

CHAPTER I

REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Eleventh Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on the 'Demands for Grants (2025-26)' relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

2. The Eleventh Report was presented to Lok Sabha/laid in Rajya Sabha on 21st March, 2025. It contained 15 Observations/Recommendations. Action Taken Notes contained in the Report in respect of all the Observations/Recommendations have been received from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and are categorized as under:-

(i)	Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government Rec. Sl. Nos.:– 1,4,5,10,11,12,13,14 & 15	
		Total - 9 Chapter-II
(ii)	Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government Rec. Sl. No.:– NIL	
		Total — NIL Chapter-III
(iii)	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and require reiteration Rec. Sl. No.:– NIL	
		Total – NIL Chapter-IV
(iv)	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are of interim in nature Rec. Sl. No.:– 2,3,6,7,8 & 9	
		Total – 06 Chapter-V

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

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

BROADCASTING INFRASTRUCTURE AND NETWORK DEVELOPMENT (BIND)

(Recommendation Sl. No. 4)

5. The Committee, in their Eleventh Report, had recommended as under:-

“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 30th 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.); (iii) Certain administrative reasons halted the completion of TV tower at Amritsar, shifting of Transmitter and other associated equipments; (iv) Specification drafting is under process for setting up of Geo Diversity Centre for DD DTH platform similar to main site capacity; (v) 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”.

6. In their Action Taken Reply, the Ministry of information and Broadcasting submitted that in order to fully utilize the funds allocated for the financial year 2025-26, various initiatives planned by the Ministry for timely utilization of funds are as follows:-

- “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.
- Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has been reviewing the expenditure of Prasar Bharati periodically and Prasar Bharati has been advised to regularly review the projects through an annual action plan to be undertaken and monitored at least on a monthly basis both from physical and financial progress point of view. The progress of expenditure is also being monitored closely at the senior officer levels.
- Prasar Bharati has adopted digital techniques in office functioning such as e-office, email, CAS (Centralized Accounting Software) and TSA (Treasury Single Account) for fund release for the scheme. These have made the system fast, efficient and transparent.
- A comprehensive content procurement policy has been approved by Prasar Bharati which clearly defines the processes and guidelines for procurement of content under different procurement models.
- Further, multiple new policies have been approved by Prasar Bharati Board (PBB) to streamline content procurements.
- Policy Guidelines for Commissioning of Programmes under DAP (Direct Assignment Process) and an Online Portal has been launched for the same.
- Policy Guidelines for acquisition of Licensed Ready-Made Audio-Visual Content and an Online Portal has been launched for the same.
- Policy for Procurement of Feature Films for Prasar Bharati Platforms on Fixed License Fee – 2021.
- Procurement procedures have been streamlined. Project review meetings are held regularly at Zonal levels & 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-tendering, procurement through GEM, Video conference is also being utilized.

A. In respect of Tangible/quantifiable outcome of the initiatives taken to achieve targets under BIND, prepare a robust, proactive project tracking mechanism, increase the frequency of progress reviews and integrate scientific tools to forecast financial needs more accurately;

An Apex Committee has been formed for monitoring the progress of projects. Committee is meeting on periodical basis and encourage various project units to expedite the activities for timely completion of project. Committee discourses on each and every project of BIND

Scheme, stage-wise, right from inception of project to its completion (viz indent for project, Technical specs formulation & approval, Tendering, bids evaluation, supply of equipment and execution of project. During these meetings, Committee resolves various issues/hindrances coming in implementation of project, such as obtaining necessary approvals (IFD, MII etc.) and timely completion of various stages (preparation of specs, floating of tenders, issue of purchase orders, supply of equipment installation etc.); and other concurrent issues.

- B. In respect of Streamline the procurement process, Formulate time bound targets for execution of projects, the following actions have been taken:-
- Procurement procedures have been streamlined. Project review meetings are held regularly at Zonal levels & 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.
- C. In regard to Distribution of DTH receive Set top boxes, feasibility of distribution of said STB via DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) mode is being carried out. Consultations with DBT Mission for registration of the scheme on DBT Bharat Portal and verification of Aadhar No & Bank details of Beneficiaries is in process.
- D. With respect to importing broadcast equipments which are not produced in India and blanket exemption for Make-in India, the followings are submitted:-
- Ministry had received the request for blanket exemption for Make-in-India (MII) clause with respect to importing broadcast equipments which are not produced in India.
 - Such equipment are mainly manufactured by the Global companies. The procurement of such equipment made in past years, wherein only items manufactured by the foreign manufacture were quoted by the firms. During industry feedback of such equipments, no Indian manufactured items feedback is received.
 - Proposals seeking exemption of Make in India (MII) clause for procurement of professional Broadcast Equipment have been received from time to time and necessary action has been taken in this regard".

7. The Committee (2024-25), in their Eleventh Report, had noted recurrent under-achievement of both physical and financial targets under BIND Scheme, and had, *inter-alia*, recommended the Ministry to apprise of the action taken for fully utilizing the funds allocated for the financial year 2025-26; for aligning the financial progress with physical/performance targets; about tangible/quantifiable outcome of the initiatives taken to achieve targets under BIND, etc. From the Action Taken Reply of the Ministry, it is learnt that review of progress of projects is taken up periodically, the monitoring mechanism is strengthened and an Apex

Committee has been formed for monitoring the progress of projects. Besides, the procurement procedures have also been streamlined. Updating about the shortfalls in the physical targets, the Ministry has informed that feasibility of distribution of 1.2 Lakh Set Top Boxes (STB) for LWE (Left Wing Extremism) affected remote and tribal areas of the Country via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode was being carried out. The Ministry has also informed that with respect to importing broadcast equipment that are not produced in India, proposals seeking exemption of Make in India (MII) clause had been received from time to time and necessary action had been taken accordingly. In addition, they have also received the request for blanket exemption for Make-in-India (MII) clause. While taking cognizance of all the initiatives taken by the Ministry to align the financial progress with physical performance/targets, the Committee desire to be apprised of the following: -

- (i) Concrete outcome of the multiple new policies approved by Prasar Bharati Board (PBB) to streamline content procurement;
- (ii) Tangible outcome after formation of Apex Committee for monitoring the progress of projects;
- (iii) Outcome of the action taken to see the feasibility of distribution of STB (Set Top Boxes) via DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) mode being carried out; and
- (iv) Action taken on the proposals received, to seek blanket exemption of Make in India (MII) clause for procurement of professional Broadcast Equipment, and the outcome of the same.

NORTH EASTERN REGION (NER)

(Recommendation Sl. No. 12)

8. The Committee, in their Eleventh Report, had recommended as under:-

“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 31st 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 recruitments 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”.

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

- (i) “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.
- (ii) As of now, akin to NE region, there are several vacancies in Prasar Bharati. As already conveyed, to assess the optimal no. of posts in various streams and levels as per the current and future requirement, Prasar Bharati, has undertaken the exercise of HR Transformation 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 quantum of recruitment to be made will emerge. Once this clarity emerges, steps for the recruitment process will be initiated, including recruitment for the vacancies in North Eastern Region.
- (iii) However, to tide over the acute manpower shortage, Prasar Bharati is engaging professionals in various categories under Contractual Engagement Policy (CEP 2021) on short-term contracts to meet its urgent requirement of skilled and professional manpower. In this regard, in the NE Region, Technical Assistant /Jr. Technical Assistant have been provided. Out of 158 selected TA/JTS, 130 TA/JTS have already joined till date.

As far as programme wing is concerned Doordarshan Directorate regularly interacts with Doordarshan Kendras.

Zonal Review meets are also being held from time to time to monitor the programme production and transmission & various activities taken by Doordarshan Kendras.

As far as expenditure on Content under BIND is concerned, the details for the FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-26 are as under:

Expenditure on Content under BIND for North-East Region in 2024-25(Rs. in Crore)

S. No.	Name of Kendra	Total Expenditure
1.	DDK Itanagar	3.18
2.	DDK Imphal	2.50
3.	PGF Gangtok	0.45
4.	DDK Agartala	0.88
5.	DDK Guwahati	2.35
6.	DDK Shillong	0.65
7.	DDK Aizawl	1.11
8.	DDK Kohima	0.60
9.	Content Sourcing Division	2.55
	Total	14.27
	% Utilisation (Total Funds Allocated : 14.34 Crores)	99.51

Allocation for content creation in FY 2025-26 (Rs. in Crore)

S. No.	Name of Kendra	BE 2025-2026
1.	DDK Itanagar	1.36
2.	DDK Imphal	1.07
3.	PGF Gangtok	0.19
4.	DDK Agartala	0.37
5.	DDK Guwahati	1.00
6.	DDK Shillong	0.28
7.	DDK Aizawl	0.47
8.	DDK Kohima	0.26
	Total	5.00

Doordarshan Kendras/Stations of the North-East Region has produced localized content under various genres by utilizing fund allocated under BIND like serials, reality shows, cuisine shows, travelogues, telefilms, documentaries, quiz programmes etc. by hiring local artists/talent.

With regard to implementation of Projects an Apex committee has been formed for monitoring the progress of Doordarshan projects throughout the country including NER. Committee is meeting on periodical basis and encourage various project units to expedite the activities for timely completion of project. Committee discourses on each and every project of BIND Scheme, stage-wise right from inception of project to its completion (viz indent for project, technical specifications formulation & approval, tendering, bids evaluation, supply of equipment and execution of project. During these meetings, Committee resolves various issues/ hindrance coming in implementation of project, such as obtaining necessary approvals (IFD, MII etc.) and timely completion of various stages (preparation of specs, floating of tenders, issue of purchase orders, supply of equipment installation etc.); and other concurrent issues.

Akashvani

Fund utilization for Akashvani in NER under BIND, the updated status is as below:-

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl.N.	FY	BE	RE	AE	% of utilization of fund wrt. RE
1	2024-25	5.77	3.97	3.92	98.74%
2	2025-26*	0.25	----		---
*Action is under progress.					

The quarterly expenditure plan for NER for FY 2025-26 is as follows:

Object Head	BE 2025-26	Quarterly Expenditure Plan				
		Ist Quarter	IIInd Quarter	IIIrd Quarter	IVth Quarter	Total
DCDFC	36.3	9.075	9.075	9.075	9.075	36.3
DCID	23.80	5.95	5.95	5.95	5.95	23.80
CRS	21.54	5.20	5.40	5.40	5.54	21.54
BIND	45.00	7.25	8.00	9.75	20.00	45

DCDFC Achievements in NER for the year 2024-25

- Official Delegation of talented film-makers and film students from North East were sent to Busan and Berlin International Film Festivals.
- A delegation of North East students from each State participated in 18th MIFF, 2024 and 55th IFFI, 2024.
- Financial assistance was provided to 7 Domestic Film Festivals.
- Organization of Film Festivals in NE Region.
- Children in most remote parts of the NE States got to see meaningful children films through exhibition of children's films in schools.

DCID Achievements in NER for the year 2024-25

For implementation of DCID scheme in NE Region, 3 press tours and 8 Vartalaps have been conducted during FY 2024-25.

CRS Achievements in NER for the year 2024-25

- To support the Community Radio movement, there is a Central Sector Scheme (CSS) namely "Supporting Community Radio Movement in India" is being implemented in all the States including North Eastern Region, in accordance with its mandate. Further, efforts of the Ministry have been to increase the number of Community Radio Stations in the region.
- In recent years, the Community Radio sector has witnessed steady and effective growth across India. This progress is notably reflected in the achievements of Community Radio Stations (CRSs) in the North-Eastern region during the Financial Year 2024–25.
- At present, 19 Community Radio Stations are operating in the North Eastern States, out of which the State of Manipur and Assam have 6 and 5 Community Radio Stations respectively. The 500th CRS in the country set up in Aizwal, Mizoram was recently inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister for I&B. The Ministry gave special emphasis on holding awareness workshops in order to increase penetration of CRS in NER and had conducted 2 community radio awareness workshops during the current FY 2024-2025 covering Community radio dark districts as follows:
 - Itanagar-Arunachal Pradesh
 - Aizawl-Mizoram
- During the last financial year, the Ministry received three applications for financial assistance from the North-Eastern States. Upon examination, the requisite documents for only two of these applications were found to be in order.

5. Realizing the potential of CRS in NER, certain amendments have been made in the Scheme to encourage the potential organisations to establish CRSs. Additional financial support will now be given to women-led organisations who want to set up Community Radio Stations in the NER. Further, to encourage use of green energy in CRS, additional financial assistance will be given. The amount of financial assistance provided to new CRS has been increased from earlier grant of Rs. 12 lakh to Rs. 18.20- 24 lakh towards infrastructure.

Physical targets/achievements in NER for the financial year 2024-25 has been given in *Appendix -I* & for the financial year 2025-26 has been given in *Appendix -II*, respectively

Ministry should conduct more awareness programmes and seminars to highlight the benefits and financial incentives for setting up Community Radio Stations

Reply: Ministry is taking proactive measures to increase the numbers of CRS in the NERs of India and accordingly workshops and conferences will be organized in this financial year to increase awareness and highlighting the benefits of CRSs. It may note that Ministry has already increased the Grant from Rs 12 Lac to Rs 18.2 Lac for NER and in case GBM is having more than 50% of women will get of Rs 20.8 Lac and in case CRS install Solar Power setup then additional Rs 21 Lac will be reimbursed as financial assistance. Further, in case of any CRS located in NER is having 50% or more women in GBM and install solar power set up then it can get a grant of Rs 24 Lac. It is to state that the demand of CRS is picking up very fast but many a times frequency spot is not available so the interested and eligible organizations are not able to get the permission. Ministry has received two cases of reimbursement of Grant cases so far in this year”.

10. **In their Eleventh Report (18th LS), while noting less utilization of funds allocated under 10% Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) for the North Eastern Region (NER) and 3089 vacancies in Doordarshan Kendras (DD) and All India Radio (AIR) in NER against the sanctioned strength of 4799 posts, the Committee had recommended the Ministry to ensure full utilization of funds during the financial years 2024-25 and 2025-26 and to pay immediate attention to the significant shortage of staff in AIR and DD Kendras of NER. The Committee note with satisfaction that the fund utilization for DD and Akashvani in NER under BIND scheme has reached almost full utilisations. The Ministry, in their Action Taken Reply, has informed that as of now, akin to NE region, there are several vacancies in Prasar Bharati and to assess the optimal number of posts as per the current and future requirement, Prasar Bharati has undertaken the exercise of HR Transformation 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 quantum of recruitment to be made would emerge. Once this clarity emerges, steps for the**

recruitment process would be initiated, including recruitment for the vacancies in North Eastern Region. However, the Ministry in their Action Taken Reply has neither given details about the date of appointment nor about the target date for submission of Report by the Manpower Audit Agency. The Committee desire to be enlightened about the above details at the earliest. With respect to Community Radio Centres (CRSs) in NER, the Ministry has informed that to increase the numbers of CRS in NER, workshops and conferences would be organized during this financial year to increase awareness among the common people. At present, 19 Community Radio Stations are operating in the North Eastern States. Out of these, 6 are in Manipur and 5 are in Assam and the 500th CRS in the Country was set up in Aizwal. The Ministry has also informed that the demand of CRS is gaining momentum but many times frequency spot is not available. As a result, the interested and eligible organizations are not able to get the permission. They had received two cases of reimbursement of Grant cases so far in this year. The Committee are happy to note that realizing the potential of CRS in NER, certain amendments have been made in the Scheme to encourage the potential organisations to establish Community Radio Stations. Additional financial support would be given to women-led organisations who want to set up CRSs in the NER. Further, the amount of financial assistance provided to new CRS has been increased from Rs. 12 lakh to Rs. 18.2 lakh. In case GBM is having more than 50% of women it will get Rs 20.8 Lac and in case CRS installs Solar Power setup then additional Rs 21 Lac will be reimbursed. Also to encourage use of green energy in CRS, additional financial assistance would be given.

While appreciating the pace of fund utilization for DD and Akashvani in NER under BIND scheme, the Committee hope similar trend would be ensured for the quarterly expenditure plan for NER during the year 2025-26. The Committee may be kept apprised of the achievement of the financial targets for the current financial year. With respect to vacancies in DD and AIR Kendras in North Eastern Region, the Committee urge the Ministry to expedite the entire exercise of HR Transformation, which is being done through a manpower audit agency, so that a clear picture regarding the quantum of recruitment can emerge and steps for the recruitment process can be initiated for filling up the vacancies not only in DD and AIR Kendras in North Eastern Region but also across Prasar Bharati. The Committee express their concern that the exercise of HR transformation and recruitment process in Prasar Bharati has considerably been delayed which is

affecting their performance Pan India. Further, the Committee desire that the Ministry may continue their efforts to support CRS movement in the NER. The Committee may be kept apprised of the outcome of the HR Transformation exercise along with the initiatives taken to support and promote Community Radio Stations in North Eastern Region.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) BASED SOLUTIONS IN INFORMATION BROADCASTING SECTOR

(Recommendation SI. No. 13)

11. The Committee, in their Original Report, has recommended that: –

“The Committee note and appreciate that embracing the era of Artificial Intelligence (AI), on 26th 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”.

12. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, in their Action Taken Reply, submitted as under: -

" AI -based content generation can greatly benefit DD News in several areas, including AI anchors for recorded programs, AI-generated voiceovers, automated identification of packages and sound bytes, and translation into multiple regional languages. These efforts shall be enhanced through partnerships with academic institutions and Public-Private Partnerships

(PPP). Additionally, collaboration with young creative talents using AI tools—such as those showcased at the recent WAVES Summit— shall bring innovative ideas and energy to content development”.

13. The Committee (2024-25), in their 11th Report (18th LS), had appreciated the efforts of the Ministry to integrate AI-based real-time translation tools for broadcasting and digital platforms across multiple languages. They had opined that certain other areas may also be explored for integrating AI in functioning of MIB which *inter-alia* included partnerships with academic institutions and private sector AI companies to develop new AI applications in Broadcasting; to monitor misinformation and disinformation trends and in identifying potential challenges; to integrate AI tools into content creation process; to enhance the efficiency, accessibility, and engagement of Ministry’s information dissemination processes through AI driven innovation; etc. To this, the Ministry has informed that AI-based content generation can greatly benefit DD News in several areas, including AI anchors for recorded programs, AI-generated voice-overs, automated identification of packages and sound bytes, and translation into multiple regional languages. These efforts would be enhanced through partnerships with academic institutions and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP). Additionally, collaboration with young creative talents using AI tools—such as those showcased at the recent WAVES Summit — shall bring innovative ideas and energy to content development. The Committee would like to be apprised of the concrete plan/roadmap of the Ministry, for AI-integration and for harnessing benefits of AI in content creation, programming, broadcasting, etc. The Committee would also like to be kept apprised of the outcome of the efforts made for having partnerships with academic institutions, Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and collaboration with young creative talents using AI tools which were showcased at the recently organised WAVES Summit. To facilitate this the Committee also call upon Ministry to explore the possibility of appointing a Nodal AI officer solely responsible for all AI matters and coordination for other Ministries/Departments.

CHAPTER II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

(Recommendation Sl. No. 1)

BUDGET OVERVIEW AND DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2025-26)

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 30th January, 2025 was Rs. 3382.99 crore, which is 73.12 % of RE allocation, few shortcomings in the physical targets (Upto 3rd 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.

Reply of the Government

In their Action Taken Reply, the Ministry of information and Broadcasting submitted as under:–

The overall allocation under Budget Estimates (BE) for the Financial Year (FY) 2024-25 of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is ₹ 4342.55 crore which was enhanced to Rs. 4626.71 crore at Revised Estimate (RE) 2024-25 stage and further reduced to ₹ 4496.32 crore at Final Grant (FG) 2024-25 stage. The overall utilization of funds against FG 2024-25 as on 31.03.2025 is ₹ 4306.78 crore which is 95.78% of FG 2024-25.

The overall allocation under Budget Estimates (BE) for the Financial Year (FY) 2025-26 of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is ₹ 4358.38 crore which is likely to be sufficient and will not affect the performance of the Ministry. Still there is a recourse to seek additional funds for any requirement at RE 2025-26 stage.

Various Initiatives planned by the Ministry for timely utilization of funds for 2025-26 are as follows:

- 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.
- Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has been reviewing the expenditure of Prasar Bharati periodically and Prasar Bharati has been advised to regularly review the projects through an annual action plan to be undertaken and monitored at least on a monthly basis both from physical and financial progress point of view. The progress of expenditure is also being monitored closely at the senior officer levels.
- Prasar Bharati has adopted digital techniques in office functioning such as e-office, email, CAS (Centralized Accounting Software) and TSA for fund release for the scheme. These have made the system fast, efficient and transparent.
- A comprehensive content procurement policy has been approved by Prasar Bharati which clearly defines the processes and guidelines for procurement of content under different procurement models.
- Further, multiple new policies have been approved by Prasar Bharati Board (PBB) to streamline content procurement as mentioned below:
 - i. Policy Guidelines for Commissioning of Programmes under DAP (Direct Assignment Process) and an Online Portal has been launched for the same
 - ii. Policy Guidelines for acquisition of Licensed Ready-Made Audio-Visual Content and an Online Portal has been launched for the same
 - iii. Policy for Procurement of Feature Films for Prasar Bharati Platforms on Fixed License Fee – 2021.

- 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-tendering, procurement through GEM, Video conference is also being utilized.

With regard to status of achievements of physical targets for 2024-25 in respect of four central sector schemes of the Ministry viz. DCID, DCDFC, BIND and CRS is placed at Annexure – A. So far as the targets for 2025-26 is concerned, the same is reflected in Annexure- B.

(File No. H-11013/9/2025-PC CELL dated 30.06.2025)

(Recommendation Sl. No. 4)

BROADCASTING SECTOR (INCLUDING PRASAR BHARATI)

BROADCASTING INFRASTRUCTURE AND NETWORK DEVELOPMENT (BIND)

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 30th 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.

Reply of the Government

In their Action Taken Reply, the Ministry of information and Broadcasting submitted as under:–

In order to fully utilize the fund allocated for the financial year 2025-26 the various Initiatives planned by the Ministry for timely utilization of funds are as follows:

- 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.
- Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has been reviewing the expenditure of Prasar Bharati periodically and Prasar Bharati has been advised to regularly review the projects through an annual action plan to be undertaken and monitored at least on a monthly basis both from physical and financial progress point of view. The progress of expenditure is also being monitored closely at the senior officer levels.
- Prasar Bharati has adopted digital techniques in office functioning such as e-office, email, CAS (Centralized Accounting Software) and TSA for fund release for the scheme. These have made the system fast, efficient and transparent.
- A comprehensive content procurement policy has been approved by Prasar Bharati which clearly defines the processes and guidelines for procurement of content under different procurement models.
- Further, multiple new policies have been approved by Prasar Bharati Board (PBB) to streamline content procurement as mentioned below:
 - Policy Guidelines for Commissioning of Programmes under DAP (Direct Assignment Process) and an Online Portal has been launched for the same.
 - Policy Guidelines for acquisition of Licensed Ready-Made Audio-Visual Content and an Online Portal has been launched for the same.
 - Policy for Procurement of Feature Films for Prasar Bharati Platforms on Fixed License Fee – 2021.
 - 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-tendering, procurement through GEM, Video conference is also being utilized.

A. In respect of Tangible/quantifiable outcome of the initiatives taken to achieve targets under BIND, prepare a robust, proactive project tracking mechanism, Increase the frequency of progress reviews and integrate scientific tools to forecast financial needs more accurately;

“An Apex committee has been formed for monitoring the progress of projects. Committee is meeting on periodical basis and encourage various project units to expedite the activities for timely completion of project. Committee discourses on each and every project of BIND Scheme, stage wise right from inception of project to its completion (viz indent for project, Technical specs formulation & approval, Tendering, bids evaluation, supply of equipment and execution of project. During these meetings, committee resolves various issues/ hindrance coming in implementation of project, such as obtaining necessary approvals (IFD, MII etc.) and timely completion of various stages (preparation of specs, floating of tenders, issue of purchase orders, supply of equipment installation etc.); and other concurrent issues.”

B. In respect of Streamline the procurement process, formulate time bound targets for execution of projects, the following actions have been taken

- 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.

C. In regard to Distribution of DTH receive Set top boxes, feasibility of distribution of said STB via DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) mode is being carried out. Consultations with DBT Mission for registration of the scheme on DBT Bharat Portal and verification of Aadhar No & Bank details of Beneficiaries is in process.

D. With respect to importing broadcast equipments which are not produced in India and blanket exemption for Make-in India, the followings are submitted:

- Ministry had received the request for blanket exemption for Make-in-India (MII) clause with respect to importing broadcast equipments which are not produced in India.
- Such equipment are mainly manufactured by the Global companies. The procurement of such equipment made in past years, wherein only items manufactured by the foreign manufacture were quoted by the firms. During industry feedback of such equipments, no Indian manufactured items feedback is received.
- Proposals seeking exemption of Make in India (MII) clause for procurement of professional Broadcast Equipment have been received from time to time and necessary action has been taken in this regard.

(File No. H-11013/9/2025-PC CELL dated 30.06.2025)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 7 of Chapter-I)

(Recommendation Sl. No. 5)

DOORDARSHAN

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 hours 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.

Reply of the Government

In their Action Taken Reply, the Ministry of information and Broadcasting submitted as under:—

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,

1. Keeping in mind 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.
2. Revision of Rate Card for booking Artists and Casual Assignees.
3. A number of fresh programmes such as Sardar– the game changer, Hum toh middle class hainji, Cyber Crime kiduniya ... bach ke rehna, Kakbhusundi Ramayan, Fauji 2, Bhed Bharam... Rahasyon ka mayajal, Jahan Chand Rehta hai, various musical reality shows/challenges namely Battle of Bands, Battle of Bands – International, Symphony of India, Wah Ustad have been introduced to attract viewers.
4. Extensive OB Coverages: Doordarshan has undertaken a series of ambitious outside broadcasting (OB) initiatives, ranging from the live telecast of significant events such as the International Film Festival of Goa and the ISRO launches to immersive coverage of the Mahakumbh 2025 in Prayagraj.
5. 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..
6. Programme “Krish Trish and Balti boy: 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.
7. Dooradrshan became a part of the AI revolution when DD KISAN became the first channel of the network with AI anchors- Krish & Bhoomi.
8. On 19th January 2024 DD Podhigai was relaunched as DD Tamil with new look and fresh programmes. Feature films are also introduced to garner viewership.
9. DD Sports has been launched in HD.
10. Feature Film Resumption: The practice of Hindi Feature Film telecast on DD National recommenced from 22nd 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 a few regional channels.
11. In-house Serial Production: Attention has been given to in-house serial productions at Regional channel level. This encouragement led DDK Jalandhar, DDK Ahmedabad and DDK Mumbai to produce in-house serials.
12. Doordarshan Network has 66 Programme Production Centers across the country with Studio set-up and 28 regional/state channels. Localised content are being created by regional/state centres by hiring local artists/talent and telecast on their respective regional/state channels.
13. Doordarshan has also focused on enhancing its digital footprints and presence in the social media space.
 - (i) Recently Prasar Bharati has launched its own OTT platform “WAVES” and various channels of Doordarshan are integrated into the WAVES.

Doordarshan has made wide presence on Social Media such as YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc. The DD National and DD News YouTube channels have a subscriber base of over 6 million and 5.6 million subscribers, respectively.

With respect to the observation that there were 8 states which did not have any separate channels or even limited hour of telecast, the reply is submitted as below:

Among the UTs, UT of J&K has a dedicated satellite channel, PGF Srivijayapuram/Port Blair (Andaman & Nicobar Island), PGF Leh (Ladakh) has limited hour local terrestrial transmission and a dedicated satellite channel is being operated by PGF Puducherry (Puducherry) beamed from DDK Chennai on test transmission basis. PGF Leh has dedicated timeslots on Satellite Channel DD Kashir.

- (i) Doordarshan Network has a dedicated satellite channel for every state of India except Sikkim. Further it is submitted that PGF Gangtok (Sikkim) has limited hour local cable and terrestrial transmission and dedicated timeslots on satellite channel DD Arunprabha.

With regard to stiff competition from private channels, the challenges being faced by Doordarshan. It is submitted that:

Revenue earned from DD Free Dish DTH is decreasing compared to last FY. Reasons may be attributed to popularity of OTT in areas where high speed internet is easily available. The Cost of broadband is also decreasing in urban areas. However, to tackle the competition with respect to OTT platforms, Prasar Bharati has launched its OTT platform 'WAVES' which will also provide video on demand, free-to-play gaming, radio streaming, live TV streaming, 65 live channels, several in-app integrations for video and gaming content, and online shopping through Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) supported Government's e-commerce platform.

(File No. H-11013/9/2025-PC CELL dated 30.06.2025)

(Recommendation Sl. No. 10)

INFORMATION SECTOR

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (PIB)

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.

Reply of the Government

In their Action Taken Reply, the Ministry of information and Broadcasting submitted as under:—

The vacant post of IIS/CSS/CSSS/CSCS Cadres are filled by the Ministry of I&B (through DoP&T in case of CSS/CSSS Cadres). Further, the posts of CSOL (Central Secretariat Official Language) Cadre are filled by the MHA. In this regard, necessary action has been taken.

Recruitment to the post of MTS and Ex-cadre posts of PIB Hqrs is carried out by PIB Hqrs. During 2024, a total of 32 vacancies were reported vis-à-vis 35 dossiers have been received for pre appointment formalities, which is under process.

Regarding, ex-cadre posts of Regional/Branch offices of this Bureau, various steps have already been initiated such as periodical reporting of the same to the concerned office of Staff Selection Commission (SSC), timely conduction of DPC meetings, revision of the outdated RRs (Recruitment Rules), etc., to fill up such vacancies.

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

Media Outreach Programme and publicity for special events (MOP), a sub scheme of DCID Scheme, is implemented by PIB through its regional/ Units across the country. Accordingly, funds are allocated to respective regional offices/ Units.

To ensure transparency and improve resource allocation, regular audits have been conducted in respect of these offices. Further, physical targets are monitored by PIB Hqrs. through Output Outcome Monitoring Framework on quarterly/ monthly basis to achieve greater media outreach and optimum utilization of funds

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.

The objective of Integrated Dashboard SAMVAD is to bring together feedback from print, electronic, online and social media towards major government initiatives, decisions, policies, programmes so as to enable the government to come up with effective policy formulation, mid-course corrections implementation and communications.

Technical Resources and Platform Enhancement

The contract for Design, Development and Maintenance of Integrated Dashboard 2.0 (SAMVAD) has been awarded to a vendor Through GeM portal. The expected expenditure for this engagement is approximately Rs. 6 crore during FY 2025-26. This envisages expansion of SAMVAD to also cover social media & TV feedback.

Financial Resources

The expenditure pertaining to SAMVAD 2.0 is to be met from the budgetary allocation under the sub-scheme “Social Media Platform” under the umbrella scheme ‘Development Communication & Information Dissemination (DCID)’ of the M/o Information & Broadcasting.

During FY 2025-26, funds of Rs.8.63 crores have been allocated to New Media Wing under the object head “Professional Services” of the sub-scheme “Social Media Platform”. However, as NMW has a committed liability of Rs.12.50 crores towards expenditure related to social media activities, dues of BECIL and the development of an AI & ML based multilingual translation and voice localization platform, there is requirement of additional funds to the tune of Rs.10.00 crores to meet the expenditure relating to SAMVAD for its uninterrupted execution and related initiatives.

The aforesaid additional requirement of funds is under consideration of the Ministry and is likely to be taken up during RE 2025-26 stage.

(File No. H-11013/9/2025-PC CELL dated 30.06.2025)

(Recommendation Sl. No. 11)

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

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 1st March, 2024. The Committee also note a new digital platform – ‘Press Sewa Portal’ (<https://presssewa.prgi.gov.in/>) has been launched on 22nd 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 30th 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.

Reply of the Government

In their Action Taken Reply, the Ministry of information and Broadcasting submitted as under:—

The amended Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for circulation verification through desk audit has been issued by the Office of the Press Registrar General of India and is now available on the official PRGI website for public access with respect to 01.04.2025.

ii) As per Press & Registration of Periodicals Act, 2023 (PRP Act, 2023), the comments of Specified Authorities (District Magistrates) on Press Sewa Portal are required for processing the applications for registration of newspapers/periodicals. Accordingly, the Specified Authorities of 777 Districts have been on-boarded on Press Sewa Portal. These Specified Authorities have been given the Login Credentials on their official email for processing the applications submitted by publishers on Press Sewa Portal (Username and Password) as per the provisions of PRP Act, 2023.

iii) In this regard, DO letters have been issued to Chief Secretaries dated 09.01.2024 and 19.08.2024 from the M/o I&B and DO letters have also been issued to Chief Secretaries dated 25.10.2024 and 24.04.2024 for notifying the Act and on-boarding of Specified Authorities on the Press Sewa portal.

iv) In addition, it has been conveyed that the District Magistrate will deem to be the Specified Authority for processing of applications even if the PRP Act is not notified in the State. By virtue of this Central Act, all District Magistrates will, by default, have been declared Specified Authorities for processing the applications for registration of periodicals on Press Sewa Portal. Therefore, the non-notification of the Act is not affecting the processing in a big way.

The Following modules/Services are fully functional in Press Sewa Portal:

- Registration of Periodicals (New and Revised)
- Filing of Annual Statement
- Online Payment of Penalty
- Authentication of Self-declaration for Newsprint Import
- Processing of Applications by Specified Authority.
- Ownership Transfer of periodicals
- Regularity of periodicals/Submission of copies of periodicals
- Ceasing of Registration
- The Following modules are under development:
- Circulation Verification
- Application for Facsimile Edition
- Suspension/Cancellation of Registration.

v) The Office of the Press Registrar General of India (PRGI) has issued 212 Certificates of Registration and 164 Certificate of Revised Registration for periodicals through Press Sewa Portal till 14.05.2025.

(File No. H-11013/9/2025-PC CELL dated 30.06.2025)

(Recommendation SI. No. 12)

NORTH EASTERN REGION (NER)

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 31st 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.

Reply of the Government

In their Action Taken Reply, the Ministry of information and Broadcasting submitted as under:—

(i) 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.

(ii) As of now, akin to NE region, there are several vacancies in Prasar Bharati. As already conveyed, to assess the optimal no. of posts in various streams and levels as per the current and future requirement, Prasar Bharati, has undertaken the exercise of HR Transformation 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 quantum of recruitment to be made will emerge. Once this clarity emerges, steps for the recruitment process will be initiated, including recruitment for the vacancies in North Eastern Region.

(iii) However, to tide over the acute manpower shortage, Prasar Bharati is engaging professionals in various categories under Contractual Engagement Policy (CEP 2021) on short-term contracts to meet its urgent requirement of skilled and professional manpower. In this regard, in the NE Region, Technical Assistant /Jr. Technical Assistant have been provided. Out of 158 selected TA/JTS, 130 TA/JTS have already joined till date.

As far as programme wing is concerned Doordarshan Directorate regularly interacts with Doordarshan Kendras.

Zonal Review meets are also being held time to time to monitor the programme production and transmission & various activities taken by Doordarshan Kendras.

As far as expenditure on Content under BIND is concerned, the details for the FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-26 are as under :

Expenditure on Content under BIND for North-East Region in 2024-25 (Rs. in Crore)

S.No.	Name of Kendra	Total Expenditure
1.	DDK Itanagar	3.18
2.	DDK Imphal	2.50
3.	PGF Gangtok	0.45
4.	DDK Agartala	0.88
5.	DDK Guwahati	2.35
6.	DDK Shillong	0.65
7.	DDK Aizawl	1.11
8.	DDK Kohima	0.60
9.	Content Sourcing Division	2.55
	Total	14.27
	% Utilisation (Total Funds Allocated: 14.34 Crores)	99.51

Allocation for content creation in FY 2025-26 (Rs. in Crore)

S.No.	Name of Kendra	BE 2025-2026
1.	DDK Itanagar	1.36
2.	DDK Imphal	1.07
3.	PGF Gangtok	0.19
4.	DDK Agartala	0.37
5.	DDK Guwahati	1.00
6.	DDK Shillong	0.28
7.	DDK Aizawl	0.47
8.	DDK Kohima	0.26
Total		5.00

1. Doordarshan Kendras/Stations of the North-East region has produced localized content under various genres by utilizing fund allocated under BIND like serials, reality shows, cuisine shows, travelogues, telefilms, documentaries, quiz programmes etc. by hiring local artists/talent.

With regard to implementation of Projects an Apex committee has been formed for monitoring the progress of Doordarshan projects throughout the country including NER. Committee is meeting on periodical basis and encourage various project units to expedite the activities for timely completion of project. Committee discourses on each and every project of BIND Scheme, stage wise right from inception of project to its completion (viz indent for project, technical specifications formulation & approval, tendering, bids evaluation, supply of equipment and execution of project. During these meetings, committee resolves various issues/ hindrance coming in implementation of project, such as obtaining necessary approvals (IFD, MII etc.) and timely completion of various stages (preparation of specs, floating of tenders, issue of purchase orders, supply of equipment installation etc.); and other concurrent issues.

Akashvani

Fund utilization for Akashvani in **NER** under BIND, the updated status is as below:

(Amount in Crore)					
S.N.	FY	BE	RE	AE	% of utilization of fund wrt. RE
1	2024-25	5.77	3.97	3.92	98.74%
2	2025-26*	0.25	----		---

*Action is under progress.

The quarterly expenditure plan for NER for 2025-26 is as follows:

Object Head	BE 2025-26	Quarterly Expenditure Plan				
		Ist Quarter	IInd Quarter	IIIrd Quarter	IVth Quarter	Total
DCDFC	36.3	9.075	9.075	9.075	9.075	36.3
DCID	23.80	5.95	5.95	5.95	5.95	23.80
CRS	21.54	5.20	5.40	5.40	5.54	21.54
BIND	45.00	7.25	8.00	9.75	20.00	45

DCDFC Achievements in NER for the year 2024-25

- i. Official Delegation of talented filmmakers and film students from North East were sent to Busan and Berlin International Film Festivals.
- ii. A delegation of North East students from each state participated in 18th MIFF, 2024 and 55th IFFI, 2024.
- iii. Financial assistance was provided to 7 Domestic Film Festivals for
- iv. Organization of Film Festivals in NE Region.
- v. Children in most remote parts of the NE States got to see meaningful children films through exhibition of children's films in schools.

DCID Achievements in NER for the year 2024-25

For implementation of DCID scheme in NE Region, 3 press tours and 8 Vartalaps has been conducted during FY 2024-25.

CRS Achievements in NER for the year 2024-25

1. To support the Community Radio movement, there is a Central Sector Scheme (CSS) namely "Supporting Community Radio Movement in India" is being implemented in all the States including North Eastern Region, in accordance with its mandate. Further, efforts of the Ministry have been to increase the number of Community Radio Stations in the region. 2. In recent years, the Community Radio sector has witnessed steady and effective growth across India. This progress is notably reflected in the achievements of Community Radio Stations (CRSs) in the North-Eastern region during the Financial Year 2024-25.

2. At present, 19 Community Radio Stations are operating in the North Eastern States, out of which the State of Manipur and Assam have 6 and 5 Community Radio Stations respectively. The 500th CRS in the country set up in Aizwal, Mizoram was recently inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister for I&B. The Ministry gave special emphasis on holding awareness workshops in order to increase penetration of CRS in NER and had conducted 2 community radio awareness workshops during the current FY 2024-2025 covering Community radio dark districts as follows:

- i) Itanagar-Arunachal Pradesh
- ii) Aizawl-Mizoram

3. During the last financial year, the Ministry received three applications for financial assistance from the North-Eastern States. Upon examination, the requisite documents for only two of these applications were found to be in order.

4. Realizing the potential of CRS in NER, certain amendments have been made in the Scheme to encourage the potential organisations to establish CRSs. Additional financial support will now be given to women-led organisations who want to set up Community Radio Stations in the NER. Further, to encourage use of green energy in CRS, additional financial assistance will be given. The amount of financial assistance provided to new CRS has been increased from earlier grant of Rs. 12 lakh to Rs. 18.20- 24 lakh towards infrastructure.

Physical targets/ achievements in NER for the year 2024-25 is given in **ANNEXURE- E** & for the year 2025-26 is given in **ANNEXURE-F respectively**.

Ministry should conduct more awareness programmes and seminars to highlight the benefits and financial incentives for setting up Community Radio Stations

“Ministry is taking proactive measures to increase the numbers of CRS in the NER regions of India and accordingly workshops and conferences will be organized in this financial year to increase awareness and highlighting the benefits of CRSs. It may note that ministry has already increased the Grant from from Rs 12 Lac to Rs 18.2 Lac for NER and in case GBM is having more than 50% of women will get of Rs 20.8 Lac and in case CRS install Solar Power setup then additional Rs 21 Lac will be reimbursed as financial assistance. Further, in case of any CRS located in NER is having 50% or more women in GBM and install solar power setup than it can get a grant of Rs 24 Lac. It is to state that the demand of CRS is picking very fast but many times frequency spot is not available so the interested and eligible organizations are not able to get the permission. Ministry has received two cases of reimbursement of Grant cases so far in this year.”

(File No. H-11013/9/2025-PC CELL dated 30.06.2025)

Comments of the Committee

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

(Recommendation SI. No. 13)

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) BASED SOLUTIONS IN INFORMATION BROADCASTING SECTOR

The Committee note and appreciate that embracing the era of Artificial Intelligence (AI), on 26th 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.

Reply of the Government

In their Action Taken Reply, the Ministry of information and Broadcasting submitted as under:—

AI-based content generation can greatly benefit DD News in several areas, including AI anchors for recorded programs, AI-generated voiceovers, automated identification of packages and sound bytes, and translation into multiple regional languages. These efforts shall be enhanced through partnerships with academic institutions and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP). Additionally, collaboration with young creative talents using AI tools—such as those showcased at the recent WAVES Summit— shall bring innovative ideas and energy to content development.

(File No. H-11013/9/2025-PC CELL dated 30.06.2025)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 13 of Chapter-I)

(Recommendation Sl. No. 14)

BROADCASTING SERVICES (REGULATION) BILL

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.

Reply of the Government

In their Action Taken Reply, the Ministry of information and Broadcasting submitted as under:–

S. No.	Recommendation	Comments
a.	A comprehensive review of the feedback received during consultations should be done.	(a)The Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill was placed in public domain with an explanatory note 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.
b.	Key suggestions from the stakeholders be incorporated.	(b) 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.
c.	To ensure that the Bill is holistic, robust and technology proof.	(c) Based on the wide range of views expressed during consultation with stakeholders, additional time was provided for comments till 15.01.2024.
d.	The Ministry may also incorporate a provision in the Bill for periodic	(d) The Ministry does not intend to introduce the Bill in the parliament,

<p>reviews and updated 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:</p> <p>(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/ Organizations like Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology may also be sought;</p> <p>(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.</p>	<p>presently.</p>
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(File No. H-11013/9/2025-PC CELL dated 30.06.2025)

(Recommendation SI. No. 15)

ISSUES RELATED TO RULE/CODE OF ETHICS

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 with respect to 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; 85
- 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 ensure these orders are being implemented effectively; to
- 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 3alcohol, drugs, violence, vulgarity, obscenity or depravity, and to promote responsible and socially-conscious content.

Reply of the Government

In their Action Taken Reply, the Ministry of information and Broadcasting submitted as under:—

Reply 15(i)& (ii):

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 for 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.

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.

The Schedule prescribed under the IT Rules, 2021 inter-alia provides for the following sets of guidelines for Classification of any curated content namely 'Context', 'Theme' and 'Tone and impact'.

Context: Curated content may be considered in the light of the period depicted in such content and the contemporary standards of the country and the people to which such content relates. Therefore, the context in which an issue is presented within a film or video may be given consideration. Factors such as the setting of a work (historical, fantasy, realistic, contemporary etc.), the manner of presentation of the content, the apparent intention of the content, the original production date of the content, and any special merits of the work may influence the classification decision.

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.

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

- (a) **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) **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.
- (c) **Violence-** Classification decisions shall take account of the degree and nature of violence in a work.

Reply 15(iii) & (iv):

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

The Code of Ethics for OTT platforms as provided under the Rules provides that a publisher shall not transmit or publish or exhibit any content which is prohibited under any law for the time being in force or has been prohibited by any court of competent jurisdiction. The general guidelines for classification of content provides as under:

- (a) Curated content may be considered in the light of the contemporary standards of the country and the people to which such content relates.
- (b) 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, including drug misuse, are unlikely to be appropriate at the junior levels of classification.

(c) 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.

(d) The classification of any content may also depend upon the target audience of the work, and the impact of the work on such audience.

Further, the issue specific guidelines for classification of content include the following considerations in respect of classification of content: 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.

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

Reply (v) to (vii):

This Ministry time to time engages with stakeholder to discuss various issues relating to the publishers of OTT platforms and Digital News Publishers.

(File No. H-11013/9/2025-PC CELL dated 30.06.2025)

CHAPTER- III

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

-NIL-

CHAPTER IV

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

-NIL-

CHAPTER V

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

(Recommendation Sl. No. 2)

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

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.

Reply of the Government

In their Action Taken Reply, the Ministry of information and Broadcasting submitted as under:–

With respect to feasibility study of land assets, the following is submitted:

Prasar Bharati is in the process of conducting pre-feasibility study for monetization of Prasar Bharati land assets. For this purpose, NIT (Limited Tender) for setting up of PMU for pre-feasibility Study work of Prasar Bharati Assets was published for National Land Monetization Corporation (NLMC) empanelled consultants for carrying out pre-feasibility of identified underutilized Prasar Bharati land assets based on Industry feedback.

In this regard, bid has been received on 09.06.2025 which is being evaluated. All efforts are being made and planned to carry out the pre-feasibility in time bound manner to identify and categorize idle assets. As per NIT, the delivery/assessment period is one year from the date of award of work order to the successful bidder.

Subsequent to pre-feasibility study, the feasibility study will be conducted after which the framework to monetize the Prasar Bharati Land Assets will be finalised.

The list of offices which are functioning in rented buildings is at Annexure – C.

The ongoing land/property court cases in respect of Prasar Bharati is at Annexure –D.

In regard to Creating a robust monitoring framework to evaluate the financial performance of new initiatives, the following is submitted:

It is the constant endeavor of Doordarshan to complete the projects within the specified time frame. Monitoring mechanism has been strengthened considerably. Various stages involved in payments like demand & release of LOC for capital equipments and execution of works are strengthened and streamlined for faster processing. The frequency of monitoring expenditure has been increased at all levels of Directorate and Spending offices. Use of digital platform viz e-office, 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 BIND scheme.

With respect to enhance the effectiveness of IEBR utilization the following is submitted:

Revenue earned from DD Free Dish DTH is decreasing compared to last FY. Reasons may be attributed to popularity of OTT in areas where high speed internet is easily available. The cost of broadband is also decreasing in urban areas. However, to tackle the competition with respect to OTT platforms, Prasar Bharati has launched its own OTT platform 'WAVES' which will also provide video on demand, free-to-play gaming, radio streaming, live TV streaming, 65 live channels, several in-app integrations for video and gaming content, and online shopping through Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) supported Government's e-commerce platform.

(File No. H-11013/9/2025-PC CELL dated 30.06.2025)

(Recommendation Sl. No. 3)

CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEMES (CSS)

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 30th 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.

Reply of the Government

In their Action Taken Reply, the Ministry of information and Broadcasting submitted as under:—

Under BIND Scheme, out of 7 FM Transmitters planned the status of 6 transmitters which was not achieved is given below:

S. No.	FM Transmitter Project/Power	Status
1.	Namsai 1 kW FM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Transmitter and its accessories including DG sets has been received at site and installation work is in progress. ➤ Towerwork and departmental works are in progress.
2.	Rampur 10 kW FM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ DSETC of 100 Mtr tower completed. ➤ Power supply work-Tender action initiated for procurement equipment ➤ Departmental work- Under Progress. ➤ Transmitter is under procurement, delayed due to cancellation of order.
3.	Jasgur 10 kW FM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Building works completed ➤ Foundation work completed & erection of tower under progress (48Mtr completed) ➤ DW, equipment tender action to be initiated ➤ Earth filling at tower area CCW- pending due to laying of Tower Material ➤ New Electricity connection - applied. ➤ Transmitter is under procurement, delayed due to cancellation of order.

4.	Dahod 10 kW FM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The land offered by State Government has been acquired and foundation stone was also laid by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 27.09.2023. Soil testing has been done. ➤ Estimate for land development, leveling, construction of building and approach road has been sanctioned on 30.01.2025. ➤ The tender process for construction of building, erection of 100 meter steel lattice self- supported tower has been initiated. ➤ Transmitter is under procurement, delayed due to cancellation of order.
5.	Gurez 10 kW FM	<p>Due to extreme weather conditions, the project is delayed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Building works CCW- Completed ➤ Departmental works being sanctioned. ➤ Tender for DG Set is in progress ➤ Structural Analysis of exiting Tower-work order issued ➤ Transmitter is under procurement, delayed due to cancellation of order. ➤ Power supply equipment under process.
6.	Kupwara 10 kW FM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Building works by CCW- Completed ➤ Departmental works completed ➤ Power supply works completed ➤ Tender for DG Set is in progress ➤ Structural Analysis of exiting Tower-work order issued ➤ Transmitter is under procurement, delayed due to cancellation of order.

i. Supply of 5 kW digital compatible:

Supply orders for Transmitter and associated equipment placed. Transmitters are due for pre dispatch inspection. Frequency authorization and WPC License for import of transmitter is awaited.

ii. Five 5 kW Mobile FM transmitters for installation at J&K and LOC Border;

5 kW Mobile transmitters: Supply orders for Transmitter and associated equipment placed. Transmitters are due for pre dispatch inspection. Frequency authorization and WPC License for import of transmitter is awaited.

Work of integration of transmitter in mobile containers and foldable mast is initiated. Indent has been submitted to Procurement Division for taking up tendering process.

iii. 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.

'Most of the major broadcast equipment are imported with almost no production in the country. Suppliers of these products are also limited. As such procurement & SITC of such projects takes time on account of Market analysis, receipt of budgetary quote on the indent from prospective bidders and technical specification formulation as per Doordarshan requirement after continuous deliberation with prospective bidders.

During last year of BIND scheme 2021-26, such time-consuming works on most of the major SITC projects viz Earth station upgradation, OB van projects etc. have already been initiated. Now these projects are expected to be completed in current financial year. Further, to overcome any other hindrance coming in completion of project, Apex committee will continuously monitor the progress of project and resolve these issues.'

With regard to tangible/quantifiable outcome of the steps taken to reflect the effectiveness of the measures, the following is submitted:

'An Apex committee has been formed for monitoring the progress of projects. Committee is meeting on periodical basis and encourage various project units to expedite the activities for timely completion of project. Committee discourses on each and every project of BIND Scheme, stage wise right from inception of project to its completion (viz indent for project, Technical specs formulation & approval, Tendering, bids evaluation, supply of equipment and execution of project. During these meetings, committee resolves various issues/ hindrance coming in implementation of project, such as obtaining necessary approvals (IFD, MII etc.) and timely completion of various stages (preparation of specs, floating of tenders, issue of purchase orders, supply of equipment installation etc.); and other concurrent issues.

Supply order with respect to various projects were issued after streamlining/ resolving the procurement issues by the Apex committee with different wing of procurement/design.'

Further it is submitted that:

Multiple attempts were made for tender procurement of 1,20,000 DTH sets for distribution in tribal, remote and LWE areas. Technical evaluation of tenders received towards procurement of 1.2 Lakh DTH Receive sets (Non-CAS) + 7.5 Lakh DTH receive sets envisaged to be procured under Project mode has been completed and presently financial concurrence is under consideration

- i. Part payment (10% /20%) for Analog Transmitter (ATs) UHD Modular Flypack OB Units (32 cameras), SITC of 4 Cameras MCUs (Multi Camera Units) and some others is remaining which will be completed in current FY.
- ii. Funds for Amritsar Tower could not be utilized due to ongoing court case.
- iii. Delivery of SITC of Native UHD Multiformat Mobile rod. Facilities (OB Van) of 8 camera scheduled in FY 2024-25 extended to 2025-26.

With regard to ensuring proper utilisation of funds for meeting the physical targets under all the Central Sector Schemes, during the financial year 2025-26, the inputs have been provided in para no. 1.

With regard to shortfall in the targets on digitization, capacity building, restoration of films the following may kindly be seen.

'Digitization of Films'-As part of the Digitization project, 4,30,000 minutes are being digitized using advanced technologies, including ARRI-XT scanners for picture and Sendor scanners for audio. The process involves scanning of film reels at 2K/4K, followed by color grading, adding of subtitles and DCP and reference copy

creation. To date, NFDC-NFAI has scanned approximately 4 lakh minutes of footage (around 6,441 titles), with several allied processes such as color grading, subtitle addition, and more progressing concurrently. The scanning rate was low primarily due to the deteriorated condition of archival reels, slower scanning speeds required for higher resolutions, an increased number of rescans, additional time needed for quality checking of damaged reels, and high retrieval times for DPX files from LTO tapes. As a result of these factors, the estimated scanning speed could not be achieved, and the targeted number of titles could not be digitized in FY 2023–24.’

‘Capacity Building, Restoration of Films’: Restoration project of 2,00,000 minutes (approx. 2253 titles) under NFHM with a budget of INR 363 crores commenced in March 2023, following the completion of site preparation and inspections. The titles have been shortlisted by forming language wise committees consisting of filmmakers, documentary filmmakers, film historians, producers etc. The process involves removal of defects in the digitized film such as scratches, color mismatch, missing frames etc., DCP mastering, adding of subtitles, and creation of restored and reference copy files. Till date, NFDC-NFAI has restored more than 1 lakh minutes (approx. 1104 titles). Due to the deteriorated condition of the reels—marked by scratches, color fading, dirt, dust, and other forms of damage—and the stringent quality standards required, additional time was necessary to ensure the best possible outcomes. As a result, the targeted number of titles could not be restored in FY 2023–24.

- i) Further, it is submitted that Ministry is consistently monitoring the expenditure and progress of each activity under the NFHM project to ensure timely completion of all tasks. To enhance implementation efficiency and optimize expenditure, the Ministry has adopted several measures, including regular reviews and close monitoring of both financial and physical progress. Quarterly and monthly performance reviews are conducted during meetings chaired by the Secretary (I&B) with the Senior Officers of the Ministry. In addition to this, the concerned Joint Secretary continuously oversees the implementation of the NFHM. Various midcourse corrections are suggested to ensure full utilization of allocated resources.

Reasons for the shortfall in achieving targets for the production of films and documentaries in Various Indian languages. FY 2024-25:-

Sr No	Category	Reason for Shortfall
1	Feature Films	Out of the planned 17 feature films, there was a shortfall of 10. Of these, 4 are still in production and will be completed in the current financial year. The remaining 6 did not materialise because the co-producers did not take the required steps to move the projects forward.
2.	Children's Film	Out of the planned 28 projects, 18 are still in production and will be completed in the current financial year. The delay is mainly because most of these are animation projects, which take more production time to achieve the required quality.
3.	Co Production with other countries	The production of this project is still ongoing as it is a large-scale project that depends on the availability of key actor dates aligning. This project will be completed in the current fiscal year.

It may be noted and taken into consideration that the Filmmakers currently have limited opportunities to submit projects under the DCDFC scheme, primarily through ministry-supported platforms like Film Bazaar and Doc Film Bazaar. The selection process, based on criteria like market viability and co-production potential, narrows down submissions significantly. Additionally, NFDC's investment cap at 40% of production costs makes securing the remaining funds for the Co-producers challenging, further restricting the production of regional language films

(File No. H-11013/9/2025-PC CELL dated 30.06.2025)

(Recommendation Sl. No. 6)

All India Radio (AIR) AND FM

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.

Reply of the Government

In their Action Taken Reply, the Ministry of information and Broadcasting submitted as under:—

Akashvani has digitalized its 38 MW transmitters by replacing outlived transmitters by modern state of the art digital transmitters. Digitalization of rest of the transmitters is a policy matter and will depend necessity of digital transmission on MW band and availability of affordable digital receivers in the country. The measures taken so far for adaption of new technologies are as under:

1. Replacement/ upgradation of outlived 38 MW and 3 SW transmitters by state of art digital MW transmitters (DRM).
2. Replacement of 6 outlived MW transmitters by state of art digital ready MW transmitters.
3. Replacement of outlived 12 MW 1 kW transmitters by 1/10 kW FM transmitters.
4. Replacement/ upgradation of 111 outlived FM transmitters.
5. Digitalization and networking of studios by installing state of art digital equipment for production, storage and sharing of programmes.
6. Setting up of Visual radio system at 34 Akashvani Stations have been approved.

Digitalization of FM transmitters has not started as quality of analog FM is excellent and also due to availability of low-cost receivers.

Out of 232 studios, Akashvani has 133 fully digitalized production studios and remaining 99 studios are partially digitalized by providing computer-based recording and production work stations. An amount of Rs. 60.76 crore has been approved under BIND Scheme (2021-26) towards modernization and digitalization of Studios/New Studios, fully digitalization of these studios will depend upon availability of funds and approval by the competent authority in coming time.

The Ministry should address the concerns impacting the financial and physical targets under AIR;

Reply:

Akashvani is regularly taking steps to address the concerns impacting the financial and physical targets. In this regard, monitoring mechanism at all the zones is regularly monitoring the progress of the projects under Akashvani Directorate. 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.

All the initiatives have been taken for acquiring lands from the state Government where land required for new installation.

The frequency of monitoring meetings has been increased at all levels of Directorate & Prasar Bharati Secretariat; Use of digital platform viz. e-office, e-tendering, procurement through GEM, Video conference is also being utilized;

The Ministry should improve the content of the AIR to attract the listeners and generate revenue; and

Reply:

- i) AIR is broadcasting programmes to meet the aspirations of a huge population and diversity in terms of ethno-linguistic and cultural characteristics, agro-climatic conditions, socio-economic status and so on.
- ii) The content on AIR is designed with a view to make it a mean of interactive communication among the various agencies forming a composite society. The AIR puts out programmes on a variety of themes tailor-made to suit the needs, concerns and aspirations of target audiences. These include:-
 - Development of a learning society
 - Inculcating scientific temper
 - Empowerment of women
 - Amelioration of the under-privileged
 - Spreading the message of planned parenthood

- Diffusion of agricultural innovation
- Rural regeneration with farmers' welfare
- Skill development to capture benefits of the demographic dividend
- Promoting environmental hygiene
- Disaster management through swift and prompt dissemination of rescue, relief and rehabilitation efforts.
- Content being the basic structure which lends coherence to the objective of communication, forms the backbone of any communication medium. The importance of content is paramount as it adds, quality and fulfils the objectives of reaching out to the masses.
- As the process of content designing is a dynamic one, Akashvani is constantly re-calibrating its content in order to make it more attractive and listener friendly to suit the aspirations of the diverse demographics of the country. The lengthy formats are being replaced by short format programmes to make the content more participatory.
- While continuing to carry out the mandate for Public service broadcasting, Akashvani has marched forward embracing new content themes, presentation styles, programme formats and technological innovations. Focusing on its motto- "Information, Education & Entertainment", Akashvani is making constant efforts to reach every listener through variety of programmes in various formats, for different categories of listeners, in different languages and dialects across the country to cater the need of every section of society.
- Various steps to strengthen the content and beef up the services in the light of new technological evolution have been taken notwithstanding the various challenges posed for continuation of services during the tough times.
- Akashvani has paid special emphasis on interactive programmes including SMS based services, registering its presence on various new and social media platforms and also commenced live steaming of some channels/services, Akashvani Podcast has potential to engage more listeners.
- Akashvani has also been broadcasting 'AIRnext' a programme for the youth and by the youth in different languages and dialects engaging the youth of the country. The Digital platforms of Akashvani are being strengthened to compete with the market.

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.

Reply:

20 applications were received in response to Notice Inviting Applications for 3rd Batch of e-auctions in 234 cities with 730 channels.

The Ministry is awaiting comments of Ministry of Home Affairs in respect of Security Clearance for applicant companies and Directors.

The e-bidding portal developed by e-auctioneer (M/s MSTC Ltd) has been certified by STQC and a demo session has been held with the applicants.

(File No. H-11013/9/2025-PC CELL dated 30.06.2025)

(Recommendation Sl. No. 7)

HUMAN RESOURCE IN PRASAR BHARATI

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 46th 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.

Reply of the Government

In their Action Taken Reply, the Ministry of information and Broadcasting submitted as under:—

As a part of HR transformation exercise in Phase-I, the agency E&Y has recommended 14902 posts for the functioning of Prasar Bharati subject to implementation of the following levers:

- i) Outsourcing of functions/ services:
 - a) None core Engineering activities

- b) Office cleaning, Security workforce, Drivers, etc.
 - c) O&M of Transmitters
- ii) Scaling down/ closure of unpopular services and obsolete mode of broadcasting
 - a) Closure of 28 PGF
 - b) Closure of 31 AIR channels (comprising of VBS, PC, Rainbow and FM Gold channels)
 - c) Closure of 81 LRS & 2 CRS
 - d) Closure of 78 AIR transmitters (42 MW, 1 SW and 35 Relay FM transmitters).
- iii) Automation & digitization process

The number (14902) has been arrived at by leveraging the various levers and might take a few years to implement and hence arriving at the proposed headcount will be a gradual process.

2. In absence of implementation of the levers additional staff would be required to the tune of ~6000 and ~2000 across AIR stations & DD Kendra respectively. Therefore, during the transition period till the completion of HR transformation process about 8000 staff to be made available over and above 14902 staff as assessed by E&Y.

Further, E&Y has indicated in its report that in final deliberations with divisional heads, a request for 18-20% (2784) additional manpower in various cadres over and above the suggested numbers (i.e. 14902) across Prasar Bharati. In the interim (during transition to the new organisation structure), Senior Leadership (CEO/Chairman) may exercise their discretion to approve the request for additional manpower based on organizational needs.

3. In the Phase-1 of HR transformation exercise, the agency has submitted its reports related to the 6 deliverables. However, the Deliverable 4 is being examined. Once the same is finalised/accepted, the agency will submit a consolidated report. With this, Phase-I part of the HR transformation exercise will be concluded.

4. Considering the critical positions that need to be filled in, E&Y has identified 3130 posts that need to be filled on priority basis and it has drafted a recruitment plan, which is spread across Short, Medium and Long-term over a period of 0-8 months (Apr 2025 to Dec 2025), 9-12 months (Jan 2026 to Mar 2026) and 12+ months (Apr 2026 to Dec 2026). The break-up of recruitment plan is given below:

Roles/ posts specific to:	Short-Term (0-8 months: Apr 2025 to Dec 2025)	Mid-Term (9-12 months: Jan 2026 to Mar 2026)	Long-term (12+ months: Apr 2026 to Dec 2026)
Programme specific	1149	394	1223
Admin & others	96	65	187
Engineering roles	3	2	11
Total	1248	461	1421

Positions remaining vacant after Dec'2026 may be filled on ongoing basis considering the manpower strength, retirements and business needs of the organisation.

5. Actions being initiated for implementation of levers such as outsourcing, closure of services, automation, etc.

In addition to the above, restructuring of various Divisions and functions of Prasar Bharati as recommended by E&Y may take time as it involves approvals related to creation of new posts, up-gradation/ down-gradation/ surrender of posts, etc. from PB Board, MIB and DoE.

Further, the recommendations made by E&Y in its HR transformation exercise in Phase 1 are to be submitted before the PB Board and Ministry for acceptance.

6. Subsequently, the agency is to execute the Phase-2 part of HR transformation exercise, which broadly covers capacity building / training and change management for PB stakeholders including monitoring and evaluation of change process and continuously review and improve the restructuring process. The timeline for execution of Phase-2 is 6 months from the date of work order, which is yet to begin pending completion of Phase 1 exercise. However, the Phase-2 part can be executed parallelly with implementation of levers.

i) A pool of dedicated workforce with specialised technical/ required industry skills to cater to the need of both traditional and digital media/ evolving dynamic media landscape in view of the following developments in the sector.

The Media & Entertainment sector is experiencing disruptive innovations. These innovations are altering businesses and business models, requiring industries and sectors to reimagine their future. The recommendations outlined in this manpower report offer a roadmap for Prasar Bharati to align its workforce with evolving operational needs and industry dynamics. In the restructuring part of the Prasar Bharati, the agency has recommended new roles related to Digital Media & Platforms, OTT, Corporate Planning & Strategy, Content Leverage, Content cross-Pollination, Sales & Marketing, Compliance & Liaising, etc. The agency has also defined primary responsibilities, Key performance indicators, experience and qualification in r/o of these new roles.

Further, in its recommendations, the agency has identified and aligned manpower needed vis-à-vis changes in PB's goals, technology upgradation (production & transmission), etc. Implementation of the manpower changes proposed in the report would require re-skilling of manpower to adapt to new ways of working, hiring for missing skills and re-deploying people to the right roles.

ii) To apprise the Committee about the final assessment of manpower required/ number of posts required to be filled up along with the time line for the same.

The agency has assessed requirement of manpower as 14902 persons subject to implementation of levers which include phasing out of obsolete modes of transmission, outsourcing of administrative roles, outsourcing of non-core engineering activities, Rationalisation of unviable Production Centres & Transmission Facilities, optimizing the need for support staff by leveraging e-office and digital ways of working.

Further, in its report, E&Y has indicated that in final deliberations with divisional heads, a request was made for 18-20% (2784) additional manpower in various cadres over and above the suggested numbers (i.e. 14902) across PB.

The agency has also identified 3130 critical positions mostly in Programme and Admin cadres and prepared a recruitment plan therefor, which is spread across in 3 phases commencing from April 2025 to December 2026 which is under consideration.

iii) To apprise the Committee about the Time line and outcome of the HR transformation exercise being carried out.

As outcome of the HR Transformation exercise, it is envisaged that Prasar Bharati will emerge stronger, more agile, and better positioned to deliver high-quality broadcasting services that meet the evolving needs of its audiences in the digital age and effectively fulfils its mandate as the Public service Broadcaster of India.

Regarding timeline, out of the two phases, phase 1 is on the verge of completion and Phase-2 is about to be commenced. Phase 2 is planned to be completed in 6 months from the date of work order. However, restructuring of PB functioning and implementation levers may take time as it involves approvals related to creation of new posts, up-gradation/ down-gradation/ surrender of posts, etc. from PB Board, MIB and DoE. However, the Phase-2 part can be executed parallelly with implementation of levers.

(File No. H-11013/9/2025-PC CELL dated 30.06.2025)

(Recommendation Sl. No. 8)

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY RADIO MOVEMENT IN INDIA

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.

Reply of the Government

In their Action Taken Reply, the Ministry of information and Broadcasting submitted as under:—

Sl. No	Observations	Action Taken
1	Ensure that the procedural clearance are done in the current financial year for setting	GOPA has been signed with the applicant and Applicant was requested to start operation of the CRS as soon

	up of Community Radio Station in Goa	as possible and intimate the Date of commissioning to Ministry.
2	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;	Total 05 Community Radio Awareness workshops has been planned at dark districts (in respect to CRS) in the financial year (2025-26) and efforts will be made to invite eligible and aspiring entities from Lakshadweep, Daman and Diu. As advised by the committee, Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) as well as FAQ (Frequently asked Questions) were prepared and posted for the awareness of applicants as well as internal process. The detailed steps taken already provided in the reply of Para 1 for ease of applicants.
3	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;	Applications are being processed through an online mode only and regular meetings are being held with the concerned Ministries to expedite the clearances for fast tracking of the applications.
4	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;	Awareness generation activities have been planned in such areas. And, advisory shall be issued to all operational stations to broadcast content in scheduled languages.
5	Invest in technological upgrades and training to improve the reach, quality, and operational efficiency of existing stations, especially in digital transmission and content	The Amount of Grant has been increased so that licensees of CRSs can install modern equipments including Solar Energy Setup. Further, Training and Capacity building have been planned with the operational

	delivery. Take measures to avoid under-utilization of funds observed during the year 2024-25.	stations. Further, wider publicity of the CRS scheme will be implemented to invite more CRSs to apply for the reimbursement of cost of setting-up of CRSs to increase fund- utilization.
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(File No. H-11013/9/2025-PC CELL dated 30.06.2025)

(Recommendation Sl. No. 9)

FILM SECTOR

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

The Committee note that subsequent to presentation of Budget during the FY 2022-23, an AVGC Prom

otion 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.

Reply of the Government

In their Action Taken Reply, the Ministry of information and Broadcasting submitted as under:—

Based on the recommendations of AVGC Task Force 2022, the IICT (Indian Institute of Creative Technologies), WAVES (World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit) and Create in India Mission (CIIM) were conceptualised.

a. IICT (Indian Institute of Creative Technologies):

- Timeline- Union Cabinet approved to set-up of IICT in Sept 2024, and in December 2024 it was registered as a Section 8 Company. Subsequently, in April 2025, a temporary campus of IICT was set up at the NFDC campus in Mumbai. Its headquarters is being now developed on a 10-acre campus in Film City, Mumbai.
- Governance Structure of IICT: Governing Council (20 members), Board of Directors (8 members), and four administrative councils on Academia, Skills, Industry Development, and R&D, chaired by the Secretary, M/o I&B.
- Equity Structure: 48% (GoI (34%) + Govt. of Maharashtra (14%)), 26% (CII), 26% (FICCI)
- Special emphasis is being placed on developing regional IICTs across multiple states to ensure Pan-India footprint, quick access and inclusivity in the vision on regional inclusion.

b. WAVES (World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit):

Inaugural edition of WAVES held from 1st-4th May 2025 at Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai. It saw wide participation of policymakers, investors, and creative professionals across media Sectors-Animation, VFX, Gaming, Music, Broadcasting, Films, XR/VR, etc. - for investment, trade, and innovation. The summit had PM-CEO Roundtable, Global Media Dialogue, plenary & conference sessions, WAVES Bazaar (international B2B marketplace), WAVEXcelerator (for startup funding & pitches), CreatoSphere, and exhibitions like Bharat Pavilion.

c. National Policy for AVGC-XR: Create in India Mission

In this regard, the proposed policy, namely Create in India Mission, is being drafted considering the key recommendations of the AVGC Task Force Report, 2022.

(File No. H-11013/9/2025-PC CELL dated 30.06.2025)

NEW DELHI;
11 August, 2025

20 Sravana, 1947 (Saka)

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

A. Achievements in NER for 2024-25 under BIND Scheme

Name of Components	Target	Achievement / Status	Reason for short fall
FM transmitters – Expansion / Replacement	1 KW FM at Namsai,	Tower work allotted to CCW work under progress. Tower work is likely to be completed by Dec. 2025. Transmitter and allied equipment have been received and are under installation. The set up is likely to be completed by Dec. 2025.	Delay in erection of tower works due to technical and administrative issues and limited vendors in erection of single tower.
	FM Transmitters to be installed 10 KW FM at Kokrajhar	Kokrajhar commissioned on 03.01.2025.	NA
Upgradation of public service Broadcasting infrastructure including Expansion of DD Free Dish Platform, technical facilities for Live Coverage.	Replacement of STL at 5 AIR locations (Imphal (2), Agartala (2) & Kohima(1).	Tender has been cancelled due to vacation of frequency. Specification will have to be revised.	Tender has been cancelled due to withdrawal of frequency by DoT. Specifications are under revision.
	Augmentation of News Production Equipment (North Zone) Desk Top Computers for NSD & RNUs- 166 Nos. TV sets for NSD & RNUs- 62 Nos	a. Purchase of Desktop computers taken up by the Zonal Office. Items supplied. b. The work is likely to be completed in this FY 2025-26	NA
	Office Automation for e-governance	E-office is successfully implemented	NA
	Digital Content Generation & Dissemination- Cloud hiring charges	Streaming Services, Social Media & Digital Platforms, and Cloud based content sharing being done by PBNS & IT. The work is likely to be completed in this FY 2025-26	NA
Facelift of DD & AIR Channels Visual Radio Stations at 33 places. Refurbishing of	Visual Radio Stations at 8 places (Itanagar, Guwahati, Imphal, Shillong, Aizawal, Gangtok, Kohima&Agartala).	Tender is under Technical evaluation. The work is likely to be completed in this FY 2025-26	NA

studio at 34 places. Replacement of AC plant at 38 places. Replacement of Genset at 15 places.	Refurbishing of studio at 06 places (Tezu, Itanagar, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Silchar & Tura). Replacement of AC plant at 5 places (Imphal, Shillong(2), Mokokchung & Gangtok).	Tezu, Dibrugarh, Jorhat & Silchar - Work in progress. Itanagar & Tura-DTE prepared. The work is likely to be completed in this FY 2025-26 Shillong, Shillong (Jag Studio), Imphal, Mokokchung – Installation completed and under testing. Gangtok – DTE prepared. The work is likely to be completed in this FY 2025-26	NA NA
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B. Achievements of CRS in North-East Region for the FY 2024-25

Sl. No.	Description	No. of Events
1.	Sammelans	02
2.	Workshops	02
3.	Letter of Intent (Lols) Applications received (CRS Setup)	19
4.	Lol Issued	05
5.	GOPA signed for fresh and renewal	05
6.	No. Of Grants Disbursed	02

C. District-wise disbursement of financial assistance to Community Radio Stations (CRS) located in the North-East for the FY 2024–25

Sl. No.	Name of the Organisation	District where CRS is Located	State /UT	Grant Amount (in Rs.)
1.	Kha Manipur	Kakching	Manipur	1,200,000
2.	Khongjom War Memorial Trust	Thoubal	Manipur	727,200

Physical targets under BIND Scheme for NER 2025-26

Mode	Name of Components	Target
Scheme Mode	Modernization (including Digitization), Augmentation & Replacement of Transmitters	50M SS FM Towers at Namsai.
	FM transmitters – Expansion / Replacement	Total Numbers of FM Transmitters to be installed 1 KW FM at Namsai.
	Strengthening of Border Area Coverage under Continuing Projects	
	Upgradation of public service Broadcasting infrastructure including Expansion of DD Free Dish Platform, technical facilities for Live Coverage.	Replacement of STL at 5AIR locations (Imphal (2), Agartala (2) & Kohima (1).
		Augmentation of News Production Equipment (North Zone) Desk Top Computers for NSD & RNUs- 166 Nos. TV sets for NSD & RNUs- 62 Nos
		Office Automation for e-governance
		Digital Content Generation & Dissemination
	Expansion of reach of Public Service Broadcasting including in Strategic /areas of national interest (LWE, Border, aspirational districts, other such areas strategic / national importance)	
Project Mode	FMisation in strategic areas	
	Facelift of DD & AIR Channels	Visual Radio Stations at 8 places (Itanagar, Guwahati, Imphal, Shillong, Aizawal, Gangtok, Kohima & Agartala).
	Visual Radio Stations at 33 places.	
	Refurbishing of studio at 34 places.	Refurbishing of studio at 06 places (Tezu, Itanagar, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Silchar & Tura).
	Replacement of AC plant at 30 places. Replacement of Genset at 15 places.	Replacement of AC plant at 5 places (Imphal, Shillong(2), Mokokchung & Gangtok). Completed.

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

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY- FIRST SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee sat on Monday, the 11th August, 2025 from 1530 hours to 1550 hours in Committee Room No. 'B, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY- Chairperson

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri C.N. Annadurai
3. Shri Anup Sanjay Dhotre
4. Shri S. Supongmeren Jamir
5. Shri Appalanaidu Kalisetti
6. Smt. Poonamben Hematbhai Maadam
7. Shri G. Kumar Naik
8. Dr. M.K. Vishnu Prasad
9. Ms. Kangna Ranaut
10. Shri Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy
11. Shri Arun Kumar Sagar
12. Shri Devesh Shakya

Rajya Sabha

13. Smt. Priyanka Chaturvedi
14. Shri Amar Pal Maurya
15. Dr. Sasmit Patra
16. Shri V. Vijayendra Prasad
17. Shri Kartikeya Sharma
18. Shri Lahar Singh Siroya

SECRETARIAT

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

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the Sitting of the Committee convened to consider and adopt one draft Subject Report relating to Ministry of

Communications (Department of Posts) and four draft Action Taken 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 five draft Reports for consideration and adoption:-

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

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

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

(iv) Draft Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Eleventh Report (18th Lok Sabha) on “Demands for Grants (2025-26)” relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

(v) XXXX....XXXX.....XXXX.....XXXX....XXXX.....XXXX....XXXX....XXXX...

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.

XXXX- Matter not related to this Report.

ANNEXURE – II

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE OBSERVATIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THEIR ELEVENTH REPORT

(EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA)

[Vide Paragraph No. 5 of Introduction]

(i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government	
Rec. Sl. Nos.: 1,4,5,10,11,12,13,14 & 15	
Total	9
Percentage	60
(ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government	
Rec. Sl. No.: NIL	
Total	NIL
Percentage	0
(iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and require reiteration Rec. Sl. No.: NIL	
Total	NIL
Percentage	0
(iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which the replies of the Government are of interim in nature	
Rec. Sl. Nos.: 2,3,6,7,8 & 9	
Total	06
Percentage	40