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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS
(1998-99)**

TWELFTH LOK SABHA

**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
AND BROADCASTING**

*[Action taken by Government on the Recommendations contained in the
Twelfth Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) of Standing Committee on
Communications on Demands for Grants (1997-98)]*

FIFTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

July, 1998/Shravana, 1920 (Saka)

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ON COMMUNICATIONS
(1998-99)

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AND BROADCASTING

*[Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations contained in
the Twelfth Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) of Standing Committee on
Communications on Demands for Grants (1997-98)]*

Presented to Lok Sabha on 29.7.1998

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 29.7.1998



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

July, 1998/Shravana, 1920 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON COMMUNICATIONS (1998-99)

Shri Somnath Chatterjee — *Chairman*

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4. Shri Mahesh Kumar Mithabhai Kanodia
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19. Shri Shantilal Purushotamdas Patel
20. Shri T. Govindan
- *21. Shri Rizwan Zaheer Khan
22. Shri P. Rajarethinam

*Nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 25 June, 1998 in place of Shri Beni Prasad Verma who has been nominated as Member Standing Committee on Finance *vide* Bulletin Part-II No. 338 dated 25 June, 1998.

23. Shri Surendra Prasad Yadav (Jhanjharpur)
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25. Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy
26. Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil
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SECRETARIAT

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|-------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Dr. A. K. Pandey | — | <i>Additional Secretary</i> |
| 2. Shri P. D. T. Achary | — | <i>Joint Secretary</i> |
| 3. Shri S. K. Sharma | — | <i>Deputy Secretary</i> |

* Nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 17 July, 1998 in place of Sh. Moolchand Meena who ceased to be a Member of the Committee consequent on his retirement from Rajya Sabha w.e.f. 4 July, 1998.

INTRODUCTION

1. I, the Chairman, Standing Committee on Communications (1998-99) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on its behalf, present this Fifth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations of the Committee contained in the Twelfth Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (1997-98) relating to Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

2. The Twelfth Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 22 April, 1997 and also laid in Rajya Sabha the same day. The Government furnished their replies indicating Action Taken on the recommendations contained in the Report on 22.7.1998.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at its sitting held on 27 July, 1998.

4. For facility of reference and convenience, the observations and recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the body of the Report.

5. An analysis of Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Twelfth Report of Standing Committee on Communications (Eleventh Lok Sabha) is given in Appendix-II.



NEW DELHI;
27 July, 1998

5 Shravana, 1920 (Saka)

SOMNATH CHATTERJEE,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Communications.

CHAPTER I

REPORT

This report of the Standing Committee on Communications deals with the action taken by Government on the Recommendations contained in its Twelfth Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (1997-98) relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

2. The Twelfth Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 22.4.1997 and was also laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on the same day. It contained 33 recommendations/observations.

3. Action taken notes in respect of all the recommendations/observations contained in the Report have been received and categorised as under:—

- (i) Recommendations/observations which have been accepted by the Government.

Para Nos. 41, 44, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 71, 74, 75, 76, 80, 86, 87, 100 & 106

Total 16
Chapter II

- (ii) Recommendations/observations which the Committee does not desire to pursue in view of the reply of the Government.

Para Nos. 9, 10, 11, 12, 72, 73, 94, 95, 101 & 105

Total 10
Chapter III

- (iii) Recommendations/observations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration.

Para Nos. 42, 43, 45, 46, 47, 70 & 93

Total 7
Chapter IV

- (iv) Recommendations/observations in respect of which replies are of interim nature.

NIL

Chapter V

3. The Committee trusts that utmost importance would be given to the implementation of the recommendations accepted by the Government. In cases where it is not possible for the Government to implement the recommendations for any reason, the matter should be reported to the Committee with reasons for non-implementation. The Committee further desires that action taken on the recommendations contained in Chapter I of this Report may be furnished to it urgently and in no case later than six months of the presentation of this Report.

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

Reduced allocation on Continuing and New Schemes

(Para No. 10)

5. The Committee in its 12th Report had observed that continuing and new schemes of Doordarshan and All India Radio were curtailed substantially due to reduced plan allocation. It, therefore, recommended that higher plan allocations should be made in the coming years of the Ninth Plan, otherwise the important projects would be affected and the projects of the Ministry, for public benefit, would be seriously prejudiced.

6. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in its action taken note has stated that the recommendation of the Committee has been brought to the notice of the Planning Commission for information and appropriate consideration while finalising the Ninth Plan allocations of the Ministry.

7. The Committee would like to be apprised of the corrective steps taken by the Planning Commission on the concern expressed by it on lower allocation for all the major schemes of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Additional funds allocation under Non-Plan schemes**(Para No. 11)**

8. In its 12th Report, the Committee noted with concern that Budget Estimates had not provided the promised assistance to the tune of Rs. 140 crores, as was agreed to by the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance for Doordarshan and All India Radio to enable them to retain a part of their earnings to carry on developmental non-plan expenditure. In view of the fact that Doordarshan and All India Radio both are earning increased revenue year after year exceeding the annual estimates, the Committee had recommended that promised assistance should be released at an early date.

9. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in its action taken note has submitted that the commercial revenues earned by All India Radio and Doordarshan, after adjusting the expenditure to earn the revenues, are being drawn through the Non-Plan Revenue budget and kept in the Non-Lapsable Fund (NLF). The funds available in the NLF are utilised for both the Plan and Non-Plan Expenditure. In the year 1997-98 out of Rs. 621.95 crores deposited in the NLF, the support to Non-Plan expenditure is for Rs. 136.08 crores and for Plan schemes Rs. 484.00 crores. It is further stated that in order to have additional provision to meet the Plan budget requirements, the ministry has made a reference to the Ministry of Finance on 22.1.1997 for additional funds under Non-Plan during 1997-98 (to the tune of Rs. 40.00 crores as the first instalment) so that Non-Lapsable Fund support to the Non-Plan schemes of All India Radio and Doordarshan could be phased out and the funds may be utilised for plan development. The Ministry of Finance has again been reminded on 23.5.1997, and is being pursued.

10. The Committee notes that the funds available in Non-Lapsable Fund accounts are being utilised by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to meet Plan and Non-Plan expenditure. However, the Ministry has asked the Ministry of Finance to provide additional funds under Non-Plan to meet the ever increasing expenditure so that the Non-Lapsable Funds are exclusively utilised for Plan schemes. The Committee desires to be apprised of the latest position in this regard at the earliest.

Unrealistic Targets

(Para Nos. 42 & 43)

11. In its earlier Report the Committee had noted with concern that 17 TV Projects, 25 studio/programme generation projects and 225 Low Power Transmitter Projects/Very Low Power Transmitter Projects were at various stages of implementation which in normal condition should be commissioned within a time span of 5-6 years. Many of those projects were languishing for more than 7 years for reasons like non-availability of land, lack of infrastructure, resource constraint and variety of the reasons. The Committee had desired that implementation machinery should be geared up and monitoring mechanism strengthened for early completion of Projects.

12. The Committee had also pointed out that another reason for languishing of a large number of projects was an over-ambitious programme of the Ministry to take up large number of projects irrespective of their capabilities and availability of resources, just to pacify the popular demands of various regions. The targets were fixed unrealistically and projects were allowed to spill-over a longer period of time. The Committee had deprecated such an approach and desired that the projects for Ninth Plan should be drawn up realistically.

13. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in its action taken note has submitted that out of 17 HPT projects, 25 studio projects and 225 LPT & VLPTs which were under implementation as on 25.3.1997, only 7 HPT projects and 6 studio projects and very small number of LPTs/VLPTs had been sanctioned before the beginning of 8th Plan period. The remaining projects were sanctioned during 8th Plan period.

14. It has been further stated that installation posts for the last 2-3 years has not been sanctioned as per requirements projected by Doordarshan in view of the instructions of the Ministry of Finance on the subject. The posts sanctioned earlier are being continued. Augmentation of staff at Doordarshan Directorate of planning, design and monitoring work and at zonal offices for installation activities would be necessary for timely implementation of IXth Plan projects and for that suitable proposals would be processed after the IX Plan proposals are finalised.

15. As regards implementation and monitoring of projects it has been stated that the bottlenecks have been identified and suitable action taken to expedite the progress. The review meetings are being held by Engineer-in-Chief and attended by Senior Engineering Officials of AIR and Doordarshan both from Headquarters and Zonal offices.

16. The Ministry has further stated that for the IX Plan it has proposed a total outlay of Rs. 4898 crores out of which schemes/projects relating to Doordarshan involving an outlay of Rs. 3135 crores have been formulated and the proposals have been submitted to the Planning Commission for approval.

17. The Committee is not satisfied with the reply of the Ministry. The Committee had tried to emphasise the fact that a large number of projects were languishing due to an over-ambitious programme and the non-availability of funds and that capabilities of the Ministry to implement such a large number of projects were not considered at all. The Committee, therefore, reiterates that instead of submitting to the popular demands of various regions, the Ministry should fix realistic targets not only during IX Plan period but also during subsequent plans so that projects taken up at enormous cost are not allowed to spill-over. The Committee would like to be apprised of the steps taken by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in regard to processing of the proposals for augmentation of staff.

Under-utilisation of new Projects

(Para Nos. 45 and 46)

18. The Committee in its 12th Report had pointed out that about 100 Doordarshan projects were commissioned by deploying staff from nearby stations thus effecting adversely the functioning of those stations and also that the newly commissioned facilities could not be utilised to the optimum level due to the skeleton staff deployed from other stations. The Committee also noted that Ministry of I&B had referred proposals for creation of about 2000 posts in Doordarshan and nearly 700 in AIR to man the various newly set up Radio Stations and Doordarshan Kendras. Out of these, Ministry of Finance has sanctioned creation of 500 posts for Doordarshan and 250 posts for AIR. The Committee had desired that the remaining posts would also be sanctioned at an early date as a number of completed projects were awaiting commissioning.

19. The Ministry has stated in its reply that it has already taken up the proposals for creation of posts for various projects with Ministry of Finance. While in some cases the later has agreed to create skeleton staff for some projects, for others it has so far not sanctioned staff due to various reasons. Although many projects of Doordarshan were technically ready and could not be commissioned for want of sanctioned posts, in few cases the projects were commissioned either for avoiding Contempt of Court or due to other compulsions, by temporarily deploying skeleton staff drawn from other projects. The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has stated that the matter was being constantly pursued with the Ministry of Finance for early creation of posts.

20. The Committee finds that proposals for creation of additional posts to man new AIR/Doordarshan projects are lingering on for a considerable period. In the absence of adequate manpower, newly acquired transmitters are getting rusted and those which have been commissioned with skeleton staff drawn from other Kendras are not being optimally utilised. The Committee reiterates that the matter be taken up with Ministry of Finance at the highest level for early resolution so that the costly assets are fully utilised as early as possible.

Filling up of vacant posts

(Para No. 47)

21. The Committee in its earlier report had pointed out that newly created 750 posts could not be filled immediately because of procedural delays and legal proceedings in certain cases on the ground of alleged non-compliance of recruitment rules. The Committee had desired that the Ministry should review all these cases.

22. In its Action Taken Note, the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has stated that a large number of posts have already been filled and action for filling the remaining posts was being taken.

23. While the Committee notes with satisfaction the filling of large number of newly created posts, yet the Committee reiterates its earlier recommendation of review of all such cases where legal proceedings on the ground of alleged non-compliance of recruitment rules has been initiated by aggrieved staff members.

Tardy implementation of AIR Projects

(Para No. 70)

24. In its 12th Report the Committee had observed that actual VIII Plan expenditure on All India Radio (AIR) schemes was less than Rs. 655 crores which was almost 35 percent less than the proposed outlay of Rs. 1134.95 crores. The 8th Plan had envisaged a target of setting up of 110 Broadcasting Centres, 252 Radio Transmitters and 16 Studios and the achievement was only 76 Broadcasting Centres, 172 Radio Transmitters and 12 Studios. The Committee had expressed concern at the tardy implementation of these projects on the part of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

25. The Ministry in its action taken reply has submitted that to start with 85 broadcasting centres, 187 transmitter projects and 14 studio projects were targeted to be completed during 8th Plan. During the course of the 8th Plan, some more projects were added to the 8th Plan and some other projects were dropped. The revised targets for 8th Plan thus was 93 Broadcasting Centres, 204 Transmitter Projects and 12 Studio Projects. The achievements against these targets has been 73 broadcasting centres, 168 transmitter projects and 12 studio projects.

26. The Committee notes that the revised target for the 8th Plan on All India Radio schemes were 93 Broadcasting Centres, 204 Transmitter Projects and 12 Studio Projects out of which 73 Broadcasting Centres, 108 Transmitter Projects have been completed. It cannot be described as a satisfactory achievement. The Committee desires that constraints be identified and corrective action taken at an early date to avoid such pitfalls in future.

Delay in evaluation of Working of AIR Network

(Para No. 73)

27. The Committee in its 12th Report had desired that study being conducted to evaluate the present system of working of All India Radio should be completed without further loss of time and copy of the same be furnished to it urgently.

28. In its reply, the Ministry has stated that broad approach of the proposed study has already been prepared. The interview schedules for the radio listeners has also been prepared for use in the areas of selected regional and local radio stations. Further working position in selected stations of Orissa, *viz.* Cuttack, Sambalpur and Puri was being

obtained through field work. Similar exercise was also being undertaken for other zones starting from AIR, Rohtak in Haryana. It was further stated that after scrutinising the data so collected, the interview schedule would be finalised for conducting field work in the selected stations of other zones.

29. The Committee feels that already much time has been taken by the Ministry to evaluate the working of AIR Network and desires that the study be accorded top priority and completed without further loss of time.

Under-Achievement of the Financial Targets

(Para No. 93)

30. The Committee in its 12th Report had pointed out that Films Division couldn't achieve the financial targets during 1996-97. During 8th Plan, against the outlay of Rs. 3400 lakh only Rs. 1362 lakh could be expended. The Committee apprehended that budget estimates were not prepared with due care and after getting the funds allocated, the progress of the scheme was tardy.

31. In its action taken note, the Ministry has stated that there was under-utilisation of funds because for the scheme "Construction of III phase building" for which an outlay of Rs. 1200 lakh was provided could not take off since the plans/drawings for the proposed building underwent a number of revisions. Again, for the scheme "Augmentation and replacement of cinematographic equipment" against the approved outlay of Rs. 660 lakh the Film Division could incur expenditure of only Rs. 642.08 lakh upto 31.3.1997. The reason for the same is stated to be delay in finalisation of specifications of various items of equipment and for want of financial sanction.

32. The Committee is not convinced of the reasons for shortfall in financial targets such as delays in formal clearance of building plans, delays in procurement of equipment in time as advanced by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. These problems could have been overcome with timely coordinated efforts, effective monitoring and follow-up action. The Committee trusts that suitable lessons will be drawn for future in the implementation of such important building plans and procurement of equipment. Because of the inordinate delays in construction of this building, invaluable historical documentary films are getting destroyed as there is no adequate space to store them safely. The Committee trusts that the construction will be expedited.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (No. 5 Para 41)

It is perturbing to note that 8th Plan outlay for Doordarshan has come down to Rs. 1365 crores against the original approval of Rs. 2300 crores. The anticipated expenditure was Rs. 1271. Thus the actual implementation has been only 45 percent of the approved outlay. As a result of it originally proposed targets of 40 TV Production Centres, 66 High Power Transmitters (HPTs), 353 Low Power Transmitters (LPTs) were scaled down drastically. A number of new schemes were not taken up at all and the continuing ones were drastically curtailed. Whatever might be the explanation, the fact remained that planned growth was tardy and aspirations of the people were not fulfilled. It was negation of Planning. The Committee expects that suitable lessons would be drawn from this sad experience before making projections for future plans.

Action Taken

As against an outlay of Rs. 2300 crores originally approved for VIII Plan proposals of Doordarshan, the actual allocation as stated in the table below had been only Rs. 1365.32 crores.

Year-wise allocation and expenditure during VIII Plan is as under:—

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	Allocation	Expenditure
1992-93	265.16	176.25
1993-94	170.00	168.22
1994-95	256.00	255.93
1995-96	313.78	311.70
1996-97	360.38	360.38*
Total	1365.32	1272.48

*Utilisation figures for 1996-97 have been taken as budgeted.

As would be seen from this table, the actual expenditure during the first two years of the plan period has been much below the allocation. The situation, thereafter, has improved considerably resulting in almost 100% expenditure of the allocations received. In order to avoid recurrence of similar situations, the Planning Commission, during Plan discussions for the 9th Plan period, has been requested to keep under constant consideration the fact that if actual allocation does not match the approved outlay, the plans and projects get affected. On our part, they have been assured of fully utilisation of Plan Funds for which a regular monitoring system has been devised.

[Ref. Ministry of I & B's O.M. No. G. 20016/4/97-B&A
dtd. 22.07.1997.]

Recommendation No. 8 (Para 44)

It is shocking to note that though 69 TV Transmitters including 4 HPTs and 55 LPTs were technically ready as on 1 January, 1997, they could not be commissioned for the simple reason that staff to man them was not sanctioned. It is wasting of resources. Heavy investments made in the shape of plant and machinery were allowed to rust without any commensurate benefit to the society. The Committee therefore, strongly recommends that in future staff should be sanctioned atleast upto 50 percent alongwith the project approval. However, if a project has longer gestation period, effective steps to sanction staff should be initiated much before the completion of the project so that staff may be in position to commission it immediately on completion.

Action Taken

While the Ministry is competent to approve various projects for Doordarshan, the power for creation of posts rests with Ministry of Finance. Normally, all the projects of Doordarshan have atleast 6 months of gestation period. It shall be ensured in future that proposals for creation of posts are referred to the competent authority well in advance.

[Ref. Ministry of I & B's O.M. No. G. 20016/4/97-B&A
dtd. 22.07.1997.]

Recommendation No. 12 (Para 48)

The Committee notes that coverage of Doordarshan in certain North-Eastern parts of the country, populationwise as well as areawise is much below the national average of 68 percent and 86 percent respectively. In Arunachal, it is stated to be the lowest at 44 percent populationwise and 11 percent areawise. The Committee desires that utmost efforts should be made to expand coverage of Doordarshan in these States so that these areas may be brought to national main stream as early as possible.

Action Taken

Special consideration has been given to extend TV coverage to the uncovered areas of North-East region while formulating 9th Plan proposals of Doordarshan. It is the endeavour of Doordarshan to expand TV coverage in North-East region so as to bring it at par with the National average. With the implementation of schemes proposed to be taken up during 9th Plan, about 95 percent population of North-East region is likely to be brought under TV coverage.

[Ref. Ministry of I & B's O.M. No. G. 20016/4/97-B&A
dtd. 22.07.1997.]

Recommendation No. 13 (Para 49)

No doubt, the revenue earning of Doordarshan shows steep upward curve and it is reported to have jumped by Rs. 150 crores to Rs. 572 crores in 1996-97, yet it cannot be the sole criterion to assess quality of Doordarshan programmes more so when the increased earning is also due to higher revision of the rates of advertisement. The Committee, therefore, desires that a proper survey may be conducted to judge the merit of Doordarshan programmes for appropriate follow-up action.

Action Taken

The suggestion of the Standing Committee on Communications (1996-97) has been noted and Doordarshan has been advised to carry out an appropriate survey to ascertain the public perception about the quality of its programmes.

[Ref. Ministry of I & B's O.M. No. G. 20016/4/97-B&A
dtd. 22.07.1997.]

Recommendation No. 14 (Para 50)

The Committee notes that about 40 to 50 proposals in the category of 'Royalty based programmes' are pending with the Ministry and that no time-limit has been specified for telecasting these programmes. Under this category a producer out of his own creative efforts makes a film and requests Doordarshan to telecast it. Royalty based programmes are accepted depending on the requirement and availability of time-slot. The Committee desires that stipulated time-limit of 6 days for replying to those who apply for Royalty based programmes should be strictly adhered to.

Action Taken

At an average, Doordarshan is able to accommodate on National Network, six to seven programmes in a month under the royalty scheme, depending on the availability of slots, whereas Doordarshan is receiving at an average 4-5 proposals from outside producers under the Royalty Scheme every day. In other words, Doordarshan is receiving about 100 to 120 programme proposals in a month while it is in a position to accommodate the telecast of about 6-7 in a month. Therefore, it is becoming increasingly difficult to accommodate the telecast of programmes offered by outside producers under the Royalty Scheme. Since the final decision in respect of the proposals received from the producers is possible only after the preview of the programme, and availability of funds in the budget provision, the procedure takes time to dispose of them finally.

However, as directed by the Committee, each outside producer who would be submitting his proposal with or without preview tape, would be given interim reply within a period of six days in the event of preview and final reply getting delayed.

[Ref. Ministry of I & B's O.M. No. G. 20016/4/97-B&A
dtd. 22.07.1997.]

Recommendation No. 15 (Para 51)

The Committee is unhappy to note that sometimes important national level sports events have been ignored by Doordarshan inspite of the popularity of the events. In this context the Committee desires that suitable policy guidelines be formulated for coverage of sports events on Doordarshan.

Action Taken

Doordarshan has formulated policy guidelines (Annexure A) for coverage of the sport events. Coverage for sporting events are provided on the basis of these guidelines depending upon the importance of the event, popularity of a particular game and availability of telecast time subject to other programme commitments and telecast right with Doordarshan. If live telecast of the event is not possible, Doordarshan also records events and telecast them later on a deferred basis. Coverage to sporting events are provided by Doordarshan all over the country within the available resources and infrastructure.

[Ref. Ministry of I & B's O.M. No. G. 20016/4/97-B&A
dtd. 22.07.1997]

ANNEXURE A

GUIDELINES FOR SPORTS COVERAGE OVER DOORDARSHAN

A background note on the coverage of sports on Doordarshan was sent to Ministry *vide* this Dte.'s letter No. 3101/2/97-TV(P2) dated 3.4.97. The salient points are as follows:—

1. All major International/National/Regional sports events are to be covered for telecast on one of the channels of Doordarshan where telecast rights are made available to Doordarshan by Sports Federations/Associations.

2. Proper coverage is to be given to indigenous games/regional and rural sports taking place in various parts of the country.

3. Doordarshan will try to telecast live finals of all major events for seniors wherever technical facilities permits and time slots are available. Otherwise, those events will be recorded for subsequent telecasts on one of the channels.

4. Preference will be given to sporting events which can be sponsorship telecast basis.

5. Doordarshan will sign long-term agreements with Sports Federations with whom the agreement has not been signed so far to acquire telecast rights of various events and to ensure telecast of their events.

6. Programmes of eminent sports personalities will be produced/procured and telecast over Doordarshan.

Recommendation No. 16 (Para 52)

The Committee in its Third Report while examining Demands for Grants (1996-97) had pointed out that TV Cameras and related equipments provided at some Doordarshan Kendras had outlived their utility and become obsolete. It had therefore, desired early replacement of them with their modern versions. In this context, the Committee expresses concern at reduced outlay of Rs. 16.53 crores this year against Rs. 19.19 crores provided last year for replacement of obsolete cameras and related equipments.

Action Taken

Special emphasis has been laid on replacement/renewal of old studio equipment and augmentation and modernisation of existing Doordarshan Kendras while formulating 9th Plan proposals.

[Ref. Ministry of I & B's O.M. No. G. 20016/4/97-B&A
dtd. 22.07.1997]

Recommendation No. 18 (Para 71)

It is a matter of grave concern that 8 Studio projects at Hissar, Delhi, Kokranjhar, Silliguri, Calcutta, Mumbai and Coimbatore and 10 transmitter projects at Hissar, Jodhpur, Bhadarwah, Calcutta, Sambalpur, Dhubri, Silliguri, Jamshedpur, Coimbatore and Pondicherry taken up during 1986 to 1993 are still languishing. These projects were expected to be completed within a period of 2-3 years. Whatever, may be constraints, the delay ranging upto 10 years in Commissioning of these projects is highly deplorable. The Committee desires that topmost priority should be accorded to these ongoing projects for their early completion.

Action Taken

All efforts are being made to complete the 8th studio projects at (i) Hissar, (ii) Delhi, (iii) Kokrajhar, (iv) Siliguri, (v) Calcutta, (vi) Mumbai, (vii) Coimbatore, and (viii) Bhadarwah and 10 Transmitter projects at (i) Hissar, (ii) Jodhpur, (iii) Bhadarwah, (iv) Calcutta, (v) Sambalpur, (vi) Jamshedpur, (vii) Dhubri, (viii) Siliguri, (ix) Coimbatore and (x) Pondicherry, as mentioned in the para on top priority during the year 1997-98.

[Ref. Ministry of I & B's O.M. No. G. 20016/4/97-B&A
dtd. 22.07.1997]

Recommendation No. 21 (Para 74)

The Committee trusts that the bill to bring the foreign stellite channels within the ambit of the proposed law will soon be introduced in Parliament.

Action Taken

The "Broadcast Bill, 1997" containing clauses for regulation of foreign satellite channels have already been introduced in the Parliament.

[Ref. Ministry of I & B's O.M. No. G. 20016/4/97-B&A
dtd. 22.07.1997.]

Recommendation No. 22 (Para 75)

The Committee desires the Ministry to take up formulation of Tribal sub plan as a part of the overall strategy of the IX Plan and take up specific schemes for the benefit of the tribals.

Action Taken

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting is aware of the broad objective of this strategy which is to bring about comprehensive social, economic and educational development of the scheduled tribes in the country. It has been the constant endeavour of this Ministry through its various Media Units, to lay emphasis for increasing the reach and coverage of public media, development and adoption of newer technologies to meet specific requirements, creation of appropriate software and carry meaningful and socially relevant programmes to the people and formulation of suitable strategy to sustain the interest of the target group.

However, the schemes of the media units of this Ministry cannot, be categorised on the basis of specific targetting to benefit any particular section in view of the composite nature of the functions of the Media units and the universal benefit their activities bestow in their area of operations. The reach of the electronic media is through their air ways which cover an area in geographical terms and provide facilities to all those who reside in the area.

Nevertheless, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, through its various Media units, have been regularly putting out programmes to

generate awareness and disseminate information for the upliftment of the tribal population as also to remove the existing imbalances in different areas of socio-economic and political life in our country. Ministry of Information & Broadcasting is also providing publicity support to the developmental programmes/schemes undertaken by the various Ministries of Government of India for the benefit of the tribals. The Media units have also been advised to formulate programmes and identify projects/schemes which may be implemented in the tribal and hilly areas as also for formulation of a Tribal Sub-Plan at least out of the divisible schemes. Ministry of Welfare has also been requested to consider providing separate funds for setting up of transmitters and provision of community TV sets and subsidy for FM Radio sets in tribal and hilly areas.

Besides the above, the following activities are also envisaged during the Ninth Plan period:—

- (i) In the draft 9th Plan for Rs. 1477 crores, number of new radio stations have been proposed to be set up in tribal areas.
- Besides, replacement of transmitters in tribal areas by same or higher power has been proposed. The studio equipments at the existing stations in tribal areas have also been proposed.
- (ii) It would be the endeavour of Doordarshan to expand TV coverage in tribal areas as expeditiously as possible. However, as on date, Doordarshan has 261 transmitters of varying power which are functioning in 119 districts (fully/parts) of the country which fall under the category of TSP. 145 more transmitters are under implementation/envisaged to be set up in the TSP districts.
- (iii) The Press Information Bureau has formulated two schemes exclusively for tribals during the 9th Five Year Plan *viz.*—
 - (i) Opening of branch office of PIB in north eastern region and
 - (ii) Coordinating and Organising of Press Parties from tribal areas.
 Under the Scheme 'Opening of Branch Office', it is proposed to set up one branch office of PIB at Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh) as there is substantial population of STs.

Similarly under the Scheme 'Coordinating and Organising Press Parties from Tribal areas', it is proposed to take out small groups of journalists from tribal areas to places where economic and welfare activities are being undertaken and to show them how the Government's social justice programmes help in improving standard of the people.

- (iv) The Publications Division is disseminating the information through books and magazines. Articles on various developmental policies and programmes undertaken by the Government for upliftment of the weaker sections particularly SCs and STs are published in the journals of the Division.
- (v) DAVP undertakes publicity campaigns on behalf of various Ministries/Departments of Government of India, some of the autonomous bodies and Public Sector Undertakings. The messages are publicised through various channels of communication such as Press Advertisements, Exhibitions, Outdoor Publicity like hoardings, kiosks, wall paintings, cinema slides, bus-panels etc.; Print material like posters, booklets, folders, jingles etc; and Audio & Video Programmes. The publicity material is produced and displayed/released in Hindi, English and other regional languages for use throughout the country including the tribal areas.
- (vi) The Indian Institute of Mass Communication conducts research projects and short courses workshops which relate to the tribal areas. These programmes are conducted by the institute as per requirements of State Government concerned and on their demand.
- (vii) The Directorate of Field Publicity plays an important role in accelerating the pace of development by informing, educating and motivating the people, specially the rural and weaker communities like SCs/STs on policies of the Government. Since this is a grass root level organisation, weaker sections have the opportunity to seek clarifications and pose further queries about the various Government schemes affecting them. To achieve this goal in 9th Five Year Plan, the schemes (a) Conducted tours; (b) setting up of new field units; (c) procurements of PVP; and (d) computerisation have been kept under Tribal Sub-Plan by D.F.P.

- (viii) The Song and Drama Division has formulated schemes to ensure flow of benefits to SCs and STs through promotion of artists belonging to these categories by various plan schemes during the Annual Plan 1997-98 and also during Ninth Five Year Plan, 1997-2002. The schemes which are going to directly benefit the SCs and STs are— (i) Tribal Centre, Ranchi; (ii) Tribal/Hilly/Desert areas Publicity scheme; (iii) Sensitive & Inner Line Publicity Schemes (for North-Eastern Sector); (iv) special Publicity in border and sensitive areas.
- (ix) Films Division is the Central film producing organisation of the Government of India. As a major mass media unit of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, the Films Division has a specific role to play in projecting various schemes and plans formulated by the Government through producing the documentary, news magazines and feature films.

The Films Division produces films with the aim of focusing on the national perspectives to educate and motivate the people towards enlisting their active support and participation in the implementation of National Programmes and to project the image of the land and the heritage of the country. Thus focusing on the problem of the SC/ST and the various schemes/projects of the Government for their development are some of the objectives of the Films Division, which it tries to attain through production of films of social relevance.

- (x) Film and Television Institute of India gives adequate representation to the personnel, specially from the North East in its training programmes.
- (xi) The National Centre of Films for Children and Young People produces films for children. The Centre attaches considerable importance to exhibition of films in tribal belts. At present, the Centre is specifically concentrating on the North Eastern States which are predominantly tribal. In fact, a proposal to reach the software to Mizoram, presently under consideration of the Government of Mizoram, is likely to be finalised very shortly. The pattern developed through this programme would provide a model for similar activities in other states.

The Centre would, thereafter, be taking up the activities in individual states in the North East one by one in consultation with the respective state authorities during this year itself and continue/expand them during the 9th Plan.

[Ref. Ministry of I & B's O.M. No. G. 20016/4/97-B&A
dtd. 22.07.1997]

Recommendation No. 23 (Para 76)

The Committee notes that no formal study has been undertaken to compete with the foreign technologies. It desires that the Ministry should strengthen R & D activities with a view to evolve suitable indigenous technology, so as to compete with other channels.

Action Taken

The observation of the Committee regarding evolving of suitable indigenous technology so as to compete with other channels has been noted for compliance.

[Ref. Ministry of I & B's O.M. No. G. 20016/4/97-B&A
dtd. 22.07.1997.]

Recommendation No. 24 (Para 80)

The Committee notes that Plan allocation for DAVP activities has been increased from Rs. 30 lakh in 1996-97 to Rs. 160 lakh this year. The Committee expects that suitable schemes on various activities notably on National integration, environment and health awareness etc. would be drawn up by the Ministry of Welfare activities would be projected in an effective manner.

Action Taken

The observations of the Standing Committee have been noted for compliance.

[Ref. Ministry of I & B's O.M. No. G. 20016/4/97-B&A
dtd. 22.07.1997.]

Recommendation No. 25 (Para 86)

The Committee is anguished to note that very low outlay has been provided for such an important activity as N'CYP's production of films for Children and Young People.

Action Taken

The observations of the Committee have been noted. The amount of grant-in-aid given by Government to National Centre of Films for Children and Young People (N'CYP) for production of films etc., under Plan has been enhanced from Rs. 1.5 crores in 1996-97 to Rs. 265 crores in B.E. for the year 1997-98, i.e., an increase of more than 75%.

[Ref. Ministry of I & B's O.M. No. G. 20016/4/97-B&A
dtd. 22.07.1997.]

Recommendation No. 26 (Para 87)

The Committee is further distressed to note that against the target of 20 films for participation in the International Children's Film Festivals, the achievement has been only 8. The Committee is not at all impressed by the reasoning advanced by the Ministry that limited budget and not many takers for the stories of Children's film. It is of the opinion that as far as the budget constraint is concerned children being the future of our country, their interest can hardly be sacrificed. Hence the Committee hopes sufficient funds would be provided in the coming years of the Ninth Plan for this important activity. The Committee strongly feels that there is abundant talent in our country and no dearth of capable writers on children's theme who can make successful children's films with educational and entertainment value. The Committee, urges the Ministry to explore suitable means, with a view to attract proper talent to make films for children so that the latter's interest were not lost sight of.

Action Taken

The observations of the Committee have been noted. Insofar as participation in International Children's Film Festivals is concerned, it depends on the films selected by the authorities of concerned film festivals, more so when selection of films in film festivals is highly subjective not only abroad but in India as well. For example, N'CYP's Marathi film 'Senani Sane Guruji' which did not figure in the list of awards given by the Government of Maharashtra nor in the National Awards for 1995-96, won awards at the Cairo and Iran Festivals. It has now been selected for the festival being held in China. On the other hand, N'CYP's film 'Halo' which won the National Award in 1995 and was also included in the Indian Panorama 1996 has not been

accepted at any of the foreign festivals except the one held at Cairo during 1996. This would mean that participation in foreign film festivals depends on the selection of N'CYP's films by the concerned festival authorities. Hence the short-fall in the anticipated targets.

As for scouting of talents to make films for children, N'CYP will make concerted efforts in this direction.

Regarding funds for production of films by N'CYP, the amount of grant-in-aid given by the Government for the purpose has been enhanced from Rs. 1.5 crores in 1996-97 to Rs. 2.65 crores in the B.E. for 1997-98.

[Ref. Ministry of I & B's O.M. No. G. 20016/4/97-B&A
dtd. 22.07.1997]

Recommendation No. 30 (Para 100)

The Committee notes that the targets for Reference papers, Backgrounder to News, Biographies and special papers have remained unachieved for the last three years. As against the target of 150 during 1995-96 and 100 during 1996-97, only 77 and 25 could be released respectively. The reasons for this shortfall has been explained in terms of shortage of the supporting staff and officers belonging to Jr. Gr. 'B', due to which posts in RR & TD are lying vacant. It is a matter of grave concern that no alternatives were thought of and shortage of staff was allowed to prevail upon the growth and progress of various schemes.

Action Taken

As a result of our constant persuasion, a panel of 14 candidates has now been received from the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), for appointment to the Junior Grade of Indian Information Service (IIS), Group 'B', some of whom are being opted to the Research, Reference & Training Division as soon as the preliminary formalities for appointment are completed. This is expected to improve the staff position and help achieving the set target during the current year.

To achieve the set target and also to clear the backlog, the work of the Division is being streamlined/monitored on a regular basis. To ensure growth and progress of various schemes undertaken by the

Division, steps have also been taken to computerise certain aspects of work in the Division, such as data collection and maintenance of records etc.

[Ref. Ministry of I&B's O.M. No. G. 20016/4/97-B&A
dated. 22.07.1997]

Recommendation No. 33 (Para 106)

The Committee further notes that no amount has been provided for the new schemes of Song & Drama Division. The Committee hopes that Ministry will be able to convince the Planning Commission of the utility of these schemes which will be added to the schemes for the Ninth Plan as has been assured by the representatives of the Ministry. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress made in this regard as soon as the Ministry's discussions on the matter are over.

Action Taken

The four new schemes, with the outlays indicated against each, have been proposed in the Ninth Plan:

- (i) Rural Area IEC Scheme — Rs. 170 lakh
(to be provided by Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment and Deptt. of Women & Child Development.)
- (ii) Upgradation of Border Centres — Rs. 100 lakh
& Sub-Centres.
- (iii) Opening of new Regional Centres — Rs. 150 lakh
- (iv) Mobility/hiring of vehicles — Rs. 100 lakh

The above mentioned new schemes alongwith the proposed outlay have been approved for the 9th Five Year Plan.

[Ref. Ministry of I&B's O.M. No. G. 20016/4/97-B&A
dated 22.07.1997]

CHAPTER III

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

Recommendation No. 1 (Para 9)

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, through the media of radio, television, films, the press, publications, public service advertising, live performances and inter personal mode of communications caters to the information, education and entertainment needs of people. In support of the developmental needs of its various divisions, the Ministry had projected an Outlay of Rs. 3672.42 crore (RE) for the VIII Plan. However, allocations for the different Annual Plans, during the Plan period, were to the extent of Rs. 2392 crore. For the first year of Ninth Five Year Plan, the Ministry projected a Plan outlay of Rs. 707.48 crore while the Budget Estimates have provided for Rs. 619.80 crore restricting the budgetary support to Rs. 127.60 crore. The reduced allocations have resulted in thinning of resources for all the major schemes. Doordarshan's allocations are lowered by Rs. 7340 lakh to Rs. 41560 lakh, Press Information Bureau's by Rs. 155 lakh to Rs. 460 lakh, National Centre for Children and Young People by Rs. 949 lakh to Rs. 265 lakh and Film and Television Institute's by Rs. 411 lakh to Rs. 700 lakh.

Action Taken

The above recommendation has been brought to the notice of the Planning Commission for information and appropriate consideration while finalising the Ninth Plan allocations of this Ministry.

[Ref. Ministry of I&B's O.M. No. G. 20016/4/97-B&A
dtd. 22.07.1997.]

Recommendation No. 2 (Para 10)

Continuing and new schemes of 'Doordarshan' and All India Radio have been curtailed substantially. Secretary, Information and Broadcasting candidly stated that there would be reduction in setting

up of High Power Transmitters and Studios. In the light of these facts, the Committee is not convinced by the contention of the Ministry that such curtailment will not have much impact on growth and progress of developmental schemes. The Committee therefore, strongly recommends that higher plan allocations should be made in the coming years of the Ninth Plan, otherwise the important projects will be affected and the important projects of the Ministry, for public benefit, will be seriously prejudiced.

Action Taken

The above recommendation has been brought to the notice of the Planning Commission for information and appropriate consideration while finalising the Ninth Plan allocations of this Ministry.

[Ref. Ministry of I & B's O.M. No. G. 20016/4/97-B&A
dtd. 22.07.1997.]

Recommendation No. 3 (Para 11)

The Committee is concerned to note that Budget Estimates have not provided the promised assistance to the tune of Rs. 140 crores, as was agreed to by the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance for Doordarshan and All India Radio to enable them to retain a part of their earnings to carry on developmental non-plan expenditure. As the Doordarshan and All India Radio both are earning increased revenue year after year surpassing the annual estimates, the Committee recommends that promised assistance be released at an early date.

Action Taken

The commercial revenues earned by All India Radio and Doordarshan, after adjusting the expenditure to earn the revenues, are being drawn through the Non-Plan Revenue budget and kept in the Non-Lapsable Fund (NLF). The funds available in the NLF are utilised for both the Plan and the Non-Plan Expenditure. In the year 1997-98 out of Rs. 621.95 crore deposited in the NLF, the support to Non-Plan expenditure is for Rs. 136.08 crore and for plan schemes, it is Rs. 484.00 crores.

In order to have additional provision to meet the Plan budget requirements, a reference has been made to the Ministry of Finance on 22.1.1997 for additional funds under Non-Plan during 1997-98 (to the

tune of Rs. 40.00 crore as the first instalment) so that Non-Lapsable Fund support to the Non-Plan Schemes of All India Radio and Doordarshan could be phased out and the funds may be utilised for plan development. The Ministry of Finance has again been reminded *vide* DO letter dated 23.5.1997 from Secretary (I&B) to Secretary (Expenditure). The matter is being pursued with the Ministry of Finance.

[Ref. Ministry of I & B's O.M. No. G. 20016/4/97-B&A
dtd. 22.07.1997.]

Recommendation No. 4 (Para 12)

The Committee views with concern that approved Plan outlay for 1997-98 for different media units of the Ministry have been substantially brought down *vis-a-vis* the proposed outlay. For example, outlay of the Press Information Bureau has been reduced from Rs. 615 lakh to Rs. 460 lakh, of Films Division from Rs. 950 lakh to Rs. 525 lakh; of NCYP from Rs. 1214 lakh to Rs. 265 lakh and of Film and TV Institute's from Rs. 1111 lakh to Rs. 700 lakh. The Budgetary allocations have been increased only marginally. The Committee apprehends that with such reduced allocations the progress will be tardy and it will not be possible to achieve the broad objectives effectively in very vital areas.

Action Taken

The above recommendation has been brought to the notice of the Planning Commission for information and appropriate consideration while finalising the Ninth Plan allocations of this Ministry.

[Ref. Ministry of I&B's O.M. No. G. 20016/4/97-B&A
dtd. 22.07.1997.]

Recommendation No. 19 (Para 72)

It is a matter of grave concern that 12 studio projects and 22 Transmitter projects of AIR though technically ready are awaiting commissioning as the staff to man them has not been sanctioned. Committee has already made its observations on this aspect in the preceding paragraphs. It trusts that the matter will be taken up with the Ministry of Finance at the highest level for early sanction of staff so that the valuable assets are put to proper use for benefit of the people.

Action Taken

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) are not inclined to take up the proposals for creation of posts based on the old staffing norms which were fixed way back in 1969-70. However, concerted efforts are being made to impress upon MoF to sanction barest minimum requirement of posts for enabling commissioning of such projects on the basis of existing staffing norms, pending evaluation of new norms to be fixed by Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) of Ministry of Finance.

[Ref. Ministry of I&B's O.M. No. G. 20016/4/97-B&A
dtd. 22.07.1997]

Recommendation No. 20 (Para 73)

The Committee takes serious view of the fact that no effective action has been taken by the Ministry on the recommendation of the Committee for evaluation of the Working of All India Radio by an independent agency. It feels that urgency of the study has already been lost since Indian Institute of Mass Communication which has been assigned this job by the Ministry has not indicated any action taken in this regard nor has the Ministry cared to follow-up. The Committee desires that study to evaluate the present system of working of All India Radio should be completed without further loss of time and copy of the same be furnished to it urgently.

Action Taken

The proposed study is to be conducted in six zones of AIR including North-East zone. The broad approach line has already been prepared. The interview schedules for the radio listeners has also been prepared to be used in the areas of selected regional and Local Radio Stations. At present, the working position in selected stations of Orissa, viz. Cuttack, Sambalpur and Puri is being obtained through field work. Similar exercise is also being taken for other zones starting from AIR, Rohtak in Haryana. After scrutinising the data so collected, the interview schedule will be finalised for conducting field work in the selected stations of other zones.

[Ref. Ministry of I&B's O.M. No. G. 20016/4/97-B&A
dtd. 22.07.1997]

Recommendation No. 28 (Para 94)

The Committee is constrained to note that target for production of documentary films through outside independent producers has been kept at 6 which is at the previous year's level though the achievements last year was 10 films.

Action Taken

In the Performance Budget (1997-98) the achievements and target in respect of outside production through independent producers have been indicated as follows:—

	Achievements 1995-96	Targets 1996-97	Achievements 1996-97	Targets 1997-98
(a) Non-Plan	2	—	4	—
(b) Plan	5	6	6	6
Total	7	6	10	6

During 1995-96 the Division produced 7 films (2 documentaries under Non-Plan and 5 featurettes under Plan) through outside producers. During 1996-97 the Division could produce 13 films (7 documentaries under Non-Plan and 6 featurettes under Plan) as against the anticipated achievement of 10 films (4 documentaries under Non-Plan and 6 featurettes under Plan) through outside producers.

Elaborating the above further, it may be stated that against the target of 6 featurettes for 1996-97 under Plan for outside production, the Division produced 6 featurettes and there was no shortfall. As regards Non-Plan, no target was fixed for outside production, as the production of films depended on availability of funds under the head "Other Charges (Non-Plan)". Since funds were available during 1996-97, 7 documentary films were completed under Non-Plan, making a total of 13 films under Plan and Non-Plan.

For the year 1997-98, the target for production of featurette films through outside producers under Plan is fixed as 6 films. All efforts would be made to achieve this target. As regards Non-Plan, efforts would be made to complete 5 to 6 documentary films, even though no target is fixed. The Division does not consider it necessary to fix

a target for Non-Plan in view of the fact that the films would be produced subject to availability of funds.

[Ref. Ministry of I & B's O.M. No. G. 20016/4/97-B&A
dtd. 22.07.1997.]

Recommendation No. 29 (Para 95)

The Committee notes with dismay that for such an important subject like Family Welfare, the target has not been achieved during 1996-97. The Committee is surprised to know that progress has been slow on account of the procedural wranglings and the targets were lost sight of. The Committee desired that for documentaries some dedicated producers should be selected by the panel of officers maintained by Films Division. It feels that such services can not be allowed to be commercialised. The Committee would also like the Ministry to ensure by devising suitable procedure that Producers who get advances do not give up the Projects mid-way.

Action Taken

The observations of the Committee have been noted. It is submitted that the Films Division has produced the following 11 films for the Department of Family Welfare during the year 1996-97 against the target of 15 films and against 6 films indicated as anticipated achievements in the Performance Budget (1997-98):—

1. Bhit
2. Akanksha
3. Toward Polio Eradication
4. Jan Sankhya Niyanttran Vichar Apne Apne
5. Bantwara
6. Swasthya Hi Jevan
7. Sajha Johan
8. Surakshit Garbh Samapan
9. Sukhad Bhavishya
10. Wahi Sach Tha
11. Tum Bhool Na Jana

The Films Division will make efforts to assign the films on family welfare subjects to dedicated film-makers from the panel maintained by the Division.

To avoid delay in approval of stories/scripts by sponsoring department in future, the Films Division proposes to have personal discussions with the consultants in the Department of Family Welfare and get the necessary approvals so that the films are completed in time.

Regarding devising of suitable procedure to ensure that producers who get advance do not give up the projects mid-way, it is submitted that according to existing form of agreement entered into by the Division with the outside producers, an amount not exceeding 45% of the contracted amount is to be released as advance to the producers on approval of script and production of bank guarantee or sureties acceptable to the Division. This advance is released to enable them to meet the expenses on shooting. However, after getting the advance, some of the producers do not start the shooting immediately on one pretext or the other, with the result that the films are not produced according to schedule. To avoid this, the Division is revising the schedule of payment to outside producers and the modified format containing the revised schedule of payment is being sent to the Ministry of Law for vetting. As soon as it is cleared by that Ministry, it will be implemented.

With the changes proposed above, the Division will hopefully be able to improve its performance in the matter of production of family welfare films in future.

[Ref. Ministry of I & B's O.M. No. G. 20016/4/97-B&A
dtd. 22.07.1997.]

Recommendation No. 31 (Para 101)

The Committee further notes with dismay that although Rs. 8 lakhs was proposed for R & D as outlay for 1997-98, no amount has been sanctioned. The Committee is unable to understand how the target set for the year 1997-98 can be achieved in the absence of any approved outlay for the purpose.

Action Taken

The amount of Rs. 8.00 lakhs, proposed for 1997-98, was under the Annual Plan 1997-98, which was a part of the 9th Plan Scheme—'Modernisation of the functions of National Documentation Centre on Mass Communication & Expansion of its Services'. The Planning Commission did not approve the provision, since they had to prioritise the allocation due to resource crunch. The Scheme is expected to take off in the next year. Adequate provision has been made in SBG 1997-98 for the other activities of the Division during the current year.

[Ref. Ministry of I & B's O.M. No. G. 20016/4/97-B&A
dtd. 22.07.1997]

Recommendation No. 32 (Para 105)

The Committee is extremely unhappy to learn that no provision has been made for strengthening of Headquarters, Sensitive Publicity Scheme in Sensitive Border Areas. These areas needless to mention are of utmost importance and should not be neglected, considering the importance of national integration.

Action Taken

It is proposed that within the existing manpower resources available with the Song and Drama Division, the activities would be streamlined in order to implement the existing schemes and those proposed in the Ninth Five Year Plan. Due to a ban on creation of posts, it is not possible to increase the manpower requirement in the Headquarters of the Song and Drama Division.

Under the Special Publicity Scheme in border & sensitive areas the Ministry/Song & Drama Division proposes to present 4,200 shows which would generate 42,000 man-days of employment with the budgetary allocation of Rs. 125.00 lakhs during the 9th Plan period. The scheme envisages presentation of programmes to instil deep sense of communal harmony, national integration in people living in these areas.

[Ref. Ministry of I & B's O.M. No. G. 20016/4/97-B&A
dtd. 22.07.1997]

CHAPTER IV

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

Recommendation No. 6 (Para 42)

The Committee is concerned to note that 17 TV projects, 25 studios/programme generation projects and 225 Low Power Transmitters (LPTs)/Very Low Power Transmitters (VLPTs) projects taken up for execution are at various stages of implementation. Many of these projects were taken up for implementation more than seven year back in 1986/1987 and are still languishing for reasons like non-availability of land, lack of infrastructure, resource constraint and a variety of other reasons. Normally these projects should have been commissioned within a time-span of 5-6 years. The unusual delay in completion of these projects must have resulted in cost overrun. The Committee desires that implementation machinery should be geared up and monitoring mechanism strengthened for early completion of these projects.

Action Taken

17 HPT projects, 25 studio projects and 225 LPTs & VLPTs were under implementation as on 25.3.1997. Out of these only 7 HPT projects and 6 studio projects and a very small number of LPTs/VLPTs had been sanctioned before the beginning of 8th Plan period. The remaining projects were sanctioned during 8th Plan period.

Installation posts for the last 2-3 years are not being sanctioned as per requirements projected by Doordarshan in view of the instructions of Ministry of Finance on the subject. The posts sanctioned earlier are being continued. Installation posts as per actual requirement need to be sanctioned for speedy implementation of the projects. As regards monitoring of projects, Zonal CEs are now taking monthly meeting to review the projects. E-in-C is also taking monthly meeting to review the overall implementation of projects. In addition, Secretary, I&B, also periodically monitors all projects, except Low/Very Low Power Transmitters of Doordarshan and AIR at his level.

The bottlenecks are identified and suitable action taken to expedite the progress. The review meetings are attended by Senior Engineering officials of AIR and Doordarshan both from the headquarters and the zonal offices.

Besides this existing monitoring system, there is also a proposal under process which envisages the strengthening of the Plan Co-ordination Cell in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. This would further facilitate suitable monitoring and timely implementation of projects.

[Ref. Ministry of I & B's O.M. No. G. 20016/4/97—B&A
dtd. 22.07.1997]

Recommendation No. 7 (Para 43)

Another reason for languishing of such a large number of projects has been an over-ambitious programme of the Ministry to take up a large number of projects irrespective of their capabilities and availability of resources, just to pacify the popular demands of various regions. The targets were fixed unrealistically and projects were allowed to spill over a longer period of time. The Committee deprecates this approach. Such an approach should be discarded and the projects for Ninth Plan should be drawn up realistically. Thinning of resources on a large number of projects besides hampering progress leads to frustration among people.

Action Taken

For the IX Plan, the Ministry has proposed a total outlay of Rs. 4898 crore out of which schemes/projects relating to Doordarshan involving an outlay of Rs. 3135 crore have been formulated. The proposals have been submitted to the Planning Commission for approval.

Augmentation of staff at Doordarshan Directorate for planning, design and monitoring work and at zonal offices for installation activities would be necessary for timely implementation of IXth Plan. Suitable proposals would be processed after the IX Plan proposals are finalised.

[Ref. Ministry of I & B's O.M. No. G. 20016/4/97—B&A
dtd. 22.07.1997]

Recommendation No. 9 (Para 45)

The Committee notes that about 100 Doordarshan projects have been commissioned pending sanction of staff by deploying staff from nearby station. However, it is observed that it has not been possible to utilise the newly commissioned facilities to the optimum level by skeleton staff deployed from other places. Thus, on the one hand newly established projects have remained under-utilised, on the other, it affects adversely functioning of those projects from where staff has been withdrawn even though temporarily.

Action Taken

The Ministry have already taken up the proposals for creation of posts for various projects with Ministry of Finance. While in some cases they have agreed to create skeleton staff for some projects, for others they have so far not sanctioned staff due to various reasons. Although, many projects of Doordarshan were technically ready and could not be commissioned for want of sanctioned posts, in a few cases the projects were commissioned either for avoiding Contempt of Court or due to other compulsions, by temporarily deploying skeleton staff drawn from other projects. Every effort, however, is being made to convince the Ministry of Finance for early creation of posts. Staff shall be deployed as soon as the posts are created.

[Ref. Ministry of I & B's O.M. No. G. 20016/4/97—B&A
dtd. 22.07.1997]

Recommendation No. 10 (Para 46)

The Committee notes that Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had referred proposals for creation of about 2000 posts in Doordarshan and nearly 700 in AIR to man the various Radio and Doordarshan Stations. Out of these, Ministry of Finance has sanctioned creation of 500 posts for Doordarshan and 250 posts for AIR. The Committee trusts that the remaining posts will also be sanctioned at an early date as a number of completed projects are awaiting commissioning. The costly assets should not be allowed to rust for want of adequate staff.

Action Taken

The matter is being constantly pursued with the Ministry of Finance.

[Ref. Ministry of I & B's O.M. No. G. 20016/4/97—B&A
dtd. 22.07.1997]

Recommendation No. 11 (Para 47)

The Committee is concerned to note that even though 750 posts have been created in Doordarshan and AIR, these cannot be filled up immediately because of procedural delay and the time required by various recruiting agencies to recruit suitable hands by observing various formalities. It is understood that there are legal proceedings on the ground of alleged non-compliance with recruitment rules. The Committee desires that the Ministry should review all these cases, so that not only corrective action may be taken, if possible, but also the disposal of the proceedings be made expeditiously.

Action Taken

The process of filling up of the newly created posts is taken up on priority and a large number of posts have already been filled by deploying the staff, which had been rendered surplus after abolition of posts under 10% economy cut from other Kendras/Installations. Action for filling up the remaining unfilled posts is also being taken up and hopefully all the posts shall be filled very soon.

[Ref. Ministry of I & B's O.M. No. G. 20016/4/97—B&A
dtd. 22.07.1997]

Recommendation No. 17 (Para 70)

The Committee is deeply concerned to note that the actual VIII Plan expenditure on All India Radio (AIR) schemes was less than Rs. 655 crore which is almost 35 per cent less than the proposed outlay of Rs. 1134.95 crore. Obviously, for want of resource (constraints) a number of schemes such as Staff Training Institute (T) at Mumbai, Chennai and 4 regional centres, consolidation of Vividh Bharati Service, 250 KW. SW station at Aligarh, National Channel Studios at Delhi and Chennai, Automatic Transmission facilities at 4 metros, Relay Centre at Rohtak, Studios at Jaipur and CBS at Rohtak could not be taken up

for implementation during Eighth Plan. The Plan had envisaged a target of 110 Broadcasting Centres, 252 Radio Transmitters and 16 Studios. The achievement against these targets was 76 Broadcasting Centres, 172 Radio Transmitters and 12 Studios. Evidently, there had been tardy implementation of projects. The Committee considers it to be matter of grave concern and in reality to be negation of planning.

Action Taken

To start with 85 broadcasting centres, 187 transmitter projects and 14 studio projects were targetted to be completed during 8th Plan. During the Course of the 8th Plan, some more projects were added to the 8th Plan and some projects were dropped. The revised targets for 8th Plan are 93 broadcasting centres, 204 Transmitter Projects and 12 studio projects. The achievements against these targets are 73 broadcasting centres, 168 Transmitter projects and 12 studio projects.

[Ref. Ministry of I & B's O.M. No. G. 20016/4/97—B&A
dtd. 22.07.1997.]

Recommendation No. 27 (Para 93)

The Committee takes serious note of the fact that Films Division could not achieve financial targets during the year 1996-97. Against the outlay of the Rs. 34 crores during the 8th Plan expenditure has been only Rs. 1362 lakh upto December, 1996. It appears that estimates were not prepared with due care and after getting the funds allocated, progress of scheme has been tardy.

Action Taken

The observations of the Committee are noted. It is submitted that against the 8th Plan outlay of Rs. 3400 lakhs for the Films Division, the expenditure incurred upto 31.3.1997 was Rs. 1645 lakhs. The reasons for under-utilisation are as follows:—

- (i) The scheme "Construction of III Phase building" for which an outlay of Rs. 1200 lakhs was provided, could not take off, since the plans/drawings for the proposed building underwent a number of revisions and consequently financial sanction could not be obtained.

- (ii) Against the outlay of Rs. 800 lakhs for the scheme "Augmentation and replacement of cinematographic equipment", the financial approval given by the Expenditure Finance Committee was for Rs. 660 lakhs and the Films Division could incur and expenditure of only Rs. 642.08 lakhs upto 31.3.1997. During the first two years of the Plan, not much expenditure could be incurred, due to delays in finalisation of specifications of various items of equipment and want of financial sanction.

The Films Division will take care to finalise the various aspects in the matter of procurement of equipment in time so that there is no under-utilisation of the allocation of funds in future.

[Ref. Ministry of I & B's O.M. No. G. 20016/4/97—B&A
dtd. 22.07.1997]

CHAPTER V

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH GOVERNMENT HAVE FURNISHED INTERIM REPLIES

—NIL—

NEW DELHI;
July 27, 1998

Shravana 5, 1920 (Saka)

SOMNATH CHATTERJEE,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Communications.

APPENDIX I

MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS (1998-99)

The Committee sat on Monday, the 27th July, 1998 from 15.00 hrs. to 16.00 hrs. in Committee Room 'E', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Somnath Chatterjee — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Mahendra Baitha
3. Shri Giridhar Gamang
4. Smt. Sheela Gautam
5. Shri T. Govindan
6. Shri Jay Krishna Mandal
7. Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil
8. Shri Harpal Singh Sathi
9. Shri Krishan Lal Sharma
10. Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy

Rajya Sabha

11. Shri Kartar Singh Duggal
12. Shri K. Rahman Khan
13. Smt. Chandresh Kumari
14. Shri Mrinal Sen
15. Smt. Veena Verma

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Shri S.K. Sharma | — | <i>Deputy Secretary</i> |
| 2. Shri Ashok Balwani | — | <i>Assistant Director</i> |
| 3. Shri Bhupesh Kumar | — | <i>Assistant Director</i> |

2. The Committee took up for consideration the following Draft Reports:

- (i) Draft Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Tenth Report on Demands for Grants 1997-98 relating to Department of Post.
- (ii) Draft Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Twelfth Report on Demands for Grants 1997-98 relating to Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

3. The Committee adopted the Draft Reports without any modification.

4. The Committee then authorised the Chairman to finalise and present/lay the Reports in both the Houses of Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX II

(Vide Introduction of Report)

*Analysis of Action Taken by Government on the Twelfth Report of
Standing Committee on Communications (Eleventh Lok Sabha)*

I. Total Number of Recommendations: 33

II. Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by
the Government.

Para Nos. 41, 44, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 71, 74, 75, 76, 80, 86, 87,
100 & 106

Total 16

Percentage 48.48

III. Recommendations/Observations which the Committee does not
desire to pursue in view of the reply of the Government:

Para Nos. 9, 10, 11, 12, 72, 73, 94, 95, 101 & 105

Total 10

Percentage 30.30

IV. Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of
Government have not been accepted by the Committee and
which require reiteration:

Para Nos. 42, 43, 45, 46, 47, 70 & 93.

Total 7

Percentage 21.21

V. Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies are
of interim nature.

Nil.