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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(2004-2005)**

**FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA**

**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING**

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS  
(2005-2006)**

**EIGHTEENTH REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

*April, 2005 / Vaisakha, 1927 (Saka)*

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(2004-2005)

( FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA )

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS  
(2005-2006)

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



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI  
*April, 2005/Vaisakha, 1927 (Saka)*

**C.O.F. No. 00**

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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (2004-2005)

Shri M.M. Pallam Raju — *Chairman*

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3. Shri Mani Cherenam
4. Shri Sanjay Dhotre
5. Kunwar Jitin Prasad
6. Shri Kailash Joshi
7. Shri P. Karunakaran
8. Dr. P.P. Koya
9. Shri P.S. Gadhave\*
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\* nominated w.e.f. from 20/08/2004

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- |                            |   |                             |
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| 4. Shri Raj Shekhar Shanna | — | <i>Director Secretary</i>   |
| 3. Shri K.L. Arora         | — | <i>Under Secretary</i>      |

## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman Standing Committee on Information Technology (2004-2005) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on its behalf present this Eighteenth Report on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) relating to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

2. The Standing Committee on Information Technology (2004-2005) was constituted on 5 August, 2004. One of the functions of the Standing Committee, as laid down in Rule 33IE of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, is to consider Demands for Grants of the concerned Ministry/Department and make a Report on the same to the House.

3. The Committee considered the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting for the current year i.e. 2005-2006, which were laid on the Table of the House on 24 March, 2005. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting on 30 March, 2005.

4. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 11 April, 2005.

5. The Committee wishes to express its thanks to the Officers of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting for appearing before the Committee and for furnishing the information, that the Committee desired in connection with the examination of the subject.

6. For facility of reference and convenience, the observations and recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the Part-II of the Report.

NEW DELHI;  
*April, 2004*  

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*Vaisakha, 1927 (Saka)*

M.M. PALLAM RAJU,  
*Chairman,*  
*Standing Committee on*  
*Information Technmology.*

## PART – I

### REPORT

#### A. Introductory

1. The main functions of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting are :–
  - to keep the people informed about Government's policies and programmes through the mass media;
  - to educate and motivate the people to greater participative involvement in the various developmental activities and programmes of the Government;
  - to liaise with State Governments and their organisations in the field of information and publicity, and
  - to serve as a constant link between the Government and Press and act as a clearing house or official information and authentic data pertaining to the Union Government's plans and programmes.

2. The Ministry are vested with the responsibility of formulating policy guidelines for the efficient dissemination of news and views by the media units. Although media units enjoy functional autonomy, the Ministry co-ordinates, assists, supervises and monitors the activities of the various units under its administrative control for efficient operations. The various media units use different programme formats keeping in view the needs of the target audience.

3. The Ministry are broadly divided into three sectors, viz.,

- (i) The Broadcasting Sector
- (ii) The Information Sector
- (iii) The Film Sector

4. The organisations/units in the Broadcasting Sector are as follows :–

- Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) an autonomous body which includes:
  - (a) All India Radio; and
  - (b) Doordarshan



- Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL)
- Central Monitoring Services [it has since been designated as National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO) and transferred to the Cabinet Secretariat]

5. The Media units in the Information Sector are :-

- Press Information Bureau
  - Photo Division
  - Research, Reference & Training Division
  - Publications Division
- } Press
- 
- Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP)
  - Directorate of Field Publicity (DFP)
  - Song and Drama Division
- } Publicity
- 
- Registrar of Newspaper for India (RNI)
  - Press Council of India (PCI)
- } Statutory work of the Press
- 
- Indian Institute of Mass Communication
- } Training

6. The Film Sector contains the following units:-

- Films Division – Documentary Films Production
- Central Board of Film Certification – Certification
- Film Certification Appellate Tribunal – Certification
- National Film Archive of India – Preservation
- National Film Development Corporation (NDFC) – Film Finance
- Film and Television Institute of India, Pune (FTII) – Training
- Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute, Kolkata – Training
- Directorate of Film Festivals – Promotion of good cinema
- Children's Film Society, India (CFSI) – Promotion of Children's films

## **B. Demand for Grants for 2005-2006**

7. The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting have presented to Parliament Demand No. 60, which covers the expenditure of the Secretariat of the Ministry, its media units and also contains provisions for Grant-in-aid/Budgetary support to the autonomous/statutory bodies under the administrative control of the Ministry for the financial year 2005-2006. Briefly, the Demands are as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

	<b>Revenue</b>		<b>Capital</b>		<b>Total</b>	
	1329.06		273.97		1603.03	
Voted	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan
	254.03	1075.03	273.97	—	528.00	1075.00
Charged	0.03		—		0.03	

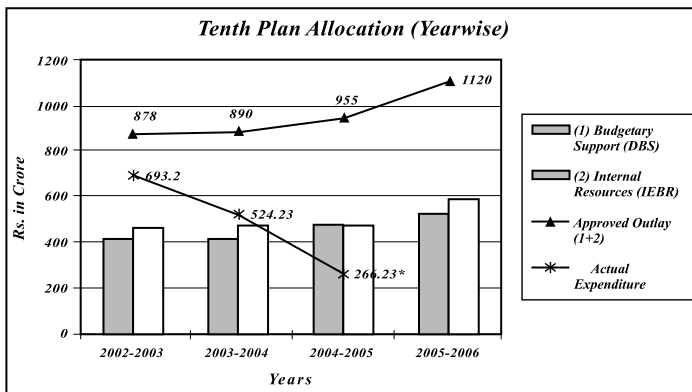
8. The yearwise tenth plan allocation and Actual Expenditure for the year 2002-2006 is as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

	<b>2002-2003</b>	<b>2003-2004</b>	<b>2004-2005</b>	<b>2005-2006</b>
<b>(1) Budgetary Support (DBS)</b>	415	415	480	528
<b>(2) Internal Resources (IEBR)</b>	463	475	475	592
<b>Approved Outlay (1+2)</b>	878	890	955	1120
<b>Actual Expenditure</b>	693.2	524.23	266.23*	

\* Expenditure up to 31.12.2004

9. A graphical representation of the yearwise allocation and expenditure is as under:



\* Expenditure up to 31.12.2004

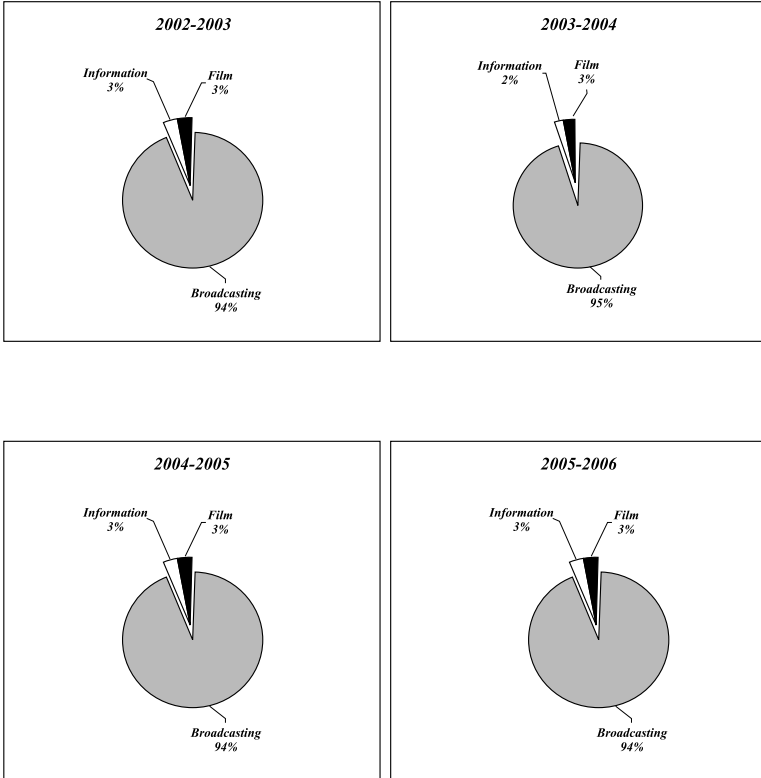
10. The non-availability of “in principle” approval from the Planning Commission, default in time limits for completion of projects by construction agencies and non-finalization of tendering process are some of the reasons given by the Ministry over the years for low expenditure incurred in comparison to the approved outlay.

11. The sectorwise allocation during the Tenth Plan has been as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

<i>Sectors</i>	<i>2002-2003</i>	<i>2003-2004</i>	<i>2004-2005</i>	<i>2005-2006</i>
<b>Broadcasting</b>	823	845	897.1	1047
<b>Information</b>	29	21	32	38
<b>Film</b>	26	24	25.9	35

12. A pie representation of the above figures is as under:



13. The more important aspect arising out of the scrutiny of the Demands relating to the Broadcasting, the Information and Film Wings of the Ministry are discussed in the succeeding paragraphs.

### C The Broadcasting Sector

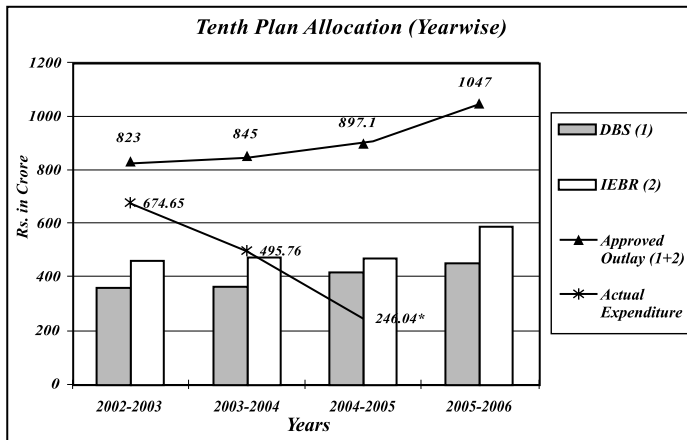
14. The Budgetary Estimates for the years 2002-2006 of the Broadcasting Sector and the Actual Expenditure in each of the years are as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
<b>DBS (1)</b>	360	370	422.1	455
<b>IBER (2)</b>	463	475	475	592
<b>Approved Outlay (1+2)</b>	823	845	897.1	1047
<b>Actual Expenditure</b>	674.65	495.76	246.04*	

\* Expenditure up to 31.12.2004

15. A graphical representation of the above figures is as under:



\* Expenditure up to 31.12.2004

#### i. **Prasar Bharati: Doordarshan**

16. The Committee are informed that Doordarshan is a Public Service Broadcaster and is among the largest terrestrial television networks in the world. The service was started on 15th September, 1959 to transmit educational and development programmes on an experimental basis with half an-hour programming. Presently, Doordarshan has 27 channels made up of 7 all India channels (DD-1, DD-News, DD-Bharati, DD-Sports, DD-Gyanadarshan, DD-Lok Sabha and DD-Rajya Sabha) and one international channel (DD\_India), 11 regional language satellite channels (Malayalam, Tamil, Oriya, Bengali, Telugu, Kannada, Marathi, Gujarati, Kashmiri, Assamese & North-East and Punjabi) and 8 State network channels (Rajasthan, Madhya

Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chattisgarh and Haryana). Twenty-five and a half transponders on different satellites are used to disseminate the programmes of these channels. DD-1 and DD-News channels are also telecast terrestrially through a network of 1403 transmitters.

17. The approved outlay, expenditure, and percentage of expenditure in the capital section are as under:—

(Rs. in Crore)

<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Approved Outlay</i>	<i>Actual Expenditure</i>	<i>%</i>
<b><i>Normal</i></b>	2003-2004	356.60	208.51	58.5
	2004-2005	292.50	78.99	27.01
	2005-2006	324.05	—	—
<b><i>NE Spl. Package</i></b>	2003-2004	35.00	4.81	13.74
	2004-2005	40.00	0.34	0.85
	2005-2006	40.00	—	—
<b><i>J&amp;K Spl. Package</i></b>	2003-2004	8.40	5.04	60.00
	2004-2005	7.50	6.66	88.8
	2005-2006	5.95	—	—

18. The reasons for under utilization of funds for the financial year 2004-05 as stated by the Ministry are as follows:

- The approved outlay under Capital Plan was reduced from Rs. 340.00 crore to Rs. 14.09 crore at RE stage and it was further reduced to Rs. 113.09 crore at FE stage due to reduction in IEBER support to the Capital Plan Schemes.
- The North East Special Package phase-II is yet to be approved by the Competent Authority.
- Delay in approval of Schemes for Construction of New Staff Quarters and other infrastructure facility. The schemes were approved only on 3.12.2004.

19. Clarifying the point on underutilisation, the Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting during evidence stated:

“There are two or three points which I would just, in an introductory fashion, flag for the attention of the Hon'ble Members. One is that a question might very well be asked as we go along as to why are we not spending the money that is given to us. There are roadblocks before us. One of the roadblocks is that we need in-principle approval from the Planning Commission at every step. These things take time.

Soemtimes the financial year runs out or we come to close to the end of the financial yar that we are not able to adequately spend. It is a roadblock and we are trying to address it without, I have to say, so far any great success. So, the reason or my flaggin:g it is also to seek your assistance anad the assistance of the members of the Committee”.

20. The Committee have been informed through a written note that Doordarshan derives its Revenue mainly from two sources—

- i. Commercial Receipts
- ii. Other Misc. Receipts

21. Doordarshan Commercial Service was estabshlied for airtime marketing in respect of sponsored programme/advertisement on Doordarshan w.e.f. 1st January, 1976. The main function of commerical division is to accept for the telecast of sponsored programme/advertisement on Doordarshan. Its other functions are to procure Telechast Certicates from DD Kendras. rais bills for commercials, and collection of payments against those bills, monitoring of outstandings, finalizing the rate card for commercial advertisement/sponsorship, all policy matters concerning commercial activity of Doordarshan, accreditation and registration of agencies, approval of advertisements for telecast etc.

22. The details of revenue earned during the 10 years are as under:—

<i><b>Financial Year</b></i>	<i><b>Amount (Rs. in crore)</b></i>
1995-1996	430.13
1996-1997	572.72
1997-1998	490.15
1998-1999	399.332
1999-2000	610.29
2000-2001	637.51
2001-2002	612.21
2002-2003	553.81
2003-2004	530.23
2004-2005 (till Dece. 04)	371.44 (Estimate: 525.00)
2005-2006	525.00

23. The receipts for 2003-2004 to 2005-06 (Commercial + Miscellaneous) as provided by the Ministry in reply to a question are as follows:—

(Rs. in Lakh)

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Actual Expenditure 2003-04</i>	<i>Budget Estimates 2004-05</i>	<i>Revised Estimates 2004-05</i>	<i>Budget Estimates 2005-06</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>TV Commercial</i>	53023.00	52500.00	52500.00	52500.00
<i>2</i>	<i>Other Misc. Receipts</i>	329.47009	685.54	690.00	650.54456

24. The reasons for a fluctuation of receipts in the year 2000-2001 and 2002-2003 and a better performance during 2004-2005 as given in a written reply by the Ministry are as under:

- a) M/s Channel-9 had taken three hours of evening time band from 07:00 PM to 10:00 PM for a total consideration of Rs. 121 Crore. Half of this amount was credited in the year 2000-2001 and another half in 2001-2002. As a result, revenues of DD-2 which was only Rs. 46.18 Crore in 1999-2000 jumped to Rs. 87.29 Crore in 2000-2001 and Rs. 82.32 crore in 2001-02. However, the agreement with M/s Channel-9 ended in August 2001 and as a result the revenues of DD-2 plummeted to Rs. 22.77 Crore in 2002-2003 and Rs. 18.53 Crore in 2003-04.
- b) In February 2000, Doordarshan signed agreement for domestic marketing of BCCI Cricket matches for a total consideration of Rs. 450 Crore with M/s Buddha Films. The installment on this account credited to Doordarshan during the year 2000-2001 was Rs. 86.5 Crore. In the year 2001-02, M/s Buddha Films raised disputes and refused to pay but Doordarshan was still able to recover money by encashment of bank guarantees during 2001-02, which amounted to Rs. 67.5 Crore. Since then the matter is under arbitration and no payment was received from the year 2002-2003 onwards.
- c) During the year 2002-03, M/s NFDC owed to Doordarshan Rs. 37-87 Crore. However, because of non-payment of Doordarshan dues, the outstanding against M/s NFDC rose to Rs. 71.92 Crore in 2003-04, which has been marginally reduced to Rs. 70.21 Crore because of adjustment against services provided by them to Doordarshan.
- d) Trends with regard to revenue generation are quite encouraging during the current financial year.

25. The Ministry further stated:

As against the projected revenue generation of Rs. 525 Crore during the year 2004-05, the revenue generation is likely to be over Rs. 600.00 Crore. It is because of the following factors:

- Doordharshan's success in acquiring rights for various big time sporting events such as Asia Cup Cricket Series and BCCI Platinum Jubilee Cricket match (India-Pakistan).
- Better monitoring of outstanding dues.
- Recovery of around Rs. 38.00 crores from M/s Stracon/TWI out of their dues against Global Marketing of BCCI Cricket matches through encashment of bank guarantee coupled with legal process.
- Better management of slots so as to ensure that slots are not allowed to remain vacant when one programme completes its run.
- Rescasting the fixed-point chart so as to provide for telecast of latest Blockbuster Hindi Feature Films on Fridays and Saturdays from 21.30 Hrs. onwards instead of earlier timings of 2230 hrs.
- Excellent performance recorded by certain Doordharshan commissioned programmes like Jazba, Prechand Ki Kahaniyan etc.
- Strengthening the In-house Marketing Division and inter-lia allowing it to market the latest Blockbuster Hindi Feature Films.

The money earned by Doordharshan is used for meeting a part of the Plan as well as Non-Plan expenditure of Prasar Bharati. The funding of Prasar Bharati is come on the principle of net deficit financing under which the Government provides budgetary support to Prasar Bharati to bridge the gap between the internal resources available with Prasar Bharati and the requirement of funds.

26. Giving further clarification on the restricted revenue receipts the Secretary of the Ministry clarified during evidence:

“There are various austerity measures that are placed on us. Those are all right in their own place. but, what are we? Are we a public broadcaster? Are we expected to raise our own revenues? If our mandate is public broadcasting, then we should be in a position to be able to get the funds for it without worrying over our shoulder for the amount that we have to raise. The moment you put us into the competition of raising money, then we enter into a completely, different area of activity. Then we need to compete with some of the other commercial channels: As they have niche audience, they are smarter. They are trying to put all the money that they can into that aspect of their revenues. Our focus can never be the same. I, therefore,



take the plea that if we are a public broadcaster, we should be treated as such and we should be funded as such”.

27. The Ministry have informed in a note that free to air DTH service of Doordarshan (DD Direct +) was inaugurated on 16.12.2004 by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. The DTH bouquet presentive comprises 33 TV channels (19 Doordarshan channels and 14 private achannels) besides 12 All India Radio Channels. DTH signalas, which are available in the entire country (except A&N island), can be received with the help of small sized dish receive unit. Thus, all reas of the country, which were hitherto uncovered by terrestrail transmission, now have access to a multi-channel TV/ Radio service. There is only one time ivestment on the parto of the viewers towards cost of the dish receive unit without any monthly subscription. For demonstration purposes, 10000 Dish receives units will be provided in the uncovered villages of Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttaranchal, Karnataka, Chattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and North Eastern states. So far, 5770 units have already been installed.

28. The number of TV/Radio channles in the DTH bouquet is envisaged to be increased to 50/30 respectively. An additional 5000 dish receive units are also envisaged to be instlaed in uncovered villages.

29. Clarifying a point on coverage of hily, remote and hamlets (in the tribal and hilly areas) the Additional Secretary of the Ministry stated:

“We go by the traditional terrestrial transmmision throught towers for which there is a huge public demand. I believe that every day, they are getting more and more request for putting up more and more towers of different size and capacities, to cover the small areas. They were talking about broadcasting, now it has come to narrowcasting so that they can cover smaller areas in the hamlet, etc.

The cost of taking those towers to those remote and hilly areas is going to be exponenually higher than that of taking it from Delhi to P{itampura or nearby because you have to traverse to the most difficult areas.

Then, on maintenance, I have to say that there is no electricity. The whole concept of using the technology is outmodeed now. Therefore, what we have gladly done in the past, the last couple of years is to go in for DTH. It has reached 99 percent of the country, except the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The footprints of the Satellite cover the whole country today. Therefore, the signal of Prasar Bharati is available throughout the country and it is picking up. It is free to air.

We have got 33 channels on board. Instead of spending Rs. 250 crore on having more terrestrial transmitters to the five per cent of the balance area, the same Rs. 250 crore - with about Rs. 30-Rs. 40-Rs. 50 crore - can get the number of channels up from 33 to about 100-150; and the balance can be used for enabling those areas to get set top boxes. There is an additional cost involves, over and above the TV; it is small amount of Rs. 3,000. If we go in for a larger volume, the costs will further come down in this case.

**(ii) *Prasar Bharati: All India Radio***

30. The approved outlay for the year 2003-2004 for the unpradation/Expansion scheme of FM transmitters was Rs. 26.53 crore and the expenditure was Rs. 3.78 crore i.e. 14.26% only.

31. In the year 2004-2005 the approved outlay was Rs. 62.28 crore and the expenditure Rs. 3.59 crore i.e. 5.76%. In 2005-2006 the approved outlay is Rs. 66.35 crore.

32. The reasons for such low expenditure in this programme as given by the Ministry in the written reply are as under:

- (i) During 2003-04 the expenditure was low under upgradation / expansion scheme, as FM transmitters could not be procured due to non-finalisation of tenders.

During 2004-05 against Sanctioned Budget Grant (SBG) of Rs. 62.28 crore the expenditure up to January, 05 is Rs. 3.59 crore. Expenditure is low due to re-tendering for procurement. As FM transmitters are expected to be procured in the next financial year, an outlay of Rs. 66.35 crore has been earmarked under the upgradation / expansion scheme for 2005-06.

- (ii) 26 FM transmitters were originally planned which included 25 Nos. of 10 KW and one No. of 5 KW capacity. As these transmitters were not expected to be procured this year, the targets were revised. As per the revised targets, interim set ups of 7 nos. 1 KW FM transmitters would be installed by the end of March, 05 and 20 LPT's of 100 W capacity are expected to be ready by April, 05. The list of original targets revised targets is enclosed at Annexure-I and Annexure-II respectively.

33. The details of revenue generated by AIR from marketing its in-house programmes and also producing customized programmes as furnished by the Ministry in reply to a question is as under:-

Name of CBS Centre	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
1. Ahmedabad	59,47,265	66,93,975	68,63,639
2. Banagalore	2,15,43,438	2,64,86,035	2,01,11,492
3. Bhopal	1,63,60,285	1,90,93,156	2,22,94,271
4. Chandigarh	65,23,096	57,97,980	1,01,04,730
5. Chennai	5,72,82,950	7,60,37,796	5,87,78,671
6. Cuttack	44,01,458	88,41,632	73,20,175

7. Delhi	16,61,18,656	21,01,95,204	12,72,56,624
8. Hyderabad	1,69,34,855	1,81,57,610	1,53,15,066
9. Jaipur	73,02,045	74,43,191	82,03,897
10. Kolkata	3,73,36,462	3,50,66,688	3,17,86,776
11. Kanpur	2,93,61,317	3,32,97,596	2,67,36,365
12. Mumbai	7,38,31,318	4,29,72,972	3,51,71,936
13. Patna	1,14,74,287	1,40,23,300	2,29,73,639
14. Srinagar	63,08,776	71,37,571	99,25,715
15. Trivandrum	4,09,07,105	4,17,83,055	5,02,82,996
16. CSU	46,52,30,510	46,94,85,096	72,38,57,613
<b>Total</b>	<b>96,68,63,823</b>	<b>102,25,12,857</b>	<b>117,69,83,605</b>

34. The Committee observed that the revenue from the major cities is decreasing whereas the revenue from the smaller cities is increasing . Standing that the decrease in revenues was majorly because of social Broadcasting, the DG; AIR stated:

“I would like to draw your attention to severe constraints on the amount of social broadcasting that we are doing. If we take programmes related to Republic Day, we are devoting more than 3000 hours. For Independence Day, we are broadcasting 2,000 hours; for direct relay of Loak Sabha proceedings we are devoting 3,000 hours; Parliamentary broadcast, which is not direct but delayed live we devote 5,600 hours a year. Programmes on environment campaigns; we devoted more than 2,000 houars. For consumer protection we devote more than 4,000 hours. For petroleum conservation it is about 2,300 hours. For industrial workers programmes; it is more than 4,000 hours. For eradication of untouchability, which we thing is very important, wer devote 3,800 hours. For the programme on new economic policy, we devote more than 6,000 hours. Apart from this, for other mandatory programmes we are devoting 1,000 hours. These are the chunks where we are not earning any money, excepting for pertoleum conservation where the PCRA does give us some revenue for broadcasting these programmes. There is nobody in the country who is going to come forward saying that you are doing programmes for industrial workers and eradication of untouchability, we are going to fund you”.

35. During evidence of the representative of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasing the Committee pointed out that technology is moving very fast and that there was a need to dispense with obsolete equipment and switching over to the newer modes of transmission viz. satellite and DTH. The Additional Secretary of the Ministry while agreeing to the suggestion stated:

“One is the issue of infrastructure and it is going waste as of now which is where we are looking at the hardware component of the project. Perhaps

utilization through any kind of outsourcing or inviting others to make use of that infrastructure could be thought of. In the case of towers which All India Radio and Doordarshan have, when we actually went in for the FM and in the private sector we are trying to see that the huge infrastructure which has been created with Rs. 5000 to Rs. 6000 crore which we have spent over these towers, these towers can be leased out and they can host even private transmitters and Prasar Bharati can earn some revenues out of it.

If we analyse the expenditure, if you take the salary component, then much of the rest of the expenditure is going on hardware creations, which generates its own operational recurring costs. It has been squeezing out the quality programme production, content production and software production in Prasar Bharati”.

36. The Committee pointed out during evidence of the representatives of M/o I&B that since most of the big Organisations are already involved in the social causes of the nation and have earmarked budgets it would not be difficult for AIR/Doordarshan to explore the possibility of getting some revenue from these corporations by serving them on environmental, gender and social cause. The CEO, Prasar Bharati state that:

“If a private channel is today surviving, it is because of the television sets that are available in the country. To bring those television sets into those homes, it is the Government, which is responsible. Therefore, they have an obligation to pay the Government because they are gaining by 90 million sets being made available through the public broadcast. So, the universal obligation would be the right answer and a certain percentage of revenue can be fixed which could be transferred to a fund like the Commercial Service Obligation Fund created by the Dot.

**37. *Projects not started for want of Staff (AIR)***

During the course of examination, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in their report furnished the following details of the projects of AIR and Doordarshan which had not been commenced due to shortage of staff:—

	<i><b>J&amp;K</b></i>	<i><b>North-East</b></i>	<i><b>General</b></i>	<i><b>Total</b></i>
<i><b>No. of Projects</b></i>	1	7	12	20
<i><b>Cost of Projects (Rs. in Crore)</b></i>	2.50	29.60	87.90	120.00
<i><b>Minimum Staff requirement</b></i>	8	149	652	809
<i><b>Recurring expenditure on staff (per year) (Rs. in Crore)</b></i>	0.16	2.98	13.04	16.18

***Projects not started for want of staff (DD)***

	<b><i>J&amp;K</i></b>	<b><i>North-East</i></b>	<b><i>General</i></b>	<b><i>Total</i></b>
<b><i>No. of Projects</i></b>	–	–	14	14
<b><i>Cost of Projects (Rs. in Crore)</i></b>	–	–	23.00	23.00
<b><i>Minimum Staff requirement</i></b>	–	–	675	675
<b><i>Recurring expenditure on staff (per year) (Rs. in Crore)</i></b>	–	–	13.50	13.50

38. The Committee expressed its concern on the huge money invested in these projects, which is bound to go waste if no concrete steps are taken immediately. The Committee also expressed concern that if the equipment is left unutilized it may get rot. The Committee asked whether these assets could be given to private broadcasters so that the money so received could be utilized in the DTH platform rather than terrestrial platform.

39. The Secretary of the Ministry state that:

“I don not think these leads can helps us to find answers. We would also have to go to the very mandate of the Prasar Bharati. But in the short term what we are doing is that we are asking the Ministry of Finance to help. On the one hand, we are faced with the delimma of Prasar Bharati axing ‘x’ thousand numbers of posts. At the same time, they have to give staff to these stations, which exist. So, they have to do the exercise of balanceing the new posts that we have asked for and the old posts that we need to surrender. That is the exercise going on. At that meeting the Deputy-Chairman, Planning Commission sought to raise the fundamental issue whether SIU norms are still valid or not. This Committee needs to look into that as well. We would do that in the immediated future. So, it will be very difficult for us to go for out-sourcing, as it were, to private entities because then there would be conflicting interests”.

***(iii) Need for restructuring of Prasar Bharati***

40. Against the backdrop of reports suggesting that Prasar Bharati was losing their market share to private channels, the Committee during evidence desired to know how the Ministry of information and Broadcasting propose to restructure Prasar Bharati in order to enable the Corporation to meet the emerging challenges in the broadcasting/telecasting sector. The Additional Secretary of the Ministry state:

“..... What perhaps the Government, more in the Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission included, along with the Ministry of I&B, need to do is to have a proper and a closer look at how the Prasar Bharati should

be structured. The Planning Commission and the Finance Ministry have been asking Prasar Bharati for creating a capital structure for themselves. The fact that they are unable to raise resources from outside, it is entirely dependent on Government Grant. Although they have been created as a corporate entity, they do not have the capital structure; they don't have equity base; assets are Government owned; they are not transferred to them; they cannot use those assets for raising capital from the market and doing more commercial activities for which today they are dependent on Government. Therefore, the first thing that really needs to be done is to create a capital structure which will enable Prasar Bharati to be financially a little more vibrant than it is as of now because it is entirely dependent on Government.

The second thing that we need to do is to look at the technological options, which Prasar Bharati needs to make in terms of the way we put the money in future. So far as I know, the traditional technology that they have followed is terrestrial transmission through towers and transmitters; and there has been tremendous improvement in that, in terms of the quality. In terms of efficiency, in terms of their maintenance, etc. Over the years, Prasar Bharati has specialized in that. But unfortunately the world has overtaken all this. Today, we have gone into satellite and all other new technologies like broadband and so on.

The latest initiative of Prasar Bharati has been on the DTH, which certainly, is the most appropriate technological option, which they have gone in for .....

..... The third thing that they need today is internal organizational restructuring. Today we have DD, we have Prasar Bharati and we have the All India Radio. They were two separate distinct discreet entities that have been clubbed together, but only on paper. In practice, there are a lot of difficulties because the staff is still the Government staff. I do not want to take your time by going through the history of the problems that we have had. On this issue, the staff never transitioned to become Prasar Bharati employees. They are still continuing to be the Government employees. Therefore, those organizational, human resource problems are there in Prasar Bharati .....

..... Financial, technological, organizational restructuring are the three things; if they are done within a timeframe of 3-5 years, consistently, it can then begin to show result”.

41. The Committee asked to how the Government proposed to take necessary steps in the matter. Offering his comments, the Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting state in evidence:—

“..... Sir, there was a meeting recently taken by our Minister for addressing the major dichotomy that exists. At that meeting, the Deputy-

Chairman, Planning Commission. Secretary (Expenditure), and Secretary (Economic Affairs) were also present. It was then decided that there would be a Committee, which I would chair and which would look into this very aspect and give a report in three months time. I think one way could be that this Report could be presented before this august Committee and we can take it forward from there. In this way, we can reduce the duplication. So, in 12 months' time, I hope I will be able to get, at least, the issues addressed, if not all the answers”.

#### ***D. The Information Sector***

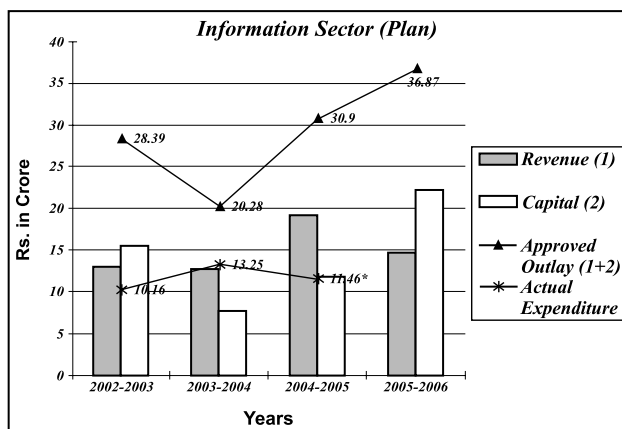
42. The Budgetary Estimates and Expenditure for the years 2002-2006 in respect of the Information Sector as a whole are as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
<b>Revenue (1)</b>	12.94	12.65	19.18	14.66
<b>Capital (2)</b>	15.45	7.63	11.72	22.21
<b>Approved Outlay (1+2)</b>	28.39	20.28	30.9	36.87
<b>Actual Expenditure</b>	10.16	13.25	11.46*	

\* Expenditure up to 31.12.2004

43. A graphical representation of the above statistics is as under:



\* Expenditure up to 31.12.2004

#### ***(i) Publication Division***

44. The Publication Division is the largest publishing house in the public sector. It publishes priced books, journals and other printed material in English, Hindi and

regional languages on a wide variety of subjects. These range from books on national policies and programmes, to people and places, and from biographies and books for children, to works on art and culture. The journals are of varying periodicity. Sale of books and journals is organized through the Division's eight sales emporia at various centers and through a network of sales depots, sales counters, agencies and book fairs and exhibitions at home and abroad.

45. Employment News is a weekly published in English, Hindi and Urdu. It is the flagship publication of the Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. The weekly carries advertisements for jobs of Central and State Governments, PSUs, Universities, foreign institutions etc. Admission notice for professional courses, examination notices and result of organization like UPSC, SSC and other general recruitment bodies and mid-level career promotion opportunities (deputation). In addition to this, there is also an Editorial segment and the career guidance series. The Committee were informed that Circulation and Revenue of the Employment News is as under:

- Circulation: During the year 2003-04 the average combined print order was around 6.90 lakh copies per week as against 5.96 lakh copies per week during the financial year 2002-03. During the current, the average circulation of weekly (till issue dated 7.1.2005) has been 6.90 lakh copies.
- Advertisement Revenue: During the current financial year this journal is likely to earn the advertisement revenue of Rs. 1900.00 lakh as against Rs. 1685.77 lakh during last financial year i.e. 2003-04. Till December 2004, revenue to the tune of Rs. 1727.50 lakh has been earned.
- Circulation Revenue: During the current financial year Employment News is likely to earn revenue on account of sale of journal of Rs. 1700.00 lakh as against Rs. 1689.22 lakh during the year 2003-04. Revenue to the tune of Rs. 1412.28 lakh has been earned till December 2004.

46. When asked, during evidence, about the present status of the Employment News and whether it has its own website, the Director, DPD of the Publication Division stated:

“The Employment News operates under the Publication Division. It is a weekly. It is in English, Hindi and Urdu. It has a combined weekly circulation of seven lakh and odd. The number of pages varies between 40 and 60 depending the jobs, advertisements in a particular issue.

Presently we do not have an independent website for the Employment News, But it is part of the Publications Divisions Website. It is not at all satisfactory. In our recent statement for next Annual Plan, we have included it to take steps for making a complete employment portal under the “Employment News” banner which will not only have the job opportunities listed out also



will have an editorial matter like care advice, consultancy, career publications, training, information and a whole lot of allied information”.

**(ii) Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP)**

47. The Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity is a multi-media central agency for publicizing the policies, achievements and programmes of the Government of India. It executes publicity campaign through press advertising and other printed material as well as radio spots and sponsored programmes, TV Commercials, exhibitions and outdoor media on behalf of various Central Government's Ministries and Departments, Autonomous bodies and such Public Sector Undertakings which seek to utilize its services.

48. During evidence the Director, DAVP informed the Committee that large amount is due to DAVP from various Ministries and Departments. He stated:

“The Problem is related to delay in payment. Unfortunately, the system under which we work is such that we cannot ask our clients to pay first and then issue advertisements. After all, we issue advertisements for the Central Government. We know that money would come. So, sometimes, it happens that advertisements are issued but the funds come a little later. It is because of various reasons. That is a problem. Of course, recently, we have taken some steps. This year, Ministry has been very kind enough to give us some additional money. We launched a special drive to clear some of the dues with the newspapers. Last month, we cleared about Rs. 3 Crore worth outstanding. Till last year, our outstanding stood about Rs. 4 Crore. We hope that by 31st March, that is tomorrow, some more amount would be cleared. Till we find a solution, we have to live with this problem. We had addressed various letters to the Ministries asking them to provide us sufficient funds in advance, if they could, so that this problem of outstanding is minimized”.

49. In a note furnished to the Committee subsequent to evidence, the Ministry of I&B stated that the total amount of arrears due to DAVP from various Ministries/Departments amounted to Rs. 21.27 crore as on 31.03.2005.

**(iii) Press Information Bureau**

50. The Press Information Bureau is the central agency of the Government of India for informing the people about its policies, programmes and activities. As Government's main channel of Communication with the media (electronic and print), Press Information Bureau puts out information on Government policies, programmes and activities, provides feed back on these and advice the Government on its information policy. During evidence the Committee desired to know about the resolution of photographs on the website of PIB. Responding to the same the Press Information Officer stated:

“We have improved it and I agree that it still needs some improvement”.

51. The Committee further desired to know the extent of coordination between PIB and Photo Division and whether there was any intention to integrate both the services together for providing a better quality of service. Responding to the same, the Secretary, I&B stated:

“You are absolutely right. We are merging the photo division in the PIB so that they are both able to cooperate better”.

**(E) The Film Sector**

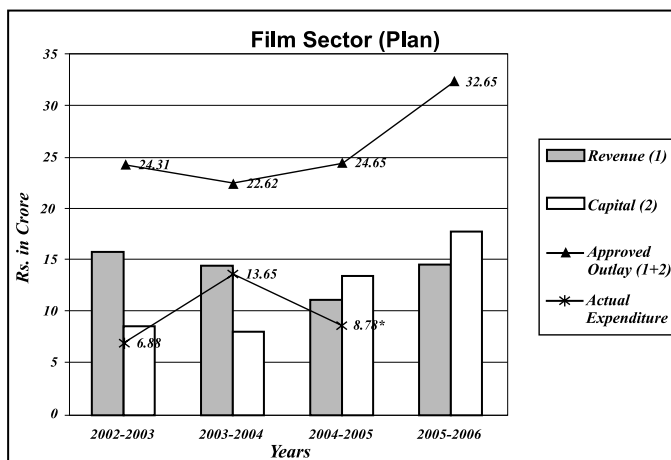
52. The Budgetary Estimates for the years 2002-2006 in respect of the Film Sector as a whole are as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
<b>Revenue (1)</b>	15.79	14.54	11.14	14.69
<b>Capital (2)</b>	8.52	8.08	13.51	17.96
<b>Approved Outlay (1+2)</b>	24.31	22.62	24.65	32.65
<b>Actual Expenditure</b>	6.88	13.65	8.73*	

\* Expenditure up to 31.12.2004

53. A graphical representation of the above figures is as under:



\* Expenditure up to 31.12.2004

**(i) Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)**

54. The Central Board of Film Certification performs the statutory function of certifying films including video films for public exhibition under the provisions of Cinematographic Act, 1952.

55. The Plan Allocation of CBFC for the years 2002-2006 is as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
<b>BE</b>	3.10	2.92	2.74	3.36
<b>RE</b>	1.10	1.86	1.20	—
<b>Actual Expenditure</b>	.04	1.04	.54	—

56. Schemes/Projects undertaken by the CBFC for Tenth Plan Period (2002-2007):

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Schemes/ Projects	Tenth Plan Approved Outlay	2002-2003		2003-2004		2004-2005		2005-2006
			Approved Outlay	Actual Expenditure	Approved Outlay	Actual Expenditure	Approved Outlay	Actual Expenditure	
1.	Establishment of computersied Manangement system and Upgradation of Infrastructure in CBFC	390.13	27.20	0.00	102	99.72	75	7.49*	—
2.	Opening of Regional Offices at Delhi, Cuttack and Guwahati	97	2.80	0.00	7.95	0.00	24	1.00*	—
3.	Monitoring and Moderation of Certification Process	675	4.00	3.94	8	4.69	175	59.32*	—

\* Expenditure up to 31.12.2004

57. Replying to a query on the expenditure of the Board being far less than the BE the Ministry at a written reply stated:

“There are three plan schemes for CBFC viz. “Establishment of computerized Management system and Upgradation in CBFC”, Monitoring and Modernisation of Certification Process” and “Opening of Regional Offices at Delhi, Cuttack and Guwahati”. Out of the these schemes, the SFC approval for first two schemes was convened in the month of March, 2003 and 2004 respectively and the SFC approval was communicated on 18.03.2003 and 10.03.2004 respectively. As such, there was no activity

under this scheme till 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively and no physical targets could be fulfilled in the year 2003 for the first scheme and in 2003 and 2004 for the second scheme.

As regards the third scheme “Opening of Regional Offices at Delhi, Cuttak and Guwahati and the SFC is yet to approve the scheme for want of matching savings as the scheme involves creation or posts at these three regional office. The matter was actively pursued within the Ministry and with the Ministry of Finance. However, matching savings has so far been difficult to find because of the CBFC itself being a lean organisation with a staff complement of only 98”.

**(ii) Children Film Society of India (CFSI)**

58. The main objectives of Children's Film Society, India (CFSI) are, production, distribution and exhibition of films meant for children as well as promotion of children's film movement. The CFSI engages itself in the production of 16 mm and 25 mm feature, feturette and short films in all the major Indian languages so that children all over India can enjoy them equally. The CFSI produces, distributes and exhibits films especially made for children, with emphasis on protecting them from undesirable influence of commercial films and providing them with clean and healthy entertainment.

59. In the year 2004-2005 the Budgetary Provision was Rs. 4.32 crore whereas the expenditure only Rs 2.000 crore. The reason for the low expenditure as state by the Ministry is:

“In the year 2004-05 the main reason for the expenditure bein less than 50% of the budgetary provision is that the utilization in one of the most important schemes of CFSI i.e. Film Production, which has an allocation of more than 80% of the toal budget allocation has been very less. The reason for under utilization has been observed to be non receipt of suitable film very less. The reason for under utilization has been observed to be non receipt of suitable film proposals/synopsis and scripts and consequently less number of films approved by the Bcrict Committee which funds these proposals. Therefore, the expenditure has been only ?Rs. 0.96 crore so far. CFSI is making all out efforts to improve the untalization of funds”.

60. The Plan Allocation to CFSI for the years 2002-2006 is as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
<b>BE</b>	6	6.21	4.32	5
<b>RE</b>	4.50	5.32	2	—
<b>Actual Expenditure</b>	2.72	4.04	1.24	—

61. Schemes/Projects undertaken by the CSFI for Tenth Plan Period (2002-2007):

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Schemes/ Projects	Tenth Plan Approved Outlay	2002-2003		2003-2004		2004-2005		2005-2006
			Approved Outlay	Actual Expenditure	Approved Outlay	Actual Expenditure	Approved Outlay	Actual Expenditure	
1.	Film Production	1760	351	212.44	339	276.28	352	116.65*	352
2.	Festivals	260	10	4.51	86	68.42	15	6.76*	110
3.	Modernisation & Autmentation	85	12.75	12.02	6	7.66	2	.57*	2.80
4.	Workshops	22	4	2.85	4	3.84	4	2.33*	4.60
5.	Audience research, Makert Survey & Marketing of CFSI Films	150	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Digitalisation & Webcasting of CFSI films and library respectively	115	31	29.73	3	3.39	1	0.00*	—
7.	Exhibition of Children's film in Mucicipal Schools	500	31.28	10.12	43	44.24	58	39.45*	50

\* Expenditure up to 31.12.2004

**(III) Films Division : Newsreel**

62. This Division is the central film producing organization of the Government of India. Through the medium of news magazine and documentaries, it records the march of events and the socio-economic progress of the country and releases news magazines and documentaries to theatres for public information, education, motivation, instruction and cultural purposes.

63. During the Committee's study tour to Chennai, the South Indian Films Chamber of Commerce met the Committee and explained the diffuculties, which they were facing in the certification of films. Among other things they requested that the Newsreel programme "The Indian News Review (TNR)" of the Films Division, which was made compulsory before every show may be dispensed wit

64. The Committee were informed that as per the Cinematograph Act of 1952, the Indian News Review or an approved film has to be screened as documentaries in the theatres. When Television was not there and the cinema was the only media for educating the masses and informing them of the day-to-day happenings in the country, this had the desired effect. Presently people watch the Television through which the current news from all over the world is widely telecast reaching millions all over India immediately. Hence, the Chamber stated that the Newsreel programme INR introduced 30 years back has today become anachronous and outlived its relevance and may be dispensed with.

## **PART – II**

### **Recommendations/Observations**

#### **Tenth Plan Allocation and Expenditure**

1. In their fourth Report on Demands for Grants 2004-05 the Committee had expressed their concern over the unsatisfactory pattern of utilization of funds under the plan allocation. It was observed that the utilization of funds was not in tune with the increase in the Budgetary allocations. On scrutiny of the Demands for Grants for 2005-06 and data furnished relating thereto, the committee find that in the fourth year of the Tenth Plan (2005-06) the Budgetary provisions have been Rs. 1120 crore (Rs. 528 crore DBS + Rs. 592 crore IEBR) which is Rs. 165 crore more than the Budgetary provisions for 2004-05, out of which Rs. 48 crore are higher in the Domestic Budgetary Support. The Committee note that in 2004-05, as against the utilization of Rs. 62-28 crore for upgradation/expansion schemes of AIR for installation of 26 numbers of FM Transmitters, only an amount of the 3.59 crore, i.e. 5.76% has been utilized. Further, as against the allocation of Rs. 42.24 crore for modernization schemes & replacement schemes of Uplinks only Rs. 6.46 crore, constituting 15.29% have been utilized. In the Dordarshan Sector against an approved outlay of Rs. 292.50 crore, 27.01% (Rs. 78.99 crore) have been utilized in the Normal Schemes of 2004-05. Further, many construction works are suffering due to delay. From the facts stated above. It is abundantly clear that it has not been possible for the Ministry to adhere to the physical targets as envisaged in the Tenth Five Year Plan. This is clearly indicative of the lack of effective monitoring on the part of the Ministry, which is a matter of serious concern to the Committee. The Committee, therefore, impress upon the Ministry to exercise proper control over achieving physical targets in time and take appropriate and timely action towards their proper manning and utilization. Keeping in view the above facts, The Committee desire that the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting should take a realistic view while considering expansion of the network through imposition of physical targets.

#### **Delay due to “in principal” approval**

2. The Committee have been informed that although Plan Schemes have been allocated Budgetary Provisions during a financial year, the schemes could not be initiated because of the delays in getting various clearances. One such clearance is the “in principal” approval, which is given by the Planning Commission. The Committee are of the considered opinion that with the passing of the detailed Demands for Grants by Parliament, the budgetary allocations will become available to each of the schemes as

proposed by the Ministries in their demands. Obviously a demand is projected after detailed discussions are held with the Planning Commission much before the demand is presented to the House. In the Circumstance, the Committee fail to understand the theory on “in principal” approval after the demands have been passed by Parliament. In the opinion of the Committee, such delays vitiate the very process of planning and implementation of the approved projects/programmes. The Committee, therefore, urge upon the Planning Commission to give serious thought and refuse such schemes at the detailed discussions stage itself, which do not appear to be viable in order to avoid such delays. The Committee would like to be kept apprised of the action of the Planning Commission on this issue.

### **Revenue Receipts of Doordarshan**

3. The Committee note that the revenue earned by Doordarshan is mainly through commercial activities such as sporting events, broadcasting latest Hindi Feature Films, commissioning programmes which appeal to the general masses, strengthening the in-house marketing of Doordarshan, better management of slots etc. The Committee are also informed that the money earned by Doordarshan is used for meeting a part of the Plan as well as as Non-Plan expenditure of Prasar Bharati. Budgetary support to Prasar Bharati is only to bridge the gap between the internal resources available with Prasar Bharati and the actual requirement of funds. The Committee also note that a lot of time on Doordarshan channels is consumed by the Government for advertising issues on social causes, gender concerns, environment campaigns etc. which involves a social obligation it has to fulfil in its capacity of being a Government channel and for which there is no revenue generated.

4. The Committee are of the view that the number of hours allocated for Government and social programme broadcasting should be limited so that Prasar Bharati can maintain a meaningful balance between their social obligation on the one side and the financial/revenue considerations, on the other.

### **Direct to Home (DTH) Service- Prasar Bharati**

5. The Committee are informed that the DTH service has started w.e.f. 16.12.04 and presently 33 TV channels (19 of Doordarshan & 14 private channels) besides 12 All India Radio channels are in operation which cover 99 percent of the country except Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The Committee are also informed that equipment has been installed by Doordarshan in 14 projects costing RS. 23 crore and by AIR in 20 Projects costing Rs. 120.00 crore. However, they are not being put to use because there is a shortage of technical manpower of about 675 persons in Doordarshan 809 persons in AIR. It has been brought to the notice of the committee that an amount of Rs. 250 crore approximately is required to set up terrestrial transmitters to cater to the balance of the 5% area, which is not covered through terrestrial transmission of Doordarshan. The Committee are aware that the cost of DTH is unaffordable and out



of reach of a large segment of the population. However, keeping in view the rapid changes in Broadcasting due to evolving technologies, the committee are convinced that in the long run the DTH is the better solution to extend the reach of our programmes into every home, be it in the city or in the remote hilly areas or the North East or J&K. The Committee hope that set top boxes may gradually become cheap and the local culture and local artists could survive through multiple DTH platforms catering to their local aspirations. Of course, the Committee feel, that, till such time we are able to reach our goal in DTH terrestrial transmissions should be kept in operation in absolutely necessary areas. The Committee recommend that all out efforts should be made by the Ministry for the spread of DTH transmission and greater funds allocated for creation of the necessary infrastructure and also creation of good quality programmes. As regards infrastructure for DTH transmission in rural areas are concerned the Committee are of the view that suitable arrangements could be made for such transmission at a common identified location already available in the villages such as Panchayat Ghars, Community Centers etc. Such coverage could also be facilitated through the funds available under the MPLADs scheme.

### **Prasar Bharati-all India Radio**

6. The acquisition of 26 FM transmitters (25 NOs. 10 KW and one 5 KW) was the physical target for 2004-05 under the scheme "upgradation/expansion schemes". However, the physical targets could not be achieved as procurement of FM Transmitters was delayed due to non-finalisation of tenders. As an interim measure, the physical targets were revised for installing 27 FM Transmitters (5 Nos. 1 KW and 20 LPT'S' of 100 W capacity), thus reducing the original power/capacity of the transmitters. Being an interim measure these transmitters will eventually be replaced with that of increased capacity, therefore. The expenditure for the interim measure seems wasteful. Evidently, had the tendering process been completed initially in time, there would hardly been a need for acquisition of transmitters of lower capacity as an interim measure.

7. The Committee strongly disapprove the decision making process within the AIR in this case and desire that the same should be thoroughly enquired and a report submitted to the Committee. They also feel there is a need to streamline the tendering process presently in vogue.

### **Revenue Earnings of AIR**

8. The Committee have noted that AIR has an increasing order of revenue earnings year after year. However, the increase has been registered in the smaller towns of the nation and cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai have registered a decrease of revenues amounting to over Rs. 3.50 crore, Rs. 8 crore Rs. 60 lakh Rs. 2 crore approximately respectively in the year 2003-04 over the immediately preceding years. The Committee felt that as recommended by them elsewhere in the Report, it would not be improper for AIR to seek Government approval for restricting the number of hours for social Broadcasting.

9. The Committee also recommend that AIR should encourage corporates and multinationals to spend a part of their social welfare budget on sponsoring these social service Broadcasting programmes. The Committee may be apprised of the action by the Ministry in this regard.

#### **Leasing out towers of Prasar Bharati**

10. The Committee note that AIR and Doordarshan have created Rs. 5000 to Rs. 6000 crore worth of infrastructure in the form of towers, studios etc. for terrestrial broadcasting of programmes. The Committee further note that a sizeable portion of the the infrastructure so created, presently lie unutilized or underutilized. While, on the one hand, there is a need for optimum utilization of the infrastructure to the benefit of the R/Organisation, on the other hand, there is also an imperative need for AIR/ Doordarshan to upgrade their technology and try to switch over to the newer modes of transmission. The Committee, therefore, feel that the Ministry should examine the opportunity of leasing out the unused/underused towers/studios etc. to interested users and earn revenue in the process. The Committee would like the Ministry to examine this suggestion and respond to the Committee before the next budget.

#### **Fund for the Public Broadcaster**

11. During evidence a suggestion was made by the representatives of the Ministry that the private channels should pay a part of their revenue towards a Fund, similar to Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund set up by the Department of Telecommunications. The money from USO Fund would be used to compensate Prasar Bharati towards the services rendered by them for social obligations. The Committee find merit in the suggestion and desire that the proposal may appropriately be examined by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in consultation with the Ministry of Finance. The Committee may be kept apprised of the development in the creation of such a fund.

#### **Restructuring of Prasar Bharati**

12. The Committee find that Prasar Bharati is presently beset with certain functional limitations in their operations. While on the one hand they are required to fulfil the social obligations assigned to them from time to time, on the other hand, they are expected to function on commercial lines in a rapidly changing competitive scenario. This has led to certain financial, technological and organizational problems for the Organisation. While expressing their difficulties in the matter, the representatives of the Ministry of information and Broadcasting/Prasar Bharati during evidence stated that there was an imperative need to redefine the role of Prasar Bharati. In this connection, the committee were informed that the Government have recently constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to propose a financial structure for Prasar Bharati, assess its role and make suggestions to strengthen its functioning.

13. While appreciating the difficulties of Prasar Bharati in the matter, the committee welcome the appointment of the body by the Government. They desire that the Committee appointed by the Government will look into the working of Prasar Bharati in its entirety with a view to restructuring the Corporation from financial, technological and organizational points of view so that it plays an effective role in informing, educating and entertaining the public without ignoring the financial and social obligations. The Committee expect that their recommendations made from time to time for improving the working of Prasar Bharati would be looked into in the process.

#### **Publication Division : Books and Journals**

14. The Publication Division publishes books, journals and other printed material in English, Hindi and regional languages on wide variety of subjects. The Committee feel that there is a need for the Publication Division to evolve and maintain an effective tie-up with the libraries in the country, particularly, at district levels so that the publication brought out by the Division receive a wider readership.

#### **Publication Division : Employment News**

15. The Committee are pleased to note that the Publication Division has planned a separate website for Employment News, which will contain top opportunities, editorial matter etc. However, the Committee are of the opinion that for making this website a true success, "Online application Form Submission" must be a feature of this website, which will facilitate the quick submission of application forms even from remotest areas of the country. The requisite application fee can also be submitted electronically by using a Card containing a 16-digit secret code similar to cellular prepaid cards or Virtual Calling Cards (VCC) of BSNL/MTNL, which may be termed as Electronic-Central Recruitment Fee (E-CRF) Stamps. Presently, the fee is paid through Central Recruitment Fee (CRF) Stamps, which are being distributed through the post offices, the E-CRFs can be distributed throughout the country by using the same Postal Network. The committee desire that these suggestion may be examined and would like to be apprised of the concrete action/decision taken there on.

#### **DAVP**

16. The Committee strongly recommend that DAVP should evolve and strengthen to become an automatic choice of the Government Departments for their public information campaign. The Committee hope that in the process the DAVP would become financially self-sufficient.

17. The annual average plan allocation (2002-03 to 2005-07) to DAVP is Rs. 5.53 crore. However, the Committee note with dismay that the total outstanding dues to DAVP from various Ministries/Departments of Government of India stand to the tune of Rs. 21.27 crore as on 31.03.05. This clearly shows that efforts have not seriously

been made by the DAVP to ensure collection of their dues in time. The Committee desire that the matter may be vigorously pursued and the dues realized from all concerned within a period of six months. The Committee would like to be informed of the latest position of the recovery of dues.

### **Press Information Bureau (PIB)**

18. The committee note that the Press Information Bureau is the central agency of the Government of India for informing the people about its policies, programmes and activities. During the evidence the Committee felt that there is a need for improvement of the quality of service provided by PIB. They are of the opinion that the Bureau must use the latest technological options to circulate photographs of good quality to the public and media in particular at the earliest. Further, the Bureau should devise a suitable, dynamic and time efficient mechanism to disseminate information.

19. The Committee were informed during evidence that there is a proposal to merge the Photo Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting with the PIB with a view to providing better and coordinated service. The Committee would like to be informed of the outcome of the proposal.

### **Film Sector - CBFC**

20. The Committee observe that the Film Sector gets a sum of 3% of the total allocations only as Budgetary Estimates under Demand No. 60 of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. However, the expenditure pattern is very dismal and much below the provisions during the last three years of the Tenth Plan. Further the Central Board of Film Certification, which had an allocation of Rs. 2.74 crore at BE 2004-05 was reduced to Rs. 1.20 crore at RE stage and has been able to spend Rs. 0.54 crore only.; The Committee are pained to note that the two important schemes under CBFC “Establishment of Computerized Management System and upgradation of Infrastructure” and “Monitoring and Modernisation or Certification process” have incurred an expenditure of Rs. 67.85 lakh in the 3 years of the Tenth Plan out of a total Tenth Plan Allocation of Rs. 1074.13 lakh i.e. approx. 6.3%. The reasons attributed for this shortfall is that the Standing Finance Committee (SFC) for the 1<sup>st</sup> scheme was convened in March 2003 and that of the second on March, 2004. As such there was no activity and physical targets could not be achieved. The Committee take a very serious view of the inactive and lethargic attitude of the Board and deprecate the lackadaisical approach in the monitoring of the budgetary provisions and achievement or physical targets at the Ministry level. In the opinion of the Committee, the entire responsibility lies in the Ministry for not convening the SFC earlier. Since the work has now started, the committee desire that the same may be completed within the next budget.

21. As regards the third scheme viz. “opening of regional offices at New Delhi, Cuttack and Guwahati” the Committee feel that since the CBFC is already a lean

organization matching savings may not be a possibility for them and hence there does not appear to be any point in going for the said scheme.

22. During the course of their study visits the Committee received certain representations from certain film associations. One of the common grievances of the film association is that their problems, difficulties regarding certification have not been properly addressed to by the CBFC. The Committee are of the opinion that there is a vital need for the CBFC to act as an effective interface and feedback mechanism vis-à-vis the film industry. The Committee hope that the issue will be properly addressed to by the Ministry with a view to developing a quicker responsive system not only for the growth of the film industry but also for the benefit of the various institutes promoted by the Government.

### **Childrens Film Society of India (CFSI)**

23. The Committee note that out of an approved outlay of Rs. 289 lakh for the year 2004-05 for production of feature and short films and TV serials, the Childrens Film Society of India could spend Rs. 95.72 lakh i.e. 33% upto 31.01.05 thereby achieving production of one Feature film and one short film against a target of 5 feature and 2 short films to be produced by 31.03.05. The reason advanced for a shortfall in the targets of 2004-05 is the non-receipt of suitable film proposals/synopsis and scripts. The Committee also note that the Society has fixed a target of producing 5 feature and two short films during the financial year 2005-06 with a budgetary estimates Rs. 289 lakh. The committee are of the view that the CFSI should give more focussed attention in the production of qualitatively superior films within the budgetary sanctions in a more effective manner. There is a need for finding out ways and means to obtain suitable proposals/synopsis and scripts from the talent available across the country.

### **Film Division-Screening of Newsreels**

24. The committee are informed that as per the provisions of the cinematography Act, 1952, the theatres exhibit a Newsreel, "produced by the Film Division. The theatres are in turn required to pay a portion of the collection on this score to the film division. During the course of study visit of the committee, a suggestion was received from an association of film chambers that in the changed scenario, the requirement for screening "Newsreel" programme may be dispensed with. The Committee recommend that the suggestion be examined in all its implications. Alternatively, instead of the newsreel, a socially relevant or a progressive message may be requested to be screened.

### **Film Training and Development Institutions**

25. Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI), National Film Development Corporation Limited (NFDC) among other institutes are part of the Film sector. These institutes have been created

with the objectives to protect Film production at large and to promote the financially marginal artists in various film disciplines as well as to provide professional training to them. Some of these institutes have been acting well and are world-renowned. The Committee are of the opinion that all out efforts should be made to sustain these institutes so that they could grow as units of excellence in their respective fields. They suggest that in order to provide these institutes with new and contemporary thoughts, “Quality Circles (QCs)” should be formed in each of these Institutes with a view to ensuring wider participation and attraction of talents from all sections of Society.

NEW DELHI;  
*April, 2004*  


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*Vaisakha, 1927 (Saka)*

M.M. PALLAM RAJU,  
*Chairman,*  
*Standing Committee on*  
*Information Technology.*

## ANNEXURE - I

(Vide Para No. 32)

Original list of FM jprojects targeted for completion during 2004-05 Total - 26

<i>S. No.</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>	<i>STATE</i>	<i>PROJECT</i>
1.	Banswara	Rajasthan	10 KW FM Tr. (Rep. of 6 KW)
2.	Alwr	Rajasthan	-do-
3.	Chittorgarh	Rajasthan	-do-
4.	Kurukshetra	Haryana	-do-
5.	Surat	Gujarat	-do-
6.	Pune	Maharashtra	-do-
7.	Kochi	Kerala	-do-
8.	Nagpur	Maharashtra	-do-
9.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	-do-
10.	Jorhat	Assam	10 Kw FM Tr. (Repl. of 10 KW)
11.	Aurangabad	Maharashtra	10 Kw FM Tr. (Repl. of 1 KW MW) & Stereo Studio
12.	Sholapur	Maharashtra	10 Kw FM Tr. (Repl. of 1 KW MW) & Stereo Studio
13.	Vijawada	Andhra Pradesh	10 Kw FM Tr. (Repl. of 1 KW MW) & Stereo Studio
14.	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	10 Kw FM Tr. (Repl. of 1 KW MW) & Stereo Studio
15.	Jallandhar	Punjab	10 Kw FM Tr. (Repl. of 10 KW MW) & Stereo Studio
16.	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh	10 KW FM Tr. & Stereo Studio
17.	Ranchi	Jharkhand	-do-
18.	Gulbarga	Karnataka	-do-

19.	Trinulveli	Chennai	-do-
20.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh	-do-
21.	Madruai	Tamilnadu	-do-
22.	Patna	Bihar	-do-
23.	Bikaner	Rajasthan	-do-
24.	Udaipur	Rajasthan	-do-
25.	Gorakhpur	Uttar Pradesh	-do-
26.	Baripada	Orissa	5 KW FM Tr. (Repl. of 1 KW MW.)



## ANNEXURE - II

(Vide Para No. 32)

Revised list of FM projects targeted for completion during 2004-05 Total - 27

<i>S. No.</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1	Shimla SI. No. 16	Himachal Pradesh	1 KW FM Tr.	Interim
2	Gulbarga SI. No. 18	Karnataka	1 KW FM Tr.	-do-
3	Madurai SI. No. 21	Tamilnadu	1 KW FM Tr.	-do-
4	Udaipur SI. No. 24	Rajasthan	1 KW FM Tr.	-do-
5	Gorakhpur SI. No. 25	Uttar Pradesh	1 KW FM Tr.	-do-
6	Aurangabad SI. No. 11	Maharashtra	1 KW FM Tr.	-do-
7	Rohtak	Haryana	1 KW FM Tr.	-do-
8to 27	20 locations	J&K, Uttranchal,NE, HP etc.	100 W LPT Relay Centres	

## ANNEXURE - III

### MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (2004-05)

The Committee sat on Tuesday, 30 March, 2005 from 1500 hours to 1930 hours  
in Committee Room “B”, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi

#### PRESENT

Shri M.M. Pallam Raju — *Chairman*

#### MEMBERS

*Lok Sabha*

2. Shri Nikhil Chaudhary
3. Shri Mani Cherenamei
4. Shri P.S. Gadhavi
5. Smt. Nivedita S. Mane
6. Shri Chander Shekar Sahu
7. Shri Ram Kripal Yadav

*Rajya Sabha*

8. Shri Vijay J. Darda
9. Shri Ashwani Kumar
10. Shri Motium Rehman

#### SECRETARIAT

- |                            |   |                        |
|----------------------------|---|------------------------|
| 1. Shri P. Sreedharan      | — | <i>Joint Secretary</i> |
| 2. Shri Raj Shekhar Sharma | — | <i>Director</i>        |
| 3. Shri K.L. Arora         | — | <i>Under Secretary</i> |

## WITNESSES

1. Shri Navin B. Chawla	—	<i>Secretary</i>
2. Shri S.K. Arora	—	<i>Addl. Secretary</i>
3. Smt. Deepa Jain Singh	—	<i>Addl. Secretary &amp; FA</i>
4. Shri Afzal Amanullah	—	<i>Joint Secretary (FI)</i>
5. Shri R. Parasuram	—	<i>Joint Secretary (B)</i>
6. Shri P.K. Tripathi	—	<i>Joint Secretary (P&amp;A)</i>
7. Shri A. Lianzuala	—	<i>CCA</i>
8. Ms. Seema Jere Bisht	—	<i>Director (BC)</i>
9. Shri C.A. Bodh	—	<i>Director (F&amp;PC)</i>
10. Shri Vishvajit Sahay	—	<i>Director (Films)</i>
11. Shri R.K. Goel	—	<i>Director (BPL &amp; BDF)</i>
12. Shri Baldev Singh Kutlehria	—	<i>Deputy Secretary (B&amp;A)</i>
13. Shri K.S. Sarma	—	<i>CEO, Prasar Bharati</i>
14. Ms. A. Lakshmi Ganapathi	—	<i>Member, Finance</i>
15. Shri Naveen Kumar	—	<i>DG, DDN</i>
16. Shri Brajeshwar Singh	—	<i>DG, AIR</i>
17. Shri Sanjeev Dutta	—	<i>ADG: Doordarshan</i>
18. Shri Rakesh Sehgal	—	<i>GM (Fin.): Doordarshan</i>
19. Shri V.K. Singh	—	<i>E-in-OC, DG, Doordarshan</i>
20. Shri K.M. Paul	—	<i>E-in-C, DG, AIR</i>

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the representatives of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, to the sitting of the Committee.

2. Thereafter, the Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting highlighted the salient features of the Demands for Grants (2005-06), which was followed by a brief presentation on the same.

3. The members sought certain clarifications on the issues relating related to Demands for Grants (2005-06) of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. The representatives responciiec to the same.

4. The Chairman thanked the witnesses for appearing before the Committee and furnishing valuable information, in connection with the Demands for Grants (2005-06) of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

*A verbatim record of the sitting has been kept separately.*

***The Committee, Then, adjourned.***

## ANNEXURE - IV

### MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-NINTH SITTINGS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (2004-05)

The Committee sat on Tuesday, 11 April, 2005 from 1100 hours to 1430 hours in Committee Room 'b', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

#### PRESENT

Shri M.M. Pallam Raju — *Chairman*

#### MEMBERS

*Lok Sabha*

2. Shri Nikhil Chaudhary,
3. Shri Mani Cherenamei,
4. Shri Sanjay Dhotre,
5. Dr. P.P. Koya,
6. Shri P.S. Gadhavi
7. Shri Chander Shekhar Sahu,
8. Shri Tathagata Satpathy
9. Shri P.C. Thomas
10. Shri Ram Kripal RYadav

*Rajya Sabha*

11. Shri Balbir K. Punj,

#### SECRETARIAT

- |                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Shri S.K. Sharma   | — | <i>Additional Secretary</i> |
| 2. Shri P. Sreedharan | — | <i>Joint Secretary</i>      |
| 3. Raj Shekhar Sharma | — | <i>Director</i>             |
| 4. Shri K.L. Arora    | — | <i>Under Secretary</i>      |

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members to the sitting on the Committee. The Committee then took up the following Draft Reports for consideration:—

(i) \*\*\*

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(ii) Draft Report on “Demands for Grants (2005-06)” relating to Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

3. The Committee adopted the above-mentioned Draft Reports with same ammendments/modifications.

4. The Committee, then, authorized the Chairman to finalize and present the above-mentioned Reports to the House in the light of the factual verification received from the concerned Ministry/Department on a day convenient to him.

5. The Committee also desired to undertake an on-the spot study visit during the last week of may and the first fortnight of the June 2005.

*The committee, then, adjourned.*