

26

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(2025-26)**

EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2026-27)**

TWENTY-SIXTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

March 2026/ Phalguna, 1947 (Saka)

TWENTY SIXTH REPORT

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COMMUNICATIONS AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

(2025-26)

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MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

(2026-27)

Presented to Lok Sabha on 17.03.2026

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 17.03.2026



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

March 2026/ Phalguna, 1947 (Saka)

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CONTENTS		Pg. No.
	COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE	(ii)
	INTRODUCTION	(iii)
REPORT		
PART-I		
I.	Introduction	1
II.	Implementation status of recommendations of the Committee contained in the Eleventh report on Demands for Grants (2025-26)	6
III.	Budget Overview and Demands for Grants (2026-27)	6
IV.	Central Sector Schemes (CSS)	16
V.	Broadcasting Sector (including Prasar Bharati)	22
	(i) Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development (BIND)	23
	(a) Doordarshan	31
	(b) All India Radio (AIR)	39
	(c) Human resource in Prasar Bharati	41
	(ii) Supporting Community Radio Movement in India	43
VI.	Film Sector	45
	(i) National Centre for Excellence for Animation, Visual effects, Gaming and Comics (NCOE-AVGC)	45
VII.	Information Sector	51
	(i) Press Information Bureau	51
VIII.	North Eastern Region (NER)	54
IX.	Miscellaneous	59
	(i) Prasar Bharati (Amendment) Bill	59
	(ii) Live Event Development Cell (LEDC)	60
PART-II		
OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS		62-80
APPENDICES		
I.	Minutes of the Seventh Sitting of the Committee held on 24.02.2026	81
II.	Minutes of the Tenth Sitting of the Committee held on 13.03.2026	84

**Composition of the Standing Committee on Communications and
Information Technology (2025-26)**

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. Shri G. Kumar Naik
12. Shri Shafi Parambil
13. Dr. M.K. Vishnu Prasad
14. Ms. Kangna Ranaut
15. Shri Radheshyam Rathiya
16. Shri Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy
17. Shri Arun Kumar Sagar
18. Shri Devesh Shakya
19. Shri Vishnu Datt Sharma
20. Shri Rajesh Verma
21. Vacant

Rajya Sabha

22. Shri Saket Gokhale
23. Smt. Priyanka Chaturvedi
24. Shri Sujeet Kumar
25. Shri Amar Pal Maurya
26. Dr. Sasmit Patra
27. Shri Kanad Purkayastha
28. Shri S. Niranjana Reddy
29. Shri Kartikeya Sharma
30. Shri Lahar Singh Siroya
31. Shri K.T.S. Tulsi

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1. | Shri Harish Chandra Bist | — | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Smt. A. Jyothirmayi | — | Director |
| 3. | Smt. Rinky Singh | — | Executive Officer |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology (2025-26), having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Twenty-sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2026-27) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

2. The Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology (2025-26) was constituted on 26th September, 2025. One of the functions of the Standing Committee, as laid down in Rule 331E of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, is to consider the Demands for Grants of the Ministry concerned and make a Report on the same to the Houses.

3. The Committee considered the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for the Financial Year 2026-27 which were laid on the Table of the House on 12th February, 2026. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on 24th February, 2026.

4. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their Sitting held on 13th March, 2026.

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

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

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

New Delhi;
13 March, 2026
22 Phalgun, 1947 (Saka)

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

REPORT

PART - I

I. INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is one among the early Ministries set up after India's Independence. It is a vital Ministry that represents the face of the Government of India in reaching out to the masses. It is also the focal point regarding policy matters relating to private broadcasting sector, administering of the public broadcasting service (Prasar Bharati), multimedia advertising and publicity of the policies and programmes of the Government of India, film promotion and certification, and regulation of print and digital media.

2. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is entrusted with the task of disseminating information about Government policies, schemes and programmes through the different types/medium of mass communication covering radio, television, press, social media, printed publicity like booklets, posters, outdoor publicity including through traditional modes of communication such as dance, drama, folk recitals, puppet shows etc. The Ministry is functionally divided into three sectors:-

(a)Information Sector: The Information Sector is responsible for information dissemination and awareness creation of the policies and activities of the Government of India through print, electronic and digital media, framing of policy guidelines for rate fixation of Government advertisements on print, electronic, and online platform, and administering the Press and Press and Registration of Periodicals Act, 2023, and the Press Council Act, 1978.

(b) Broadcasting Sector: The Broadcasting Sector aids the Ministry in the far-reaching dissemination of Government schemes and initiatives via All India Radio and Doordarshan. The Sector oversees these public broadcasters by administering the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990. It also regulates private TV channels and the network of multi-system operators and local cable operators through the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and policy guidelines issued from time to time. It gives license to DTH/HITS operators for their respective operations. The private FM radio network is regulated by the Ministry through auctioning of FM channels, operationalization of Community Radio Stations in rural and remote areas.

(c)Film Sector: The Films Sector is responsible for production, promotion and preservation of films, and filmic content. It also includes documentaries, organisation of international film festivals and promotion of good cinema by institution of awards. It administers the Cinematograph Act, 1952, which looks into certification of films for public exhibition, and handles other matters relating to film industry, including developmental and promotional activities.”

3. There are **7** Media Units/ Attached and Subordinate Offices, **5** training institutes, **2** autonomous bodies, and **2** Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under the Ministry. The details are as follows:-

Media units/Attached & Subordinate Offices	Training Institutes	Public Sector Undertakings	Autonomous Organizations
i. Press Information Bureau (PIB) ii. Central Bureau of Communication (erstwhile BOC) iii. Press Registrar General of India (PRGI) [erstwhile Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI)] iv. Directorate of Publications Division (DPD) v. New Media Wing (NMW) vi. Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC) vii. Central Board of Films Certification (CBFC)	i. Film and Television Institute of India, Pune (FTII) ii. Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata (SRFTI) iii. Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) Delhi along with its five regional campuses situated in Jammu (J&K), Amravati (Maharashtra), Aizawl (Mizoram), Kottayam (Kerala), and Dhenkanal (Odisha) iv. Film and Television Institute, Itanagar v. Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT)	i. Broadcasting Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL) ii. National Films Development Corporation (NFDC)*	i. Press Council of India (PCI) ii. Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India)
#Film Media Units viz. Films Division (FD), National Film Archive of India (NFAI), Directorate of Films Festivals (DFF), Children Films Society of India (CFSI) merged into NFDC from 1.01.2023			

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

5. The Central Government *vide* notification dated 28th July, 2023 amended Allocation of Business Rules. As a result the subjects relating to online advertisements, and content made available by online content providers/publishers has been brought

under the mandate of Ministry of I&B. Revised entry under Allocation of Business Rules of the Ministry is as under:-

“VA. **Digital/Online Media**

- 22A. Films and Audio-**Visual** programmes/**content** made available by online content providers/**publishers**.
- 22B. News and current affairs content on online platforms.
- 22C. **Online Advertisements”**

6. The expenditure of the Ministry is categorized under the following three categories:-

- a. **Establishment Expenditure of the Centre** – It includes establishment expenditure of Main Secretariat and attached/sub-ordinate offices of the Ministry;
- b. **Central Sector Schemes** - It includes scheme expenditure of four (04) Central Sector Schemes viz. (i) Development Communication & Information Dissemination (DCID), (ii) Development, Communication & Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC), (iii) Supporting Community Radio Movement in India, and (iv) Broadcasting Infrastructure & Network Development (BIND); and
- c. Other Central Expenditure, including those on Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and Autonomous Bodies {It includes Grants-in-Aid to five Autonomous Bodies of this Ministry, viz., Film and Television Institute of India (FTII); Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI); Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC); Press Council of India (PCI), Prasar Bharati (PB) and National Film Development Corporation - a central PSU}.

***Note:-** Contribution to Payment of Annual Membership Subscription to Association of Moving Images Archivists (AMIA)& National Film Archive of India (NFAI)– These activities have now been merged within the Budgetary allocation of National Film Development Corporation from FY 2024-25.

7. The budget of the Ministry is further allocated into three sectors, viz. Films, Information and Broadcasting Sectors (including Prasar Bharati), An overview of the aforesaid three categories, under three sectors of the Ministry, is as under:-

	FILM SECTOR	INFORMATION SECTOR	BROADCASTING SECTOR (Other than Prasar Bharati)	BROADCASTING SECTOR (Prasar Bharati)
Establishment Expenditure of the Centre	i. Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC); ii. Payment of Annual Membership Subscription to Association of Moving	The provision under this Sector covers Establishment Expenditure of Main Secretariat of the	The provision under this Sector covers Establishment Expenditure of:	

	<p>Images (AMIA); and * ii. Contribution to membership of International Archive Organizations. *</p> <p>iv. National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)</p> <p>* As per the decision of the Union Government, AMIA and contribution to International archive Organizations have been merged with National Film Development Corporation w.e.f. FY 2024-25).</p>	<p>Ministry and Media Units of Information Wing of the Ministry, viz.:</p> <p>i. Secretariat Expenditure;</p> <p>ii. New Media Wing (NMW);</p> <p>iii. Press Information Bureau (PIB);</p> <p>iv. Bureau of Outreach and Communication (BOC) (New name: Central Bureau of Communication);</p> <p>v. Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) (New name: Press Registrar General of India);</p> <p>vi. Publications Division (DPD)- Also includes provision for Employment News from FY 2022-23;</p> <p>vii. Contribution to International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC).</p>	<p>i. Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC);</p> <p>ii. Private FM Radio Station; and **</p> <p>ii. Payment of Annual Membership Subscription to Asia Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD).</p> <p>** (Allocation in r/o of Private FM Radio Station has been made under Main Secretariat w.e.f. FY 2024-25)</p>	
Central Sector Schemes	<p>Development, Communication and Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC). The Scheme National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM) and Champion Services Sector Schemes (CSSS) have also been merged with the DCDFC Scheme from FY 2020-21 and 2022-23 respectively.</p>	<p>Under Central Sector Schemes the provisions cover the scheme 'Development Communication and Information Dissemination'.</p>	<p>Under Central Sector Schemes the provisions cover the scheme 'Supporting Community Radio Movement in India'.</p>	<p>The provisions under this Sector cover expenditure on Central Sector Scheme namely, Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND)</p>
Other Central Expenditure, including those on Central Public Enterprises and Autonomous	<p>Other Central Expenditure of Autonomous Bodies under Films Wing covered in these provisions is as under:</p> <p>i. Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune; and</p> <p>ii. Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute (SRFTI), Kolkata.</p> <p>iii. National Film</p>	<p>The provision under this Sector covers Other Central Expenditure of Autonomous Bodies of Information Wing of the Ministry, viz.</p> <p>i. Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC); and</p> <p>ii. Press Council of</p>		<p>Salary and Salary related expenditure of Prasar Bharati</p>

<p>s Bodies</p>	<p>Development Corporation (NFDC)</p> <p>The Union Cabinet, in its meeting held on 19 September 2024, approved the establishment of a National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) for the Animation, Visual Effects (VFX), Gaming, Comics and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR) sector as a Section 8 Company under the Companies Act, 2013, with a one-time budgetary support of ₹391.15 crore.</p> <p>The NCoE (AVGC-XR), subsequently renamed the Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT), set up in Mumbai and was officially incorporated as a Section 8 Company on 25 December 2024.</p> <p>The institute follows a public-private partnership model, with FICCI and CII as industry partners. The equity structure of IICT comprises 52% from the private sector, 34% from the Government of India, and 14% from the Government of Maharashtra.</p> <p>The Government of Maharashtra, through a Lease Deed dated 8 October 2024, allotted 10 acres of land at Dadasaheb Phalke Chitranagari (Film City), Goregaon, Mumbai, for the institute. The one-time budgetary support of ₹391.15 crore was transferred by the Ministry to IICT on 17 March 2025.</p> <p>The IICT–NFDC campus in Mumbai was inaugurated on 18 July 2025, marking the first phase of operations, with plans to develop a permanent campus at Film City, Goregaon (East).</p>	<p>India (PCI).</p>		
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II. IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE CONTAINED IN THE ELEVENTH REPORT ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2025-26)

8. The Eleventh Report of the Committee (2025-26) on the 'Demands for Grants' (2025-26) relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting was presented to the Lok Sabha on 21st March, 2025 but was laid in the Rajya Sabha on 20th March, 2025. The Nineteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Eleventh Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 19th August, 2025. Out of the 15 recommendations contained in the said Report, 09 recommendations were accepted by the Government. 06 of the replies were interim in nature. The Final Action Taken Statement showing Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final replies to the recommendations contained in Chapter-V of the Nineteenth Action Taken Report (18th Lok Sabha) on the recommendations of the Committee contained in the Eleventh Report on 'Demands for Grants' (2025-26) was laid/presented in the House on 12th December, 2025.

III. BUDGET OVERVIEW AND DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2026-27)

9. The Detailed Demand for Grants (DDG) under Demand No. 61 was laid on 12th February, 2026 on the table of the House. It covers the expenditure of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) and its Attached/Sub-ordinate Offices and Autonomous/Grantee Bodies, including Prasar Bharati. For the year 2026-27, the Ministry had proposed Rs. 5794.81 crore and allocation made at Budget Estimate stage is Rs. 4551.94 crore. Details of the proposed and allocated amount, for the three categories of the Ministry, for the year 2026-27, are as under:-

Categories	(Rs. in Crore)	
	Proposed amount for 2026-27	Allocated amount for 2026-27 at BE stage
Establishment Expenditure of the Centre	1913.00	599.08
Central Sector Schemes	1200.50	1361.79
Other Central Expenditure, including those on Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and Autonomous Bodies	2681.31	2591.07
TOTAL	5794.81	4551.94

10. The Budgetary allocations at Budget Estimate and Revised Estimate stage along with the Actual Expenditure (hereinafter referred to as BE, RE and AE) for MIB for last

four years viz. 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 along with the allocations made for the year 2026-27 at BE stage, are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)					
Year	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. BE	% w.r.t. RE
2022-23	3980.77	4182.00	4024.13	101.09	96.23
2023-24	4692.00	4449.76	4314.24	91.95	96.95
2024-25	4342.55	4626.71	4306.78	99.18	93.09
2025-26*	4358.38	6103.02	3508.72	80.50	57.49
2026-27	4551.94	-	-	-	-

* Actual Expenditure as on 23.02.2026

11. During the financial year 2025-26, the allocations at Budget Estimate (BE) and Revised Estimate (RE) stages were Rs. 4358.38 crore and Rs. 6103.02 crore respectively whereas the actual utilization till 23.02.2026 was Rs. 3508.72 crore which is 57.49% of RE allocation. According to the Ministry, it is expected that funds will be fully utilized upto end of this Financial Year 2025-26. The overall trend of actual expenditure for the year 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 has been more than 93% of the RE allocations. The details of the budgetary allocations and actual expenditure (BE, RE & AE), under the three categories during last four years and the BE allocations for the year 2026-27, are as under:-

Year	(Rs. in Crore)															
	Establishment expenditure of the centre				Central sector schemes				Other central expenditure				TOTAL			
	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. RE	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. RE	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. RE	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. RE
2022-23	582.87	584.84	569.41	97.36	630.00	639.00	569.67	89.15	2767.90	2958.16	2885.05	97.53	3980.77	4182.00	4024.13	96.23
2023-24*	535.50	551.00	524.45	95.18	1105.00	1027.28	1037.02	100.95	3051.50	2871.48	2752.77	95.87	4692.00	4449.76	4314.24	96.95
2024-25**	566.41	564.82	536.26	94.94	1004.31	984.21	713.29	72.47	2771.83	3077.68	3057.23	99.34	4342.55	4626.71	4306.78	93.09
2025-26	582.50	590.46	429.04	72.67	1118.49	1178	577.99	49.07	2657.39	4334.56	2076.28	47.90	4358.38	6103.02#	3083.31**	50.52
2026-27	599.08	-	-	-	1361.79	-	-	-	2591.07	-	-	-	4551.94	-	-	-

(*)AE 2023-24, in respect of Central Sector Schemes, is more than RE 2023-24, on account of enhancement of allocation at Final Estimates stage at ₹ 1084.51 crore.
(**)Actual Expenditure as on 14.01.2026
#Includes payment of spectrum charges of ₹ 1823.66 cr to Department of Telecommunications.

12. For the financial year 2025-26, the BE and RE allocations for 'Establishment Expenditure of the Centre' were Rs. 582.50 crore and Rs. 590.46 crore respectively. The actual expenditure (till 14.01.2026), was Rs. 429.04 crore which is 72.67 % of RE allocations. For 'Central Sector Schemes,' the BE and RE for the year 2025-26 were Rs. 1118.49 crore and Rs. 1178 crore respectively, whereas the actual expenditure (till 14.01.2026), was Rs. 577.99 crore which is 49.07 % of RE allocations. For 'Other central expenditure,' the BE and RE for the year 2025-26 were Rs. 2657.39 crore and Rs. 4334.56 crore respectively, whereas the actual expenditure (till 14.01.2026), was Rs. 2076.28 crore which is 47.90 % of RE allocations. The allocations for the year 2026-

27, for these three categories are Rs. 599.08 crore, Rs. 1361.79 crore and Rs. 2591.07 crore respectively.

13. Regarding reasons for RE allocation of Rs. 6103.02 crore during the year 2025-26 as against the BE allocation of Rs. 4358.38 crore, the Secretary during evidence, deposed as under:-

“The main reason for this increase is the telecom charges amounting to Rs. 1,823.66 crore, which are required to be paid by Prasar Bharati to the Department of Telecommunications. Consequently, when we look at the percentage of expenditure with reference to the Revised Estimates, it appears slightly lower. However, the total expenditure incurred so far is Rs. 3,508.72 crore. If the amount of Rs. 1,823.66 crore, which is to be paid as a lump sum to the Department of Telecommunications, is excluded, the effective expenditure is currently around 82 per cent....xxxxx.....xxxxx.....xxxxx Under Other Central Expenditure, the Revised Estimate is Rs. 4,334.56 crore, which includes the amount of Rs. 1,823.66 crore payable to the Department of Telecommunications. After excluding this amount, the Budget Estimate for the next year is broadly at the same level, at Rs. 2,591.07 crore. For meeting the payment of Rs. 1,823.66 crore as a lump sum, we have sought a token supplementary of Rs. 79.02 crore, and the remaining Rs. 1,744.64 crore has been sought as cash supplementary”.

14. Adding to this, the Ministry in its written reply stated as under:-

“The RE of ₹6103.02 includes an amount of ₹1823.66 cr. due to be paid as outstanding spectrum charges and NOCC charges by Prasar Bharati to the Department of Telecommunications (DoT)”.

15. On being asked about the initiatives being taken to avoid rush of expenditure during the last few months of the financial year, the Ministry submitted as under:-

“To avoid rush of expenditure in the last months of the financial year, the Ministry of I&B has adopted quarterly and monthly expenditure planning, ensuring realistic budget estimation, and conducting periodic reviews of spending by the Concerned Additional/Joint Secretaries at the Wing level and by Media heads at the level of the Media Units. Also, the Ministry has directed all the spending units to strictly adhere to the quarter expenditure ceilings prescribed by the Ministry of Finance and to surrender any anticipated savings in a timely manner, so as to ensure financial discipline and prevent avoidable-year end spending pressures”.

16. While deposing before the Committee, the Ministry also submitted the following:-

“The major enhancements are proposed in the information and film sectors. Under the DCID Scheme in the information sector, the Revised Estimate is Rs. 196.11 crore, and we have sought an increase to Rs. 250 crore for the next year. In the film sector, under the DCDFC Scheme, the Revised Estimate is Rs. 423.89 crore, and the projection for the coming year is Rs. 594.55 crore. This includes a component of Rs. 250 crore announced in the Union Budget for the promotion of the AVGC sector”

17. Regarding the initiatives taken for timely utilization of funds and achievement of physical targets during 2025-26 along with the plans for the year 2026-27, the Ministry has replied as under:-

Initiatives taken for timely utilization of funds as well as achievement of physical targets for 2025-26	Concrete outcome of the initiatives taken in 2025-26	Initiatives planned for timely utilization of funds for 2026-27	Initiatives planned for timely achievement of physical targets for 2026-27
<p>NFDC-NFAI has rigorously, taken follow up for the progress of NFHM projects. NFDC-NFAI has planned periodic meetings of each project – Preventive Conservation, Digitization & Restoration of film content. NFDC-NFAI has proposed High level committee meeting for expediting & taking suggestion on NFHM project. Apart from above, there are many other initiatives taken by NFDC-NFAI for achievement of physical targets. Additionally, NFDC-NFAI has submitted a proposal for the extension of NFHM along with the requisite documents and is continuously following up on the progress of the extension file.</p>	<p>NFDC-NFAI has achieved the targeted scope including additional scope of preventive conservation project. Currently, NFDC-NFAI is taking handover of rearrangement activities under the same project. NFDC-NFAI has expedited the Digitization & Restoration project and achieved more than 1200 films & 500 films respectively till date.</p>	<p>Fostering excellence in Films Documentary and Animation by Films supporting, encouraging, integrating and nurturing new talents in films and content development across genres, regions and Indian languages and preserving the rich heritage of filmic contents and ensuring its wider reach out to masses within and across borders as per Government of India's Policies.</p>	
<p>SRFTI: Regular monitoring of physical and financial parameters by senior officers of the Institute.</p>	<p>First academic batch started at newly constructed FTII, Itanagar. Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education vide Notification dated 23.04.2025 has declared SRFTI as 'Deemed to be University. Funds released</p>	<p>Proper processing of related expenditure and through monitoring of physical activities.</p> <p>Regular review meeting with CPWD for completion of construction work of FTII, Itanagar.</p>	<p>Completion of remaining construction work of FTII, Itanagar. Start of construction work of Boys Hostel and Studios.</p> <p>Collaboration with foreign Universities for student</p>

	have been utilized timely.		exchange, faculty exchange, etc.
<p>FTII: Monitoring mechanism for procurement of equipment and machinery Hiring of Govt PSE for upgradation of infrastructure Appointment of Purchase Coordinator for streamlining technical purchase</p>	<p>Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education vide Notification dated 23.04.2025 has declared FTII as 'Deemed to be University'. Funds released have been utilized timely.</p>	<p>Proper processing of related expenditure and through monitoring of physical activities.</p>	<p>Completion of construction of two indoor studios. Collaboration with foreign Universities for student exchange, faculty exchange, etc. Streamlining process for upgradation of infrastructure through Govt. PSE</p>
<p>Prasar Bharti: To complete the projects within the specified time frame in Doordarshan, Monitoring mechanism has been strengthened considerably. Procurement procedures have been streamlined. Project review meetings are held regularly at Zonal level & HQ level and various activities involved in procurement of capital equipment and execution of works are critically assessed & targets are fixed.</p> <p>The frequency of monitoring meetings has been increased at all levels of Directorate & Prasar Bharati Sectt. Use of digital platform viz e-office, e-tendering, procurement through GEM, Video conference is also being</p>	<p>An APEX committee has been constituted by Prasar Bharati Secretariat to monitor the progress of scheme and regular monitoring and review is being done at the level of CEO, Prasar Bharati.</p>	<p>'An Apex committee has been formed for monitoring the progress of projects. Committee is meeting on periodical basis and encourages 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,</p>	

utilized.		supply of equipment installation etc.); and other concurrent issues. Supply order with respect to various projects was issued after streamlining/ resolving the procurement issues by the Apex committee with different wing of procurement/design.' After formation the APEX committee till now 21 meetings held to resolve the various BIND projects issues.	
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18. About the measures envisaged for having effective utilization of the budgetary allocation during the year 2026-27, the Ministry has replied as under:-

“All efforts will be made to utilize the allocated funds from the start of financial year. Monitoring mechanism is strengthened and review of progress of projects is taken up periodically. For effective utilization of funds during the year 2026-27 following initiatives are being envisaged:

<p>PIB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Contemplating to increase the Media Outreach Programmes (MoP) activities at Head Quarters and regional level. Further, research unit is being strengthened to provide factual analytical and background inputs to support media outreach activities. (ii) Setting up of Regions/Units-wise Annual & Quarterly Targets, Centralized Monthly Schedule of Activities for each Quarter, Quarterly Review of Performance of the Scheme and sharing of regions/units-wise achievements and practices with other regions to maximize the efficiency in delivery of outcomes will be done for effective monitoring & control of the scheme and to improve its performance. • The forecast of the budget expenditure was done meticulously to arrive at the correct requirement of the budget. GFR provisions are followed for the expenditure incurred to ensure correct utilization of the budget. The merger of 4 film media units with NFDC would synergize the activities undertaken under DCDFC scheme leading to effective utilization of budgetary. • In respect of Community Radio Stations, more awareness workshops would be organized to increase number of CRS and policy benefits. Timely disposal of proposals received for financial assistance would be ensured.
<p>BIND Scheme:</p> <p>All efforts will be made to utilize the allocated funds from the start of financial year. Some of the measures envisaged for effective utilization of the Budgetary allocation during the year 2026-27 are as under:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitoring mechanism is strengthened and review of progress of projects is taken up periodically. 2. Prasar Bharati has adopted digital techniques in office functioning such as e-

<p>office, email, CAS (Centralized Accounting Software) and TSA for fund release for the scheme. These have made the system fast, efficient and transparent.</p> <p>3. Supply chain bottleneck issues in some instances which led to delays in timely supply of equipment from the OEMs, are being addressed to by taking on-board the L-1 entity right from the opening of financial bids.</p> <p>4. For SITC projects, site readiness in running systems happen to be a major bottleneck. The same is being addressed by making provision of additional space for installation of new project.</p> <p>5. Site allotment at remaining places for new FM Transmitter Projects, are being expedited.</p> <p>6. Also efforts would be taken to avoid delay in erection of towers due to technical and administrative issues.</p> <p>7. There is shortage of staff in Civil Construction Wing (CCW) due to which Civil works could not be taken up at many places earlier and CCW has expressed its inability to undertake building works for new project works under BIND. Construction of new buildings by CPWD and other public works departments is being explored.</p>
<p>DCID: To ensure effective and optimal utilization of the budgetary allocation during the financial year 2026–27, the following measures have been envisaged:</p> <p>i. Annual Action Plans are being prepared well in advance, aligned with budgetary provisions, to ensure timely initiation of campaign related activities.</p> <p>ii. Regular reviews at headquarter level, supported by digital dashboards and MIS-based monitoring, will be undertaken to track physical and financial progress.</p> <p>iii. Streamlining of procurement processes and early administrative and financial approvals to minimize delays in implementation.</p> <p>iv. Engagement of resource persons for content generation</p> <p>v. Periodic assessment of expenditure trends to enable re-prioritization and reallocation of funds, wherever required.</p> <p>vi. Strict adherence to GFRs and outcome-oriented budgeting to ensure efficiency, transparency, and accountability”.</p>

19. Enumerating major Thrust areas, during 2026-27, the following has been submitted:-

<p>a) IIMC: It would be strive that the construction work of Delhi and Amravati campus of IIMC continue with full swing to ensure completion of the same within the targeted timeline</p>
<p>b) CRS: Raise awareness about CRS. Increase the number of stations in CR Dark areas. Enhance training and capacity building of CRS. Timely implementation of each activity. Increase state wise outreach interventions.</p>
<p>c) FTII and SRFTI:</p> <p>i. Academic Expansion under DTBU – FTII and SRFTI plans to introduce new MFA programmes in Film and Television/Electronic & Digital Media (EDM). In addition, efforts are underway to initiate BFA programmes and Doctoral (Ph.D.) research, with the objective of creating a comprehensive academic ecosystem covering undergraduate, postgraduate and research-level education. Curriculum design and approvals shall be undertaken in accordance with UGC norms,</p>

- followed by phased implementation.
- ii. Infrastructure Expansion in SRFTI- To support increased student intake and enhanced academic activities, thrust will be given to infrastructure expansion, including extension of Boys' Hostels, construction of new studios, and development of multi-storey multipurpose buildings for academic, production and administrative use. An MoU with CPWD has been executed for major construction works in a planned and time-bound manner.
 - iii. Academic and Industry Collaboration – FTII and SRFTI to Collaborate with leading academic and professional institutions through MoUs for sharing expertise, knowledge exchange, joint workshops, faculty and student exchange, and research activities.
 - iv. Promotions of Films through participation/organizing National & International Films Festivals., WAVES and Production of Films if selected films are approved by the Ministry

d) Broadcasting Sector:

AIR:

Major thrust areas are setting up of new FM transmitters in LWE, Border and uncovered area, Visual Radio setups, replacement and setting up of new Studio Transmitter Links, replacement of antenna feeds, modernization and facelift of stations, Departmental works like replacement of DG Sets/AC plants.

Doordarshan:

Major thrust areas under are Expansion of DD Free Dish DTH Platform, DTH Disaster Recovery Centre, Automation & Modernization of Program Production Facilities to HD, Automation & Modernization of Satellite Transmission Facilities to HD, Augmentation of News Production Equipment, Upgradation of Technical facilities to HD for live coverages, Technology for Content Innovation. Acquisition/production of quality content, both in-house and from the outside producers. For this, a comprehensive content procurement policy has been notified.

e) New Media Wing (NMW):

Setting up of an AI-driven Communication Hub of M/o I&B at NMW with the following projects to be initiated in 2026-27:

- i. AI/ML- based Integrated Dashboard
- ii. AI/ML- based multilingual translation and voice localisation platform
- iii. AI/ML- based Content Generation and Content Personalisation platform.

20. With respect to thrust areas and future projections, the Ministry during evidence submitted the following:-

WAVES & IICT

- Startup and innovation enablement through WaveX, with focus on AI-enabled content creation, immersive technologies and language solutions.
- Market integration and export promotion via WAVES Bazaar.
- Creatosphere – Create in India Challenges - Season 2 to be launched.
- Establishment of Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC) Content Creator Labs in 15,000 schools and 500 colleges, as announced in Budget 2026–27, with an allocation of ₹250 crore to strengthen early-stage exposure to animation, gaming, VFX and immersive media in alignment with National Education Policy (NEP).

Films Sector:

• **Global Positioning & Branding:**

- Strengthen India's presence at international film festivals and global markets.
- Promote co-productions, film tourism, and India as a global content hub.
- Promotion of film festivals within country for promotion of Indian Cinema.
- **Regional Focus:** Production of feature films and documentaries including North-East languages and organizing film festivals in remote districts like Tamenglong, Manipur.

• **Film Heritage Mission (NFHM)**

- Preserve, restore, and digitize India's cinematic heritage.
- Build archives and cultural institutions to showcase India's film legacy
- Use heritage as a soft-power tool for cultural diplomacy

FTII and SRFTI:

- **Academic Expansion under Deemed-to-be University (DTBU)** – Plans to introduce new Master of Fine Arts (MFA) programmes, Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) programmes and Doctoral (Ph.D.) research in Film and Television/Electronic & Digital Media (EDM).

Partnerships with State Governments to promote film education and regional capacity building, on the lines of the Tripura model

WAVES OTT Platform

- Technology upgradation and scalability, to support large-scale live channel onboarding, high-concurrency live events and multi-device access across mobile, web and connected TV platforms.
- Monetisation & Sustainability through implementation of a Unified Digital Ad-Tech framework
- News & Public Information Expansion with targeted onboarding of all eligible national and regional news channels on WAVES OTT
- OTT & Digital Distribution: Procuring digital rights for North-East regional films for OTT platforms

Broadcasting Sector:

AIR:

- Setting up of new FM transmitters in LWE, Border and uncovered area
- Visual Radio setups, replacement and setting up of new Studio Transmitter Links, replacement of antenna feeds, modernization and facelift of stations

Doordarshan:

- Expansion of DD Free Dish DTH Platform
- DTH Disaster Recovery Centre
- Content Creation and Transmission in HD

Community Radio Stations:

- To establish at least one Community Radio Station in each district of the country.
- Technological upgradation and digital integration of CRSs.
- Strengthening training and capacity-building initiatives for CRSs.

Press Information Bureau:

- Strengthening of Research & Analysis Unit: Establishment of a dedicated 24x7 Alert & Response Team
- Translation into 5 UN Official Languages for important speeches, messages and press releases into Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish

- Technology-enabled Media Outreach: Strengthening of ICT infrastructure across PIB Headquarters and Regional/Branch Offices

21. Some of the recent initiatives and achievements, as highlighted by the Ministry during evidence, include (i) World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) held between 1st to 4th May, 2025 in Mumbai; (ii) Create in India Challenge (CIC – Season-I); (iii) WaveX; (iv) WAVES Bazaar; (v) WAVES Creators Corner at AI Impact Summit 2026; (vi) Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT); (vii) Consistent participation in global film festivals including Cannes, Berlin, Venice and Toronto; (viii) Organisation of 71st National Film Awards (2023) - Awarded in 2025; (ix) 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI 2025); (x) SRFTI and FTII declared as deemed to be University; Itanagar Campus of SRFTI Kolkata declared as Constituent Unit of SRFTI; (xi) Capacity Building under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation I-TEC Programme; (xii) Press information Bureau (PIB) Fact Check Unit worked round-the-clock During Operation Sindoor; (xiii) Outreach and Communication for Viksit Bharat; (xiv) IIMC ranked as No. 1 Institute amongst top 10 Mass Communication Colleges 2025 in India; (xv) Launch and operationalisation of WAVES OTT and various initiatives under it; (xvi) Expansion of the free-to-air DTH service, from 167 channels in 2022 to 510 channels by 2025; (xvii) E-auctions of FM Radio Phase-III Batch-III conducted in 2025; (xviii) 560 Community Radio Stations operational by January, 2026; etc;

22. Steps taken to improve the financial management and to increase transparency and accountability in the operations of the Ministry during the last few years are:-

“Ministry of I&B has adopted quarterly and monthly expenditure planning, ensuring realistic budget estimation, and conducting periodic reviews of spending by Concerned Additional/Joint Secretaries at the levels of concerned Wings and by Media heads, at the level of the Media Units. Further, the Ministry has directed its spending units to strictly adhere to the quarterly expenditure ceilings prescribed by the Ministry of Finance and to surrender any anticipated savings in a timely manner, so as to ensure financial discipline and prevent avoidable-year end spending pressures”.

23. When asked for details of the new announcements made by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for the year 2026-27, if any, they have replied that there are no specific announcements made by the Ministry for the year 2026-27. However, regarding new Scheme and Programs to be initiated during the financial year 2026-27, it has been submitted as under:

“A provision of ₹250 crore has been proposed has been proposed in BE 2026-27 for ‘Talent Development in Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics

(AVGC) Sector' under the Film Sector, as a component under the Central Sector Scheme **DCDFC**. The objective is to promote India and its youth as leaders in content creation by setting up AVGC content creator labs in 15,000 secondary schools and 500 colleges”.

IV. CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEMES (CSS)

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

Sl. No.	Central Sector Schemes	Aim/Objectives – about Schemes
i.	Development Communication & Information Dissemination (DCID) <u>(Information Sector)</u>	This scheme is targeted towards meeting the requirements of publicity for various Government Schemes. The primary objective of the scheme is to generate awareness that will enable targeted beneficiary to avail the benefits of developmental schemes of the Government, to elicit enhanced participation of the people in the process of development and governance, to ensure the upkeep of a healthy and clean environment for sustainable and green growth and to enable better public compliance.
ii.	Development, Communication & Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC) Scheme (Film Sector)	The scheme Development, Communication and Dissemination of Filmic Content was launched to promote and preserve quality Indian cinemas by means of hosting film festivals, producing new films documentaries, collecting and maintaining film archives and adopting anti-piracy initiatives. The scheme aims to synergize activities of various media units in participation in and organization of international film festivals in India and abroad for showcasing Indian cinema to a large and versatile audience. It wishes to facilitate production, distribution and marketing of all genres of Indian Cinemas, including films in regional languages. It also works to promote and build institutions that play a part towards conservation and preservation of the filmic heritage of India and to initiate steps to prevent unlawful use of filmic content. *As the objectives of the Champion Services Sector Scheme (CSSS) for Audio Visual Services are closely related with the Development Communication and Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC) scheme of the Ministry, CSSS has been merged with DCDFC scheme from FY 2022-23 onwards as the consolidation of resources will provide flexibility in use, leading to better utilization of funds.
iii.	Supporting Community Radio Movement in	The scheme aims to strengthen new and existing CRSs with resources, capacity and technology in order to upgrade the standard of the stations and increase reach and visibility to the interior regions of India. This would help promote growth of

	India (Broadcasting Sector) Main Sectt. Schemes:	CRS in remote and rural areas thereby aiding socio-economic and cultural development of communities by using CRS as a powerful medium of social mobilization. The scheme therefore aims to revitalize new and existing CRSs by providing required funds for resources, capacity and technology thereby increasing effectiveness of operational community radio stations.
iv.	Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND) (Broadcasting Sector) Prasar Bharati's Scheme:	The scheme Broadcast Infrastructure Network Development consists of a wide range of initiative taken up by Prasar Bharati to cover the national television-based broadcaster Doordarshan and radio-based broadcaster All India Radio. The scheme aims to improve physical infrastructure of both, Doordarshan and All India Radio to incorporate latest state-of-the-art technology as well as ensures universal and public access to their offerings. The objective of the scheme is to expand the networks and upgrade quality of programmes and transmission on both mediums through a list of interventions decided upon within the scheme.

25. Overall budgetary allocation and utilization (BE, RE and AE) under Central Sector Schemes for the last four financial years 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 and BE for the year 2026-27 are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)					
CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEME					
Year	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. BE	% w.r.t. RE
2022-23	630.00	639.00	569.67	90.42	89.15
2023-24[#]	1105.00	1027.28	1037.02	93.85	100.95
2024-25[@]	1004.31	984.21	713.29	71.02	72.47
2025-26	1118.49	1178	747.13	66.80	63.42
2026-27	1361.79	-	-	-	-

(#) The total Allocation for schemes was enhanced to ₹ 1084.51cr in Final Estimate
(@) Actual expenditure as 23.02.2026

26. While noting that for the year 2026-27, against the proposed sum of Rs. 1200.50 crore, the allocations for Central Sector Scheme is Rs. 1361.79 crore, the Ministry was asked to furnish reasons for the same to this, they responded as under:-

“In RE 2026, ₹ 1111.79 crore was allocated /communicated by M/o Finance. However, in the Budget Announcement, a budget provision for an additional amount of ₹ 250 crore has been proposed in BE 2026-27 for ‘Talent Development in Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC) Sector’ under the Film Sector, as a component under the Central Sector Scheme DCDFC. The objective is to promote India and its youth as leaders in content creation by setting up AVGC content creator labs in 15,000 secondary schools and 500 colleges”.

27. Detailed budgetary allocation and utilization under each Central Sector Scheme for the last four years along with the BE for the year 2026-27 are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)					
INFORMATION SECTOR					
Development Communication & Information Dissemination (DCID)					
Year	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. BE	% w.r.t. RE
2022-23**	184.00	194.00	284.90	154.84	146.86
2023-24#	200.00	197.28	347.52	173.76	176.16
2024-25	149.31	169.48	167.74	81.11	71.45
2025-26\$	238.09	196.11	138.48	58.16	70.61
2026-27	250	-	-	-	-
(**) The Allocation under DCID scheme was enhanced to ₹298.04 cr in Final Estimates					
(#) The Allocation under DCID scheme was enhanced to ₹ 353.52cr in Final Estimates					
(\$) Actual expenditure as 23.02.2026					
FILM SECTOR					
Development Communication & Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC)					
Year	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. BE	% w.r.t. RE
2022-23	127.16	127.00	122.86	96.62	96.74
2023-24	300.00	350.00	339.88	113.29	97.11
2024-25	350.00	400.00	324.21	67.43	59.00
2025-26\$	363.00	423.89	232.46	64.04	54.84
2026-27	594.55 #	-	-	-	-
(\$) Actual expenditure as 23.02.2026					
# Includes ₹ 250.00 cr. for India's Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC) sector under 'Orange Economy' announced in Hon'ble Finance Minister Budget Speech.					
BROADCASTING SECTOR					
Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND of Prasar Bharati)					
Year	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. BE	% w.r.t. RE
2022-23	315.00	315.00	159.91	50.77	50.77
2023-24	600.00	475.00	345.38	57.56	72.71
2024-25	500.00	400.00	213.69	29.27	36.58
2025-26\$	500.00	550.00	370.33	74.06	67.33
2026-27	509.24	-	-	-	-
(\$) Actual expenditure as 23.02.2026					
Supporting Community Radio Movement in India (SCR)					
Year	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. BE	% w.r.t. RE
2022-23	3.84	3.00	2.00	52.08	66.66
2023-24	5.00	5.00	4.24	84.80	84.80
2024-25	5.00	14.73	7.65	76.60	26.02
2025-26\$	17.40	8.00	5.86	33.68	73.25
2026-27	8.00	-	-	-	-
(\$) Actual expenditure as 23.02.2026					

28. The Ministry has utilized Rs. 747.13 crore (upto 23.02.2026) i.e. 63.42% of its RE allocations for Central Sector Schemes during the financial year 2025-26. Regarding utilization of remaining funds, the Ministry has submitted that it is expected that it will be

fully utilized upto end of this Financial Year 2025-26. Further, during evidence, the Secretary, submitted as under:-

“Efforts are being made to ensure that the entire allocation is utilised within the current financial year, and the progress is being monitored on a daily basis in the Ministry”.

29. The reasons for shortfall/delay with respect Schemes under Central Sector Schemes during 2025-26, as provided by the Ministry are as under:-

<p><u>The reasons for shortfall/delay with respect to BIND scheme are as under:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Delay in site allotment at places for new FM Transmitter Projects. Out of total 21 places for new FM Transmitter Projects, sites at 16 places have been finalized after considerable efforts. Sites at 5 places in are still under process and matter is getting followed up. ii. Delay in erection of towers due to technical and administrative issues. iii. There is shortage of staff in Civil Construction Wing (CCW) due to which Civil works could not be taken up at many places. Construction of new buildings by CPWD and other public works departments is being explored. iv. For SITC projects, site readiness in running systems happen to be a major bottleneck. The same is being addressed by making provision of additional space for installation of new project. v. Cancellation of tenders due to administrative reasons and re-tendering. vi. Site Selection for new FM transmitters.
<p><u>The reasons for shortfall/delay with respect to DCID scheme are as under:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Lower than anticipated participation of journalist and withdrawal of media persons ii. Significant portion of outreach activities are undertaken during the last two quarters due to climatic reasons. iii. In the research unit of PIB, engaging outsource agency has taken more time.
<p>Community Radio Stations: At the initial stage there was low demand for grants and most of the activities such as Community Radio Awareness workshops and Regional Community Radio Sammelans were planned to be conducted in the Quarter-3 to Quarter-4.</p>
<p>DCDFC: A major portion of financial grant 2025-26 (NER) was allocated for production of films that could not be picked up as there was a delay in review of the applications received under Production of Films.</p>

30. Major challenges/hindrances witnessed under each Central Sector Schemes and steps taken to overcome them along with tangible outcomes are as under:-

	Major challenges/hindrances witnessed under the Scheme	Steps taken to overcome the challenges/ hindrances encountered under the Scheme	Tangible Outcome of the measures taken to address the challenges/ hindrances encountered

			under the Scheme
Development Communication & Information Dissemination (DCID)	No specific issues/ hindrances have been witnessed under the scheme.		
Development Communication & Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC)	There have been no challenges and there is optimum utilization of funds.		
Broadcasting Infrastructure Development (Prasar Bharati)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of the broadcast equipment are imported with no production in India. Make –in –India (MII) clause exemptions are to be taken for each project in regard to Broadcast Equipment. This procedure takes considerable time. • Man power shortage was also one of the reasons for the late completion of projects. • Supply chain bottleneck issues in some instances which led to delays in timely supply of equipment from the OEMs. • For SITC projects, site readiness in running systems happen to be a major bottleneck. • Site allotment at remaining places for new FM Transmitter Projects • Delay in erection of towers due to technical and administrative issues • shortage of staff in Civil Construction Wing (CCW) due to which Civil works could not be taken up at many places and CCW has expressed its inability to undertake building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring mechanism has been strengthened considerably. • Procurement procedures have been streamlined. Project review meetings are held regularly at Zonal level & HQ level and various activities involved in procurement of capital equipment and execution of works are critically assessed & targets are fixed. • The frequency of monitoring meetings has been increased at all levels of Directorate & Prasar Bharati Sectt. • Use of digital platform viz e-office, e-tendering, procurement through GEM, Video conference is also being utilized. • An apex committee has been constituted by Prasar Bharati Secretariat to monitor the progress of scheme. • Construction of new buildings by CPWD and other public works departments is being explored. • The issues are being addressed by making provision of additional space for installation of new project. 	Timely implementation of projects.

	works for new project works under BIND.		
Supporting Community Radio	Due to lack of awareness about the scheme there has been less demand for grants.	Awareness generation activities have been intensified.	Increase in demand for grants, number of grants released and increase in number of applications being received to establish CRSs.

31. On being asked about the plans to improve the performance under each Central Sector Schemes for the year 2026-27, the Ministry has replied as under:-

Central Sector Schemes	Plans to improve the performance under each Scheme/Media Units under Central Sector Schemes for the year 2026-27
Development Communication & Information Dissemination (DCID)	For effective utilization of funds during the year 2026-27, PIB is envisaging following initiatives: (i)Contemplating to increase the MoP activities at Head Quarters and regional level. Further, research unit is being strengthened to provide factual analytical and background inputs to support media outreach activities. (ii)Setting up of Regions/Units-wise Annual & Quarterly Targets, Centralized Monthly Schedule of Activities for each Quarter, Quarterly Review of Performance of the Scheme and sharing of regions/units-wise achievements and practices with other regions to maximize the efficiency in delivery of outcomes will be done for effective monitoring & control of the scheme and to improve its performance and sharing of regions/units-wise achievements and practices with other regions to maximize the efficiency in delivery of outcomes will be done for effective monitoring & control of the scheme and to improve its performance.
Development Communication & Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC)	i) In order to make the implementation more effective and to improve plan expenditure, the various measures taken by the Ministry include periodic review, mid-term appraisal of all major schemes and regular monitoring of expenditure and implementation. ii) Quarterly/ Monthly performance review of the progress of physical and financial targets in respect of the schemes is held at the meetings of the Senior Officers of the Ministry chaired by Secretary (I&B). The concerned Joint Secretary also regularly monitors the implementation of schemes under their charge. Various midcourse corrections are suggested to ensure full utilization of allocated resources. (III) Under Champion Service Sector, the Ministry is

	organizing a global level summit, World Audio-visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES) in every two years to establish India as a soft power in the Media and Entertainment Sector.
Broadcasting Infrastructure Development (Prasar Bharati)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring mechanism has been strengthened considerably. • Procurement procedures have been streamlined. Project review meetings are held regularly at Zonal level & HQ level and various activities involved in procurement of capital equipment and execution of works are critically assessed & targets are fixed. • The frequency of monitoring meetings has been increased at all levels of Directorate & Prasar Bharati Sectt. • Use of digital platform viz e-office, e-tendering, procurement through GEM, Video conference is also being utilized. • An apex committee has been constituted by Prasar Bharati Secretariat to monitor the progress of scheme.
Supporting Community Radio	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Organising National Community Radio Sammelan b) Offering Internship and fellowship in Community Radio Stations. c) Organizing 5 community radio workshops in community radio dark areas d) Organizing 4 regional Sammelans e) Capacity building workshops through Indian institute of mass communication (IIMC). f) Study/ Survey for assessing reach and effectiveness for community radio Stations.

V. BROADCASTING SECTOR (INCLUDING PRASAR BHARATI)

32. The Broadcasting Sector is broadly categorised into two categories viz. 'Content' and 'Carriage' services. This Ministry regulates the content of private satellite channels and networks of Multi-System Operators (MSOs) and Local Cable Operators (LCO) through the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, and policy guidelines issued from time-to-time. Broadcasting carriage services include MSOs, LCOs, Direct-to-Home (DTH) operators, Headend-In-The-Sky (HITS) operators and Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) service providers. This Ministry gives license/permission to DTH/HITS operators for their respective operations. In the Broadcasting Sector, there are two Schemes. The first is the Broadcast Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND) scheme implemented through Prasar Bharati. The other Scheme is Supporting Community Radio Movement (CRS).

33. Prasar Bharati was constituted as a statutory corporation under the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990 w.e.f. 23rd November, 1997.

Prasar Bharati, with Akashvani (erstwhile All India Radio) and Doordarshan as its two constituents, is mandated to organize and conduct public broadcasting service to inform, educate and entertain the public and to ensure a balanced development of broadcasting on radio and television. Prasar Bharati with changing times has also transcended into the progressive and transformational mega wave of 'media convergence' of a digitally oriented platform. For the upwardly mobile and digital savvy population, Prasar Bharati provides access to its variety content by way of digital platforms like OTT, YouTube and mobile App 'NewsOnAIR' for audience globally. Prasar Bharati also uses a number of social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter etc. to disseminate updated information about its content and other relevant details about events and news. Balancing these twin challenges has been the focus of policies and initiatives of Prasar Bharati. Prasar Bharati currently reaches 90% by way of area and 98% by way of population of the whole Country through its Radio network and almost 100% through satellite mode of TV network. Prasar Bharati is currently having 591 Akashvani Broadcasting installations, and 66 Doordarshan Kendras to provide various Akashvani and DD services across the Country.

34. Regarding recent initiatives under Prasar Bharati, the representative of the Ministry submitted the following during evidence:-

- "DD Free Dish, the free-to-air DTH service, expanded from 167 channels in 2022 to 510 channels by 2025.
 - 11 HD channels available.
 - Availability of AIR and DD channels on digital platforms like YouTube, Facebook, NewsOnAir. Launching of Prasar Bharati's own "WAVES" OTT platform.
 - Digital TV receivers with built in satellite tuners to receive DD Free Dish services.
- FM Radio
- Government conducted FM Radio Phase III Batch III e-auctions in 2025.
 - Successful auction of 63 new channels in 43 cities. With this, Pvt. FM Radio channels to reach about 450 channels in more than 150 cities".

(i) Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development (BIND)

35. An amount of Rs. 509.24 crore has been proposed under BE 2026-27 for Prasar Bharti under BIND scheme. Out of this an amount of Rs 209.76 crore is for Akashvani and Rs.299.48 crore is for DD. The budgetary allocation and utilization for Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development (Prasar Bharati) for last four years and BE for the year 2026-27 are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)					
Broadcasting Infrastructure Development (Schemes of Prasar Bharati)					
Year	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. BE	% w.r.t. RE
2022-23	315.00	315.00	159.91	50.76	50.76
2023-24	600.00	475.00	345.38	57.56	72.71
2024-25	500.00	400.00	213.69	42.73	53.42
2025-26*	500.00	550.00	370.33@	74.07	67.33
2026-27	509.24	-	-	-	-
<i>@Actual expenditure as on 08.01.2026</i>					

36. While observing repetitive under-utilization of funds for last 4 years under Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND of Prasar Bharati), the Ministry was asked to provide measures envisaged to improve the financial and physical performance under BIND during the year 2026-27. They replied as under:-

“Akashvani

It is the constant endeavor of Prasar Bharati to complete the projects within the specified time frame. Monitoring mechanism has been strengthened considerably. Procurement procedures have been streamlined. Project review meetings are 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 Directorates & Prasar Bharati Sectt. Use of digital platform viz e-office, e-tendering, procurement through GEM, Video conference is also being utilized.

An Apex committee has been formed for monitoring the progress of projects. Committee is meeting on periodical basis and encourages 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 orders with respect to various projects were issued after streamlining/ resolving the procurement issues by the Apex committee with different wing of procurement/design.

Doordarshan:

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.

All efforts will be made to utilize the budget allocated in 2026-27 fully”.

37. Adding on the underutilization of funds under BIND, the Ministry submitted:-

“आपने आकाशवाणी और दूरदर्शन के लिए बाइंड योजना के अंतर्गत एक्सपेंडिचर की गति पर चिंता व्यक्त की है। इस बात में कोई दो राय नहीं है कि एक्सपेंडिचर की गति उम्मीद से कम है। काफी टेक्नीकल इक्विपमेंट्स थे और जब यह योजना स्वीकृत हुई तब से लेकर अब के वर्षों के बीच में टेक्नोलॉजी काफी तेजी से आगे बढ़ी है। जिन प्रोजेक्शन्स के आधार पर हमने स्कीम तैयार की थी, उनको टेक्नोलॉजी के हिसाब से अपडेट किया गया है। मुझे बताते हुए प्रसन्नता हो रही है कि अभी एटलीस्ट कवरेज के तौर पर प्रसार भारती अकेला नैटवर्क है जो रूटीनली 4के कवरेज उपलब्ध कराता है जिसे हम डिजिटल माध्यम से लाइवस्ट्रीम कर सकते हैं। हम इसे ब्रॉडकास्टिंग के लिए स्टैपडाउन करके एचडी में तैयार करके भेज रहे हैं। हमारा जितना भी डिजाइनिंग और स्पेसिफिकेशन का काम था, पूरा हो चुका है। xxx..xxx..सर, बाइंड स्कीम के संबंध में आपने जो कहा था, माननीय सदस्यों का जो अनुमान है, वह बिल्कुल सही है। हमारी प्रोग्रेस थोड़ी कमजोर रही है। लेकिन पिछले वर्ष से हमने इसके बहुत कॉन्स्टेंट रिव्यूज किए हैं। दूरदर्शन का भी पूरा इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर कंटीन्यूअसली अपग्रेड किया जा रहा है। यहां पर भी नई टेक्नोलॉजी जो-जो खरीदी जा सकती है, देश में जो बनाई जा सकती है, उसके ऊपर भी हमारा स्पेसिफिक फोकस है”।

38. Regarding the targets set and progress made with respect to the Projects/ Schemes/ Sub-schemes/ Programmes of Prasar Bharati (BIND) for the financial year 2025-26, the Ministry replied as under:-

Financial Outlay (Rs in Cr) 2025-26	Output Progress	OUTCOMES 2025-26			Outcome Quarterly Progress			
	Output	Indicators	Targets 2025-26	Progress Till Quarter - 2	Outcome	Indicators	Targets 2025-26	Progress Till Quarter - 2
500	1. Digitization Modernization and expansion of Broadcast Infrastructure	1.1. Number of production set-up to be upgraded/ added (including Studios, News Units & OB Vans)	79	47.35	1.Strengthening/ Enhancing of Production and Play out facilities	1.1. Percentage of Production & Play out facilities to be enhanced/ renovated	61.71	36.99
		1.2. Number of Satellite Uplink Stations to be upgraded/added (including Earth Stations, DSNG Units & DTH Earth Stations)	14		2.Increase of TV channel capacity of DTH Platform.	2.1. Percentage increase in the number of TV channels of DTH Platform.	89.83	
		1.3. Number of existing Production/ Transmission Centers to be upgraded/ migrated to HD	11		3.To provide viewers with enhanced visual experience with	3.1. Percentage increase of the Centers to be upgraded/ migrated to	26.19	

Financial Outlay (Rs in Cr) 2025-26	Output Progress	OUTCOMES 2025-26			Outcome Quarterly Progress			
	Output	Indicators	Targets 2025-26	Progress Till Quarter - 2	Outcome	Indicators	Targets 2025-26	Progress Till Quarter - 2
		1.4. Number of DTH Set Top Boxes (STBs) to be procured for Remote, Tribal and LWE areas (in lakh)	(The scheme has undergone a change and is now being implemented in Direct Benefit Transfer mode. As such no procurement of STBs is being envisaged)		realness	HD Content (Production & Transmission)		
	2. Setting up of new FM Transmitters for Expansion of reach of Public Service Broadcasting including in Strategic/areas of national interest	2.1 Total Numbers of FM Transmitters to be installed (1KW,5KW & 10KW)	22		4. Coverage across India, special emphasis on Border areas and rural population	4.1 Percentage increase in coverage area of FM terrestrial transmission in the country including J&K and LOC Border	3	
	3 Strengthening of Border Area Coverage under Continuing Projects	3.1 Total Numbers of 5kW mobile FM Transmitters to be installed at J&K and LOC Borders	5	5				

39. While observing non-achievement of targets set under Broadcast Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND) viz. (i) Setting up of 79 production set-up to be upgraded/ added (including Studios, News Units& OB Vans); (ii) 14 Satellite Uplink Stations to be upgraded/added (including Earth Stations, DSNG Units & DTH Earth Stations); (iii) 22 FM Transmitters to be installed (1KW, 5KW & 10KW); etc., the Ministry was asked to furnish the reasons. To this, the Ministry replied as under:-

“Regarding point no. (i) & point no. (ii)

In BE for FY 2025-26, one of the components of BIND Scheme “Continuing Projects of three-year BIND scheme (2017-20) to be completed” in Project Mode, was withdrawn on 12.09.2025 and later on these were reinstated on

16.10.2025. This led to considerable delay in implementation of projects in the scheme/components.

Further, Administrative reasons (viz Non receipt of Budgetary quotes/Industry feedback/ Tender Bids, Cancellation of Tenders), Make –in –India (MII) clause exemptions for various projects and late delivery of products from OEMs clubbed in delay of targeted projects.

However, with combined focused efforts, it is expected that execution of the BIND Projects will be expedited and completed in the last quarter of 2025-26. Moreover, for ongoing projects of current financial year, revised time lines will be set up and all out efforts will be made to expedite the projects and schemes under the revised timelines but within the given BIND time period. In this respect, Monitoring mechanism has been strengthened and review of progress of projects, addressal of the issues promptly, afresh tendering / execution of the stalled/ scrapped tenders is taken up periodically at senior levels.

Regarding Point (iii) - The major reason for delay is cancellation of tenders for transmitter procurement which resulted into retendering. However current status is: 5KW and 10KW transmitters have been supplied to the respective sites and installation activity has started. Order for 1 KW transmitters has been placed and transmitters are expected to be delivered in the month of May -2026”.

40. One of the reasons, furnished for non-achievement of targets set for procurement of DTH Set Top Boxes (STBs) for Remote, Tribal and LWE areas (under BIND), the Ministry has replied that the Scheme has undergone a change and is now being implemented in Direct Benefit Transfer mode. The Ministry has also submitted the following:-

“In recent past Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in conjunction with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has mandated that, in future all television sets sold in India must include a built-in satellite tuner that complies with IS 18112:2022. The final date for mandatory compliance with IS 18112:2022 was October 26, 2025 which *vide* MietY Order dated 22 September 2025 has been extended to 26 Jan 2026. After this date, only compliant models (i.e TV with built-in Satellite Tuner) will be allowed to carry the BIS Standard Mark for sale in India.

In view of above development, the scheme of distribution of only STBs was no longer felt relevant and accordingly Empowered Committee of BIND 2021-26 was approached for dropping the Scheme/Project of “DD Free Dish STBs distribution in strategic areas” for review/dropping. The approval of Empowered Committee of BIND 2021-26 has been received on 31.12.2025, and accordingly this scheme for distribution of only STBs (Set Top Boxes) has been dropped”.

41. When asked to provide a brief note on DD Free Dish, the Ministry submitted the following:-

“DD Free Dish is a Free-to-Air (FTA) and an alternative affordable platform for people who do not have means to pay high subscription fee of private platforms. DD Free Dish platform, an approved scheme of the Government of India, was launched in December 2004 by Prasar Bharati.

DD Free Dish is an affordable platform reaching millions of people in remote, inaccessible and border areas, becoming a tool for empowerment of the masses particularly marginalized and weaker sections of the society, for dissemination of quality information free of cost. News and views of outside world, as well as quality entertainment, which is available to affluent class at a high subscription cost is made available to people free without any subscription fee.

From Doordarshan Todapur, New Delhi 94 channels in MPEG-2 format and 68 channels in MPEG-4 format are uplinked.

From BISAG-N, Gandhinagar 320 Educational channels (40 DD Swyam Prabha, 200 DD PM e-Vidya, 55 DD DigiShala & 16 DD Vande Gujrat) being uplinked which are also available to viewers through DD Free Dish MPEG-4 Set Top Boxes

Total Bouquet of DD Free Dish consist of 482 TV channels including 35 Doordarshan, 11 HD DD Channels and 95 popular Private TV channels, 320 DD Co-Branded Educational channels and 64 Radio channels

E Auction Methodology for allotting vacant slots on DD Free Dish to private satellite TV Channels was introduced in 2011 and has evolved since then as per learnings from past experiences and market forces.

E Auction Methodology is driven by the approved Guiding Principles by MoIB which are as follows:

- Carriage of Private Channels on DD Free Dish will be based on e-auctions but with differential pricing based on Genre and / Or Language.
- Channel Providers desirous of placing their channels on DD Free Dish shall be allowed to bid only in e-auctions specific to the Genre and Language their channels belong to. Broadcasters are required to declare Genre and Language of their channel to Prasar Bharati while applying for e-auction bidding process to be eligible to participate in the e-auction.
- Differential pricing for Genre will be based on the principle of higher Reserve Price for Genre with greater commercial potential.
- E-auction will be held such as to maximize revenue potential from e-auctions and to ensure a stable & inclusive portfolio of channels from a viewer standpoint.
- Bidding in the e-auction will be conducted in multiple rounds till all vacant unreserved slots are filled up.
- The payment terms for successful bidders upon award of a slot will be such as to encourage maximum participation of bidders in e-auction”.

42. Current reach of DD FreeDish along with the measures taken to increase its reach are as under:-

“DD Free Dish Set-Top Boxes are free to air (FTA) & available in open market and Prasar Bharati has no direct control over these Set Top Boxes which are available over the shelf in open market for general public, hence there is no accurate data available regarding viewership of DD Free Dish. However, as per market estimates and FICCI & E&Y report published in March 2025, more than 49 million households are viewing DD Free Dish. Further, as per ChromeDM data 65 million households are enjoying DD Free Dish programmes. As far as reach of DD Free Dish signal is concerned, DD Free Dish signal is available pan India, except Andman & Nicobar Islands and can be viewed with a very modest one-time investment of around Rs. 2500/- towards small Dish, MPEG-4 Free-to-Air Set Top Box and other ancillary peripherals. There is no monthly subscription fees required to enjoy DD Free Dish channels, unlike other DTH services. DD Free Dish viewership is facing challenges in southern and eastern part of India and to increase penetration of DD Free Dish set Top Boxes in these regions promotional measures are taken from time to time. As a latest measure, 17 numbers of popular un represented / under represented regional private TV channels were are onboarded on MPEG-4 slots of DD Free dish Free of cost for 01.01.2026 to 31.03.2026 on a pilot basis”.

43. On being asked about the reasons for not increasing the slot of DD Free Dish and the roadmap to promote reach of DD Free Dish, the Ministry replied as under:-

“Recently several factors like surfacing of various Digital platforms, OTTs, financial stress in market & decreasing popularity of linear channels has challenged revenue across all DTH services. DD Free Dish, in spite of increasing its viewership over the years, could end up earning only around 814 Cr this year i.e. 2025-26. Since revenue through DD Free Dish is earned through e Auction of vacant slots on DD Free Dish to private TV channels and the yield through e-Auction depends on supply and demand. Hence, increasing the slots on DD Free Dish, especially MPEG-2 slots carrying higher reserve price, could hamper revenue through DD Free Dish further. Also, MPEG-2 compression is inefficient compression as compared to MPEG-4 compression. Hence, two more transponders allotted to Prasar Bharati are under process of getting adequately equipped so that MPEG-4 slots on DD Free Dish, carrying a much lesser reserve price, are increased further.

Roadmap: - Un represented / under represented regional language channels are promoted by reserving slots adequately for them at a very nominal / promotional / invitational reserve price on MPEG-4 slots of DD Free Dish which may attract more popular regional language channels to come on DD Free Dish thereby increasing penetration of DD Free Dish Set Top Boxes in those areas. In the financial year 2026-27, the number of MPEG-4 slots have been enhanced adequately for annual e-auction to onboard a greater number of regional language channels”.

44. During evidence, the representative of the Ministry had submitted that expansion of the DD Free Dish is also going to be important priority for Doordarshan and a lot of efforts were going to be made. Adding to it, it was also stated:-

“प्रसार भारती में डीडी फ्री डिश, जो कि एक फ्री टू एयर डीटीएच सर्विस है, उसे काफी एक्सपेंड किया गया है। वर्ष 2022 में 167 चैनल्स थे, जो कि बढ़कर 510 हो गए हैं। जिसमें से 11 चैनल्स एचडी क्वालिटी के हैं। एआईआर और दूरदर्शन के चैनल को अब हम डिफरेंट ऑनलाइन प्लेटफॉर्म जैसे यूट्यूब, न्यूज ऑन एयर, वेक्स ओटीटी आदि में ले आए हैं।

अब जो नए स्मार्ट टेलीविजंस आ रहे हैं, उनमें डीडी फ्री डिश के लिए टीवी ट्यूनर कार्ड ऑलरेडी इनबिल्ट आ रहे हैं। अब किसी को यदि फ्री डिश देखना है, तो उसे सेट टॉप बॉक्स खरीदने की जरूरत नहीं पड़ेगी। नई टीवीज़ में केवल एंटीना लगाकर फ्री डिश की सर्विस उपलब्ध हो जाएगी।

xxx....xxx....xxxx सर, डीडी फ्री डिश एक बहुत अच्छा माध्यम है। यह सुझाव आया था कि आज हमारे देश के आम नागरिक को क्या मिल रहा है। अगर वह महीने के हजार रुपये नहीं दे पाता है तो उसे इतने चैनल्स कैसे मिलते हैं। डीडी फ्री डिश के माध्यम से आज लगभग 500 चैनल्स बिल्कुल फ्रीली अवेलेबल हैं। पिछले जनवरी के महीने में सारे टेलीविजन चैनल्स में कंपलसरी टीवी ट्यूनर लगा दिया गया है”।

45. Dwelling further on the issue, the CEO, Prasar Bharati, deposed before the Committees :-

“....,एमपेग-2 और एमपेग-4 में जो जनरली एक्सेप्टेड इंडस्ट्री ऐस्टिमेट्स हैं, उनके हिसाब से तकरीबन एक तिहाई सेट-अप बॉक्सेज़ फ्री डिश के भारत में हैं, वे एमपेग-4 इनेबल्ड हैं तथा लगभग दो तिहाई एमपेग-2 इनेबल्ड हैं। इसका आशय बेसिकली यह है कि एमपेग-2 वाले बॉक्सेज़ पर हैं, वे एमपेग-4 के या एचडी चैनल्स उसके ऊपर नहीं देखे जा सकते, जिनकी संख्या लगभग 20-22 के आस-पास है। जो एमपेग-4 वाले हैं, वे सारे चैनल्स देख सकते हैं। MPEG-4 set-top boxes can read both MPEG-4 and MPEG-2 signals”.

xxxx....xxxx एमपेग-4 कम हैं, क्योंकि रिलेटिवली नई टेक्नोलॉजी है। मैं रिलेटिवली इसलिए बोल रहा हूँ, क्योंकि पिछले 5-6 साल से यह टेक्नोलॉजी लगभग इस्टेब्लिश हो चुकी है। अब जो नए सेट-अप बॉक्सेज़ बनकर मार्केट में चल रहे हैं, चूंकि हम नहीं बनाते हैं, हम स्पेक्स जारी करते हैं, इंडिपेंडेंट लोग बनाते हैं और उसका विक्रय करते हैं। अब जो नए सेट-अप बॉक्सेज़ बन रहे हैं, वे केवल एमपेग-4 के ही बन रहे हैं। So, it is our estimation that given the fact हर साल तकरीबन 60-70 लाख तक सेट-अप बॉक्सेज़ का विक्रय होता है। अगले चार-पांच साल के भीतर यह जो रेशियो है, वह एमपेग-4 की दिशा में पूरे तरीके से आ जाएगा। आपने एमपेग-4 के चैनल्स को बढ़ाने के बारे में भी पूछा था। हमें दो नए ट्रांसपॉर्डर्स इसरो से विगत वर्ष प्राप्त हुए थे। उनको ऑपरेशनलाइज करने के लिए हमने इक्वीपमेंट प्रोक्योरमेंट की प्रक्रिया शुरू कर दी थी और अगले कुछ समय में वह प्रक्रिया भी पूरी हो जाएगी। चूंकि नई टेक्नोलॉजी है और बटर कंप्रेशन टेक्नोलॉजी एमपेग-4 है इसलिए इनके ऊपर हम जो चैनल्स ऑपरेशनलाइज करेंगे, वह केवल एमपेग-4 में करेंगे, ताकि धीरे-धीरे करके हम एमपेग-4 की तरफ जा सके”।

46. He further submitted:-

“सेट-अप बॉक्सेज के अलावा टेलीविजन डिवाइसेज में भी सेट-अप ट्यूनर प्रि-इंस्टॉल्ड आने का निर्देश जारी किया गया था। नोटिफिकेशन में कुछ विलंब है, लेकिन हमने इंडस्ट्री के साथ जो चर्चा की है, उसके हिसाब से लगभग 90 परसेंट मेजर मैन्यूफैक्चरर्स हैं इनक्लूडिंग मल्टीनेशनल ब्रांड्स। उन्होंने फ्री डिश ट्यूनर अपने टीवी सेट्स में इंस्टॉल्ड कर लिए हैं। अगले कुछ समय में यह नोटिफिकेशन आ जाएगा। Actually, notification was to come into effect from the 26th January this year. अब उसकी तारीख बढ़ा कर 26 जुलाई कर दी गई है। हम इंडस्ट्रीज के साथ इसके बारे में विचार-विमर्श कर रहे हैं कि टीवी मैन्यूफैक्चरर्स और फ्री डिश दोनों मिलकर एक एडवर्टिजमेंट कैम्पेन करे, जिससे हम जनता तक यह मैसेज लेकर जा सके।

सर, डीडी फ्री डिश अपने आप में आम नागरिक के लिए बहुत महत्वपूर्ण हो जाता है, क्योंकि इसमें एजुकेशनल चैनल्स भी चल रहे हैं। सब फ्रीली अवेलेबल हैं। इसमें करीबन 300 एजुकेशनल चैनल्स हैं। इसमें 500 चैनल्स अवेलेबल हैं। देश का सबसे बड़ा डीटीएच प्लेटफार्म डीडी फ्री डिश है। अगर टेलीविजन में एक बार ट्यूनर आ गया तो इसमें कोई सबस्क्रिप्शन नहीं है, महीने का कोई चार्ज नहीं देना है। ये सारे चैनल्स आम पब्लिक यूज कर सकती हैं”।

(a) DOORDARSHAN

47. According to the Ministry, there are 35 satellite TV channels including 28 Regional/State channels.

48. For the year 2025-26, out of Rs.500 crore allocated to Prasar Bharati under BIND, an amount of Rs.405.24 Crore has been allocated to Doordarshan against which an expenditure of Rs.168.23 Crore has been incurred till November, 2025.

49. The current reach of Doordarshan/ viewership of DD, as furnished by the Ministry is as under:-

(in lakhs)	
DD National	300.2
DD Kisan	30.0
DD Sports	469.6
DD News	100.2
DD News HD	16.3
DD India	5.5
DD Punjabi	280.6
DD Uttar Pradersh	25.9
DD Rajasthan	14.0
DD Kashir	5.5
DD Assam	6.5
DD Oriya	21.5
DD Bangla	53.8

DD Bihar	10.3
DD Madhya Pradesh	11.9
DD Girnar	64.0
DD Sahyadri	111.2
DD Chandana	71.8
DD Malyalam	14.2
DD Saptagiri	16.3
DD Yadagiri	50.4
DD Tamil	64.1
DD Network	1743.6

50. When asked to provide details of the financial targets set and achieved by Doordarshan during the year 2025-26 along with shortfall(s) in achieving them, the Ministry replied as under:-

Financial Outlay 2025-26: Rs. 500 crore							
Output Progress		Outcomes 2025-26			Outcome quarterly Progress		
Output	Indicator	Targets 2025-26	Progress till quarter-2	Outcome	Indicators	Targets 2025-26	Progress till quarter-2
1. Digitization Modernization and expansion of Broadcast Infrastructure	Number of production set-up to be upgraded/ added (including Studios, News Units & OB Vans)	79	47.35	1. Strengthening / Enhancing of Production and Playout facilities	1.1 Percentage of Production & Playout facilities to be enhanced/ renovated	61.71	36.99
	Number of Satellite Uplink Stations to be upgraded/ added (including Earth Stations , DSNG Units & DTH Earth Stations)	14		2. Increase of TV channel capacity of DTH Platform.	2.1 Percentage increase in the number of TV channels of DTH Platform.	89.83	
	1.2 Number of existing Production/ Transmission Centers to be upgraded/ migrated to HD	11		3. To provide viewers with enhanced visual experience with realness	3.1 Percentage increase of the Centers to be upgraded/ migrated to HD Content (Production & Transmission)	26.19	
	1.3 Number of DTH Set Top Boxes (STBs) to be procured for Remote, Tribal and LWE areas (in lakh)	(The scheme has undergone a change and is now being implement					

		ed in Direct Benefit Transfer mode. As such no procurement of STBs is being envisaged)					
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51. The Committee sought details of the problems witnessed in Doordarshan, during the year 2025-26, along with the steps taken to overcome them and outcome of the same. To this, the Ministry replied as under:-

Major challenges/ hindrances witnessed in Doordarshan	Steps taken to overcome the challenges/ hindrances encountered in Doordarshan	Tangible Outcome of the measures taken to address the challenges/ hindrances encountered in Doordarshan
<p>To be a destination for family and clean entertainment even while remaining relevant in today's world where technological advancements and viewers' taste and preferences are changing drastically.</p> <p>Traditional platforms like radio and television are increasingly complemented by OTT platforms and social media channels. This expanded landscape, with hundreds of channels and numerous OTT platforms, has unfortunately also given rise to content that often</p>	<p>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:</p> <p>They include, inter alia,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Keeping in mind the 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 hain ji, Cyber Crime ki duniya ... bachkrehna, Kakkhusundi Ramayan, Fauji 2, Bhed Bharam... Rahasyon ka mayajaal, Jahan Chand Rehtahai, Rajni 2.0, various musical reality shows/challenges namely Battle of Bands, Battle of Bands – International, Symphony of India, Wah Ustad etc. have been introduced to attract viewers. 4. Extensive OB Coverages: Doordarshan has undertaken a series of ambitious outside broadcasting (OB) initiatives, 	<p>A trusted content pipeline by executing Content Sourcing Policy is being created to address the dearth of fresh content on the channels of Doordarshan Network.</p> <p>Programmes are now actively outsourced in various modes like commissioning, royalty/license fee, sponsorship, revenue sharing mode etc.</p> <p>Now Channels are in the process of complementing their in-house content with outsourced content making their programme bouquet appealing.</p> <p>Content of Doordarshan, through WAVES OTT, are also getting expanded viewership, w.r.t. live channel streaming of Doordarshan Channels as well as over the top content.</p> <p>Social Media handles of Doodarshan Network are getting better reach and visibility now. As a result number of subscribers and followers are significantly increasing. For example, both</p>

<p>trivializes relationships, promotes vulgarity, and indulges in superstitions and sensationalism.</p> <p>As a Public Service Broadcaster, Doordarshan is mandated to inform, educate, and entertain while ensuring balanced broadcasting. Doordarshan faces the dual challenge of adhering to its public service mandate, as outlined in the Prasar Bharati Act, and competing with private television channels/platforms in a commercially viable manner.</p> <p>A significant portion of Prasar Bharati's programming focuses on promoting national development, socio-economic progress, and national integration. The content raises awareness about health, family welfare, environmental preservation, and the empowerment of women, children, and</p>	<p>ranging from the live telecast of significant events such as the WAVES summit 2025 in Mumbai, IFFI 2026 and the ISRO launches to immersive coverage of the Mahakumbh 2025 in Prayagraj.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Baltiboy: Bharat Hain Hum" telecast by Doordarshan Network was mentioned by Hon'ble Prime Minister in his monthly programme "Mann Ki Baat". It successfully completed the telecast of Season 01. Season 02 episodes are being telecast from 01st December 2024 onwards. 7. Doordarshan 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 feel & fresh programmes. Feature films are also introduced to garner viewership. 9. Efforts are going on for transmission of Doordarshan Network Channels in High Definition mode. Presently nine (9) channels namely DD National, DD News, DD India, DD Kisan, DD Sports, DD Tamil, DD Sahyadri, DD Odia, DD Girnar are being telecast in both Standard Definition and High Definition mode. 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 	<p>DD National and DD News YouTube channels have a subscriber base of over 6 million subscribers.</p>
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<p>marginalized communities. This often non commercial programming aligns with Prasar Bharati's commitment to public service and operates within a codified and transparent framework.</p> <p>The integration of advanced technologies such as AI, AR, and VR to cater to changing tastes</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>12. Doordarshan Network has 66 Programme Production Centers across the country with Studio set-up and 28 regional/state channels. Localized content is being created by regional/state centres by hiring local artists/talent and telecast on their respective regional/state channels.</p> <p>13. Significant efforts were undertaken to effectively discharge the role of public service broadcasting in strengthening electoral awareness and informed participation. "Doordarshan" was selected for the ECI Media Award for campaign on voters' awareness and education in the Electronic Media (TV) category during the year 2024 for Lok Sabha Election. The award was presented on the 15th National Voters' Day on 25th January, 2025 by Hon'ble President of India.</p> <p>14. Doordarshan has also focused on enhancing its digital footprints and presence in the social media space.</p> <p>I. Recently Prasar Bharati has launched its own OTT platform "WAVES" and various channels of Doordarshan Network are integrated into the WAVES</p> <p>II. Doordarshan has made a wide presence on Social Media such as YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram. Both DD National and DD News YouTube channels have a subscriber base of over 6 million subscribers.</p> <p>By seamlessly blending cultural values with contemporary formats, Doordarshan continues to innovate and remains a trusted source of family-friendly entertainment amidst an increasingly competitive content landscape.</p>	
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52. The targets set under Doordarshan, for the year 2026-27, are as follows:-

Financial Outlay for the year 2026-27 = Rs. 509.24 crore							
Output Progress		Outcomes 2025-26			Outcome quarterly Progress		
Output	Indicator	Targets 2025-26	Progress till quarter-2	Outcome	Indicators	Targets 2025-26	Yearly Target
2. Setting up of new FM Transmitters for Expansion of reach of Public Service Broadcasting including in Strategic/areas of national interest.	2.1 Total Numbers of FM Transmitters to be installed (1KW, 5KW & 10KW).	30	4. Coverage across India, special emphasis on Border areas and rural population.	4.1 Percentage increase in coverage area of FM terrestrial transmission in the country including J&K and LOC Border.	3.80		
	2.2 Total Numbers of 5KW mobile FM Transmitters to be installed at J&K and LOC Border.	5					
	2.3 Installation of three additional 10 Kw FM transmitters at Pune, Ahmedabad and Rajkot and 1 Kw FM Transmitter at Salumber (Raj.)	4					
3 Additional Studio facility	3.1 Number of studios with programmes. Studio facility at Ujjain Studio. Setting up of Multipurpose Studio at Shivamogga	2					
	3.2 Replacement of Analog Console of Multipurpose (MP) Studios at 68 locations	68					

53. On being asked about the steps taken during last year to enhance its digital footprint and increase presence of Doordarshan content on social media, the Ministry replied as under:-

“All the DD Channels are Digital footprint of their respective channels in the form of YouTube, Instagram, Facebook and X and the views of these channels are increasingly effective in their respective target audience”.

54. Regarding the issue of content, the Ministry was asked to provide details of the concrete outcome of the new policies approved by Prasar Bharati Board (PBB) to streamline content procurement. To this, the reply was as under:-

“Prasar Bharati has framed the Content Sourcing Policy 2024 after incorporation of changes in Content Sourcing Policy 2023 and its subsequent amendment. This has resulted in significant streamlining of content

acquisition, standardized commissioning processes, transparent evaluation systems, cost effective matrix and cost negotiation and defined timelines for processing the proposals. It has accelerated programme approvals and payments in time bound manner. This has also led to acquire content in various modes such as commissioning, royalty/licensing, RSM, Gratis, Sponsorship and App in App integration not for only linear platforms but also for digital platform -the newly launched OTT (Waves PB) for a substantial content pool in a systematic and transparent manner.

High-quality commissioned programmes such as “Bhed Bharam: Rahasyon ka Mayajal,” “Fauji 2.0,” “Sardar: The Game Changer,” and “Kagbhusandi Ramayan” reflect improved creative strength. High quality low cost Programmes and Feature Films such as Chhat, Manushya, UP77 etc has been acquired under Royalty/licensing mode which has been attracting and engaging the audience base of OTT and DD Channels. Revenue Share Model (RSM) framework has also enabled acquisition of films, documentaries and infotainment content with long-term reuse value and reduced financial exposure.

Following the industry practice, Prasar Bharati has recently framed a new Policy namely “The PPV Pilot Framework 2025–26. The model intends a transparent, performance-linked system rewarding creators based on validated audience engagement data through the Waves Analytics System. A Notice Inviting Programme Proposals (NIPP) has already been issued in this regard on 30.10.2025 and is available on the official website of Prasar Bharati.

The policies have strengthened Prasar Bharati’s digital ecosystem by enabling seamless onboarding of content on OTT Waves, enhancing reach and monetization. Overall, the implementation has improved transparency, predictability, accountability, and efficiency in content procurement while positioning Prasar Bharati for a future-ready, multi-platform content strategy”.

55. During evidence, following has been submitted by the Ministry regarding recent initiatives with respect to WAVES OTT Platform:-

- Launch and operationalisation of WAVES OTT
- Strong and sustained user adoption, with over 11 million app downloads and over 7.3 million registered user accounts
- Over 18,000 audio-visual titles, more than 12,000 hours of video and audio content available in 12+ Indian languages
- 130+ live TV and 50+ radio channels
- Digitization and streaming of archival content
- Knowledge and publications ecosystem integration, including 9,000+ e-books, journals and magazines such as Yojana, Kurukshetra, Bal Bharati, Aajkal and Employment News made available digitally, especially in Tier-2, Tier-3 cities and rural areas.
- Broad content partnerships, involving nearly 400 content partners with regular addition of 60–75 new titles per month, ensuring continuous content refresh.

- Formulation of a structured Pay-Per-View (PPV) Policy Framework
- Conceptualisation and creation of MyWAVES, a proposed citizen-creator and participatory content platform
- Integration with government and institutional digital platforms, expanding last-mile access and outreach across the country

56. Regarding plans to make WAVES OTT sustainable, the representative of the Ministry, during evidence, also submitted:-

“वेक्स’ ओटीटी प्लेटफॉर्म में पे-पर-व्यू की पॉलिसी लाई जा रही है, जिससे कि ‘वेक्स’ ओटीटी प्लेटफॉर्म सस्टेनेबल हो और उसे ज्यादा बजटरी सपोर्ट की जरूरत न पड़े। यह ‘वेक्स’ ओटीटी के लैंडिंग पेज की फोटो है और बाँयी ओर ‘इफ्फी’ में फिल्म फेस्टिवल चल रहा था, उसकी लाइव स्क्रीनिंग का दृश्य है”।

57. Adding on the issue of content, following was also submitted by the Ministry, during evidence:-

“I would also like to submit that during this year's Budget announcement, it has been announced that under the overall banner of Indian Institute of Creative Technology and in order to upgrade the skills of the creators across the country, 15,000 Content Creation Labs would be set up in schools and 500 such Labs would be set up in colleges. A Budgetary allocation of Rs. 250 crore has been made for the Financial Year 2026-2027.

This is going to be a very important step because this will not just allow our creators to gain access to the latest tools and technologies, but it will also help the employment and the economic imperative of this very important sector called as ‘Orange Economy’ by our Hon. Prime Minister”.

58. On another issue of asset management in Doordarshan Kendras (DDK), the Ministry was asked to provide details of the assets that are lying idle under DDK along with the steps taken to utilize them for revenue generation. The reply was as under:-

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

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

59. Adding on the progress of asset monetization under the Scheme, the Ministry stated the following while deposing before the Committee:-

“एसेट मोनेटाइजेशन का विषय आया था कि इस योजना की क्या प्रगति है ?हमारे जितने भी लैंड और बिल्डिंग्स एसेट्स हैं ,इसकी सरकार के पोर्टल पर पूरी तरीके से मैपिंग लोकेशन के साथ की जा चुकी है। हमारे पास जियोटैग लोकेशन हैं। बिल्डिंग्स में स्वच्छता अभियान के अंतर्गत पिछले तीन साल की अवधि में एग्जिस्टिंग बिल्डिंग्स में नौ लाख स्क्वेयर फीट

के करीब स्पेस खाली करवाया है जिसमें से करीब सात लाख स्क्वेयर फीट ऑफिस स्पेस है और दो लाख स्क्वेयर के करीब रेजिडेंशियल स्पेस है। विभिन्न संस्थाएं जिनको स्थान की आवश्यकता है और जो बहुत ज्यादा पब्लिक इंटरफेस वाली न हों, हम उनको किराए पर सरप्लस स्पेस उपलब्ध करवा रहे हैं। मैंने पब्लिक इंटरफेस वाली बात इसलिए कही क्योंकि ब्रॉडकास्टिंग एक सेंसिटिव ऑपरेशन है इसलिए बड़ी संख्या में लोगों की आवाजाही होना उचित नहीं है। हमारा प्रयास है कि अगले कुछ महीनों में हमने जितना भी सरप्लस बिल्डअप स्पेस आइडेंटिफाई किया है, इसे किराये पर देकर आय का स्रोत बना सकें।

महोदय, करीब 70 के करीब लैंड एसेट्स हैं, जिनकी वैल्यू करीब 100 करोड़ रुपये है और इन स्थानों पर किस प्रकार से योजनाबद्ध तरीके से डेवलपमेंट या रिडेवलपमेंट की कार्रवाई करके आय का स्रोत बनाया जा सके, इसके लिए हमने विशेषकर टीम डिप्लॉय की है। 70-71 जगहों का प्लान तैयार हो गया है। पांच-छः महीने पहले महाराष्ट्र सरकार के साथ प्रसार भारती का एमओयू साइन हुआ है। आकाशवाणी की जमीन मुम्बई शहर में उपलब्ध है और महाराष्ट्र सरकार से मिलकर ज्वाइंटली फिल्म सिटी डेवलप करने की योजना पर ऑलरेडी काम आरंभ हो चुका है।

महोदय, जहां तक एन्क्रोचमेंट की बात है, हमारी जितनी भी लोकेशन्स हैं, बाउंड्री वॉल की व्यवस्था पहले से है इसलिए हमारी प्रॉपर्टीज के साथ एन्क्रोचमेंट की कोई समस्या नहीं है और न ही एन्क्रोचमेंट से संबंधित किसी कोर्ट में केस चल रहा है।

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

60. An amount of Rs. 500 crore allocated to Prasar Bharati in BE 2025-26, out of which an amount of Rs.94.76 Crore has been allocated to Akashvani against which an expenditure of Rs.34.66 Crore has been incurred till November, 2025. The Budgetary allocation and utilization for the AIR for the last four years are as follows:-

(Rs. in crore)					
AIR					
Year	BE	RE	AE	AE % w.r.t BE	AE % w.r.t RE
2022-23	160.51	71.69	63.06	39.29%	87.96%
2023-24	78.88	42.38	30.48	38.64%	71.92%
2024-25	145.02	89.09	56.90	39.24%	63.87%
2025-26	94.76	99.71(Tentative)	34.66	36.58%	34.76%
2026-27					
\$Expenditure upto November, 2025					

61. The Ministry was asked to provide details of the problems witnessed by AIR, during the year 2025-26, along with the steps taken to overcome them. To this, the Ministry replied as under:-

“Most of the broadcast equipment are imported with no production in India. Make –in –India (MII) clause exemptions are to be taken for each project in regard to Broadcast Equipment. This procedure takes considerable time.

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

In addition to above, a dedicated IPMC (Integrated Project Monitoring Cell) has been created under the chairmanship of CEO (PB) to monitor the progress of projects and improvement in their implementation”.

62. On the issue of importing broadcast equipment, the Ministry during evidence added:-

“काफी ब्रॉडकास्ट इक्विपमेंट्स इंपोर्ट भी करने पड़ते हैं, क्योंकि भारत में यह इक्विपमेंट नहीं बनते हैं। ऐसे सभी प्रकरणों में हमें कंपीटेंट अथॉरिटी से इंपोर्ट की परमिशन मेक इन इंडिया के एक्जेंम्पशंस मिल चुके हैं और यह कार्रवाई हमारी तेजी से जारी है। मुझे विश्वास है कि हमारे पास जो उपलब्ध संसाधन हैं, उनका हम पूरी तरह से उपयोग कर पाएंगे”।

63. When asked about the shortcomings in AIR and the grievances of the AIR employees, the Ministry replied as:-

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

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

Public grievances and pension redressal petitions are being attended to promptly and disposed of at the earliest. In this regard an SOP on 27/05/2021 is issued to handle the grievances on CPGRAMS Portal.

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

64. The updated status of the AIR stations in the Country along with the status of their digitization, as furnished by the Ministry, are as under:-

“As on date, Akashvani has 230 stations with studio and 361 relay stations without studio. Out of 230 stations, studios at 127 stations have been digitalized in 2 phases. Out of this, 98 major stations were digitalized in 10th plan and due for replacement.

Studio at 15 stations have been set up as digital studios in current plan. Empowered Committee has approved digitization of studios at 68 stations and targeted to be digitized in FY 2026-27.

Rest of the studios (20 new) and 98 major stations for replacement would be digitized in next plan”.

65. Regarding expansion of AIR in border areas, the Ministry during evidence, submitted as under:-

“साथ ही साथ ये बॉर्डर एरियाज में जो हमारे ऑल इंडिया रेडियो के स्टेशंस हैं, उनको बढ़ाने के लिए एक पूरा ज्योग्राफिकल मैपिंग हम लोगों ने की है। साथ ही साथ उसका हमने एक प्लान भी बनाया हुआ है ताकि जो हमारी बाइंड स्कीम है, जो प्रसार भारती के द्वारा इम्प्लीमेंट की जाती है, उसके तहत न केवल उन ट्रांसमिटर्स के आउटपुट को हम बढ़ा सकें और उसके स्प्रेड को बढ़ा सकें, ताकि एक्सेस बॉर्डर एरियाज में किया जाए”।

(c) HUMAN RESOURCE IN PRASAR BHARATI

66. While examining previous DFG (2025-26), the status of vacancies in Akashvani and Doordarshan, as provided by the Ministry, was as under:-

Units	Sanctioned Strength	In-position	Vacant
All India Radio	26,129	9,878	16,251
Doordarshan	19,662 (excluding 2,038 posts which were abolished under ADRP's 2002 to 2008-09)	5,692	13,970
Total	45,791	15,570	30,221

67. Current status of vacancies in Akashvani and Doordarshan is as under:-

Units	Sanctioned Strength	In-position	Vacant
All India Radio	26,129	9,648	16,481
Doordarshan	19,662	5,545	14,117
Total	45,791	15,193	30,598

68. While observing that there are 14,117 posts vacant in Doordarshan and 16,481 in AIR, the Ministry was asked to explain the steps taken to cater to the Manpower needs of the AIR and Doordarshan along with the road map to fill the vacancies. To this, they responded as under:-

“To assess optimal number of posts in various streams and levels as per the current and future requirement of Prasar Bharati, the exercise of HR Transformation is being carried out in consultation with a manpower audit agency. Only on conclusion and acceptance of the recommendations of this exercise, a clear picture on the vacancies to be filled will emerge and, accordingly, regular recruitment would be carried out as per finalised

recruitment plan. However, to tide over the acute shortage, PB 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”.

69. It is observed that the aforesaid response is similar to the one that was furnished during examination of previous DFG (2025-26). In fact, the Ministry, in their Final Action Taken Statement, on the issue [in 19th ATR (Action Taken Report) on 11th Report on DFG (2025-26)] had submitted that the HR Transformation exercise was being implemented in two phases. The first phase, which focuses on organizational assessment and workforce planning, is nearing completion; all deliverables have been submitted by the agency, and a consolidated report is being finalised. Upon consideration and approval of the Phase-I recommendations by the Competent Authority, Phase-II will commence. Hence, the Ministry was asked to furnish the updated status with respect to the submission made in above-mentioned FATS on 19th ATR on 11th Report on DFG (2025-26) [SCCIT (2024-25)]. The Ministry was also asked to provide reasons for delay in conclusion of the exercise undertaken for HR Transformation along with the exact timeline by when the action will be completed on the recommendations made by HR Transformation exercise. The Secretary, in his deposition before the Committee, submitted as under:-

“दूरदर्शन के मामले में जहाँ तक वैकेंसीज़ का सवाल है, हमने ये पूरी जो रेशनलाइज़ेशन की प्रक्रिया की है, उसमें दूरदर्शन में अभी जो हम भारत सरकार की तरफ से बजट देते हैं, उससे उन एम्प्लॉईज़ की सैलरीज़ देते हैं, जो प्रसार भारती एक्ट के पहले भारत सरकार के द्वारा नियुक्त किए गए थे। अभी भी उनकी तनखाह, वेजेस, सैलरीज़ एंड अलाउंसेस गवर्नमेंट ऑफ़ इंडिया के द्वारा भुगतान किए जाते हैं, पर आने वाले समय में वह स्टाफ कम होता जाएगा, और हो रहा है। वर्ष 2030 तक वह प्रसार भारती स्टाफ सिर्फ 10 प्रतिशत के करीब रह जाएगा। चूंकि यह एक स्वतंत्र संगठन है, इसलिए इसे अपने कर्मचारियों को नियुक्त करने और अपने संचालन के लिए अपने स्वयं के संसाधनों को जुटाना होगा। यह एक्सरसाइज यहाँ पर चल रही है और हम कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि आने वाले समय में प्रसार भारती को भारत सरकार की तरफ से जो हम सपोर्ट दे रहे हैं, उस सपोर्ट का एक अमाउंट तय करें और उस अमाउंट के तहत प्रसार भारती अपनी पूरी एक्टिविटीज़ को चलाए”।

70. The Ministry also added:-

“अंतिम बिंदु जो आपकी तरफ से मैनेपॉवर ऑडिट के संबंध में था। मैनेपॉवर ऑडिट की हमारी कार्रवाई पूरी हो चुकी है। दोनों मीडिया यूनिट्स, आकाशवाणी और दूरदर्शन दोनों को मिलाकर, पूर्व की हमारी सैंक्शन स्ट्रैथ तकरीबन 45,000 की थी। यह बात सच है कि उस 45,000 की संख्या के विरुद्ध हमारे पास आज जो मैनेपॉवर उपलब्ध है, उसकी संख्या लगभग 15,000 यानी लगभग एक तिहाई की रेंज में है। लगभग 46 साल पहले जब यह सैंक्शन स्ट्रैथ बनी थी, उस समय से लेकर अब तक टेक्नोलॉजी में काफी कुछ सुधार किया

जा चुका है। इस टेक्नोलॉजी डेवलपमेंट के कारण आज हमें उतनी बड़ी संख्या में लोगों की आवश्यकता नहीं है। हमने मैनपावर ऑडिट में जो पूर्व की सैंक्शन स्ट्रेंथ थी, उससे लगभग एक तिहाई से एक चौथाई की संख्या का एक अनुमान किया है और इसकी डिटेलिंग का काम भी लगभग कंप्लीट किया जा चुका है। इस वर्ष हम लोग यह कार्रवाई पूरी करके हमारे नए स्ट्रक्चर्स के हिसाब से अपनी स्टाफिंग का काम पूरा करने की उम्मीद रखते हैं”।

71. Regarding measures taken to increase presence of Doordarshan content on social media, expanding content and to promote local and regional language content during last year, the Ministry replied as under:-

“Doordarshan and its regional channels are present on all major social media platforms such as YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and X.

Content such as shorts, reels, etc, are posted at regular intervals to make people aware about shows and programs.

There is consistency in posting of content and content are posted in a timely manner.

New formats of thumbnails have been created. Due to better description and use of hashtag, searchability of the content has increased. Newer formats such as explainers, infographics, etc are used to cater to the younger audience.

Quizzes and polls are frequently posted to engage with younger audience.

To enhance regional outreach, content produced by Doordarshan Kendras and Regional News Units across states is increasingly disseminated on digital platforms in respective Indian languages. This ensures wider accessibility, promotes local culture and issues, and improves engagement with audiences at the state level”.

(ii) SUPPORTING COMMUNITY RADIO MOVEMENT IN INDIA

72. Community Radio (CR) is an important third tier in Radio Broadcasting, distinct from Public Service Radio broadcasting and Commercial Radio. Community Radio Stations (CRSs) are low-power Radio Stations, which are meant to be set up and operated by local communities. In December 2002, the Government of India approved a policy for the grant of license, for setting up of CRS, to well established educational institutions. The CR provides a platform for communities to air local voices on issues concerning Health, Nutrition, Education, Agriculture, etc. Since the Community Radio broadcast is in local languages and dialects, people are able to relate to it instantly. To support the Community Radio Movement, a Central Sector Scheme namely “Supporting Community Radio Movement in India” had been approved with an outlay of Rs. 50 crores for a period of 5 years i.e. from 2021- 2026. The Scheme aims to strengthen new and existing CRSs with resources, capacity and technology in order to upgrade the standard of the stations and increase reach and visibility to the interior regions of India. This would help promote growth of CRS in remote and rural areas thereby aiding socio-

economic and cultural development of communities by using CRS as a powerful medium of social mobilization. The scheme therefore aims to revitalize new and existing CRSs by providing required funds for resources, capacity and technology thereby increasing effectiveness of operational community radio stations.

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

(Rs. in crore)					
Supporting Community Radio					
Year	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. BE	% w.r.t. RE
2022-23	3.84	3.00	2.00	52.08	66.66
2023-24	5.00	5.00	4.24	84.80	84.80
2024-25	5.00	14.73	7.65	153	51.93
2025-26\$	17.40	8.00	4.52	25.98	56.50
2026-27	8.00	-	-	-	-
(\$) Actual expenditure as 08.01.2026					

74. When asked for the achievements and shortcomings under Thrust areas set for the year 2026-27, the Ministry replied as under:-

“In this year, 01 National Community Radio Sammelan and 01 Regional Sammelan have been organized. 05 Community Radio Awareness workshops have been organized especially in CR Dark Areas. Besides this, grants have been released to 34 Community Radio Stations. In the last quarter of this FY, 02 Regional Sammelans are also planned to be conducted. It is also observed that due to lack of awareness there has been less demand for grants. The major thrust areas for the scheme is to increase the number of stations in CR dark areas”.

75. Regarding achievements of CRS during the last three years, the Ministry during evidence deposited as under:-

“Total no. of operational CRS -560 (By Jan 2026)
 Number of Community Radio Stations (CRSs) made operational – 162
 Number of Letters of Intent (Lols) issued-210
 Number of CRSs provided with financial assistance-121
 Revision of the Scheme ‘Supporting Community Radio Movement in India’
 Proposed to extend for the period 2026-27 to 2030-31 with a total proposed allocation of Rs. 50 crore”.

76. During evidence, the Ministry also submitted the following w.r.t Community Radio Station:-

“For community radio, our focus is to at least have one Community Radio Station in each district of the country. For that, a lot of efforts are still going to be made”.

VI. FILM SECTOR

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

77. The AVGC Promotion Task Force was set up by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in April 2022 after the Union Budget announcement. It brought together industry and government to outline how India could scale skills, jobs and investment in animation, VFX, gaming and comics; and position the country as a global hub for M&E industry. The Task Force submitted its report in December 2022, recommending a National AVGC Mission, Centres of Excellence, stronger infrastructure and dedicated support for Indian IP and exports. IICT Mumbai has been established and is being developed as a specialised Centre of Excellence to strengthen high-end training and research.

78. With a focus on expanding high-quality production capacity, developing talent and improving access to international markets, WAVES 2025 was held in May 2025 as a global platform for the entire Media & Entertainment sector. Further, three verticals of WAVES platform are supporting the AVGC sector as follows:

- i. WAVES Bazaar - an year-round, hybrid global marketplace for India's media and entertainment sector. It enables structured B2B meetings, co-production deals and showcasing of Indian films, animation, gaming, VFX and XR content to international buyers.
- ii. WAVEX - A dedicated startup accelerator and incubator for AVGC-XR and emerging media technologies. It provides early-stage studios access to mentorship, advanced production and immersive-tech infrastructure, and curated investor linkages to help them scale and secure global projects. At WAVES Summit 2025, it facilitated pitching for 30 startups to investors like Microsoft and Unicorn India Ventures, while providing exhibition space for over 100 startups to engage with international studios. Through partnerships with T-Hub and IICT, it currently incubates startups, supports government pilots via innovation challenges like Bhashasetu, and provides global exposure through platforms like IFFI, successfully aiding startups in securing foreign investment and validating Indian IP abroad.
- iii. Creatosphere - Annual Create in India challenges that runs 30–35 national competitions across animation, gaming, webtoons and digital storytelling. It serves as a talent-discovery platform, nurturing new creators and connecting them with mentorship, incubation and industry opportunities”.

79. As furnished by the Ministry, the timeline and targets fixed for NCoE/Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT)/ WAVES (World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit) along with the outcome of the initiatives taken under them are:-

Date/FY	Timeline for 'Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT)/ WAVES (World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit)
19.09.2024	The Union Cabinet, on 19.09.2024, approved for setting up of a National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) for Animation, Visual Effects (VFX), Gaming, Comics and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR) Sector as a Section 8 Company under the Companies Act, 2013, in India with a one-time budgetary support of Rs.391.15 Cr.
08.10.2024	Govt. of Maharashtra, vide a Lease Deed dated 08.10.2024 has provided 10-acre land in Mumbai for this purpose.
25.12.2024	The NCoE AVGC-XR, now rechristened as the Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT) to be established in Mumbai, has been incorporated as a Section 8 Company on 25.12.2024.
17.03.2025	The one-time budgetary support of Rs.391.15 Cr. has been Sanctioned by the Ministry vide Sanction letter dated 17.03.2025.
11.04.2025	The MoU for setting up of IICT, Mumbai, to be signed between the MoI&B and the Govt. of Maharashtra through Maharashtra Film, Stage & Cultural Development Corporation Ltd. (MFSCDCL) signed.
01.05.2025 to 04.05.2025	WAVES 2025 held in Mumbai.
09.09.2025	Establishment of WAVES Verticals i.e. WaveX, Creatoshpere and WAVES Bazaar at Sochna Bhawan, New Delhi.

80. Year-wise proposed targets for IICT/WAVES, as furnished by the Ministry are as under:-

FY	Tentative Targets
2026-27	IICT, Mumbai to be recognized deemed university under "Distinct Institution" category focusing on 17 specialized courses across Animation, VFX, Gaming, and Comics.
2027-28	IICT, Mumbai to be located in its permanent campus and established as a complete university.
	WAVES 2027

2028-29	IICT, Mumbai to fully function as the hub of AVGC-XR in India.
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81. The initiatives taken/planned under AVGC Sector for formulation of a Policy/ guidelines with respect to ‘Animation, Visual Effects (VFX), Gaming, Comics And Extended Reality (AVGC-XR) are:-

“The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has taken several initiatives for policy formulation and ecosystem development in the Animation, VFX, Gaming, Comics and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR) sector. Following the Union Budget 2022–23 announcement, an AVGC Promotion Task Force was constituted in April 2022 with Government and industry representation. The Task Force submitted its report in December 2022, recommending a National AVGC Policy/Mission, Centres of Excellence, strengthened skilling and infrastructure, and focused support for Indian IP and exports. Based on these recommendations, the Indian Institute of Creative Technology (IICT), Mumbai, has been established as a Centre of Excellence for advanced training and research in AVGC-XR.

Additionally, WAVES 2025 was organised as a global platform for the Media & Entertainment sector, with dedicated verticals—WAVES Bazaar, WAVEX and Creatosphere—supporting market access, startup incubation, talent discovery and *Create in India* challenges for the AVGC sector.

These initiatives collectively support the formulation of a structured policy and guideline framework for the AVGC-XR sector. Further, a dedicated mission for Media and Entertainment Sector (including AVGC Sector) is under consideration”.

82. Recent initiatives regarding WAVES, as enumerated during evidence, are as under:-

<p><u>“WAVES 2025 (1st to 4th May, 2025, Mumbai):</u> To make India a global hub of content creation. 1 lakh participants from over 100 countries. 10,000+ delegates, 1,000 creators, 300+ companies, 350+ startups; 140 sessions - 50 plenaries, 35 master classes & 55 breakout sessions Global Media Dialogue – 77 nations; WAVES Declaration adopted to promote media for peace and digital inclusion. MoUs worth Rs 8 thousand Crore were signed by Maharashtra Govt. for investments in film cities, creative tech education & live entertainment infrastructure</p> <p><u>Create in India Challenge (CIC):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create in India Challenges (Season I)

- 33 challenges attracting over one lakh entries from India and more than 60 countries.
- Over 750 finalists showcased across eight creative zones at WAVES Creatosphere.
- Masterclasses, competitions and live showcases.
- International exposure of CIC winners at Melbourne, Osaka, Toronto (TIFF), Tokyo Game Show, Madrid (Iber series).

WaveX

- Supported more than 200 startups and nearly 100 startups showcased their solutions.
- Innovation challenges such as KalaaSetu and BhashaSetu.
- Startup Incubation Program
- Launched with WAVES in May 2025; pitching opportunity to Top 30 startups and showcase platform to 100+ startups across national and international events.
- IIT Delhi and T-Hub onboarded as Master Incubators.
- 9 incubation centres operational across IIMC campuses, SRFTI, FTII and IICT Mumbai, offering hybrid and physical incubation support.
- 50+ startups currently benefiting from WaveX programs.

WAVES Bazaar

- Enabled over 9 thousand B2B meetings by functioning as a marketplace for scripts, music, comics and AV rights, creating new revenue streams
- Aug–Dec 2025 outreach across 12 international + 4 domestic events.
- ₹4,334 crore in potential business discussions, 10 MoUs/Lols signed + 3 proposed.
- Key markets: Venice, TIFF, Busan, Tokyo Game Show, Gamescom, MIPCOM, Red Sea Film Festival, Focus London, ATF Singapore; domestic: IFFI/WAVES Film Bazaar, India Joy, IGDC, Big Picture Summit.

WAVES Creators Corner at AI Impact Summit 2026

- The MIB Pavilion at AI Impact Summit 2026 - WAVES Creators Corner stands out as a key highlight of India's expanding creative economy, hosting a series of structured panels, fireside chats and startup showcases.
- In the India AI Impact Expo 2026, 51 startups from India's AVGC-XR and Media Tech sector showcased AI-powered innovations at the WAVES Creators Corner.

Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT) :

- A National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) for Animation, Visual Effects (VFX), Gaming, Comics and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR) with a one-time budgetary support of ₹391.15 crore was approved by the Union Cabinet on 19 September 2024.
- The Centre has been named as Indian Institute of Creative Technologies

(IICT)

- Follows a public-private partnership model, with FICCI and CII as industry partners.
- First phase of operations since 18th July 2025 at the IICT-NFDC Mumbai campus
- Permanent 10-acre campus at Film City, Goregaon (Under Construction), featuring a state-of-the-art Immersive Studio
- Total number of students :143(as on date)

83. Providing further details and the latest developments under WAVES, the Secretary, during evidence submitted as under:-

“...आगे प्रेजेंटेशन में मैं बताना चाहूंगा कि एमआईबी के अचीवमेंट्स में हमने वेक्स आयोजित 1 से 4 मई, 2025 को मुंबई में आयोजित किया था। जिसमें एक लाख से ज्यादा पार्टिसिपेंट्स आए और करीब दस हजार से ज्यादा डेलिगेट्स थे। एक हजार से ज्यादा क्रिएटर्स थे। 140 सैशंस हुए, जिसमें 50 प्लेनरी सैशन्स थे। 35 मास्टर क्लासेस थे जो कि बहुत पॉपुलर थे, फुल हाउस रहे और 55 ब्रेकआउट सैशंस हुए। इसमें ग्लोबल मीडिया डायलॉग हुआ, जिसमें 77 देशों ने भाग लिया और उनके अप्रूवल के साथ 'वेक्स' डेक्लरेशन को अडॉप्ट किया। With their approval, we adopted WAVES Declaration to promote media for peace and digital inclusion. इस दौरान करीब आठ हजार करोड़ रुपये के एमओयू साइन हुए। भारत पर्व में कल्चरल प्रोग्राम हुए थे।

'वेक्स' का ही सब पार्ट क्रिएट इन इंडिया था, जिसमें 33 विषयों पर चैलेंज ऑर्गेनाइज किए गए थे। उसमें एक लाख से ज्यादा एंटीज आई थीं। उसमें 60 से ज्यादा कंट्रीज के लोगों ने भाग लिया था। हम लोगों ने 750 फाइनालिस्ट को वेक्स फंक्शन में क्रिएटोस्फीयर करके जो पवेलियन था, उसमें उनको जगह दी। वहां पर उन्होंने अपना प्रदर्शन किया। हम क्रिएटोस्फीयर के जो विनर्स हैं, उनको इंटरनेशनल एक्सपोजर भी दे रहे हैं। क्रिएट इन इंडिया चैलेंज में जो विन हुए थे, उनको हम लोग अब डिफ्रेंट वर्ल्ड प्लेटफॉर्म पर एक्सपोजर दे रहे हैं।

सर, ये क्रिएटोस्फीयर के कुछ फोटोज हैं। वेव-एक्स जिसके अंदर हम लोग, जो नये स्टार्ट-अप्स हैं, उनको मेंटर और प्रमोट कर रहे हैं। जैसे एआई के इस्तेमाल से वीडियो बनाने के लिए चैलेंज हुआ था 'कलासेतु' और ट्रांसलेशन रियल टाइम डिफ्रेंट लैंग्वेज में करने के लिए 'भाषा सेतु' हुआ था। करीब 100 प्लस स्टार्ट-अप्स को हमने प्रमोट किया है। आईआईटी, दिल्ली और टी-हब, ये दोनों मास्टर इंक्यूबेटर की तरह काम कर रहे हैं। 9 इंक्यूबेशन सेंटर्स में हमारे जो डिफ्रेंट इंस्टिट्यूशन्स हैं, आईआईएमसी, एसआरएफटीआई, एफटीआईआई और आईआईसीटी, इन इंस्टिट्यूशन्स में हम इनको इंक्यूबेट कर रहे हैं। आईआईटी, दिल्ली और टी-हब, दोनों ही इस इंक्यूबेशन में काफी मदद कर रहे हैं। करीब 50 प्लस स्टार्ट-अप्स की वेव-एक्स प्रोग्राम में मेंटरिंग चल रही है।

सर, इसमें वेव-एक्स के प्रोग्राम और आईआईसीटी में उनके लिए जो इंक्यूबेशन सेंटर्स हैं, उसके फोटोग्राफ्स हैं। 'वेक्स' का ही एक पार्ट 'वेक्स बाजार' है, जिसमें हम फिल्म और मीडिया कंटेंट को बढ़ावा देते हैं। इसमें करीब 9,000 से ज्यादा बी-टू-बी मीटिंग्स हुई हैं और 12 इंटरनेशनल और 4 डोमेस्टिक इवेंट्स में हमने इसको प्रमोट किया है। उसमें करीब 4,300 करोड़ रुपये के पोर्टेशियल बिजनेस डिस्कशन्स हुए और एमओयू साइन हुए। इस 'वेक्स बाजार' के अंतर्गत हम लोग कई

इंटरनेशनल फिल्म फेस्टिवल में भाग ले रहे हैं। जैसे वेनिस, बुसान, टोक्यो, म्पिकॉम आदि हम कई जगह जा रहे हैं”।

84. When asked for details of the States/UTs who participated in WAVES Summit and those selected to be part of the WAVES vision, the post-evidence reply of the Ministry was found to be silent on this aspect.

85. With respect to Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT), the Secretary, during evidence submitted as under:-

“Institute of Creative Technologies -as the Hon’ble Committee is aware, much of the creative work today lies at the intersection of art and technology. In order to address the skill gaps that exist in this sector, the Indian Institute of Creative Technologies, which was approved by the Union Cabinet, has now been established at the NFDC campus, where activities have already commenced. We were able to make this institution operational within a very limited span of six months. At present, we have more than 100 students enrolled and a large number of master trainers undergoing training at the Indian Institute of Creative Technologies. In addition, the permanent campus of the Indian Institute of Creative Technologies is proposed to be set up at Film City in Goregaon over the next couple of years. These institutions are, therefore, effectively working towards addressing the skill gaps in the media and entertainment segment”.

86. On the issue of AI-integration (Artificial Intelligence) in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the Ministry had informed during examination of previous DFG (2025-26), 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.

87. When asked for the details of the roadmap for AI-integration (Artificial Intelligence) and for harnessing benefits of AI in content creation, programming, broadcasting are as under:-

“Under the WAVES Platform, WaveX (A high-intensity accelerator connecting AI-focused M&E startups with global capital) has launched “Kalaa Setu” and “Bhasha Setu” to invite AI startups to build a real-time multilingual multimedia content generation solution for prompt citizen outreach.

Under Kalaa Setu and Bhasha Setu, 10 startups have been selected, and their AI-enabled services are currently being utilized on a pilot basis by various media units, including the Press Information Bureau (PIB), Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Doordarshan (DD), Akashvani, New Media Wing, and Publications Division. The services being tested include translation of press releases and articles into regional languages, video creation, subtitle generation, voice-overs, e-Books, audio books, audio dubbing in regional languages.

Based on the outcomes of the pilot, a limited RFP is proposed to be floated shortly for empaneling the selected startups to provide AI-based services to these media units on a regular basis.

Further, positioning WAVES as a platform for “entertainment economics and technology”, MoI&B has launched Creatosphere (An AI-driven immersion and co-creation zone), which is part of the broader ecosystem for tech (including AI) adoption in M&E.

Doordarshan:

DD News has constituted a committee to explore and evaluate the various opportunities for integrating AI technologies into the channel operations. Potential applications under consideration include AI anchors, voice-over services, and other innovative uses of artificial intelligence that could enhance content delivery and audience engagement”.

88. Updating on this issue, the Ministry while deposing before the Committee, submitted the following:-

“पहला यह कि लगभग 2 साल पहले हमारे डीडी किसान चैनल पर ए.आई. एंकर हम ला चुके हैं। हमने उसको एक्सपेरिमेंटल बेसिस पर किया था और हमने उसे भूमि नाम दिया था। हम दो साल से डीडी किसान चैनल पर ए. आई. एंकर के ऊपर भी काम कर रहे थे, लेकिन ए.आई. एंकर ए. आई .की कैपेबिलिटीज़ का पूर्ण उपयोग नहीं है। उससे काफी अधिक काम हो सकता है। हम लोगों ने एक न्यूज़ रूम अपग्रेडेशन का प्रोजेक्ट टेक अप किया है। उसके टैंडर वगैरा कंप्लीट हो गए हैं और इसी सप्ताह में उसके ऑर्डर्स जारी किए गए हैं। हमें उम्मीद है कि हम अगले तीन से चार महीने के भीतर एक पूरा ए. आई. इक्विपड न्यूज़ रूम तैयार कर पाएंगे। जिससे कि ट्रांसलेशन, ट्रांसलिटिरेशन, डबिंग, सबटाइटलिंग और अन्य जितने भी काम ए.आई. के माध्यम से ज्यादा गति से किए जा सकते हैं, वह करने में अगले तीन से चार महीने में हम पूरी तरह से एक्ज़ॉस द नेटवर्क सक्षम हो जाएंगे”।

89. When asked if the Ministry had any plan to explore the possibility of appointing a Nodal AI officer solely responsible for all AI matters and coordination for other Ministries/Departments, it was stated:-

“The Ministry has designated the Joint Secretary (Industry), M/o I&B as the Nodal Officer for AI-related matters. In addition, OSD (AI-Hub). M/o I&B has been appointed as nodal officer for AI-Hub (Bhasha Setu/Kala Setu). Further, Digital Media Section, M/o I&B is looking after the matters related to AI”.

VII. INFORMATION SECTOR

(i) Press Information Bureau (PIB)

90. The Press Information Bureau (PIB) is the nodal agency of the Government of India to disseminate information to the 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 the reaction of people as reflected in the media. It also advises the Government on

communication strategies best suited to meet the needs of the media. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has set up Fact Check Unit under PIB in November, 2019, in order to monitor and arrest the circulation and dissemination of factually incorrect/doctored news and information over different modes of news media and social media platforms, which often mislead people on various issues. The mandate of the PIB Fact Check Unit is to provide the official/authentic version of any news doing rounds on various media platforms by making available the factually correct information in the public domain. The Budgetary allocations at Budget Estimate and Revised Estimate stage along with the Actual Expenditure (hereinafter referred to as BE, RE and AE) for PIB for last four years viz. 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 along with the allocations made for the year 2026-27 at BE stage, are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)					
(PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU)					
Year	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. BE	% w.r.t. RE
2022-23	107.48	108.53	100.38	93.39%	92.49%
2023-24	111.46	111.05	103.81	93.14%	93.48%
2024-25	121.99	112.57	111.72	91.58%	99.24%
2025-26*	115.09	122.58	93.35	81.11%	76.15%
2026-27	129.75	-	-	-	-

91. The Fact Check Unit receives communication/messages from the public at large through WhatsApp (+918799711259), email (pibfactcheck@gmail.com), Twitter (@PIBFactCheck) and PIB's website (www.pib.gov.in). These fact-checks are available at <https://x.com/PIBFactCheck>. The fact-checked content by PIB FCU is taken up with the concerned social media platforms for appropriate action under rule 3(1)(b) of the IT Rules, 2021.

92. Regarding the mandate of Fact Check Unit (FCU), the representative of the Ministry submitted as:-

“....जो फैक्ट चेक यूनिट पीआईबी का है, उसका मैनडेट गवर्नमेंट ऑफ इंडिया है। जैसा आप बता रहे हैं कि पूरी गवर्नमेंट ऑफ इंडिया के मेटेरियल्स को हैंडल करना, उसमें फैक्ट चेक होता है, लेकिन जो जनरल सिटिजंस है, they covered under the definition of ‘user’ in the MeitY Act. माइटी में जो भी ग्रीवांस रिड्रेसल होती है, वह उसके थ्रू होती है। दूसरा, यदि बीएनएस के थ्रू एफआईआर होती है, तो वह बीएनएस प्रोसेस में होती है”।

93. With respect to achievements of Fact Check Unit (FCU), following was submitted during evidence:-

“...अगर हम पीआईबी की बात करें तो पीआईबी में ऑपरेशन सिंदूर के दौरान राउंड द क्लॉक फैक्ट चेक यूनिट ने काम किया। उन्होंने न केवल फेक न्यूज को रोका बल्कि एडिटेड वीडियो, मिस इंफॉर्मेशन, प्रोपेगेंडा, इन सबको जल्दी से जल्दी पकड़ कर उसको स्विफ्ट रिब्यूटल किया। करीब 1400 यूआरएल ब्लॉक किए गए। फैक्ट चेक ऑपरेशन सिंदूर के समय काफी एक्टिव रहा। इसके अलावा पीआईबी ने मीडिया आउटरीच फॉर विकसित भारत, 2025 ऑर्गेनाइज किया, जिसमें कई प्रेस टूर डिफ्रेंट स्टेट्स में ऑर्गेनाइज किए गए”।

94. Clarifying on the stay by the Bombay High Court on FCU, the representative of the Ministry deposed as under:-

“आप जिस फैक्ट चेक यूनिट का उल्लेख कर रहे हैं, जो आईटी एक्ट की गाइडलाइंस में थी, that has been stayed by the Bombay High Court. At present, what is functioning is the fact-check unit under the Press Information Bureau. Under the PIB fact-check unit, any information relating to the Government of India that has the potential to create misinformation is examined and verified.

As far as the IT Act and the Intermediary Guidelines are concerned, the domain assigned to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting primarily relates to IT content and media content connected with news and media outlets. To that extent, we make use of the relevant provisions for removing content under certain considerations. In addition, the domain of OTT platforms has also been delegated to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

During the past year, on the basis of Section 294 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Section 4 of the Indecent Representation of Women Act, 25 OTT platforms were blocked initially, and subsequently another 18 platforms were blocked. At present, more than 10 to 15 platforms are under examination, and blocking orders are continuously being issued against OTT apps and content circulating in online media. This is the action being taken by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting”.

95. During evidence, while discussing myriad issues relating to the role of Fact Check Unit under PIB and action taken for the Grievance related to women and child under Section 294 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Section 4 of the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act; Section 79(3)(b) of the IT Act, the Ministry submitted as under:-

“After the Bombay High Court stayed the fact-check unit, we filed an SLP in the Supreme Court and are contesting the matter there. To that extent, action is being taken.

At present, Section 79 of the IT Act is also being used to remove the safe-harbour protection granted to intermediaries. Action is being taken under that provision as well, not only by us but also by several other Ministries. Many Central and State Government organisations have been authorised by MeitY

under Section 79, and action is being taken accordingly. However, regarding the central fact-check unit that was to be set up under the IT Act, since it has been stayed by the Bombay High Court, we have filed an SLP before the Honourable Supreme Court. xxxx.....xxxx.....xxxxx

..... आपने जिस रेगुलेटरी गैप्स की बात कही है, वह बिल्कुल सही है। The efforts are now being made within the Ministry to come up with broad regulatory measures to control online media platforms. As far as OTTs are concerned, various courts have mentioned the need for a civil redressal mechanism. At present, we are ensuring that OTT content is moderated within the limits of the existing provisions. However, there is indeed a regulatory gap, which we have already stated before the Committee. xxxx.....xxxx.....xxxxx Yes, Sir, you are right. There is a regulatory gap, and we have already placed this before the Committee. We believe action can be taken in this regard”.

VIII. NORTH EASTERN REGION (NER)

96. The detailed statement of BE, RE and AE of funds marked for North-East Region for the last four years, along with the allocations made for the year 2026-27, as furnished by the Ministry are:-

(Rs. In crore)					
Year	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. BE	% w.r.t. RE
2022-23	63.00	63.90	25.24	40.06	39.49
2023-24	110.50	102.73	86.80	78.55	84.49
2024-25	100.43	98.40	64.10	63.82	65.14
2025-26	111.85	117.84	30.71@	27.45	26.16
2026-27	111.21	-	-	-	-
@ (Exp. as on 31.12.2025)					

97. Details of financial allocations and utilisation under all the Schemes/projects being implemented by MIB in North-East Region for the last three years are as under:-

Scheme	2023-24			2024-25			2025-26		
	BE	RE	AE	BE	RE	AE	BE	RE	AE*
DCID	20.00	19.73	17.52	14.93	16.93	12.91	23.81	17.00	6.37
DCDFC	30.00	35.00	35.07	35.00	40.00	23.00	36.30	45.00	1.22
CRS	0.50	0.50	0.13	0.50	1.47	0.69	1.74	0.84	0.33
BIND	60.00	47.50	34.08	50.00	40.00	27.50	50.00	55.00	26.25
*(Upto 01.01.2026)									

98. On being asked for the reasons for under-utilisation during the last three years, the Ministry has replied as under:-

Reasons for low expenditure in FY 2023-24.

SITC (**S**upply, **I**nstallation, **T**esting, and **C**ommissioning) project of 50,000 Nos. of Set-top boxes for NE Region (Tripura-17,000, Nagaland-13,000 and Assam-20,000).

Multiple attempts were made for tender procurement of 1,20,000 DTH sets for distribution in tribal, remote and LWE areas. The Technical evaluation of tenders received d towards procurement of 1.2 Lakh DTH Receive sets (Non-CAS) + 7.5 Lakh DTH receive sets envisaged to be procured under Project mode was completed. But, SITC order placement process was put on hold due to changes in the methodology of distribution of DTH sets.

Reasons for low expenditure in FY 2024-25.

This has been due to multiple factors including MII validity and availability for the required equipment, scrapping of two of the high value tenders (estimated cost of Rs. 85.0 Crores and Rs 235 Crores respectively), delay due to clarifications on financial and legal issues during bid evaluations, etc.

Nonetheless, all out efforts were made to expedite the projects and schemes under the revised timelines but within the given BIND time period. This is being done by periodic monitoring at senior levels, addressal of the issues promptly, afresh tendering / execution of the stalled/ scrapped tenders. At the same time, efforts are being made to advance the tendering process of remaining projects under the BIND.

Reasons for low expenditure in FY 2025-26.

BE 2025-26 for the components 'Continuing Projects of three year BIND scheme (2017-20) to be completed' and Project Mode was withdrawn on 12.09.2025 and later reinstated on 16.10.2025. This led to considerable delay in implementation of projects in the scheme/components.

With these combined focused efforts, it is expected that execution of the BIND Projects will be expedited and completed in the coming quarters, reflecting in better expenditure and compensating the slow expenditure of last two quarters.

DCDFC

1. The primary reason for the shortfall was the limited number of proposals received from the North East Districts. Sanction orders were issued accordingly by the Ministry based on the available proposals.

2. As per the parameters received for selection of films (market viability coproduction potential etc), the final list was refined through a thorough review, reducing the number of projects suitable for selection during the financial year. Also, as per the directives received, NFDC was to limit its investment to 40% of the production cost. In regions like NER, for producers to invest the remaining 60% or more is challenging.

CRS:

There is a very low level of awareness about CRS in the region. Consequently, numbers of operational stations in the region are very less. Efforts are being made to raise awareness in the region by organizing Community Radio Awareness workshops, Regional Sammelan and through 'Lead Community Radio Stations'. A communication was also sent to all operating stations in the region to obtain financial assistance being provided under the scheme "Supporting Community Radio Movement in India". Continuous efforts are being made to promote the establishment of

99. Regarding the new initiatives planned for better performance under the Schemes/projects being implemented in North-East Region for the year 2026-27, following has been submitted by the Ministry:-

<p>BIND : It is the constant endeavour of Doordarshan to complete the projects within the specified time frame. Monitoring mechanism has been strengthened considerably. Procurement procedures have been streamlined. Project review meetings are held regularly at Zonal level & HQ level and various activities involved in procurement of capital equipment and execution of works are critically assessed & targets are fixed. The frequency of monitoring meetings has been increased at all levels of Directorate & Prasar Bharati Sectt. Use of digital platform viz e-office, e-tendering, procurement through GEM, Video conference is also being utilized. In addition to above, an Apex committee has been constituted to monitor the progress of projects under the Scheme.</p>
<p><u>DCDFC scheme</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Production of feature films, documentaries, animation films in various NE languages. 2. Exhibition of Children’s Film in NE Schools. 3. Support for organization of Film Festivals in NE Region. 4. Participation of NE delegates for various Domestic & International Film Festivals. 5. Distribution of completed films/ projects of NER 6. Procuring Digital Rights of the films from NE for OTT Platforms. 7. Script Writing/Movie Direction/ workshop in film Making including Animation/VFX-Gaming Course/Master Classes for interested Film makers/students from NE.
<p>CRS Financial Assistance: Operational Community Radio Stations are being provided grants for purchase of equipment to set-up Community Radio Stations. 16 numbers of stations have received grants. The, financial assistance will strengthen the CR sector and motivate more and more eligible organizations to set up the CRS which will benefit the Communities at large. Regional Community Radio Sammelans: Sammelans help stations work better together and understand each other's work. Further, key issues and insights raised during these Sammelans are compiled and taken forward to the national stage during the National Sammelan, ensuring that regional voices contribute to the larger narrative and policy making process.</p> <p>Awareness workshops It has been observed that a significant barrier to the expansion of Community Radio Stations (CRSs) across India is that eligible organizations don’t know about what community radio is or how it works. The purpose of such workshops are; Informing eligible organizations, Educational Institutions, and other organizations about community radio; encouraging and supporting applications from districts that don’t yet have community radio stations. About 19 odd such workshops have been organized in different parts of the country.</p>
<p>DCID: Setting up of Regions/Units-wise Annual & Quarterly Targets, Centralized Monthly</p>

Schedule of Activities for each Quarter, Quarterly Review of Performance of the Scheme and sharing of regions/units-wise achievements and practices with other regions to maximize the efficiency in delivery of outcomes will be done for effective monitoring & control of the scheme and to improve its performance and sharing of regions/units-wise achievements and practices with other regions to maximize the efficiency in delivery of outcomes will be done for effective monitoring & control of the scheme and to improve its performance”.

100. Details of the sanctioned staff strength and the gap between sanctioned strength and the existing strength in AIR and Doordarshan in North Eastern region region (NER - Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Nagaland, Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur, Meghalaya, Assam), as furnished by the Ministry are as under:-

Sanctioned Strength, Filled & Vacant position of Admin, Programme & Engineering Cadre in Akashvani, NEZ (Based on HRIS Data)			
Name of State	Total Sanctioned strength	Filled as on (02.03.2026)	Total Vacant
Arunachal Pradesh	238	92	116
Sikkim	81	16	44
Nagaland	237	89	102
Tripura	252	54	139
Mizoram	197	59	88
Manipur	174	65	99
Meghalaya	342	91	206
Assam	1024	329	491
Total	2545	795	1285

Sanctioned Strength, Filled & Vacant position of Admin, Programme & Engineering Cadre in Doordarshan Kendra, NEZ (Based on HRIS Data)			
Name of State	Total Sanctioned strength	Filled as on (02.03.2026)	Total Vacant
Arunachal Pradesh	220	64	90
Sikkim	47	19	8
Nagaland	143	39	66
Tripura	167	64	68
Mizoram	162	71	48
Manipur	192	80	65
Meghalaya	319	107	125
Assam	898	287	394
Total	2148	731	864

101. According to the Ministry following are the reasons for the gap between sanctioned strength and the existing strength in AIR and Doordarshan in North Eastern Region:-

“1) Acute Shortage of Senior Officers:

There are three verticals in Akashvani and Doordarshan – Engineering, Program & Administration. There are large scale vacancies in all these three verticals which severely hampers the decision making, administration, efficiency and effectiveness of the organization. Officers are posted from out of zone but many of them do not join and the senior officer level post remains vacant.

2. Acute shortage of employees in operational cadres in technical, program and administrative wings:

In absence of adequate number of operational staff, the quality of content and broadcast of Akashvani and Doordarshan in North East zone suffers. Recently Prasar Bharati Secretariat has engaged contractual Technical Assistant and Junior Technical Assistant at some of the Akashvani and Doordarshan stations of North East which has given significant relief to the Engineering vertical. Similarly contractual assignments are required in the program section which will improve the quality and effectiveness of the content of Akashvani and Doordarshan. As regards, Administrative section both Akashvani and Doordarshan Directorate have approved engagement of DEO and MTS through agencies which is being done and is helping to some extent. However, these DEOs and MTS cannot write notes in e-files and Individual responsibility or accountability cannot be fixed on them. Engagement of Administrative Assistant in-line with Technical Assistant or Production Assistant in Prasar Bharati will give better results. In a recent interaction with 17 cluster heads of North East region, Senior Officers from all the states requested for increase in number of sanctioned DEO and MTS.

The North East Zone also faces typical problems in deployment of staff due to remoteness of places, extreme climatic conditions, difficult terrain and typical ethnic issues, poor connectivity, non-availability of technical goods and services at remote locations and Law and Order situations. Shortage of officers at Zonal Office and Stations make the situation still worse.

Accordingly, HR Division of Prasar Bharati is being constantly approached and pursued to implement rationalized posting of Senior Officers in North East Zone which is significantly less as compared to other zones.

3) Transfer of Senior level post from North-East Zone to other Zones :

In past few years during the restructuring process, senior level post of DDG, SAO, AO, etc are transferred out of North-East zone leaving extremely less sanctioned post of senior officers in north-east. It is seen that out of around 140 DDGs posts in Prasar Bharati network only 7 are left in North-East zone which is much less than other zones and needs to be increased rationally.

4) Training need :

There is only one Regional Training Institute at Shillong which can be strengthened to cater to the training needs of the employees of North-East. The only officer posted in the Institute has retired in Feb-2025 and the Institute needs immediate strengthening.

5) There is no sanctioned post of program cadre at Doordarshan Gangtok which is a very vital Installation.

6)The Cadre control of Administrative staff of Akashvani and DoordarshanGangtok is still handled by East zone situated at Kolkata which can be shifted to North East zone Guwahati who is responsible for the cadre control of subordinate Administrative staff of all other states of North East Zone”.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS

(i) Prasar Bharati Amendment Bill

102. When asked for a plan of action for bringing the Prasar Bharati Amendment Bill along with the details, the Ministry, provided details of the steps taken for amendment of the Act as recommended by the Group of Ministers (GoM) and stated the following:-

“(i) GoM in 2010 recommended a comprehensive amendment in the Prasar Bharati (BCI) Act. A comprehensive draft amendment Bill was circulated through a draft Cabinet Note in 2013, which was withdrawn in 2014 for further assessment and analysis.

(ii) After assessment and analysis a draft comprehensive amendment proposal was again submitted, however, it was decided in the Ministry to process those amendments which are of imminent necessity. Accordingly, another draft amendment bill was circulated through a draft Cabinet Note dated 15.11.2018. With the approval of HMIB, the bill was formally withdrawn on 20.11.2019.

(iii) After the approval of HMIB, this Ministry vide O.M. dated 08.07.2023 had circulated a draft Cabinet Note (DCN) for IMC with different Ministries. The proposed amendments aims at bringing the definition of “Broadcasting” in line with the modern technological developments, remove the anomalies in the term of office of whole-time Members and streamline and improve the operational efficiency of the Corporation by removing certain procedural impediments.

(iv) Comments on the instant matter were received from Department of Financial Services, Department of Expenditure, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeiTY) and Department of Telecommunications. However, Prasar Bharati in the meanwhile informed that it had hired an agency for consultancy services for its HR Transformation, thus the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990 [PB (BCI) Act, 1990] could require some more amendments as per the findings of study being conducted by the agency hired in that regard. However, this Ministry vide O.M. dated 24.07.2024 had withdrawn the draft cabinet note circulated on 08.07.2023 for further assessment and analysis. HR Transformation of Prasar Bharati is still ongoing. Therefore, the process of effecting required amendments to the Act will be taken after this exercise reaches its finality.”

(v) In view of the above, there is no requirement of amendment to the Act till finality of HR Transformation of PB”.

103. The Ministry was asked to furnish timelines for completion of exercise undertaken for HR Transformation, tentative schedule for implementing its recommendations and for bringing the comprehensive draft amendment Bill to the

'Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act'. Responding to this, the Ministry provided the following roadmap:-

"Committee(s), once constituted, would examine the recommendations made by the agency in the phase 1 of the exercise related to closure/ rationalisation of services, out-sourcing of non-core/ certain core activities, recruitment plan etc. and submit their report in a time bound manner for necessary execution/implementation.

"After completing the formalities such as detailing of agreed upon scope-of-work, issue Lol for Phase 2 of the exercise and signing of contract/addendum of earlier contract therefor, the activities related to Phase 2 will be taken up. This phase of the exercise is scheduled to be completed within 6 months from the date of agreement/contract. The broad activities to be covered under Phase 2 of the exercise 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".

(ii) LIVE EVENT DEVELOPMENT CELL

104. With respect to Live Event Development Cell (LEDC), the Ministry during evidence submitted the following:-

"महोदय, पिछले वर्ष जनवरी 2025 में माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने उड़ीसा में एक समिट में कॉन्सर्ट इकोनॉमी पर बहुत जोर दिया था और यह कहा था कि सरकार और इंडस्ट्री साथ में कार्य करके इंडिया को एक कॉन्सर्ट का ग्लोबल हब बनाने की कोशिश करें। उसके संदर्भ में जुलाई माह में इन्फॉर्मेशन एंड ब्रॉडकास्टिंग मिनिस्ट्री में सेक्रेट्री साहब के निर्देशन में एक लाइव इवेंट डेवलपमेंट सेल बनाया गया है। It is a joint working group with all the stakeholders including Ministries of the Central Government and also the important states जहाँ पर अभी लाइव इवेंट्स हो रहे हैं। जो इंडस्ट्री के लाइव इवेंट एसोशिएशंस हैं, जो इंडस्ट्री के बड़े स्टोक होल्डर्स हैं, वे सारे एक प्लेटफॉर्म पर आ रहे हैं। यह एक नेशेंट इंडस्ट्री है, जो 20 प्रतिशत के रेट से गो कर रही है। इसमें हम पॉलिसी लेवल पर सिंगल विंडो क्लियरेंस का प्रावधान करा रहे हैं, ताकि अगर किसी को लाइव इवेंट करना है और उसे स्टेट गवर्नमेंट या आर्कियोलॉजिकल सोसायटी या रेलवे से परमिशन लेनी है, तो उसे एक ही विंडो पर परमिशन मिल सकें। इसी परिप्रेक्ष्य में कई सारे स्पोर्ट्स वैन्यूज हैं, जिनमें प्री-अप्रूव्ड वैन्यूज का कॉन्सेप्ट लाने की कोशिश की जा रही है। जिसके हिसाब से उपलब्ध वैन्यूज की एक एसओपी बना दी जाए, ताकि जो लाइव इवेंट इंडस्ट्री है, उसे प्री-अप्रूव्ड वैन्यूज मिल सकें। लाइव इवेंट की स्किलिंग के लिए स्किल डेवलपमेंट मिनिस्ट्री के साथ मिलकर कार्य किया जा रहा है। लाइव इवेंट के डेडिकेटेड वैन्यूज भारत में बहुत कम हैं, उन्हें बनाने के लिए स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स के साथ एंगेज किया जा रहा है। हम जॉइंट वर्किंग ग्रुप की तीन मीटिंग्स ऑलरेडी कर चुके हैं। सिंगल विंडो पोर्टल का बीटा वर्जन लॉन्च हो चुका है, जिसमें लाइव इवेंट कॉन्सर्ट इकोनॉमी वाले 10 इवेंट वैन्यूज को यूज कर रहे हैं।"

105. Adding further, the Secretary stated:-

"This concert economy has a huge potential, not just for the economic side, but it is also a great growth multiplier. Our vision is to double the concert economy in our country. It not just brings in local employment, but it also helps tourism. That is why special efforts have been made during this year

and we are expecting the live events development cell to become the centre piece for all the clearances that currently take a lot of time in our country. To that extent, this is going to enhance the ease of conducting concerts. At the same time, we are also focusing on creating pre-approved venues”.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PART-II

BUDGET OVERVIEW AND DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2026-27)

1. The Committee note that Demand No. 61 covers the expenditure of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) including its 7 media units/attached and subordinate offices, 2 autonomous bodies, 5 training institutes and 2 Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). For the financial year (FY) 2026-27, as against the proposed sum of Rs. 5794.81 crore, an amount of Rs. 4551.94 crore has been earmarked for MIB at the BE stage. Out of this, Rs. 599.08 crore has been apportioned for the 'Establishment Expenditure of the Centre' against the proposed amount of Rs. 1913.00 crore; for the 'Central Sector Schemes', Rs. 1361.79 crore has been kept against the proposed sum of Rs. 1200.50 crore; and for 'Other Central Expenditure [including those on Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and Autonomous Bodies] Rs. 2591.07 crore has been allocated against the proposed sum of Rs. 2681.31 crore.

The Committee note that during the FY 2025-26, the BE and RE allocations for 'Establishment Expenditure of the Centre' (EEC) were Rs. 582.50 crore and Rs. 590.46 crore respectively, whereas the actual expenditure (till 14.01.2026) was Rs. 429.04 crore. For 'Central Sector Schemes (CSS),' the BE and RE for the FY 2025-26 were Rs. 1118.49 crore and Rs. 1178 crore respectively, and the actual expenditure (till 14.01.2026), was Rs. 577.99 crore. For 'Other central expenditure (OCE),' the BE and RE for the FY 2025-26 were Rs. 2657.39 crore and Rs. 4334.56 crore respectively, whereas the actual expenditure (till 14.01.2026), was Rs. 2076.28 crore. Thus, the utilization percentage under the aforesaid three categories (EEC, CCS and OCE), during the FY 2025-26, were 72.67%, 49.07 %, and 47.90% of their RE allocations respectively. The Committee understand that the overall trend of actual expenditure for the years 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 have been 96.23%, 96.95% and 93.09% of the RE allocations, respectively.

Further, the Committee note that during the financial year (FY) 2025-26, the BE allocation was Rs. 4358.38 crore which was increased to Rs. 6103.02 crore at RE stage. The actual expenditure (till 23.02.2026) was Rs. 3508.72 crore, which is 57.49 % of RE allocation. Regarding increased allocations at RE stage for the FY 2025-26, the Ministry informed that the increase is because of the telecom

charges amounting to Rs. 1,823.66 crore, which are required to be paid by Prasar Bharati to the Department of Telecommunications. While responding to the reason for less utilisation during the FY 2025-26, the Ministry stated that it is expected that funds will be fully utilized by the end of FY 2025-26. While noting similar submissions of the Ministry made during previous DFG (2025-26), the Committee recommend the Ministry to take concrete measures to avoid last-quarter expenditure rush and ensure timely fund utilization for achieving physical targets across the Projects/Schemes/Organisations and hope the Ministry will keep up their assurance of making all efforts to utilize the allocated funds from the beginning of the financial year and will achieve full utilisation of the funds allocated for the FY 2025-26 as well as 2026-27. The Committee may be apprised of the outcome of the steps taken to strengthen the monitoring mechanism to review the progress of projects periodically and of the initiatives taken for effective utilisation funds during the FY 2026-27. The Committee may be apprised of the updated status of the fund utilized by the end of FY 2025-26 along with the financial and physical targets achieved during the first quarter of the FY 2026-27.

CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEMES (CSS)

2. The Committee note that there are four Central Sector Schemes (CSS) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting viz. Development Communication & Information Dissemination (DCID), Development Communication and Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC), Broadcasting Infrastructure & Network Development (BIND) and Supporting Community Radio Movement in India (CR). For the year 2026-27, against the proposed sum of Rs. 1200.50 crore, the allocations for Central Sector Scheme is Rs. 1361.79 crore. According to the Ministry the enhancement of ₹ 250 crore in BE 2026-27 is for 'Talent Development in Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC) Sector' under the Film Sector, as a component under the Central Sector Scheme DCDFC. The objective of the component is to promote India and its youth as leaders in content creation by setting up AVGC content creator labs in 15,000 secondary schools and 500 colleges in various parts of the Country.

During the FY 2025-26, the allocations for 'Central Sector Schemes' at BE and RE stage were Rs. 1118.49 crore and Rs. 1178 crore respectively. The overall actual expenditure till 23.02.2026 was Rs. 747.13 crore which is 66.80% of RE. Bifurcation of actual expenditure under all the four 'Central Sector Schemes'

[DCID, DCDFC, BIND and Supporting Community Radio Movement (SCR) in India] are Rs. 138.48 crore, Rs. 232.46 crore, Rs. 370.33 crore and Rs. 5.86 crore respectively. This reflects that the expenditure was 70.61%, 54.84%, 67.33% and 73.25% of RE allocations, respectively. The Committee note that for last two years there is under-utilization of funds under 'Central Sector Schemes'. The reasons conveyed by the Ministry for shortfall/delay with respect to Schemes under Central Sector Schemes during the FY 2025-26, are owing to (i) delay in site allotment at places for new FM Transmitter Projects; (ii) delay in erection of towers due to technical and administrative issues; (iii) shortage of staff; (iv) cancellation of tenders due to administrative reasons and re-tendering; (v) lower than anticipated participation, of journalist and withdrawal of media persons; (vi) low demand for grants and most of the activities such as Community Radio Awareness workshops and Regional Community Radio Sammelans were planned to be conducted in the Quarter-3 to Quarter-4; (vii) A major portion of financial grant for FY 2025-26 in NER was allocated for production of films that could not be picked up as there was delay in review of the applications received under Production of Films etc.

The Committee find that even after further rationalization of Schemes, there is an under-achievement of both physical and financial targets under Central Sector Schemes which calls for a thorough review of the implementation process of rationalization. The Committee call upon the Ministry to address the recurring hindrances impacting 'Central Sector Schemes' on priority basis. The Committee urge the Ministry to ensure proper utilisation of funds and adhering to the physical targets under all the Central Sector Schemes during the FY 2026-27 as per defined timelines, and like to be apprised of the action taken along with the tangible/quantifiable outcomes of the steps taken by the Ministry.

BROADCASTING SECTOR (INCLUDING PRASAR BHARATI)

Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND)

3. The Committee note that the Budgetary allocations for BIND Scheme, for the FY 2026-27 (at BE stage) is Rs. 509.24 crore. During the FY 2025-26, the BE and RE allocations were Rs. 500.00 crore and Rs. 550.00 crore, respectively. The actual expenditure till 14th January, 2026 was Rs. 370.34 crore which is 67.33 % of RE allocations. The actual expenditure during the FY 2024-25 was 36.58% of RE allocations. The Committee note that the BIND scheme under Prasar Bharati has

witnessed under-utilization of allocated funds over the last two Financial Years. The Committee understand that non-achievement of targets set under Broadcast Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND) during the FY 2025-26, are due to (i) Setting up of 79 production set-up to be upgraded/ added (including Studios, News Units & OB Vans); (ii) 14 Satellite Uplink Stations to be upgraded/added (including Earth Stations, DSNG Units & DTH Earth Stations); (iii) 22 FM Transmitters to be installed (1KW, 5KW & 10KW); etc. The reasons furnished by the Ministry include (i) On 12.09.2025 withdrawal of BE allocations for FY 2025-26 for the components 'Continuing Projects of three year BIND scheme (2017-20) to be completed' in Project Mode and it was later reinstated on 16.10.2025 leading to considerable delay in implementation of projects in the scheme/components; (ii) Further, Administrative reasons and Make –in –India (MII) clause exemptions for various projects and late delivery of products from OEMs clubbed in delay of targeted projects; (iii) cancellation of tenders for transmitter procurement which resulted into retendering; etc.

The Committee note that the Ministry has envisaged certain steps to improve performance during the FY 2026-27 and have ensured that all efforts will be made to fully utilize the budget allocated in FY 2026-27. There is recurrent under-achievement of both physical and financial targets under BIND. The Committee, therefore, call upon the Ministry to (i) Optimally utilize the funds allocated for the FY 2026-27; (ii) align the financial progress with physical/performance targets; (iii) have structured intervention in monitoring mechanism; (iv) for ongoing projects of current financial year, set the revised time lines and action plan to expedite the projects and schemes; (v) procure transmitters as per set targets and deadlines; and (vi) leverage domestic manufacturing and emerging technologies for addressing the challenges associated with importing broadcast equipment. The Ministry may apprise the Committee of the blueprint for measures taken along with the outcomes on the above suggestions of the Committee.

DD Free Dish

4. The Committee observe that DD Free Dish is a Free-to-Air (FTA) DTH Service and an alternative affordable platform for people who do not have means to pay high subscription fee of private platforms. DD Free Dish platform, an approved scheme of the Government of India, was launched in December 2004 by Prasar Bharati. Since then it is reaching millions of people in remote, inaccessible

and border areas, becoming a tool for empowerment of the masses particularly marginalized and weaker sections of the society. Total Bouquet of DD Free Dish consist of 482 TV channels including 35 Doordarshan channels, 11 HD DD Channels and 95 popular Private TV channels, 320 DD Co-Branded Educational channels and 64 Radio channels. The Committee note that DD Free Dish signal is available pan India, except Andaman & Nicobar Islands and can be viewed with a very modest one-time investment of around Rs. 2500/- towards small Dish, MPEG-4 Free-to-Air Set Top Box and other ancillary peripherals. DD Free Dish Set-Top Boxes are free to air (FTA) and available in open market and Prasar Bharati has no direct control over these Set Top Boxes which are available over the shelf in open market for general public, hence there is no accurate data available regarding viewership of DD Free Dish. As per market estimates and FICCI & E&Y report published in March 2025, more than 49 million households are viewing DD Free Dish. The Committee understand that there is no monthly subscription fees required to tune in to DD Free Dish channels, unlike other DTH services. With respect to challenges, the Committee note that DD Free Dish viewership is facing challenges in southern and eastern part of India and to increase penetration of DD Free Dish set Top Boxes in these regions promotional measures are being taken from time to time. As a latest measure, 17 numbers of popular unrepresented / under represented regional private TV channels were onboarded on MPEG-4 slots of DD Free dish Free of cost for the period from 01.01.2026 to 31.03.2026, on a pilot basis.

The Committee perceive that several factors like surfacing of various Digital platforms, OTTs, financial stress in market & decreasing popularity of linear channels have challenged revenue across all DTH services and it could earn only around Rs. 814 crore during FY 2025-26. On the issue of increasing the slots, the Ministry have submitted that since revenue of DD Free Dish is earned through e Auction of vacant slots on DD Free Dish to private TV channels and the yield through e-Auction depends on supply and demand, hence, increasing the slots on DD Free Dish, especially MPEG-2 slots carrying higher reserve price, could hamper revenue of DD Free Dish further. When asked about the road map with respect to DD Free Dish, the Ministry have informed that in the financial year 2026-27, the number of MPEG-4 slots have been enhanced adequately for annual e-auction to onboard a greater number of regional language channels. Besides, unrepresented/under represented regional language channels are promoted by reserving slots adequately for them at a very nominal / promotional / invitational

reserve price on MPEG-4 slots of DD Free Dish which may attract more popular regional language channels to come on DD Free Dish thereby increasing penetration of DD Free Dish Set Top Boxes in those areas. The Committee have also learnt that the Scheme for procurement of DTH Set Top Boxes (STBs) for Remote, Tribal and LWE areas (under BIND) has undergone a change and is now being implemented in Direct Benefit Transfer mode wherein Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in conjunction with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has mandated that in future all television sets sold in India must include a built-in satellite tuner that complies with IS 18112:2022. The final date for mandatory compliance with this order was 26th October, 2025, but, it was extended till 26th Jan 2026. The Committee take cognizance of the positive development wherein if someone wants to watch Free Dish, they will no longer have to purchase a set-top box and the Free Dish service will be available simply by installing an antenna. Once a tuner is installed in the television set, there is no subscription and no monthly charge and all the channels of DD Free Dish can be accessed freely by the general public. Given its importance, the Committee may be apprised of the implementation status of rolling out TV sets with built-in satellite tuner in compliance with IS 18112:2022. The Committee may be enlightened about the details of expansion of DD Free Dish post implementation of the said mandate of BIS and MeitY relating to pre-installed digital TV tuners.

DOORDARSHAN (DD)

5. The Committee note that there are 35 Doordarshan satellite TV channels including 28 Regional/State channels. The current reach/viewership of Doordarshan is 1743.3 lakhs. The Committee note that for the FY 2026-27, out of Rs. 509.24 crore allocated to Prasar Bharati (under BIND), an amount of Rs. 299.48 crore has been allocated to Doordarshan. Major challenges/hindrances witnessed by the Doordarshan include (i) to be a destination for family and clean entertainment even while remaining relevant in today's world where technological advancements are taking place rapidly; (ii) As a Public Service Broadcaster, Doordarshan is mandated to inform, educate, and entertain while ensuring balanced broadcasting. Doordarshan faces the dual challenge of adhering to its public service mandate, as outlined in the Prasar Bharati Act, and competing with private television channels/platforms in a commercially viable manner; (iii) A significant portion of Prasar Bharati's programming focusses on promoting national development, socio-economic progress, and national integration; (iv)

The integration of advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) to cater to changing tastes; etc.

While dealing with the issue of content, the Committee note that Prasar Bharati has framed the 'Content Sourcing Policy 2024' after amending 'Content Sourcing Policy 2023' and that has resulted in significant streamlining of content acquisition, standardized commissioning processes, transparent evaluation systems, cost effective matrix and cost negotiation etc. This has led to content acquiring not only for linear platforms but also for digital platform - the newly launched OTT (Waves OTT). So far as WAVES OTT Platform is concerned, the Committee note that there are 11 million App downloads and over 7.3 million registered user accounts under WAVES OTT platform and it has 18,000 audio-visual titles, more than 12,000 hours of video and audio content available in 12+ Indian languages. The Committee are informed about a few initiatives that have been taken under WAVES OTT Platform which, *inter-alia*, include (i) Digitization and streaming of archival content; (ii) Conceptualisation and creation of MyWAVES, a proposed citizen-creator and participatory content platform; (iii) Integration with Government and institutional digital platforms, expanding last-mile access and outreach across the Country; (iv) Knowledge and publications ecosystem integration, including 9,000+ e-books, journals and magazines such as Yojana, Kurukshetra, Bal Bharati, Aajkal and Employment News made available digitally, especially in Tier-2, Tier-3 cities and rural areas; (v) Broad content partnerships, involving nearly 400 content partners with regular addition of 60–75 new titles per month, ensuring continuous content refresh; etc. The Committee are given to understand that the Ministry is bringing a structured Pay-Per-View (PPV) Policy Framework, so that the platform becomes sustainable and does not require greater budgetary support. Further, under the overall banner of Indian Institute of Creative Technology, 15,000 Content Creation Labs would be set up in schools and 500 such Labs would be set up in colleges.

On another issue related to Doordarshan Kendras (DDK) regarding asset management/monetisation, the Committee note that no study has so far been conducted to assess the assets under Doordarshan Kendras in India. In this regard, the Ministry informed that Prasar Bharati Board has approved a draft monetization plan including feasibility study of Prasar Bharati land assets (both Akashvani & Doordarshan). The draft monetization plan mentions (i) Prasar

Bharati will monetize land assets on PPP model without alienating the land; and (ii) The revenue generated will be used by Prasar Bharati making itself sustainable. While discussing about asset monetization, some of the facts highlighted during evidence, include (a) all the land and building assets have been fully mapped on the Government's portal along with their exact locations and they have geo-tagged locations of these assets; (b) Under the Swachhata Abhiyan, during the last three years, about nine lakh square feet of space has been vacated in existing buildings; (c) various institutions that require space and do not involve extensive public interface are being provided surplus space on rent; (d) within the next few months, whatever surplus built-up space have been identified, would be rented out so that it can become a source of revenue; (e) there are around 70 land assets, with approximate value of ₹100 crore and for these locations, a special team has been deployed to explore how planned development or redevelopment can be undertaken to generate revenue. The Committee understand that the Prasar Bharati has signed an MoU with the Government of Maharashtra about five to six months ago. The land belonging to Akashvani is available in Mumbai city and work has already begun on a plan to jointly develop a Film City in collaboration with the Government of Maharashtra.

The Committee acknowledge the efforts of the Ministry/Prasar Bharati to maintain Doordarshan as a platform for family-friendly and clean entertainment medium in an increasingly competitive media ecosystem where morality is declining and vulgarity is increasing. The Committee are pleased to note that in order to increase its source of revenue the Prasar Bharati Board has approved a draft monetization plan to provide its surplus space on rent and planned development/redevelopment of its 70 land assets. The Committee urge the Ministry to take action on the following and apprise them accordingly:-

(i) To prepare a roadmap for effective implementation and periodic review of the 'Content Sourcing Policy, 2024'; (ii) To ensure continuous content enrichment, technological upgradation and wider outreach of the WAVES OTT platform, particularly in Tier-2, Tier-3 cities and rural areas. To have adequate safeguards in place to ensure affordability, accessibility and public interest orientation while implementing the structured Pay-Per-View (PPV) Policy Framework for WAVES OTT platform; the PPV framework as well as keep the old archival content free of any charge. (iii) To ensure that content Creation Labs in 15,000 schools and 500 such labs in colleges are implemented in a time-bound

manner, adequately equipped with modern tools and linked with public broadcasting platforms so that young creators across the Country are able to contribute meaningful content reflecting India's diverse culture, languages and traditions; and (iv) To undertake a comprehensive national-level assessment of all assets under Doordarshan and Akashvani Kendras, finalise the monetisation framework at the earliest, develop clear guidelines for leasing, redevelopment and PPP-based utilisation of assets and apprise the Committee of the progress made in implementing the asset monetisation plan, including revenue generated and projects undertaken, in a time-bound manner.

All INDIA RADIO (AIR)

6. The Committee note that under AIR/Akashvani, during the FY 2025-26 as against budgetary allocations of Rs. 94.76 crore (at BE stage) and Rs. 99.71 crore (tentative at RE stage) the actual expenditure upto November, 2025 has been Rs. 34.66 crore which is 34.76% of RE allocations. Even during the year 2024-25, AIR witnessed less utilization and the actual expenditure for this period was Rs. 56.90 crore which was 63.87% of RE allocations. Akashvani has 230 stations with studio and 361 relay stations without studio. Out of 230 stations, studios at 127 stations have been digitalized in 2 phases. Out of this, 98 major stations were digitalized in 10th plan and are due for replacement. Studios at 15 stations have been set up as digital studios in current plan. The Committee are aware that an Empowered Committee has approved digitalization of studios at 68 stations targeted to be digitalized in FY 2026-27. Rest of the studios (20 new) and 98 major stations for replacement would be digitalized in next plan. The Committee note that the common problem under BIND Scheme has also affected the performance of AIR which include (i) Acute shortage of staff and (ii) Broadcast equipment being imported.

The Committee note that the necessary exemptions under the Make in India provisions have been obtained along with the required import permissions from the competent authority and since the process is continuing at a fast pace, they will be able to fully utilise the resources. The Committee are further informed that with respect to AIR stations in the border areas, a comprehensive geographical mapping exercise have been undertaken. The preparation of a plan under the BIND Scheme not only increase the output of those transmitters but also expand its coverage, so that access can be enhanced in the border areas. Keeping the above scenario in view, the Committee desire to be apprised of the action taken

along with the outcome on the following recommendations: (i) The Ministry may address the concerns impacting the financial and physical targets under AIR and the targets set for the FY 2026-27; (ii) The Ministry may ensure digitalization of studios at 68 AIR stations targeted for FY 2026–27 to be completed in a time-bound manner, with close monitoring of its progress so as to avoid further delays in the modernisation of broadcasting infrastructure; prepare a clear and comprehensive roadmap for the digitisation of the remaining studios, including the 20 new studios and the replacement of 98 major stations that were digitalized during the 10th Plan; (iii) While dealing with geographical mapping exercise undertaken for AIR stations in border areas, the Ministry/Prasar Bharati should expedite the implementation of plan for strengthening All India Radio infrastructure in border areas; (iv) The Ministry may furnish details of the effectiveness of the Apex Committee constituted by Prasar Bharati Secretariat to monitor the progress of BIND scheme and the action taken by the Committee till date; and (v) The Ministry may complete the ongoing HR Transformation exercise at the earliest and implement its recommendations to rationalize and have adequate permanent staff across AIR stations in various parts of the Country..

HUMAN RESOURCE IN PRASAR BHARATI

7. The Committee note that at present the sanctioned staff strength of Prasar Bharati is 45,791. Out of this, 26,129 are for Akashvani/All India Radio and 19,662 are for Doordarshan. As against this sanctioned strength of 45,791, there are 30,598 vacancies in Prasar Bharati. Of this, 14,117 posts are lying vacant in Doordarshan and 16,481 in All India Radio (AIR). The Committee note that the number of vacant posts has increased from previous FY (2025-26) which was 30,221. The Committee understand 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. About the steps taken to cater to the Manpower needs of the AIR and Doordarshan Kendras, the Ministry submitted that to assess optimal number of posts in various streams and levels as per the current and future requirement of Prasar Bharati, the exercise of HR Transformation is being carried out in consultation with a manpower audit agency and only on conclusion and acceptance of the recommendations of this exercise, a clear picture on the vacancies to be filled in will emerge. The Ministry further submitted that they have

directed for a review of service closures and outsourcing of activities to be undertaken in the best interest of the organization. Also, the Board accorded approval for proceeding with Phase-2 of the HR transformation exercise. The Committee would, therefore, like to be apprised of the time-bound roadmap for completion of the HR Transformation exercise and the details of its outcome.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY RADIO MOVEMENT IN INDIA

8. The Committee note that the Community Radio is an important third-tier Radio in Radio Broadcasting, distinct from Public Service Radio broadcasting and Commercial Radio. Community Radio Stations (CRSs) are low-power Radio Stations, which are meant to be set up and operated by local communities. In December 2002, the Government of India approved a policy for the grant of license, for setting up of CRS, to well established educational institutions. The CR provides a platform for communities to air local voices on issues concerning health, nutrition, education, agriculture etc. The Scheme (Supporting Community Radio Movement in India) aims to strengthen new and existing CRSs with resources, capacity and technology so as to upgrade the standard of the stations and increase its reach and visibility to the interior regions of India. The Committee are given to understand that the Scheme has been revised 'wherein it is proposed to extend for the period from 2026-27 to 2030-31 with a total proposed allocation of Rs. 50 crore. The thrust areas under the Scheme are (i) to increase the number of stations in CR dark areas and (ii) to have at least one Community Radio Station in each district of the Country. At present, 560 CRS are operational in India (till January, 2026). With respect to budgetary allocations and expenditure, the Committee note that Rs. 8.00 crore has been allocated for the FY 2026-27 (at BE stage). During the FY 2025-26, the BE and RE allocations were Rs. 17.40 crore and Rs. 8.00 crore, respectively, and the actual expenditure till 8th January, 2026 was Rs. 4.52 crore which is 56.50 % of RE allocations.

Initiatives taken under the Scheme 'Supporting Community Radio Movement in India' include organization of National and Regional Sammelans, awareness workshops in CR dark areas, etc. However, the Committee find that fund utilization has been uneven over the years, and Demand for Grants remains limited due to lack of awareness among potential beneficiaries. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to streamline grant disbursement, strengthen capacity-building programs for CRS staff and provide technical support to

enhance operational efficiency. The Committee, also desire to be apprised of the action taken in respect of the following:- (i) Ensure optimum utilisation of allocated funds during the FY 2026-27; (ii) Prepare a definite timeline/roadmap and intensify efforts for ensuring at least one Community Radio Station in each district, particularly CR dark areas, as per the vision under the Scheme; (iii) Explore the feasibility of having one dedicated training cell for CRS personnel in each State/Zone to improve technical skills, content creation and community engagement; and (iv) Involve local Government, educational institutions, NGOs, and community organizations to promote awareness and local participation.

FILM SECTOR

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

9. The Committee note that the AVGC Promotion Task Force was set up by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in April 2022 after the Union Budget announcement and the Task Force submitted its report in December 2022, recommending a National AVGC Mission, Centres of Excellence, stronger infrastructure and dedicated support for Indian IP and exports. IICT Mumbai has been established and is being developed as a specialised Centre of Excellence to strengthen high-end training and research. With a focus on expanding high-quality production capacity, developing talent and improving access to international markets, WAVES 2025 was organised in May, 2025 as a global platform for the entire Media & Entertainment sector. Three verticals of WAVES platform that are supporting the AVGC sector are (i) WAVES Bazaar - an year-round, hybrid global marketplace for India's media and entertainment sector. It enables structured B2B meetings, co-production deals and showcasing of Indian films, animation, gaming, VFX and XR content to international buyers; (ii) WAVEX - A dedicated startup accelerator and incubator for AVGC-XR and emerging media technologies. It provides early-stage studios access to mentorship, advanced production and immersive-tech infrastructure, and curated investor linkages to help them scale and secure global projects. At WAVES Summit 2025, it facilitated pitching for 30 startups to investors while providing exhibition space for over 100 startups to engage with international studios. Through partnerships with T-Hub and IICT, it currently incubates startups, supports Government pilots via innovation challenges like Bhashasetu, and provides global exposure through platforms like IFFI, successfully aiding startups in securing foreign investment

and validating Indian IP abroad; (iii) Creatosphere - Annual 'Create in India challenges' that runs 30–35 national competitions across animation, gaming, webtoons and digital story telling. It serves as a talent-discovery platform, nurturing new creators and connecting them with mentorship, incubation and industry opportunities. Year-wise proposed targets for IICT/WAVES, furnished by the Ministry, include (a) IICT, Mumbai to be recognized Deemed University under 'Distinct Institution' category focusing on 17 specialized courses across Animation, VFX, Gaming, and Comics during the FY 2026-27; (b) IICT, Mumbai to be located in its permanent campus and established as a complete university, and WAVES, 2027 during the FY 2027-28; and (c) IICT, Mumbai to fully function as the hub of AVGC-XR in India, during the FY 2028-29. The Ministry conveyed that these initiatives collectively support the formulation of a structured policy and guideline framework for the AVGC-XR sector. Further, a dedicated mission for Media and Entertainment Sector (including AVGC Sector) is also under its consideration.

With regard to harnessing benefits of AI in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, on content creation, programming and broadcasting, the Ministry submitted that under the WAVES Platform, WaveX (A high-intensity accelerator connecting AI-focussed M&E startups with global capital) has launched 'Kalaa Setu' and 'Bhasha Setu' to invite AI startups to build a real-time multilingual multimedia content generation solution for prompt citizen outreach. Under Kalaa Setu and Bhasha Setu, 10 startups have been selected, and their AI-enabled services are currently being utilized on a pilot basis by various media units, including the Press Information Bureau (PIB), Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Doordarshan (DD), Akashvani, New Media Wing, and Publications Division. The services being tested include translation of press releases and articles into regional languages, video creation, subtitle generation, voice-overs, e-Books, audio books, audio dubbing in regional languages etc. Based on the outcomes of the pilot, a limited RFP is proposed to be floated shortly for empanelling the selected startups to provide AI-based services to these media units on a regular basis. Further, positioning WAVES as a platform for "entertainment economics and technology", MoI&B has launched Creatosphere (An AI-driven immersion and co-creation zone), which is part of the broader ecosystem for tech (including AI) adoption in M&E. Besides, under Doordarshan, DD News have constituted a Committee to explore and evaluate various

opportunities for integrating AI technologies into the channel operations. Potential applications under consideration include AI anchors, voice-over services, and other innovative uses of Artificial Intelligence that could enhance content delivery and audience engagement.

The Committee note that with rapidly evolving technology and increasing internet penetration all across the Country, coupled with one of the cheapest data rates, the usage of AVGC-XR globally is poised to grow at an exponential pace. This creates abundant opportunities, particularly through the National Centre of Excellence [(NCoE)/ Indian Institute of Creative Technology (IICT)] which has some key objectives like (a) Focussing of creating Indian IP; (b) Leveraging our cultural heritage in new age; (c) Create a multiplier effect in the industry; (d) An industry led initiative in partnership with State and academia; (e) Integrated focus on education, skilling industry, development, innovation; (f) Hub and spoke model of development to be followed; and (g) IIC as the hub and several centers as its spokes dedicated innovation and research fund to promote start-up ecosystem. The Committee note that this year's Budget announcement under the banner of Indian Institute of Creative Technology for 15,000 Content Creation Labs, and objectives under NCoE will play a significant role to allow our creators to gain access to the latest tools and technologies, generate employment and boost 'Orange Economy' of the Country.

Considering that AVGC-XR sector is emerging as a critical pillar of the Creative Economy/Orange Economy, the Committee hope that the initiatives undertaken by the Ministry under this sector will harness the potential of the Indian AVGC-XR industry and urge the Ministry to:- (i) Ensure that the timeline and targets fixed for NCoE/IICT/WAVES are adhered to and the Committee may be apprised of the tangible outcome of the initiatives taken under this Sector; (ii) Finalize a National AVGC-XR Mission/Policy at the earliest with clear objectives, measurable targets, institutional responsibilities, and funding provisions to ensure sustained growth of the AVGC-XR sector; (iii) To complete the proposed permanent campus of IICT at Film City, Goregaon, on schedule; (iv) Link Talent Discovery to Commercial Viability under the 'Talent Development in Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC) Sector' component (under the Central Sector Scheme – DCDFC); (v) Promote Indian IP and Original Content in animation, gaming, VFX and XR by providing financial incentives, co-production frameworks, and export promotion schemes to reduce dependency on outsourced work from global studios; (vi) Establish additional regional Centres

of Excellence in collaboration with States, industry and academic institutions to create a distributed skill development and research ecosystem to fix year-wise and quarter-wise targets for each of the initiatives taken/planned under AVGC Sector; (vii) Furnish details with respect to establishment of Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC) Content Creator Labs in 15,000 schools and 500 colleges, as announced in Budget 2026–27 under WAVES/IICT; (viii) Focus on developing a comprehensive curriculum and advanced world-class infrastructure for filling up the critical skill gaps in the sector; (ix) Furnish details of the States/UTs who participated in WAVES Summit and those selected to be part of the WAVES vision; (x) Make WaveX and WAVES Bazaar initiatives as continuous platforms to have support through out the year for incubation, mentorship, funding, and global market access for startups, rather than limiting them to annual events; and (xi) The Committee are of the view that the Ministry may consider formulating clear guidelines to ensure the ethical and responsible use of Artificial Intelligence in broadcasting, particularly in the use of AI-based news anchors. The Committee urge that AI should be deployed as a complementary tool rather than a replacement for human professionals, ensuring that technological adoption does not lead to job displacement of one and giving it to some other. The Committee are of the opinion that adequate policy measures may also be devised to protect and promote human creativity, especially in journalism, films, music and other creative fields so as to ensure that technological advancements do not undermine human talent and artistic excellence.

INFORMATION SECTOR

Press Information Bureau (PIB)

10. The Committee note that the Press Information Bureau (PIB) is the nodal agency of the Government of India to disseminate information through print, electronic and social media on Government policies and 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. Under PIB, a Fact Check Unit (FCU) was set up in November, 2019, in order to monitor and check the circulation and dissemination of factually incorrect/doctored news and information over different modes of news media and social media platforms,

which often mislead people on various issues. The mandate of the PIB Fact Check Unit is to provide the official/authentic version of any news doing rounds on various media platforms by making available the factually correct information in the public domain. The PIB-FCU receives communication/messages from the public at large through WhatsApp, email, Twitter and PIB's website. These fact-checks are available at the website of PIB. The fact-checked content by PIB-FCU is taken up with the concerned social media platforms for appropriate action under rule 3(1)(b) of the IT Rules, 2021. Briefing about the Fact Check Unit of PIB, the Ministry informed that during Operation Sindoor, the Fact Check Unit of PIB worked round the clock to curb fake news, quickly detected and issued swift rebuttals to edited videos, misinformation, and propaganda and around 1,400 URLs were blocked. The Committee are informed that the central Fact-Check Unit which falls under the guidelines of the Information Technology (IT) Act, is under judicial review. However, a Fact Check Unit under the Press Information Bureau (PIB) is currently functional.

While Clarifying about the mandate of MIB, the Ministry submitted that under the IT Act and the Intermediary Guidelines they deal with IT content and media content connected with news and media outlets and to that extent, they make use of the relevant provisions for removing content under certain considerations. The Ministry further admitted the existence of regulatory gaps in respect of online media and OTT platforms. On a related issue, the Ministry stated that during the last year, on the basis of Section 294 of the 'Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita' Act and Section 4 of the 'Indecent Representation of Women Act', 25 OTT platforms were blocked initially, and subsequently another 18 platforms were blocked. At present, blocking orders are continuously being issued against OTT apps and content circulating in online media. In the light of the role and mandate of PIB-FCU, the Committee are of the view that the increasing spread of misinformation and manipulated content across various media platforms necessitates strengthening of institutional mechanisms for timely verification, quick detection and blocking of fake news, harmful content and dissemination of authentic information. Accordingly, the Committee seek that the following areas may also be explored and appraised them of the outcome:- (i) To enhance the outreach and accessibility of the Fact Check Unit under the PIB through wider public awareness campaigns and improved coordination with social media platforms; (ii) To enhance technological capabilities, including the use of artificial intelligence tools for real-time monitoring of misinformation trends, improved

coordination with social media platforms to facilitate faster identification and removal of misleading content; (iii) Expand the Fact Check Unit's capacity with quantifiable target for the next FY including trained personnel for regional languages; (iv) Publish quarterly transparency reports on misinformation identified, corrective action taken, and engagement with media platforms; (v) Formulate a comprehensive regulatory framework to effectively address issues relating to misinformation, harmful content and public grievances related to it, coordinate with other Ministries and MeitY to close regulatory gaps; and (vi) Develop a structured grievance redressal mechanism for online and OTT content, integrating Section 79(3)(b) of the IT Act and existing civil redress provisions.

NORTH EASTERN REGION (NER)

11. The Committee note that the budgetary allocations for the FY 2026-27, has been fixed at Rs. 111.21 crore at BE stage. The budgetary allocations for NER during the financial year 2025-26 at BE and RE stage, were Rs. 111.85 crore and Rs. 117.84 crore respectively. Whereas the actual expenditure, till 31st December, 2025, was Rs. 30.71 crore which is just about 26.16% of RE allocations. Under the Schemes/Projects/Organisations of the Ministry of Information Broadcasting in North Eastern Region, a trend of under-utilisation of funds has been observed during the financial years 2022-23, 2024-25 and 2025-26. Regarding the reasons for low expenditure during the FY 2025-26, the Ministry have informed that it happened due to multiple factors including (a) On 12.09.2025 withdrawal of BE allocations for FY 2025-26 for the components 'Continuing Projects of three year BIND scheme (2017-20) to be completed' in Project Mode and it was later reinstated on 16.10.2025; (b) under DCFDC, receipt of limited number of proposals from the North East Districts. Also, as per the directives, NFDC was to limit its investment to 40% of the production cost. Hence, in regions like NER, for producers to invest the remaining 60% or more was challenging; (c) Under CRS, there was a very low level of awareness about CRS in the region, consequently the numbers of operational community radio stations in the region were very less.

With respect to initiatives planned for better performance under the Schemes/projects being implemented in North-East Region for the FY 2026-27, the Ministry have informed: (a) Under BIND scheme, the frequency of monitoring meetings has been increased at all levels, an Apex Committee has been constituted to monitor the progress of projects under the Scheme; (b) under

DCDFC scheme, several measures have been taken for promotion and production of feature films, documentaries, animation films in various North Eastern languages; (c) under CRS, financial assistance are given to Operational Community Radio Stations for purchase of equipment to set-up Community Radio Stations, Workshops are held since a significant barrier to the expansion of Community Radio Stations (CRSs) across India is that eligible organizations don't know about what community radio is or how it works. The purpose of such workshops are spreading awareness among eligible organizations; (d) under DCID, Regions/Units-wise Annual and Quarterly targets are set up; etc.

In the light of above, the Committee are of the view that under-utilisation undermines the very objective of promoting media infrastructure and cultural outreach in the North Eastern Region. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to take positive action with respect to the following and apprise them accordingly:- (i) Prepare a time-bound action plan for optimum utilisation of funds allocated under all the schemes of the North Eastern Region (NER); (ii) Prepare a road map with timeline for having at least one Community Radio Station (CRS) in each district of the North Eastern States as per the vision under supporting Community Radio Movement in India and take concrete steps accordingly. Also increase awareness among eligible institutions ensuring timely financial assistance to establish CRS and to have mechanism for impact assessment; (iii) Upgrade technical infrastructure, including studios, transmitters, and digital broadcasting equipment, to improve signal quality and reach in remote and tribal areas; and (iv) Intensify outreach efforts, organise more awareness programmes and extend necessary facilitation support so that stakeholders/producers from the NER are encouraged to actively participate in such initiatives. Also explore the possibility of having regional training hubs in collaboration with IICT and other media institutions to strengthen skill development in NER.

LIVE EVENT DEVELOPMENT CELL (LEDC)

12. The Committee do take note of the initiative of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to establish the Live Event Development Cell (LEDC), as a joint working platform involving various Ministries, State Governments, and industry stakeholders to promote the emerging 'concert economy' in the Country. This being a nascent industry, growing at a rate of about 20 per cent seems to have the potential to generate local employment, boost tourism and contribute to the creative economy. The Ministry have informed that they have already held three

meetings of the Joint Working Group, the beta version of the single-window portal has been launched and ten event venues related to the live-event concert economy are using the portal. The Committee do take cognizance of the approach of the Ministry to have (a) a single-window clearance mechanism; (b) introducing the concept of pre-approved venues for sports venues, (c) preparing an SOP for available venues so that the live event industry can access pre-approved venues; (d) collaborating with other Ministries for skill development in the live events sector; (e) engagement with State Governments to facilitate their development of dedicated venues for live events, etc,. However, in order to ensure the objective of positioning India as a global hub for concerts and live events is achieved, the Committee urge the Ministry to take action on the following and apprise of the progress made in operationalising the Live Event Development Cell:- (i) To take expeditious and timely steps to operationalise the single-window clearance portal on a full-scale basis; (ii) To ensure that all relevant Ministries and statutory authorities are integrated with the platform and have effective coordination amongst multiple related stakeholders, (iii) To prepare the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in consultation with the States/UTs and concerned agencies; and (iv) To design specialised training programmes for building skilled workforce for the live events industry and strengthen collaboration with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

New Delhi;
13 March, 2026
22 Phalguna, 1947 (Saka)

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

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (2025-26)**

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 24th February, 2026 from 1400 hours to 1620 hours in Committee Room No. 'B', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Dr. Nishikant Dubey - Chairperson

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Anil Baluni
3. Shri Anup Sanjay Dhotre
4. Shri S. Supongmeren Jamir
5. Shri Appalanaidu Kalisetti
6. Shri G. Kumar Naik
7. Shri Shafi Parambil
8. Ms. Kangna Ranaut
9. Shri Radheshayam Rathiya
10. Shri Arun Kumar Sagar
11. Shri Devesh Shakya

Rajya Sabha

12. Shri Saket Gokhale
13. Smt. Priyanka Chaturvedi
14. Shri Amar Pal Maurya
15. Shri Kartikeya Sharma
16. Shri Lahar Singh Siroya

Secretariat

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|-----------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. Shri Harish Chandra Bist | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. Smt. A. Jyothirmayi | - | Director |
| 3. Shri Rajesh Mohan | - | Deputy Secretary |

LIST OF WITNESSES

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting		
Sl. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Shri Sanjay Jaju	Secretary
2.	Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena	Sr. Economic Advisor
3.	Shri Deepak Narain	AS & FA
4.	Shri Prabhat	Additional Secretary
5.	Shri C. Senthil Rajan	JS (IP-I)
6.	Shri Prithul Kumar	JS (B-II)
7.	Dr. Ajay Nagabhushan MN	JS (Films)
8.	Smt. Anupama Bhatnagar	DG, PIB
9.	Ms. Kanchan Prasad	DG, CBC
10.	Shri Yogesh Kumar Baweja	PRG, O/o PRGI
11.	Shri Gaurav Dwivedi	CEO, Prasar Bharati
12.	Shri Rajeev Roy	Member (Finance), Prasar Bharati
13.	Shri K. Satish Nambudiripad	DG, Doordarshan
14.	Shri Rajiv Kumar Jain	DG, All India Radio
15.	Shri Prakash Magdum	MD, NFDC
16.	Shri Mohd. Hamid Hussain	Joint Director (DPD)

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the Sitting of the Committee convened to examine Demands for Grants (2026-27) related to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB).

(Witnesses were then called in)

3. The Chairperson welcomed the Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) and other officials accompanying him to the Sitting of the Committee. Thereafter, he drew their attention to Demand No. 61 and the budgetary allocations of Rs. 4,551.94 crore made for their Ministry for the Financial Year (FY) 2026-27. He, then, pointed out the mixed trend of allocations since the Financial Year 2022-23 and sought reasons for seeking Supplementary Grants during the Financial Year 2025-26 along with the reasons for under-utilisation of funds under Central-Sector Schemes. He observed that the Ministry's plea, that the remaining funds allocated for the Financial Year 2025-26 will be fully utilised by 31st March, 2026, was not justifiable. While observing that no study had been conducted by the Ministry to assess the assets under Doordarshan and AIR (All India Radio) Kendras, he desired to know the details of the encroachment of Prasar Bharti land and related court cases, if any. Highlighting the under-utilisation of funds under AIR, Doordarshan (DD) and acute shortage of manpower in them, he asked the Ministry to provide reasons for the delay in completion of HR Transmission Audit Wing conducted with the help of a manpower audit agency. The Chairperson also sought reasons for repetitive under-utilisation of funds in North Eastern Region (NER). Further, he sought details of the steps taken by the Ministry in

harnessing AI technology in India's rapidly evolving digital media landscape and if there was any plan to seek AI assistance to quickly trace airing of vulgar or obscene content so that immediate action could be taken to disable such websites or OTT platforms. He enquired about details on action taken under Section 79(3)(b) of the IT Act, 2000 which empowers the Ministry of I&B to disable OTT platforms, publishing of obscene content for public access in India along with details of the action taken under Section 294 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 and Section 4 of the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986 to disable OTT platforms or websites for airing of obscene content.

4. Thereafter, the representatives of MIB made a Power Point presentation *inter-alia* highlighting the broad areas under (i) Organizational Structure; (ii) Budget and Schemes; (iii) Recent initiatives and achievements; (iv) Ease of Doing Business and improving efficiency of operations; (v) Thrust areas and Future projections; etc.

5. After the Power Point presentation by the Ministry, the Members sought clarifications on various issues which, *inter-alia*, included (i) plans and roadmap to have good content on Prasar Bharati/DD; (ii) role of NFDC (National Film Development Corporation); (iii) concrete outcome of WAVES Bazaar; (iv) Measures taken to increase the reach of DD free Dish along with the reasons for not increasing the slot of DD Free Dish; (v) preparedness of the Ministry to use AI and to address the concerns related to it along with the details of the funds allocated and initiatives for integration of AI in the projects of Ministry; (vi) Use of AI in ethical way; (vii) plans to seek AI assistance to quickly trace airing of vulgar or obscene content; (viii) measures to increase the viewers of WAVES OTT platforms; (ix) measures to promote regional languages; (x) initiatives planned to avoid rush of expenditure at the fag end of the financial year; (xi) participation of Indian organisations/States in WAVES; (xii) study conducted by the Ministry/Prasar Bharati to assess the assets under AIR and Doordarshan Kendras and court cases related to encroachment of property of AIR and Doordarshan Kendras; (xiii) problems related to the AIR and Doordarshan in NER particularly in Nagaland and measures taken thereto; (xiv) TV rating system in the Country; (xv) reasons for repetitive under-utilisation of funds in NER for last few years; (xvi) Difficulty faced by rural population due to surge in Cable TV charges; etc.

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

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

The witnesses then withdrew.

A copy of the verbatim proceedings of the Sitting has been kept on record.

The Committee, then, adjourned.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (2025-26)**

MINUTES OF THE TENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee sat on Friday, the **13th March, 2026** from 0945 hours to 1000 hours in Committee Room No. '1', Extension to Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY- Chairperson

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Dr. Rabindra Narayan Behera
3. Shri S. Supongmeren Jamir
4. Shri Appalanaidu Kalisetti
5. Dr. M.K. Vishnu Prasad
6. Ms. Kangna Ranaut
7. Shri Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy
8. Shri Arun Kumar Sagar
9. Shri Devesh Shakya

Rajya Sabha

10. Shri Sujeet Kumar
11. Shri Amar Pal Maurya
12. Shri S. Niranjana Reddy
13. Shri Lahar Singh Siroya

Secretariat

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|----|--------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Shri Harish Chandra Bist | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Smt. A. Jyothirmayi | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri Rajesh Mohan | - | Deputy Secretary |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the Sitting of the Committee convened to consider and adopt four draft Reports on Demands for Grants (2026-27) relating to the Ministries/Departments under the jurisdiction of the Committee.

3. XXX....XXX....XXX...XXX...XXX...XXX....XXX...XXX...XXX...XXX...XXX...XXX...XXX

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

(i) XXX....XXX....XXX...XXX...XXX...XXX....XXX...XXX...XXX...XXX...XXX

(ii) XXX....XXX....XXX...XXX...XXX...XXX....XXX...XXX...XXX...XXX...XXX

(iii) XXX....XXX....XXX...XXX...XXX...XXX....XXX...XXX...XXX...XXX...XXX

(iv) Draft Report on Demands for Grants (2026-27) relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

5. The Committee adopted the Reports without modifications and also 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.

xxx....xxx- matter not related to this Report