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**STANDING COMMITTEE
ON COMMUNICATIONS
(1996-97)**

ELEVENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (1997-98)

TWELFTH REPORT



सत्यमेव जयते

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

April, 1997/Chaitra, 1919 (Saka)

TWELFTH REPORT
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS
(1996-97)

(ELEVENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (1997-98)

Presented to Lok Sabha on 22.4.1997
Laid in Rajya Sabha on 22.4.1997



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS
(1996-97)

Shri Somnath Chatterjee — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri K.L. Sharma
3. Shri Harin Pathak
4. Dr. S.N. Jatiya
5. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat
6. Smt. Sheela Gautam
7. Smt. Bhavna Chikhalia
8. Shri Mahesh Kanodia
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12. Shri Th. Choaba Singh
13. Shri Girdhar Gamango
14. Smt. Sukhbuns Kaur
15. Shri Somjibhai Damor
16. Shri Mrutyunjaya Nayak
17. Shri Mohanbhai Delkar
18. Shri Thomas Hansda
- *19. Shri Neil Aloysius O' Brien
20. Shri Dinesh Chandra Yadav
21. Shri T. Veera Bhadram

* Appointed as Member w.e.f. 26.2.1997 in place of Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar, who ceased to be Member of the Committee on his appointment as Minister w.e.f. 19 February, 1997.

22. Shri R. Devadas
23. Dr. Shafiqur Rehman Barq
24. Shri V.P. Shanmuga Sundram
25. Shri Kothapalli Subbarayudu
26. Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee
27. Shri Budh Sen Patel
28. Shri Keshab Mahanta
29. Shri Joachim Baxla
30. Shri Churchill Alemao

Rajya Sabha

31. Shrimati Veena Verma
32. Shri Iqbal Singh
33. Shri S.S. Ahluwalia
34. Shri Ahmed Patel
35. Shrimati Jayanthi Natarajan
36. Shri Govindram Miri
37. Shri O. Rajagopal
38. Shri Shatrughan Prasad Sinha
39. Shri Narendra Pradhan
40. Dr. Ramendra Kumar Yadav Ravi
41. Shri Md. Salim
42. Shri S. Austin
43. Shri Ish Dutt Yadav
44. Shri Satish Pradhan
- *45. Vacant

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Shri A.K. Pandey | — | <i>Additional Secretary</i> |
| 2. Shri J.P. Ratnesh | — | <i>Joint Secretary</i> |
| 3. Shri Ram Autar Ram | — | <i>Director</i> |
| 4. Shri S.K. Sharma | — | <i>Deputy Secretary</i> |

* Vacancy caused due to retirement of Shri R.K. Karanjia from Rajya Sabha w.e.f. 10 January, 1997.

INTRODUCTION

1. I, the Chairman, Standing Committee on Communications (1996-97) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on its behalf, present this Twelfth Report, on the Demands for Grants 1997-98 relating to Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

2. The Standing Committee on Communications (1996-97) was constituted on 2 August, 1996. One of the functions of the Standing Committee as laid down in Rule 331 E of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, is to consider the Demands for Grants of the concerned Ministry 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 current year *i.e.* 1997-98 which were laid on the Table of the House on 19.3.1997. Thereafter the Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on 24.1997.

4. The Committee wishes to express its thanks to the Officers of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for placing before it detailed written notes on the subject and for furnishing the information, that the Committee desired in connection with the examination of the subject.

5. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at its sitting held on 17.4.1997.

NEW DELHI;
18 April, 1997
28 Chaitra, 1919 (Saka)

SOMNATH CHATTERJEE,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Communications.

REPORT

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (1997-98) OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

(a) Introductory

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting have presented to Parliament two Demands numbering 56 and 57 for the year 1997-98. Demand No. 56 covers expenditure of the Secretariat of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and of its Media Units in the Information and Film Sectors. It also contains provision for Grants-in-aid/Budgetary support to the autonomous statutory bodies. Demand No. 57 —Broadcasting services covers expenditure of All India Radio and Doordarshan.

(b) Budgetary Grants : Ministry of Information & Broadcasting

2. The Budgetary provisions for 1996-97 and for 1997-98 are as follows :—

(Rs. in crores)									
	1996-97						1997-98		
	Budget Estimates			Revised Estimates			Budget Estimates		
	Plan	Non-Plan	Total	Plan	Non-Plan	Total	Plan	Non-Plan	Total
Demand No. 56	52.62*	114.10	166.72	52.62*	124.15	176.77	61.00*	128.19	189.19
Demand No. 57	480.38	1290.15	1770.53	495.38	1303.96	1799.34	558.80	1478.26	2037.06
Total	533.00	1404.25	1937.25	548.00	1428.11	1976.11	619.80	1606.45	2226.25

3. As against the proposed annual plan outlay of Rs. 707.48 crores (with expected Budget support of Rs. 215.28 crores), the Planning Commission approved an outlay of Rs. 619.80 crores restricting Budget support to the extent of Rs. 127.60 crores. With this reduced allocation the provision have been curtailed in some of the continued schemes

*Including JEER generated by NFDC.

as well as new schemes. In some cases, some of the schemes are not being taken up because of reduced allocation. It has been stated that the reduced annual plan allocation may affect some of the plan targets but the Ministry feels that it would not have much impact on the growth and progress of the developmental schemes.

4. Clarifying the point further, the Secretary, Information and Broadcasting stated in evidence that when reduction takes place, setting up of HPTs and studios etc. will become casualty and the Ministry has to try to spread available resources thin. These facts have been amply proved by the figures of proposed outlay for Annual Plan 1997-98 and those approved for various schemes as detailed below:—

(Rs. in lakhs)			
Sl No.	Name of the Media Units Details of the Schemes	Proposed outlays for Annual Plan (1997-98)	Approved outlays for Annual Plan (1997-98)
I.	Doordarshan		
1.	Continuing Schemes	20917.00	16443.00
2.	New Schemes	26560.00	14222.00
3.	Charged Expenditure	43.00	35.00
4.	Revenue Expenditure	1380.00	10860.00
5.	Installation, staff & METP*		
	Total :	48900.00	41560.00
II.	All India Radio		
1.	Continuing Schemes	11390	10023.05
2.	New Schemes	1710.00	2260.00
3.	S&T Schemes	—	278.50
4.	Installation, Staff Machinery & Equipment	—	1308.45
5.	Software Schemes	400.00	400.00
6.	Charged	—	50.00
	Total	13500.00	14320.00

*(Tools, Plants & Machines)

Sl No.	Name of the Media Units Details of the Schemes	Proposed outlays for Annual Plan (1997-98)	Approved outlays for Annual Plan (1997-98)
III.	Press Information Bureau	615	460
IV.	Song and qrama Division	180	175
V.	Indian Institute of Mass Communication	420	315
VI.	Films Division	950	525
VII.	National Centre for Children and Young People	1214	265
VIII	Film and TV Institute of India, Pune	1111	700

5. The Committee has been informed that the principal objectives of the Eighth Year Plan were consolidation, expansion, technological, modernisation, better and relevant programming, better use of electronic media for development, increasing viewership and renewed emphasis on training. In other spheres, the main thrust was stated to be on the better service to the public and for the film industry, a renewed emphasis on the quality of cinema etc.

6. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has stated in reply to a query that in support of the developmental needs of the Ministry an outlay of Rs. 3634 crores (revised to Rs. 3672.42 crores) was earmarked for Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-93 to 1996-97). The Annual Plan allocations provided for these five years were of the order of Rs. 2392 crores only and with reduced allocations Doordarshan, AIR etc. have not been able to achieve the targets. Major areas of shortfall in Doordarshan are stated to be expansion of terrestrial coverage, modernisation and augmentation of facilities at Doordarshan stations and satellite services. In case of AIR it is stated that targets set up for completion of Broadcasting stations, transmitters and studios were not fully achieved. The reasons for non-commissioning of some of the projects are stated to be non-availability of the staff sanction, delay in handing over the sites by some of the State Governments, lack of infrastructural facilities like approach road, power supply and water

supply difficult hilly terrain and remoteness of the area and local law & order problem and insurgency in some of the States.

7. The Committee has been informed that during 1996-97, Doordarshan had earned revenue of Rs. 572 crores against Rs. 430 crores in 1995-96 showing a net increase of about Rs. 150 crores. However, these funds do not come to Doordarshan as these are credited to the Consolidated Fund of India. Therefore, the resource constraints prevail. Clarifying the position the Secretary, Information & Broadcasting stated in evidence that Ministry raised this point with the Planning Commission that a part of the revenue earned by All India Radio and Doordarshan might be permitted to be retained by them to finance non-plan activities and for the year 1997-98, Rs. 140 crores have been kept for this purpose. The Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance are also reported to have agreed to it on condition that revenue should be used for developmental activities. However, it has not been so provided in the Budget Estimates. For this reason some of the projects will no doubt suffer due to lack of adequate resources.

8. It has been ascertained that hardware projects will suffer most due to budgetary constraints.

9. The Ministry of Information and 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 crores (RE) for the VII Plan. However, allocations for the different Annual Plans, during the Plan period, were to the extent of Rs. 2392 crores. For the first year of Ninth Five Year Plan, the Ministry projected a Plan outlay of Rs. 707.48 crores while the Budget Estimates have provided for Rs. 619.80 crores restricting the budgetary support to Rs. 127.60 crores. 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 lakhs to Rs. 460 lakh; National Centre for Children and Young Peoples by Rs. 949 lakh to Rs. 265 lakh and Film and Television Institute's by Rs. 411 lakhs to Rs. 700 lakh.

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.

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.

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 Film Division from Rs. 950 lakhs to Rs. 525 lakhs; of NCYP from Rs. 1214 lakhs to Rs. 265 lakhs and of Film and TV Institute's from Rs. 1111 lakhs to Rs. 700 lakhs. 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.

**(d) Demand No. 57, Broadcasting Services
Doordarshan**

13. The 8th Plan outlay for Doordarshan was Rs. 2300 crores. However it came down ultimately to Rs. 1365 crores, as the approved outlays of Annual Plans were much lower. The anticipated expenditure is stated to be about Rs. 1271 crores. It will thus be seen that there has been almost 45 percent shortfall in expenditure. Reasons for the shortfall are stated to be previous years backlog. It was clarified that for the last 3 years the spending has been almost 100 percent. So far as physical targets for the VIII Plan are concerned, it was originally proposed to construct 40 TV Production Centres, 66 HPTs, 353 LPTs

and 178 VLPTs. However, because of resource constraints targets of Studios and HPTs have been revised downwards at the time of approval of Annual Plans.

14. The major schemes which could not be taken up during VIII Plan due to inadequacy of Plan resources are stated to be as under :

1. Establishment of HPTs (45 Nos.) for expansion of coverage (DD-I).
2. Establishment of LPTs and VLPTs (about 113) for expansion of coverage.
3. Establishment of 6 Studio Centres.
4. Replacement and modernisation of equipment.
5. Establishment of terrestrial transmitters for DD-II and DD-III services.
6. Construction of staff quarters.
7. Establishment of satellite uplinking facilities for different services.

15. On perusal of the Annual Report 1996-97 and Performance Report 1997-98 of the Ministry, the Committee found that a number of major projects of Doordarshan (Studios, High Power Transmitters (HPTs), Low Power Transmitters (LPTs) taken up during the VII Plan have been languishing for years. At the instance of the Committee, Ministry has furnished status report of these major projects as on 25.3.1997 viz. date of sanctioning, progress made so far and the likely date of completion which is placed at Annexure-I. It will be seen from these details that out of the 17 IV projects under implementation, 5 were taken up during 1987-89 and another 8 during 1990-94. Similarly out of 25 studio/programme generation facilities, 6 were taken up during 1986-90 but have not been completed so far. Even after 7-8 years of construction having been started these projects are still at various stages of construction. Other projects are also under construction for more than five years. The Ministry has project target date of completion of all these projects as 1997-98 and 1998-99. In addition to these projects about 225 LPT/VLPT projects are under implementation. The work on installation of these projects is expected to be completed in phases by 1998-99.

16. The Doordarshan Studios and Transmitters projects targetted to be completed during 1996-97 and now spilling over to 1997-98 are given as under :

Studios	—	4
HPTs	—	7
LPTs	—	45
VPLTs	—	48

17. The reasons for delay in their completion are stated to be lack of infrastructure facilities, staff and resources.

18. During the course of evidence, it was stated that as against the target of 80 LPTs during 1996-97, only 35 could be taken up. It was stated that even if they had more locations, the Ministry could not have taken more than 35 LPTs because there were no funds.

19. In course of evidence, when the Committee wanted to know why such over-ambitious targets were set, which Ministry considered to be non-achievable, the witness stated that they would rectify this part in the 9th Plan. It was felt that if a bigger target was given to various zonal engineers, it would infuse greater enthusiasm.

20. The Committee has been informed in reply to a query that 69 TV Transmitters (4 HPTs, 55 LPTs and 10 VLPTs) were technically ready as on 1.1.1997 and out of these 13 LPTs and 3 VLPTs have since been commissioned till 16.3.1997. Of the remaining 53 transmitters, arrangements were underway for commissioning of 22 transmitters (2 HPTs, 13 LPTs and 7 VLPTs) before the expiry of the month of May 1997. The remaining 2 HPTs and 29 LPTs could not be commissioned due to non-availability of staff for operation and maintenance.

21. It has been submitted that operating personnel are required to be present throughout during of transmission at HPTs and LPTs. Besides, administrative and maintenance staff is also required. At studio centre, in addition to operational and maintenance staff, programme and administrative staff is also required to be deployed before production of programme can start. A large number of projects nearly 100 have been commissioned pending staff sanction. These projects have been commissioned by deploying installation staff; staff on tour from nearby stations and maintenance staff. It has not been possible

to commission additional projects into regular service in the absence of sanction of staff and subsequent deployment. However, it has been decided to commission the completed projects notionally with a view to relay certain important telecasts, etc.

22. The Secretary, Information and Broadcasting submitted in evidence that power to sanction posts for new projects should be with the Ministry as it has been very difficult and time consuming process to get the posts sanctioned from the Ministry of Finance. He further submitted that at least 50-60 percent of the required staff should be sanctioned at that very stage when a project is approved.

23. To another query of the Committee about investments being locked up due to non-commissioning of various studios and transmitter projects and in the process sophisticated equipments getting damaged before the time the projects are commissioned and the whole thing being required to be re-done substantially, the witness replied in affirmative and stated that the investment is locked up in some cases. Even the equipment may get a little rested.

24. The Committee learnt that about 2000 posts in Doordarshan and 700 posts in AIR were lying vacant. Asked what steps have been taken by the Ministry to fill up these posts, it has been stated in a subsequent note that with a view to man various Radio and TV stations being set up in different parts of the country, Ministry had referred proposals to the Ministry of Finance for creation of about 2,000 posts in Doordarshan and nearly 700 posts in AIR. Out of these posts, about 500 posts for Doordarshan and 250 posts for AIR have already been created for which steps are stated to be in progress for convening Departmental Promotion Committee meetings and holding Limited Departmental Examinations. Steps have also been initiated for making direct recruitment through SSC/UPSC, wherever required, as per the Recruitment Rules.

25. In reply to another query, it has been further explained that a number of posts in various grades were also lying vacant in both AIR and Doordarshan, these vacant posts could not be filled up primarily on account of non-availability of eligible officers in the feeder grades, wherever promotions are concerned, and in certain cases due to matters being sub-judice. Besides, since mostly the recruitment has been done through Staff Selection Commission and the Union Public Service Commission, it takes time to appoint recommended candidates after completing pre-appointment formalities.

26. It has been further elaborated that there has been a mis-match between the staff sanction and the completion of projects.

27. The Committee enquired about cases which are stated to be subjudiced because the Ministry did not adhere to the recruitment rules. The witness submitted that there may be cases where the recruitment rules have been flouted, if those cases are brought to their knowledge, they would certainly inquire into them because recruitment rules were there to be followed.

28. The Committee desired to know whether any monitoring is done to deal with such representations, the witness stated that particular cases would be investigated.

29. Asked about the plans envisaged by the Ministry to expand the Doordarshan Network in the North Eastern States which have population and areawise coverage much below the national average it was informed during evidence that the expansion of coverage of National Channel is the highest priority. During the Ninth Plan they propose to cover the uncovered areas which are mostly in the North-East and in other hilly and tribal areas.

30. It has been informed that an amount of Rs. 280 crores has been proposed for North-East during the Ninth Plan. It is stated that out of whatever they get, they will spend Rs. 200 crores on the schemes for North-East.

31. As regards the performance during the Eighth Plan, it has been informed that there is a serious shortfall in the case of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland, etc. though in the States like Mizoram, Meghalaya and Assam the coverage is more or less of the national level. In Arunachal Pradesh the area-wise coverage is stated to be 11 per cent and population-wise it was 44 per cent against the national average of 68 and 86 percent respectively. It is stated that with the implementation of the Eighth Plan schemes population coverage of Arunachal Pradesh will reach 53 percent.

32. The Committee has been informed that all the schemes which were envisaged have been sanctioned and will be spilled-over to the Ninth Plan. In North-East the existing coverage at present is 80.2 percent in terms of population and 49.6 percent in terms of areas. It is expected that at the end of the Ninth Plan they will reach from 81 percent at present to 84 percent.

33. During evidence the Committee desired to know as to how the Ministry assess the quality of programmes shown on Doordarshan, the witness replied that one way to measure the same is the amount of revenue that Doordarshan could earn during the last one year. It has been stated that in the last 4 years the average increase of revenue was about Rs. 30 crores per year. However, during the year 1996-97 DD's revenue has increased by almost Rs. 150 crores and touched the figure of Rs. 572 crores.

34. Asked whether any survey has been conducted by the Ministry to see that more people are attracted to Doordarshan, it is stated that they have not conducted any such survey but promised that Ministry would try to commission one.

35. As regards the procedure followed by the Ministry for the Commissioned programmes, the Ministry during evidence informed that these are sanctioned by a Committee of officers, particularly with reference to DD-III. Besides this, there is another category called "Royalty" where the producer out of his own creative efforts makes a film and ask the Doordarshan to show it. Here the producer has the copyright of the film with him.

36. It is further informed that about 40 to 50 proposals pertaining to royalty based programmes are pending with the Ministry and it was stated that no time-limit was specified to take their programmes. The Royalty based programmes were allotted depending on the requirement and the availability of time slot.

37. It is also stated that normally sixty days were used to be taken by the Ministry to reply an applicant on Royalty programme. Asked whether the Ministry was replying to each and everybody who applied, the witness submitted that he was not in a position to say that in every case it was done. But that was their effort.

38. During the course of evidence the Committee desired to know the criteria for sponsorship of sports events on Doordarshan and the response of the ministry in respect of particularly a Table Tennis National Championship not covered by Doordarshan, the witness submitted:

"The response is that there are three factors. One is live telecast. A lot of associations ask for live telecast. We always take into account the opportunity cost to DD. If the live telecast happens to

be on Friday between 9.30 PM and 12.30 PM, we will politely say 'no' to them because we cannot do it; otherwise we might be at a loss of Rs. 1.25 crore."

39. To a suggestion of the Committee to formulate guidelines and policy for coverage of the sports event on Doordarshan instead of going on a case to case basis, the witness submitted:

"We will definitely try to evolve some guidelines."

Modernisation and Replacement of obsolete Cameras/equipments

40. The Committee was informed that the funds provided for modernisation and replacement of studio cameras and associated equipments during 1996-97 were of the order of Rs. 19.19 crores and the BE for 1997-98 was kept for 16.53 crores. On being asked whether the funds provided are adequate, it was stated that additional availability of funds for replacement and modernisation under Annual Plan 1997-98 would have definitely helped in taking up additional schemes of replacement and modernisation of studio equipment.

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.

42. The Committee is concerned to note that 17 TV projects, 25 studios/programme generation projects and 225 Low Power Transmitter (LPTs)/Very Low Power Transmitter (VLPTs) projects taken up for execution are at various stages of implementation. Many of these projects were taken up for implementation more than seven years 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.

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.

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.

45. The Committee notes that about 100 Doordarshan projects have been commissioned pending sanction of staff by deploying staff from nearby stations. However, it is observed that it has not been possible to utilise the newly commissioned facilities to the optimum level by skelton 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.

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.

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.

48. The Committee notes that coverage of Doordarshan in certain North-Eastern parts of the country, population wise 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 population wise 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

All India Radio (AIR)

53. The Eighth Five Year Plan outlay of All India Radio (AIR) was Rs. 134.95 crores. However, the aggregate expenditure upto 31 March, 1996 was only Rs. 514.87 crores. For the year 1996-97, Rs. 201.40 crores was proposed outlay. However, the Budget Estimates have provided for only Rs. 140 crores. Together with the actual expenditure incurred earlier, the total VIII Plan expenditure would be Rs. 654.87 crores against the proposed outlay of Rs. 1134.95 crores.

54. The Committee have been informed that in 1997-98, All India Radio proposed to have fourteen broadcasting centres, twenty-four different types of transmitters, and one Studio.

55. As regards the achievements *vis-a-vis* physical targets during the 8th Five Year Plan, it was envisaged to have 110 Broadcasting Centres, 252 Radio Transmitters and 16 studios. Because of the reduced allocations the following schemes could not be taken up at all for implementation.

1. Staff Training Institute (T) Chennai
2. Staff Training Institute (T) Mumbai
3. Staff Training Institute (P) at four regional centres
4. Consolidation of Vividh Bharti Service
5. 250 KW SW Aligarh

6. National Channel Studio at Delhi and Chennai
7. Automatic Transmission facility at 4 metros
8. Computer Schemes
9. LRS Vadora
10. Relay Centre at Darjeeling
11. CBS Rohtak
12. Jaipur Studios

56. Physical achievement of schemes which were implemented were 68 Broadcasting Centres, 141 Radio Transmitters and 10 Studios till 31 March, 1996. By the end of the plan period, the Ministry expected to complete 76 Broadcasting Centres and 172 Radio Transmitters.

57. In a subsequent note it was informed that 8 Studio projects of All India Radio which were targetted could not be completed during the year 1996-97 and have been carried over to 1997-98. The anticipated expenditure during 1996-97 was stated to be Rs. 1823.00 lakh as against SBG of Rs. 2042.00 lakh on this scheme.

58. The Performance Budget 1997-98 of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting indicates that out of a target of 21 AIR studio projects which were to be made technically ready during 1996-97, only 2 projects were completed, 15 projects were anticipated to be completed and 4 were carried over to 1997-98. During 1997-98 a target of 7 Studio Projects has been kept to make them technically ready. The Committee found that a number of Studio and Transmitter projects were taken up for execution between June 1986 and November, 1996 as per details given in Annexure II. The progress was very slow and the projects are still languishing. However, the committee has been informed in a subsequent note that all these projects have been carried over to 1997-98 *i.e.* Ninth Plan.

59. The reasons for slow progress of all the AIR and Doordarshan projects were stated to be due to slow progress of civil works, delays in supply of equipments, delays in sanction of projects, delays in creation of posts and resource constraints, non-availability of land, infrastructural facilities like electricity, approach road and water supply etc. Follow up from Ministry to State Government was reported to have been intensified. The Home Ministry's help for the completion of

projects where the law and order situation was hampering the progress was also being sought.

60. Clarifying the position further the Secretary, Information and Broadcasting in evidence stated that their biggest problem was getting the land which is done through State Governments. He further stated that in place of those projects which were held up for want of land availability, other projects were taken up to utilise the allotted funds.

61. Asked if it was not adhocism, the witness replied that it was the way of functioning of Government.

62. As per the information contained in the Performance Budget, out of the 13 studios projects of All India Radio which were targetted to be commissioned during 1996-97 only was commissioned and 12 projects were awaiting commissioning. Similarly, there were 22 Transmitter Projects awaiting Commissioning. Asked about the reasons for delays in commissioning the completed projects, it was stated in evidence that staff was not sanctioned. About 150 posts were cleared by the Finance Ministry earlier and the process of recruitment was on. "After clearing it there is again certain gap".

63. In a subsequent note it has been stated that the commissioning of the station at Kargil has been held up due to approach being snow bound. The station was likely to be commissioned by August this year. The rest of the stations would be commissioned within six months of the staff sanctions being available from the Ministry of Finance.

64. On being pointed out by the Committee about non-commissioning of FM station at Bangalore which was technically ready for 7-8 months, the witness submitted that staff constraint was again the reason and for it they were pursuing the Ministry of Finance.

65. The Committee in its 5th Report on All India Radio had recommended for evaluation of the present system of working of AIR by an independent outside agency. The Committee further reiterated its earlier recommendation in its 12th Report. Asked about the progress made in this regard, the witness stated during evidence that the study was entrusted to Indian Institute of Mass Communication.

Tribal Sub-Plan

66. As regards formulating Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) to provide more attention to the tribal areas Ministry of Information and Broadcasting informed that though they had not formulated the Tribal Sub-Plan, they were aware of the broad objectives of this strategy which was to bring about comprehensive social, economic and educational development of scheduled tribes and Governmental efforts to ameliorate their problems.

67. The Committee has further been informed that AIR has proposed certain schemes to be set-up in the predominantly tribal areas during the 9th Plan. It would also 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 stated to be under implementation/envisaged to be set up in the TSP districts.

68. Asked about the steps contemplated by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting to encounter the invasion of Indian sky by foreign audio-visual network, the Committee has been informed that to encounter the invasion of Indian sky by foreign audio-visual network the Government intends to introduce a bill in the Parliament which would seek to bring the foreign satellite channels within the ambit of the proposed law.

Upgradation of new Technologies

69. The Committee have been informed that no formal study has been undertaken by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting to decide upon upgradation of indigenous technology to compete with foreign technologies. All India Radio and Doordarshan keep themselves abreast of new technological developments taking place the world over in the field of audio-visual technology through participation in International conferences, exhibitions. A separate organisation for R&D activities has been functioning and is instrumental in providing and adopting latest technologies. New technologies have been adopted depending on their suitability to All India Radio and Doordarshan network and availability of adequate resources required for the purpose.

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 crores which is almost 35 per cent less than the proposed outlay of Rs. 1134.95 crores. 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.

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.

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 preceeding 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.

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.

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

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 takes up specific schemes for the benefit of the tribals.

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.

**(C) Demand No. 56-Information and Publicity Sector
Directorate of Advertising & Visual Publicity**

77. As regards budget provision for Directorate of Advertising & Visual Publicity (DAVP) during the year 1997-98, the Committee has been informed during evidence that DAVP's budget for developmental publicity has been raised to Rs. 160 lakh this year as compared to Rs. 30 lakh last year. This increase is stated to have been made on the recommendation made by Committee in its 3rd Report on Demands for Grants (1996-97) on Ministry of Information Broadcasting.

78. Asked what special schemes were envisaged by the Ministry to celebrate 50th year of India's Independence through various activities under DAVP and whether adequate funds were provided to cover all these activities, the witness stated that the funds would be used out of the Rs. 160 lakh which is provided for DAVP.

79. At the same time it also has been seen from the Performance Budget 1997-98 of the Ministry that the target in respect of exhibitions has been reduced to 400 in 1997-98 from that of 489 in 1996-97.

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 and Welfare activities would be projected in an effective manner.

National Centre for Children and Young People

81. The objective and functions of N'CYP include production of good and healthy films for Children in India, purchase of such films from foreign countries and dubbing of these films in Indian languages.

82. As regards participation in International Children's Film Festival, against the target of 20, the anticipated achievement is likely to be 8 during 1996-97. The target for 1997-98 is fixed for 15. When asked about this shortfall, it has been stated during evidence that the achievement depends on which film has been selected by a particular festival. N'CYP forwards their films to a number of festivals and from them, only a few would be included for competition. The target achieved actually depends on the number of films selected by them.

83. So far as the production of films is concerned a modest target of 3 films has been fixed for the year 1997-98 which is the same as in the previous year.

84. During evidence the representatives from N'CYP submitted that they could make only two films during 1996-97 because of the limited budget.

85. To a further query, it has been replied that the approved plan outlay during 1997-98 for purchase of children films is Rs. 171 lakh which would be expended to make three films. The basic constraint for this modest target is stated to be that there are not many takers for the story in which the children are the main theme. Generally, the producers are not making films for children.

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.

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, therefore, 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.

Films Division

88. The outlay of 8th Plan of Films Division was Rs. 3400 lakh while the expenditure incurred upto December, 1996 was Rs. 1361.77 lakh. During the Seventh Plan outlay was Rs. 1400 lakh and actual utilisation was Rs. 1376.78 lakh. Reasons for shortfall were stated to be delay in construction of phase III building for which Rs. 12 crores were provided due to frequent revision of scope and estimates. Secondly against the proposed outlay of Rs. 8 crores under augmentation of and replacement of Cinematographic equipment only Rs. 4.70 crore were spent upto December, 1996.

89. It is seen from the Performance Budget (1997-98) of the Ministry that as regards outside production through independent producers is concerned, Film Division produced 7 films during 1995-96. In 1996-97, as against the target of 6 such films, 10 films were produced. Target of 6 films has been kept for the year 1997-98.

90. It is observed that Films Division also produced family welfare films which are financed by the Family Welfare Department. It is seen that against the target of 15 such films during 1996-97 only 6 could be produced that year. The reasons for the shortfall are stated to be delay in approval of stories/scripts by sponsoring Department and also delays on the part of outside producers in submitting surety bonds, income-tax clearance certificate etc.

91. It is further explained in evidence that if the Department wants an half-an-hour film, it costs about Rs. 4 lakhs and if an outside producer engaged, the first instalment of 40 per cent has to be given. Naturally in that case he should give some surety etc. because there have been cases where after taking the advance the producers deliberately delayed the projects.

92. To a suggestion of the Committee that a thorough scrutiny should be made to ensure that producers who get advances do not leave the Projects mid-way, the witness submitted that Ministry will ask the Film Division to examine this.

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 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.

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 years' level though the achievements last year was 10 films.

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 desires that for documentaries some dedicated producers should be selected by the panel of officers maintained by Film 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.

Research, Reference and Training Division

96. Research, Reference and Training Division provides basic information material mainly in the form of research, reference and background papers on various subjects of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, its media units and fields offices to help them project the policies and programmes of the Government. It is seen that against

the physical targets for Reference papers, Backgrounder to News, Biographies and Special papers of 150 and 100 for the year 1995-96 and 96-97 respectively only 77 and 25 could be released.

97. The reasons for the shortfall of targets set during 1996-97 are stated to be that the groundwork for preparation of Reference papers, Backgrounder to News etc. In Research, Reference & Training Division (RR&TD) of the Ministry is mainly carried out by the supporting staff and officers belonging to Junior Grade 'B'. Since the Ministry is facing shortage of officers in the grade of IIS, which many of the posts in RR&TD are vacant since 1995-96. The target, as such, could not be achieved.

98. As regards steps to achieve the target during 1997-98, it is stated that in order to fill up the vacant posts and thus achieve the set targets, requisition has been placed with UPSC in 1995 for filling up the vacancies in Junior Grade and Senior Grade of IIS, Group 'B'. However, so far the Ministry has not received the panel of candidates from UPSC. The matter is being pursued with UPSC regularly at the level of Secretary and it is expected that during 1997, the UPSC will finalise the selection and advise the candidates for appointment.

99. According to latest information furnished to the Committee, it is seen that the proposed outlay of Rs. 8.00 lakhs for Research, Reference and Training Division was kept for 1997-98 and the approved outlay is zero for the same. The target for the year 1997-98 is stated to be 100.

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 R&D 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.

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.

Song & Drama Division

102. The Scheme-wise proposed and approved outlays for Song and Drama Division for Annual Plan 1997-98 are given as under :

Sl. No.	Name of the Media Units (Details of the Schemes)	Proposed outlays Annual Plan (1997-98)	Approved outlays Annual Plan (1997-98)
(in lakhs)			
Continuing Schemes			
1.	Pilot Project Ranchi (For Tribals)	10.00	10.00
2.	Sensitive area and inner Line Publicity Scheme	60.00	60.00
3.	(a) Sound and Light Unit, Delhi	10.00	10.00
	(b) Sound and Light Unit, Bangalore	25.00	20.00
4.	Programme Designing Units	20.00	20.00
5.	Tribal/Hilly/Desert Area Publicity Scheme (PPS)	20.00	20.00
6.	Strengthening of Hqrs.		
	(a) Special Publicity Scheme in Sensitive Border Areas	—	—
7.	Purchase of Machinery & Equipment	35.00	35.00
	Total :	180.00	175.00
New Schemes			
1.	Rural Area IEC Scheme	40.00	—
2.	Upgradation of border centres & subcentres esp. North-East	50.00	—
3.	Opening of new centres/regional centres esp. in North-East	30.00	—
	Mobility	20.00	—
	Total :	140.00	0.00
	Grand Total :	320.00	175.00

103. It is seen that no amount has been kept for strengthening of Hqrs., Special Publicity Scheme in Sensitive Border Areas. Besides no amount has been provided by the Planning Commission for new schemes proposed for Song and Drama Division. Asked in this context, a representative of the Ministry stated in evidence that the Planning Commission had not agreed to such schemes which would require creation of staff, opening of new centres etc. It is felt that within their existing structure, they can easily expand their activities.

104. When the Committee enquired whether the Ministry on the advice of the Planning Commission have given up these new schemes for Song and Drama Division, the witness stated that they would be having discussion on the 9th Plan and include some of these schemes in the Plan.

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.

106. The Committee further notes that no amount has been provided for the new schemes of Song and 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.

NEW DELHI;
18 April, 1997
28 Chaitra, 1919 (Saka)

SOMNATH CHATTERJEE,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Communications.

Major TV Projects under Implementation-status as on 25.3.97**High Power Transmitter (HPT) Projects**

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. | HPT, Churachandpur
(1 KW) | Date of approval
Capital cost | February, 87
Rs. 188.7 lakhs |
|----|------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|

Part building structure constructed. Old contract rescinded. Work of construction of balance portion of building awarded in June, 1996 and in progress (constructed to roof level). Tower erected. Transmitter equipment supplied.

TD : 1997-98

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2. | HPT, Mokokchung*
(1 KW) | Date of approval
Capital cost | February, 87
Rs. 188.7 lakhs |
|----|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|

Installation of transmitter completed. Staff sanction available. IBM has requested CM Nagaland to inaugurate the transmitter.

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 3. | HPT, Kurnool*
(10 KW) | Date of approval
Capital cost | May, 93
Rs 769.55
lakhs |
|----|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|

Transmitter technically ready for commissioning. Staff sanctioned.

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 4. | HPT, Fazilka
(10 KW) | Date of approval
Capital cost | August, 90
Rs. 921.50
lakhs |
|----|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

Building works completed. Transmitter equipment supplied. Departmental installation works in progress. Foundation work of 300 M tower completed.

TD : 1997-98

5. HPT, Bhuj (10 KW)	Date of approval	January, 87
	Capital cost	Rs. 331.67
		lakhs (org.)
		Rs. 875.07
		lakhs (revd.)

Transmitter operational on 10 KW power with 100 M tower in interim set up. Construction, of 300 M tower completed upto 127M Ht. CCW have intimated that 300M tower would be completed by December, 1997. Tower work at site has commenced.

TD : 1997-98.

6. HPT, Jodhpur (10 KW)	Date of approval	March, 94
	Capital cost	Rs.856.44 lakhs

Building works completed. Transmitter equipment supplied. Order for supply and erection of tower placed. Foundation of tower in progress. Fabrication of tower is reported to be in progress. Departmental works are in progress.

TD : 1997-98

7. HPT, Banda (1 KW)	Date of approval	March, 94
	Capital cost	Rs. 599 lakhs

Site taken over and building plans finalised. PE for building works sanctioned in December, 1996. Revision of cost estimates of scheme has become necessary. Revised cost estimates are to be processed for approval.

TD : 1998-99

8. HPT, Baleshwar (10 KW)	Date of approval	December, 93
	Capital	Rs. 821 lakhs

Work of building construction in progress. Technical areas completed. Order for

supply and erection of tower placed. Transmitter supplied. Departmental works in progress. Tower work at site is yet to start.

TD : 1997-98

9. HPT, Gulbarga (Replacement of 1 KW tr. by 10 KW tr.)	Date of approval	March, 94
	Capital cost	Rs. 547.30 lakhs

Work of construction of building in progress. Technical areas completed. Transmitter equipment supplied. Tower foundation completed & erection in progress. Departmental works in progress.

TD : 1997-98

10. HPT, Sambalpur (Replacement of 1 KW tr. by 10 KW tr.)	Date of approval	March, 94
	Capital cost	Rs. 618.35 lakhs

Building construction in progress. Transmitter equipment supplied. Tower foundation completed and fabrication of tower in progress by TSL.

TD : 1997-98

11. HPT, Barmer* (10 KW)	Date of approval	January, 87
	Capital cost	Rs. 447.60 lakhs (originally) Rs. 1720.58 lakhs (revised)

Installation of transmitter on 1 KW power in interim set up completed. Order for 300 M tower placed.

Staff for interim set up to be sanctioned.

TD of permanent set up : 1998-99



*Being Commissioned notionally.

12. HPT, Calicut
(10 KW)
- Date of approval : April, 89
Capital cost : Rs. 407.1 lakhs
(org.)
: Rs. 651. 03
lakhs
(revised)

Transmitter on 1 KW power in interim set up (in LPT building) commissioned.

Construction of building in progress. Order for supply and erection of tower placed. Foundation excavation work being taken up.

TD of pmt. set up : 1997-98

13. HPT, Rajamundry
(10 KW)
- Date of approval : January, 1995
Capital cost : Rs. 753.42 lakhs

Work of building construction in progress. Transmitter equipment supplied. Order for 115 M tower placed. Foundation of tower is in progress.

Interim set up (1 KW transmitter at LPT site installation completed.

TD : 1997-98 (pmt. set up)

14. HPT, Jaisalmer*
(10 KW)
- Date of approval : January, 1997
Capital cost : Rs. 336.60 lakhs
(org.)
: Rs. 876.75 lakhs
(revd.)

Installation of transmitter completed. Staff to be sanctioned.

15. HPT, Bangalore
(1 KW DD II)
- Date of approval : 31.8.94.
Capital cost : Rs. 232.05 lakhs

Equipment supplied. Work of building construction in progress. Technical areas nearing completion.

TD : 1997-98

*Being Commissioned notionally.

16. HPT, Hyderabad Date of approval : 31.8.94.
 (1 KW-DD II) Capital cost : Rs. 221.0 lakhs

Building in progress. Technical area completed. Equipment supplied. Installation works being taken up and expected to be completed by June, 1997.

17. HPT, Kathua Date of approval : 25.3.97
 (5 KW UHF) Capital cost : Rs. 695.50 lakhs

Transmitter procured. AIR tower (100 M) to be used for mounting the antenna panels.

TD : 1998-99

Studio/Programme Generation Facility (PGF) Projects

1. Doordarshan Patana : Date of approval : April, 1987
 Capital cost : Rs. 3415.14 lakhs
 (org.)
 Rs. 8160.00 lakhs
 (revd.)

Basement construction completed. Work of superstructure awarded in March, 1995 and in progress. Part equipment procured. Orders for balance study equipment being processed. Tenders for A/c work (technical & financial bids) opened and under scrutiny.

TD : 1998-99

2. Expansion of TV Date of approval : March, 1989
 Centre, Bombay Capital Cost : Rs. 2018.10 lakhs
 (org.)
 Rs. 3935.99 lakhs
 (revd.)

Civil works in progress. Part technical areas completed. Order for air conditioning work placed. Tenders for lighting work received & under scrutiny. Departmental works in progress.

TD : 1997-98

3. Studio, Rajkot Date of approval : November, 90
 Capital cost : Rs. 1513.10 lakhs

Construction of building in progress (roof of studio cast). Technical area expected to be ready by April, 1997. Part equipment procured.

TD : 1997-98

4. Studio Allahabad Date of approval : 24.8.94
 Capital cost : Rs. 977.79 lakhs

Site taken over. Const. of building in progress. Technical areas completed. Tenders for air conditioning & lighting work invited. Major equipment procured.

TD : 1997-98.

5. Studio Vijayawada : Date of approval : 13.9.94
 Capital cost : Rs. 968.87 lakhs

Work of building construction awarded in June, 1995 and in progress. Centering & shuttering for main studio in progress. Roof of remaining portion of technical cast. Equipment procured.

TD : 1997-98

6. Studio Pune Date of approval : 29.9.94
 Capital cost : Rs. 968.87 lakhs.

Building construction in progress. Roof of main studio cast, Brick work in other technical areas in progress. Equipment procured.

TD : 1997-98.

7. Studio Ranchi Date of approval : November, 1994
 Capital cost : Rs. 921.79 lakhs

Building construction in progress. Roof of office block cast and columns of studio cast upto lintel level. Part equipment procured.

TD : 1997-98.

8.	PGF, Jalpaiguri	Date of approval	: March 86
		Capital cost	: Rs. 221.70 lakhs
			(org.)
			Rs. 451.09 lakhs
			(rev.)

Installation completed Staff to be sanctioned.

9. PGF, Sambalpur	Date of approval	: October, 93
(pmt.)	Capital cost	: Rs. 147.75 lakhs

Int. set up commissioned. Building construction in progress. Technical areas almost completed.

TD : 1997-98

10. PGF, Mau	Date of approval	: December, 93
	Capital cost	: Rs. 125.45 lakhs

Installation completed. Staff to be sanctioned.

11. PGF, Udaipur	Date of approval	: November, 93
	Capital cost	: Rs. 174.63 lakhs

Site finalised. Building plans finalised. Major equipment to be ordered. Scope of the project as sanctioned provided for setting up of studio of 50 Sq. Mtr. area. Size of the studio was subsequently changed to 150 Sq. Mtr. It would be necessary to go in for revision of the project before PE can be sanctioned.

TD : 1998-99

12. PGF, Gangtok Date of approval : January, 87
Capital cost : Rs. 399.45 lakhs
(incl. tr. cost) (org.)
: Rs. 987.89 lakhs
(revd.)

Site has been taken over and building plans finalised. PE for civil works sanctioned. Work of building construction to be awarded. NIT for building works to be issued.

TD : 1998-99

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 13. PGF, Chandigarh | Date of approval | March, 86 |
| | Capital cost | Rs. 1.86 crores |

Scheme was earlier approved by the SFC in March, 86 at a capital cost of Rs. 1.86 crores. 3.37 acres of land had been taken over for the proposed PGF centre keeping in view the future requirements on account of Chandigarh likely to be the capital of Punjab. Building plans could be got approved after protracted correspondence with the Chandigarh administration. It took considerable time to get the building plans approved.

Equipment for the above scheme has been procured. Revised cost estimate of the scheme (Cap.—RS. 604.51 lakhs) to be sanctioned. EFC memo for obtaining approval to revised cost circulated by Ministry in Dec. 1996. It will take about 2 years to complete the project after the revised cost is approved and building plan approved by CDA.

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 14. PGF, Varanasi | Date of approval | : 31.8.94. |
| | Capital cost | : Rs. 300.41 lakhs. |

Construction of building completed. Action for order of equipment in progress.

TD : 1997-98

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 15. PGF, Bhawanipatna | Date of approval | : 31.8.94 |
| | Capital cost | : Rs. 279.60 lakhs. |

Construction of building in progress. Roof of studio cast. Inside plastering in technical block in progress. Action for order of equipment in progress.

TD : 1997-98

16. PGF, Jagdalpur

Date of approval : 31.8.94.
Capital cost : Rs. 263.60 lakhs.

Construction of building completed. Action for order or equipment in progress.

TD : 1997-98

17. PGF, Warangal

Date of approval : 31.8.94.
Capital cost : Rs. 279.60 lakhs.

Site identified. Demand Note towards cost of site to be sanctioned. Equipment to be ordered.

TD : 1998-99

18. PGF, Nagpur

Date of approval : 31.8.94.
Capital cost : Rs. 263.60 lakhs

Construction of building completed. Action for order of equipment being taken. Departmental works taken up & in progress.

TD : 1997-98

19. PGF, Trichur

Date of approval : 31.8.94.
Capital cost : Rs. 292.60 lakhs.

Work of building construction awarded in August, 1996. Excavation work in progress. Action for order of equipment being taken.

TD : 1997-98

20. PGF, Gwalior

Date of approval : 31.8.94.
Capital cost : Rs. 263.60 lakhs.

Construction of building completed. Action for order of equipment being taken.

TD : 1997-98

21. PGF, Indore

Date of approval : 8.1.95
Approved cost : Rs. 261.03 lakhs

Construction of building completed. Action for order of equipment in progress

TD : 1997-98

22. PGF, Patiala

Date of approval : 8.1.95

Approved cost : Rs. 302.32 lakhs.

Work of building construction taken up. Technical area expected to be completed by December, 1997. Equipment to be ordered.

TD : 1998-99

23. PGF, Coimbatore

Date of approval : 10.5.95

Approved cost : Rs. 372.00 lakhs.

Site identified and being pursued. Equipment to be ordered.

TD : 1998-99

24. PGF, Mathura

Date of approval : 1.5.95

Approved cost : Rs. 261.00 lakhs.

PE for building works sanctioned in August, 1995. Tenders for building work received and work to be awarded. Equipment to be ordered.

TD : 1998-99

25. PGF, Shantinikatan

Date of approval : 28.4.95

Approved cost : Rs. 289.60 lakhs.

Interim set up commissioned. Work of building construction for permanent set up in progress. Brick work reached up roof level in office block and up to lintel level in studio block. Work expected to be completed by 9/97. Equipment to be ordered. Action for order of equipment is in progress.

TD : 1997-98 (pmt. set up)

STUDIO PROJECTS

S.No.	Place/ Project	Date of SFC Approval	Present Status	Target date of Completion	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	HISSAR	05.06.86 12.09.94	Studio building read Installation is in progress	Aug '97	Change in scope due to conversion of station from relay to full fledged and delay in civil works.
2.	DELHI Refurbishing of Studios Phase-II	August '88	Refurbishing works are in progress	Mar. '98	Work is to be carried out in co-ordination with the station without affecting the services.
3.	KOKRAJHAR	29.09.86	Installation is complete - Power supply not yet extended by ASEB		AIR Campus occupied by security forces.
4.	SILIGURI (CBS)	05.03.92	Installation equip. in progress	Nov. '97	
5.	CALCUTTA Additional Studio facilities	Nov. 93	Installation is in progress.	June '97	
6.	MUMBAI Refurbishing of Studios Ph. II	20.12.90	Installation drawings finalised. Installation is to be taken up	March '98	Work is to be carried out in co-ordination with the station without affecting the services.
7.	MUMBAI (VBS)	19.02.92	Project has since been deferred		
8.	COIMBATORE (VBS)	10.02.92	Installation is in progress	Aug. '97	

TRANSMITTER PROJECTS

1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	HISSAR (FM)	05.06.85/ 12.09.94	FM Tower erected Installation of equipment is in progress.	Aug. '97	Delay due to change in scope from relay centre to full fledged station and late completion of building.
2.	JODHPUR (FM)	05.02.90	The building is ready. Installation being planned in accordance with the availability of TV Tower.	Mar. '98	TV Tower on which the FM Tr. Antenna will be mounted is not ready.
3.	LUCKNOW (FM)	22.12.95	PE sanctioned for civil works taken up.	Mar. '98	Civil works delayed due to non- availability of local body clearance.
4.	BHADARWAH (FM)	30.10.86/ 06.05.91	Most of installation work is complete. Further work will be taken up after restoration of normalcy in the area.		
5.	CALCUTTA (MW)	06.03.90	Transmitter wiring is over. Testing taken up. Power supply awaited from WSEB.	June '97	Matter reg. power supply being pursued with WBSEB.
6.	SAMBALPUR (MW)	20.11.90	Installation of Transmitter is complete. Replacement of the Tr. Mast which fell due to cyclonic winds has been arranged. The firm is likely to complete the work by Oct. 97	Oct. '97	

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	DHUBRI (FM)	05.06.86/ 10.03.93	Civil works is in progress. FM Tower work is being awarded. Tenders received.	Dec. '97	Delay in civil works.
8.	SILIGURI (FM)	05.03.93	TA handed over. FM tower Nov. '97 is to be erected. Installation of equipment in progress.	Nov. '97	Delay in civil works.
9.	JAMSHEDPUR (FM)	30.03.93	Erection of tower is over. Antenna mounted. Construction of office & Tr. room is in progress.	Nov. '97	
10.	SHILLONG (FM)	22.11.95	Clearance awaited for site. Matter is being pursued.	March '98	
11.	COIMBATORE (FM)	10.02.93	Tr. Equipment under installation. However erection of FM tower is delayed. Matter is being pursued with the firm.	Aug. '97	FM tower erection delayed.
12.	PONDICHERRY (MW)	08.04.91	Tr. building taken over and installation.	June '97	Civil works delayed.

APPENDIX I

MINUTES OF THE THIRTIETH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS (1996-97)

The Committee sat on Wednesday, the 2 April, 1997 from 11.00 to 13.15 hrs. in Committee Room 'B', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

Shri Somnath Chatterjee — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri K.L. Sharma
3. Dr. S.N. Jatiya
4. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat
5. Smt. Sheela Gautam
6. Shri Pankaj Chaudhary
7. Shri Harpal Singh Sathi
8. Shri Tarachand Bhagora
9. Shri Girdhar Gamango
10. Smt. Sukhbuns Kaur
11. Shri Somjibhai Damor
12. Shri Mrutyunjaya Nayak
13. Shri Mohanbhai Delkar
14. Shri Thomas Hansda
15. Shri Neil O' Brien
16. Shri Dinesh Chandra Yadav
17. Dr. Shafiqur Rehman Barq
18. Shri V.P. Shanmuga Sundram
19. Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee
20. Shri Joachim Baxla

Rajya Sabha

21. Shrimati Veena verma
22. Shri S.S. Ahluwalia
23. Shri Govindram Miri
24. Dr. Ramendra Kumar Yadav Ravi
25. Shri Md. Salim
26. Shri S. Austin
27. Shri Ish Dutt Yadav
28. Shri Satish Pradhan

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Ram Autar Ram — *Director*
2. Shri S.K. Sharma — *Deputy Secretary*

REPRESENTATIVES OF MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

1. Shri N.P. Nawani — *Secretary*
2. Shri K.S. Sarma — *Joint Secretary*
3. Shri B.K. De — *Chief Engineer, Doordarshan.*

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and officials accompanying him.

3. The Committee sought certain clarifications on the issues relating to the Demands for Grants for 1997-98 as well as points arising out of the written replies to the questionnaire furnished by the Ministry on Demands for Grants 1997-98.

4. A verbatim record of sitting has been kept.

5. The Chairman thanked the officials for furnishing valuable information to the Committee and for free and frank views given on various points raised by the Members.

The Committee then adjourned to meet again at 15.00 hrs.



MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-FIRST SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE
ON COMMUNICATIONS (1996-97)

The Committee sat on Wednesday, the 2 April, 1997 from 15.00 to 17.00 hrs. in Committee Room 'B', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

Shri Somnath Chatterjee — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri K.L. Sharma
3. Dr. S.N. Jatiya
4. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat
5. Smt. Sheela Gautam
6. Shri Pankaj Chaudhary
7. Shri Harpal Singh Sathi
8. Shri Tarachand Bhagora
9. Shri Girdhar Gamango
10. Smt. Sukhbuns Kaur
11. Shri Somjibhai Damor
12. Shri Mrutyunjaya Nayak
13. Shri Mohanbhai Delkar
14. Shri Thomas Hansda
15. Shri Neil O' Brien
16. Shri Dinesh Chandra Yadav
17. Dr. Shafiqur Rehman Barq
18. Shri V.P. Shanmuga Sundram
19. Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee
20. Shri Joachim Baxla

Rajya Sabha

21. Shrimati Veena Verma
22. Shri S.S. Ahluwalia
23. Shri Govindram Miri
24. Dr. Ramendra Kumar Yadav Ravi
25. Shri Md. Salim
26. Shri S. Austin
27. Shri Ish Dutt Yadav
28. Shri Satish Pradhan

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Ram Autar Ram — *Director*
2. Shri S.K. Sharma — *Deputy Secretary*

REPRESENTATIVES OF MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

1. Shri N.P. Nawani — *Secretary*
2. Shri K.S. Sarma — *Joint Secretary*
3. Shri S.K. Kapoor, — *DG, AIR.*
4. Shri H.M. Joshi — *Engineer-in-Chief, AIR.*
5. Shri S. Narendra — *PIO, PIB.*
6. Shri P.B. Ray — *Registrar, RNI.*
7. Shri Ravi Gupta — *MD, NFDC.*
8. Shri Suresh Chhabria — *Director (NFAI)*
9. Wg. Cdr. D.K. Bhatt — *CEO, N'CYP.*
10. Shri Shakti Samanta — *Chairman, CBFC.*
11. Smt. Surendra Kaur — *Director (DPD).*

2. The Committee resumed further examination and sought clarifications on some other points relating to the Demands for Grants (1997-98).

3. A verbatim record of the sitting has been kept.

4. The Chairman thanked the officials of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for furnishing valuable information to the Committee and for the free and frank views expressed on various points raised by the Members.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX II

MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-THIRD SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS (1996-97)

The Committee sat on Thursdy, the 17th April, 1997 from 15.00 to 16.00 hrs. in Committee Room 'D', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

Shri Somnath Chatterjee — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri K.L. Sharma
3. Dr. S.N. Jatiya
4. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat
5. Smt. Sheela Gautam
6. Shri Harpal Singh Sathi
7. Shri T. Choaba Singh
8. Shri Girdhar Gamango
9. Shri Neil O' Brien
10. Shri R. Devadas
11. Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee
12. Shri Churchill Alemao

Rajya Sabha

13. Shrimati Veena Verma
14. Shri Iqbal Singh
15. Shri S.S. Ahluwalia
16. Shri Govindram Miri
17. Shri O. Rajagopal
18. Shri Shtrughan Prasad Sinha

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri J.P. Ratnesh — *Joint Secretary*
2. Shri Ram Autar Ram — *Director*
3. Shri S.K. Sharma — *Deputy Secretary*

The Standing Committee on Communications placed on record its profound sorrow on the sad demise of Shri Biju Pattnaik, a sitting member of Lok Sabha and Chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance. The Committee eulogised Shri Pattnaik as a well known freedom fighter who held high positions in public life such as Chief Minister of Orissa and Union Cabinet Minister. The Chairman on behalf of the Committee as well as on his own behalf conveyed their heart-felt condolence to the bereaved family.

The Committee decided not to transact any business as a mark of respect to the departed leader and authorised the Chairman to examine the draft Reports on Demands for Grants (1997-98) relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Department of Telecommunications and consider it as adopted by the Committee as the members have already given their suggestions separately.

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

The Committee then adjourned.