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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(2013-14)**

**FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA**

**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

**[Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee  
contained in their Forty-sixth Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2013-14)']**

**FORTY-NINTH REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

***December, 2013/Agrahayana, 1935 (Saka)***

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***Presented to Lok Sabha on 17.12.2013  
Laid in Rajya Sabha on 17.12.2013***



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

***December, 2013/Agrahayana, 1935 (Saka)***

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**  
**(2013-14)**

**Shri Rao Inderjit Singh      -      Chairman**

**Lok Sabha**

2. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
3. Shri Raj Babbar
4. Shri Nikhil Kumar Choudhary
5. Shri Khagen Das
6. Shri A. Ganeshamurthi
7. Shri Rajen Gohain
8. Smt. Darshana Jardosh
9. Shri Baidya Nath Prasad Mahato
10. Shri Sadashivrao D. Mandlik
11. Dr. Thokchom Meinya
12. Shri Tapas Paul
13. Dr. (Prof.) Prasanna Kumar Patasani
14. Shri Abdul Rahman
15. Shri Radhe Mohan Singh (Ghazipur)
16. Smt. Seema Upadhyay
17. Vacant
18. Vacant
19. Vacant
20. Vacant
21. Vacant

**Rajya Sabha**

22. Shri Joy Abraham
23. Shri Mohammed Adeeb
24. Shri Javed Akhtar
25. Shri Salim Ansari
26. Shri B.K. Hariprasad
27. Shri Basawaraj Patil
28. Dr. Kunwar Deep Singh
29. Shri Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar
30. Dr. C.P. Thakur
31. Vacant

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**Secretariat**

1. Shri Brahm Dutt      -      Joint Secretary
  2. Shri N.C. Gupta      -      Director
  3. Dr. Sagarika Dash      -      Deputy Secretary
  4. Shri Sandip Prasad      -      Executive Assistant
- (ii)

## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Standing Committee on Information Technology (2013-14) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Forty-ninth Action Taken Report by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in their Forty-sixth Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2013-14)' of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

2. The Forty-sixth Report was presented to Lok Sabha/laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2013. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting furnished their Action Taken Notes on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Forty-sixth Report on 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2013.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2013.

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

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

New Delhi  
13 December, 2013  
22 Agrayana, 1935 (Saka)

**RAO INDERJIT SINGH,**  
Chairman,  
Standing Committee on  
Information Technology

## CHAPTER-I

### REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on Information Technology deals with the action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in their Forty-sixth Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants(2013-14)' relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

2. The Forty-sixth Report was presented to Lok Sabha/laid in Rajya Sabha on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2013. It contained 22 Recommendations/Observations.

3. Action Taken Notes in respect of all the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Report have been received from the Department of Telecommunications and are categorized as under:-

(i)	Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government Rec. Sl. Nos.:- 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19.	Total	13
		Chapter	II
(ii)	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government Rec. Sl. Nos.:- 3 and 10	Total	02
		Chapter	III
(iii)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and require reiteration Rec. Sl. Nos.:-8, 9, and 12.	Total	03
		Chapter	IV
(iv)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which the replies of the Government are of interim in nature Rec. Sl. Nos.:- 14, 20, 21 and 22.	Total	04
		Chapter	V

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

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

**A. Autonomy and Accountability of Prasar Bharati**

**(Recommendations Sl. No. 8)**

6. In their original Report, the Committee had recommended as under:-

“The Committee have been consistently expressing their concern over the sorry state of affairs in functioning of the public broadcaster - Prasar Bharati and their operational and financial autonomy. In this regard, the Committee note various concerns of the Prasar Bharati which include:-

- (i) As per Section 3(4) of the Prasar Bharati Act, the general superintendence, direction and management of the affairs of Prasar Bharati shall vest in the Prasar Bharati Board. However, the functional autonomy as envisaged in the Act gets diluted by various other Sections, especially Section 32 and proviso to Section 33 thereby compelling Prasar Bharati to seek prior permission from the Government on matters of recruitment, remuneration and other conditions of service.
- (ii) The operational autonomy of the organization has been diluted because of shortage of staff and
- (iii) Uncertainty of funding pattern.

The Committee note that to address various issues related to financial and operational autonomy of the organization, several measures/ initiatives have been taken which include cabinet approval of proposal for providing Prasar Bharati non-plan support for meeting 100 per cent expenses towards salary and salary related expenses. However, all other operating expenses of Prasar Bharati are to be met out of its internal revenue earning which are decreasing year after year and Prasar Bharati have expressed its inability to fully meet the financial requirement of the organization. To improve the financial and functional autonomy of Prasar Bharati, CEO, Prasar Bharati submitted before the Committee that they require help in grant of service tax exemption to Prasar Bharati, issue of directives to all the Ministries/PSUs to extensively use the public service broadcaster viz. AIR and Doordarshan for releasing all of their publicity campaigns in respect of their policies and programmes and ensuring complete

waiver of space segment and spectrum charges on actual basis every year for and uninterrupted allocation of frequency authorization/space segment to AIR/DD. The Committee feel that all these issues merit serious consideration to bring effectiveness in the functioning of Prasar Bharati and the Ministry should consider them for follow up action.”

7. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in the action taken notes have stated as under:-

“The recommendations of the Committee have been noted for compliance.”

(File No. 44011/02/2012-BAP dated 04.06.2013)

**8. Observing that functional and operative autonomy of Prasar Bharati had been diluted because of various provisions of Prasar Bharati Act and shortage of staff, the Committee had recommended that the Ministry should address to various concerns expressed by CEO, Prasar Bharati before the Committee viz help in grant of service tax exemption, issue of directives to all the Ministries/PSUs to extensively use AIR and Doordarshan for releasing of the publicity campaigns and ensuring complete waiver of space segment and spectrum charges on actual basis every year for uninterrupted allocation of frequency authorization space segment to AIR/DD. The Ministry, however, in its Action Taken Reply, instead of giving concrete response to each of the suggestion, has simply stated ‘recommendations noted for compliance’. Such a generalized response on the part of the Ministry is unacceptable as this reflects the non-serious approach of the Ministry to issues concerning Prasar Bharti. While emphasizing the need for addressing all the issues on priority, Committee desire that Ministry should apprise the Committee of the concrete action taken within a period of three months.**

**(Recommendations Sl. No. 9)**

9. The Committee had recommended as under:-

“The Committee note with satisfaction that a panel led by Shri Sam Pitroda with 11 Working Groups has now been constituted for the purpose of reviewing the institutional framework of Prasar Bharati including its relationship with Government, its continuing role as a public broadcaster and measures needed to

ensure technical up-gradation of the organization. The Committee would like the Ministry to pursue the matter with the expert panel for early submission of the report. In the meanwhile, the Committee would emphasize that a balance should be struck between the Ministry and Prasar Bharati in such a way that Prasar Bharati enjoys fair amount of autonomy while the objective of the public service broadcaster is not lost sight of.”

(Para No. 2.14, Rec. Sl. No. 9)

10. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in the action taken notes have stated as under:-

“The directions of the Committee have been communicated to the Prasar Bharati for placing them before the Expert Committee for compliance.”

(File No. 44011/02/2012-BAP dated 04.06.2013)

**11. Emphasising the need for maintaining a balance between Prasar Bharati and Ministry so that Prasar Bharati enjoys a fair amount of autonomy and performs its role as a Public service Broadcaster, the Committee had desired that the Ministry should pursue the matter with Sam Pitroda Committee for early submission of their report, which has been constituted *inter-alia* for reviewing the institutional framework of Prasar Bharati including its relationship with the Government. From the reply of the Ministry the Committee note that the Ministry instead of communicating the concern of the Committee to Sam Pitroda Committee themselves has asked Prasar Bharati to do so. The Committee are, also, dismayed to note that the Action taken Reply of the Ministry is completely silent on the ways and means through which the Ministry plans to maintain a delicate balance so that Prasar Bharti enjoys fair amount of autonomy while fulfilling its role of a public broadcaster. While expressing their unhappiness over the way Ministry has evaded the issue, the Committee desire that the Ministry should look into this vital aspect and inform the Committee of the concrete action taken in this regard. The Committee also desire that Ministry should themselves pursue with Sam Pitroda Committee for early submission of their report.**

### C. Issues related to transmission in Border Areas

#### (Recommendations Sl. No. 12)

12. The Committee had recommended as under:-

“The Committee note that there is a proposal for up-gradation of 58 existing FM/MW transmitters, setting up of 157 new FM transmitters of various capacities and eight high power transmitters along Indo-Nepal Border. However, the scheme is yet to be approved/sanctioned by the competent authority. The Committee emphasise that Prasar Bharati should take up these projects/schemes in the right earnest, get approvals for them early and closely monitor their implementation.”

13. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in the action taken notes have inter-alia stated as under:-

“AIR has stated that improvement of FM coverage and that of alongwith Indo-Nepal Border is part of Umbrella Scheme “Broadcast Infrastructure Network Development”. This scheme is under process for approval of competent authority.

Doordarshan has informed that in the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan, Doordarshan has proposed establishment of following eight high power transmitters along Indo Nepal Border.

Sr.no.	State	Location of HPT
1.	Uttarakhand	Pithoragarh
2.	Uttarakhand	Tanakpur
3.	Uttar Pradesh	Bankatwa
4.	Uttar Pradesh	Nishangara
5.	Uttar Pradesh	Siddharth Nagar
6.	Bihar	Forbesganj
7.	Bihar	Raxaul
8.	Bihar	Jaynagar

The above 8 HPTs are included in the 12th Plan scheme “Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development”. The EFC proposal containing the above projects has been circulated to appraisal agencies during Dec. 2012. The revised EFC Memo in respect of Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development of DD/AIR by incorporating the Comments of Planning Commission, and Ministry of Finance has been forwarded to Ministry of Finance on 23.5.2013 so as to convene the EFC meeting at the earliest.”

(Ministry of Information & Broadcasting O.M. No. N-18013/1/2013-B(D) dated 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2013)

14. The Ministry had informed that there was a proposal for up-gradation of 58 existing FM/MW transmitters, setting up of 157 new FM transmitters of various capacities and eight high power transmitters along Indo-Nepal Border. Considering the important role of these projects for the border areas, the Committee had recommended that the Ministry/Prasar Bharati should take up these projects/schemes in the right earnest, get approvals for them early and closely monitor their implementation. From the reply of the Ministry it is observed that there has been some progress in some border areas except Indo-Nepal Border. While emphasizing the need for improvement of FM coverage along Indo Nepal Border, the Committee desire that the proposals for upgradation and setting up of transmitters should be accorded top priority and these projects should be completed in a time bound manner. The Committee may, therefore, be apprised of the concrete action plan for upgradation of transmitters and setting of new transmitters along all border areas including Indo-Nepal Border.

## **CHAPTER-II**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS / OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT**

#### **Budgetary Grants for the year 2013-14**

##### **(Recommendations Sl. No. 1)**

The Committee note that as per Demand No. 61 the budgetary allocation to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is for a total amount of Rs. 3035.65 crore which include Rs. 905 crore as Plan outlay and Rs. 2130.65 crore as non-plan outlay. For the Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17), the Ministry had proposed a total plan outlay of Rs. 21731 (including IEBR of Rs.5000 crore from Prasar Bharati) against which the approved outlay is Rs. 8583 crore (including IEBR of Rs.1000 crore from Prasar Bharati).

The Committee find that during the year 2012-13 as against the proposed sum of Rs.3280 crore, the Ministry was allocated an amount of Rs. 905 crore. This was further reduced to Rs. 676 crore at RE stage out of which the actual expenditure was to the tune of Rs. 611.38 crore. In terms of percentage this comes out to be 90.4 per cent of RE allocation. The position of utilisation of funds during 2011-12 was better as out of Rs. 786.82 crore allocated at RE stage, actual expenditure was Rs. 762.81 crore i.e. 96.96%. The Committee are unhappy to note that even after overall reduction in allocation of funds in 2012-13, the same were not utilized fully. The BE of Rs. 905 crore for 2012-13 were revised to Rs. 676 crore and the utilisation was Rs. 611.38 crore only. The Committee are not satisfied with the reasons advanced by the Ministry for under-utilisation of funds during 2012-13 which inter alia include (i) delay in approval of the schemes resulting in surrender of funds and (ii) the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Finance restricting expenditure to 33% of the BE in the last quarter and not more than 15% of the BE in the last month, scheme wise, subject to RE ceiling. The Committee feel that the Ministry did not take effective steps for approval of the schemes at the beginning of the financial year 2012-13 which led to surrender of funds due to restrictions imposed by the midway i.e October, 2012 Ministry of Finance.

The Committee note that Ministry has initiated some steps to effectively utilize the funds during the year 2013-14 which inter alia include streamlining of the planning and approval of the schemes to ensure their quicker approval, evaluation of all ongoing schemes and ongoing components of the new schemes, weekly review at Secretary Level, Delegation of financial powers upto Rs. 300 crore to Prasar Bharati Board etc. To avoid repetitive trend of earlier years for under-utilisation of funds, the Committee recommend that all the above corrective measures should be implemented in right earnest so that the funds allocated for the year 2013-14 are fully utilized and there are no slippages in achieving the physical and financial targets.

## **Reply of the Government**

The recommendation of the Committee has been noted for compliance.

The Ministry is taking all out efforts to ensure timely completion of appraisal/approval of all new schemes of the Twelfth Five Year Plan. Out of nineteen new schemes, six are already approved. The remaining schemes are in the advanced stage of completion of appraisal-cum-approval process. Further, regular monitoring of the approval process is being undertaken in weekly meeting of Senior Officers.

The Ministry has since received the reports in respect of all the 26 on-going schemes/on-going components of the new schemes ordered for evaluation as part of XII Plan formulation. The timely availability of reports will facilitate speedy appraisal and approval of the schemes.

(Ministry of I&B O.M. No. G-30014/12/2013-PC dated 16.05.2013)

### **On-going and New Schemes**

#### **(Recommendations Sl. No. 2)**

The Committee have been informed by the Ministry that a very notable feature of the Twelfth Plan strategy include complete restructuring and rationalization of plan schemes wherein 65 schemes of Eleventh Plan have been reduced to 26 during Twelfth Plan which include seven ongoing schemes. The Committee are, however, unhappy to note that despite their recommendation in Thirty-second Report on Demands for Grants (2012-13) wherein the Committee had impressed upon the need to streamline the approval process for schemes, four ongoing schemes viz. National Film Heritage Mission, National Centre of Excellence Scheme, International Channel and Global Film School, which were conceptualized during 11th Five Year Plan, are still at the stage of approval. While disapproving the way the schemes are being planned and approved by the Ministry, the Committee are of the considered opinion that there is an imperative need to speed up the examination and approval process of various schemes in the Ministry specially when delay in approval of schemes is leading to surrender of funds and under-utilisation of the outlay. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Ministry should streamline the process of appraisal/approval of the schemes and obtain the clearances as per the revised/projected deadline during the year 2013-14 itself so that the targets set under various schemes are not shifted/deferred further. The Committee also urge the Ministry to vigorously pursue the matter with the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance for obtaining clearances for 26 schemes initiated during the year 2013-14. The concerns of the Committee, in this regard, should also be duly communicated to both the Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission and Committee be apprised of the action taken in the matter.

## **Reply of the Government**

The recommendations of the Committee have been noted for compliance.

The Ministry has taken following steps to improve the planning and appraisal-cum-approval process:

(i) As a result of rationalisation and restructuring of Plan schemes undertaken by the Ministry, total number of schemes has been reduced to 26 in Twelfth Five Year Plan from 65 in Eleventh Five Year Plan. It includes 7 on-going schemes and 19 new schemes. The reduction in number of new schemes would result in lesser time for scrutiny which will facilitate quicker appraisal/approval process.

(ii) The Ministry has been monitoring the progress of approval of schemes in every weekly meeting of Senior Officers. As a result of regular monitoring, six new schemes have already been approved and the remaining schemes are at advanced stage of appraisal-cum-approval process .

(iii) The evaluation of schemes, required as part of XII Plan formulation has been completed and all reports are now available for consideration of the respective competent authority.

(Ministry of I&B O.M. No. G-30014/12/2013-PC dated 16.05.2013)

## **Revenue earnings of Prasar Bharati**

### **(Recommendation Sl. No.4)**

The Committee note that the gap between the revenue projected and the revenue earned by Prasar Bharati has been increasing year after year. During the year 2011-12 and 2012-13, the revenue projection were Rs.1650 crore and Rs.1815 crore respectively and revenue receipts for the years were Rs.1409.54 and Rs.1263.56 crore (upto February, 2013). The Committee are also concerned to note the increasing disparity between the revenue earned and expenditure year after year. The Committee find that during the year 2010-11, the gap between revenue earned and expenditure was Rs.1633.73 crore which increased to Rs.1931.03 crore in the year 2011-12 and further swelled to Rs.1376.32 crore in 2012-13. The contention of the Ministry, for justifying the huge gap between the revenue earned and expenditure, that Prasar Bharati being a public service broadcaster is not principally guided by commercial consideration is not acceptable to the Committee. The Committee regret that despite apprehension expressed by the Ministry that if this trend continues it would result into wiping out the entire available reserve of Prasar Bharati and the organization may find itself in immense financial distress, nothing concrete has been done to address to this malaise."

(Para 2.7 of Rec. Sl. No. 4)

The Committee find that of late to increase their revenue, Prasar Bharati has been adopting aggressive marketing strategies. Other steps taken include better publicity like newspaper insertions, Media Plan, New media campaign and better professional handling of

the Prasar Bharati marketing divisions. As per the submission of the Ministry, Prasar Bharati is also exploring the feasibility of revenue generation by utilizing the extra space commercially by installation of ATM machines, installation of electronic displays for advertisements of private parties, launching of IVR/SMS based services to provide news headlines and letting of FM transmitters to private parties. While these are good initiatives, the Committee are not satisfied with the pace of progress as so far only one office of Prasar Bharati has been identified for installation of ATM and the Ministry/Prasar Bharati are yet to make a survey of their total land and buildings to assess spare infrastructure. The Committee would like the Prasar Bharati to make more rigorous efforts in the asset management area and try to generate more revenues by adopting aggressive marketing strategy and better professional handling of Prasar Bharati Marketing Division which in turn will make it financially more viable and secured.

(Para 2.8 of Rec. Sl. No. 4)

### **Reply of the Government**

The Cabinet approved a proposal for financial restructuring of Prasar Bharati. According to it, during the next five years from 2012-13 to 2016-17, the Government would make available to Prasar Bharati Non-Plan support for meeting 100% expenses towards salary and salary related expenses. All other operating expenses are to be borne by Prasar Bharati out of internal revenue earnings.

Prasar Bharati has further informed that though the decision of the Cabinet has rationalized the funding pattern, it would not help them in fully meeting the requirements of the Organization. It has further informed that during the current financial year, other operational expenses are expected to be approximately Rs.1530 Crore against the projected revenue earnings of Rs. 1815 Crore. The gap between expenditure and revenue is likely to increase in the coming years in view of likely increases in other operational expenses due to inflation etc. While there might not be commensurate increase in internal revenue earnings due to highly competitive media sector in which more than eight hundred channels are vying with each other for advertising revenue share and also limitations on Prasar Bharati due to its public service broadcasting character.

It may also be mentioned that too much focus on commercial earnings for meeting the revenue gap might force the Organization to make compromises with market forces which might further dilute its public service broadcasting character. Therefore a more robust and reliable funding pattern for the Organization needs to be considered thus eliminating its dependence on commercial revenue and helping it achieve genuine operational and financial autonomy, that would ensure fulfilling the statutory mandate without making compromises.

Besides setting up of Marketing Divisions, Prasar Bharati has been taking following additional steps to increase its revenue:

- a) Improving AIR's content has been a priority area.
- b) Different stations have been given the task of producing in-house customized quality programmes in order to attract clients to invest more money.

- c) Marketing Executives have been hired by the Marketing Divisions to tap the untapped clients.
- d) To bring in more scientific way of marketing methodology, Prasar Bharati has also appointed Marketing Experts.
- e) Programmes based on the rich archival material are also being produced and have been marketed even before its launch.
- f) Self Publicity-Prasar Bharati has given priority for this area and now presence in the media space is being made visible through Newspaper ads and hoardings etc.
- g) The digital survey is being carried out initially for Delhi region. It would also be undertaken in other parts of the country which would be a permanent assets record in digital format and will be useful for future planning and asset management/commercial use of extra space.

### **Modernisation of Prasar Bharati**

#### **(Recommendations Sl. No. 5)**

The Committee note that for the modernization of Doordarshan and All India Radio an amount of Rs.2932 crore and Rs.1718 crore had been allocated respectively during the Eleventh Plan. The Committee further note that some of the schemes for modernization of Doordarshan viz. Digitalisation of Transmitters and Studio in Doordarshan Network, High Definition Television (HDTV), Modernisation, Augmentation and Replacement of Satellite Broadcast equipment are under implementation. However, additional schemes for modernization of Doordarshan Network viz. Digitalisation Transmitter and satellite Broadcast equipment included in Twelfth Plan are yet to be approved. Further, with regard to modernization of All India Radio, the Ministry has informed that AIR started modernization of its structure during Tenth Plan and has set 2017 as the target year for complete digitalization of its infrastructure. The Committee in this regard note that though some of the schemes have been completed, most of the schemes could not be completed during Eleventh Plan period and these are planned to be continued in Twelfth Plan. Considering the fact that major thrust for AIR and Doordarshan in Twelfth Plan is to improve efficiency, effectiveness and quality of broadcasting through complete digitalization, expanding their reach in most backward, coastal and naxal affected areas and to rejuvenate and revitalize Prasar Bharati by giving a look and feel, the Committee are concerned to note the slow and tardy progress in the approval of schemes relating to modernization and augmentation of existing infrastructure of both AIR and DD. The Committee again emphasize that there is an imperative need to expedite the approval and implementation of all the schemes relating to modernization of AIR and Doordarshan so as to provide them much needed facelift and enable them to compete with private broadcaster.

#### **Reply of the Government**

Prasar Bharati has stated that Modernization of Doordarshan Network is a continuous process and schemes in this regard are formulated and implemented from time to time. At present, following schemes are under implementation, as part of 11<sup>th</sup> Plan continuing schemes.

1. Digitalization of Transmitters and Studios in Doordarshan Network (scheme approved in April, 2010 at a cost of Rs. 620 crore).
2. High Definition Television (HDTV) (scheme approved in August, 2009 at a cost of Rs. 165 crore).
3. Modernization, Augmentation and Replacement of Transmitter and Studio equipment (scheme approved in February, 2011 at a cost of Rs. 298.57 crore).
4. Modernization, Augmentation and Replacement of Satellite Broadcast equipment (scheme approved in Feb., 2009 at a cost of Rs. 125 crore).

Status of above schemes is as under:

### **1. Digitalization of Transmitters and Studios in Doordarshan Network**

Major projects under implementation as part of this scheme are –Full digitalization of 39 Studio centres& establishment of digital HPTs at 40 places. Full digitalization of 39 Studio centers is expected to be completed in 2013-14. The above 40 digital HPTs are being installed in two phases (19 transmitters in first phase and remaining 21 transmitters in second phase). As per present indications, the above 19 digital transmitters are expected to be installed by the end of 2013-14. The remaining 21 digital transmitters are expected to be installed by December, 2014.

### **2. High Definition Television (HDTV)**

HDTV projects approved under the scheme are (i) HDTV Studios at Delhi and Mumbai; (ii) HDTV field production, post production and preview facilities at Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai & Chennai;(iii) Providing HDTV uplink at Delhi (iv) HDTV transmitters at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai; (v) Multi Camera OB van (2 nos.) for outdoor production at Delhi and Mumbai. Installation of HDTV Studio has been completed at Delhi and is nearing completion at Mumbai. HDTV field production, post production and preview facilities at Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai& Chennai have been established. HDTV uplink has since been completed. The remaining projects are at different stages of implementation and are expected to be completed during the later half of 2013-14.

### **3. Modernization, Augmentation and Replacement of Transmitter and Studio equipment**

Major projects under implementation, as part of this scheme, are (i) Replacement of old ageing High Power Transmitters (HPTs) at 15 locations (ii)Replacement of existing 60 old Low Power Transmitters (LPTs) by automode (1+1) 500 Watt LPTs; (iii) Modernization of 20 Studio centres by way of replacement of old aging equipment like Camera chains, Production Switchers, Logo Generators &Colour monitors etc. Order for HPTs (15 nos), LPTs (60 nos) and most of Studio equipment have been placed. The above projects are expected to be completed by 2014, in phases.

### **4. Modernization, Augmentation and Replacement of Satellite Broadcast equipment**

Major projects approved under the scheme are (i) New Earth Stations (5 no); (ii) Upgradation of 10 existing Earth stations (iii) DSNGs-15 nos. Earth station has been upgraded at 5 locations. Remaining projects are expected to be completed in 2013-14.

EFC memo of the following two 12<sup>th</sup> Plan Schemes of Doordarshan were circulated by the Ministry in Dec. 2012:

- i) Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development.
- ii) Special Projects

The revised EFC Memo in respect of Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development of DD/AIR by incorporating the Comments of Planning Commission, and Ministry of Finance has been forwarded to Ministry of Finance on 23.5.2013 so as to convene the EFC meeting at the earliest.

(Ministry of Information & Broadcasting O.M. No. N-18013/1/2013-B(D) dated 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2013)

### **Outstanding dues from Doordarshan Kendras and National Channels**

#### **(Recommendations Sl. No. 6)**

The Committee observed that for the year 2010-11, funds to the tune of Rs.330.81 crore are outstanding from producers of various Doordarshan Kendras and National channels for the sponsored programmes/serials. Similarly, an amount of Rs.166.38 crore is due from various agencies for the year 2011-12. In view of poor financial health of Prasar Bharati, the outstanding dues of such a huge amount is a matter of great concern to the Committee. The Committee also note that 87 cases are under arbitration. The Committee note that the Ministry has initiated certain steps viz. regular monitoring of payment schedule of private agencies, withdrawal of credit facility beyond certain period, encashment of bank guarantee, entering into an agreement for sticking to payment plan, etc. for realizing the outstanding dues. The Committee recommend that these steps should be implemented in right earnest so that the outstanding amount is recovered as early as possible. The Committee also desire that efforts should be made to expedite resolution of 87 cases which are under arbitration. The Ministry/Prasar Bharati should also review their policy of charging levy on producers for the sponsored programmes/serials in the wake of increases in cases of outstanding dues year after year.

#### **Reply of the Government**

The recommendations of hon'ble Standing Committee have been noted and steps would be taken in right earnest so that outstanding dues are recovered as early to the extent possible. In this regard Prasar Bharati has reported that full revenue of total business (accrued) during a financial year may not be realized within that year because Doordarshan provides the credit facility to accredited agencies for 60/75 days as per industry norms and Prasar Bharati Policy. Thus there can never be a nil balance against any agency/producers having continuous business relation with us. There will always be an outstanding amount aggregating to more than Rs.200 crore depending upon the business accrued in that particular period as well as from the firms availing of credit facilities. In other words, the outstanding dues involves a part of new business cycle, owing to credit facility as mentioned above and part of outstanding after the expiry of period. Doordarshan charges interest @ Rs.14.5% p.a. (simple interest) on the component remains outstanding after the expiry of credit period. Prasar Bharati has further

reported that more than Rs.51.40 crore has so far been received from such defaulting producers/agencies as award/interim award during arbitration/ legal proceedings. An amount of Rs.7.58 crore has recently been awarded by arbitrator to Prasar Bharati. Further, it is also intimated that Doordarshan has recovered Rs.2.30 crore from two long period debtors under One Time Settlement Scheme of Prasar Bharati.

As regards outstanding dues in case of defaulting agencies, it is intimated that Doordarshan has taken the following steps for recovery of dues:

- (a) Pursuing of defaulting agencies through regular reminders.
- (b) Encashing their Bank Guarantees.
- (c) Cancellation of their accreditation/registration or frozen which reduces their creditability in the media market.
- (d) Legal notices are issued.
- (e) Arbitration/court proceeding are initiated.
- (f) A One Time Settlement Scheme to encourage the defaulters to come for reconciliation for settlement of long outstanding dues is under consideration of the Prasar Bharati Board.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting File No. G-20019/1/2013-B(Fin) Dated 07.06.2013)

### **Filling up of posts in Prasar Bharati**

#### **(Recommendation Sl. No. 7)**

The Committee note that the existing staff strength in All India Radio and Doordarshan is 48,022 as on January 01, 2012 and 14222 posts are lying vacant. Out of these 3452 vacancies were more than one year old and were covered under deemed abolition'. The Committee have been informed that approval of the Department of Expenditure was required to be obtained before these are filled. The Department of Expenditure had cleared 1150 of these posts and had indicated that proposal for the balance posts may be taken up in March, 2013. The Committee fail to understand as to how DD and AIR can work effectively without filling the essential vacancies. The Committee desire that adequate steps should be taken to fill up 1150 post cleared by the Department of Expenditure. The Committee would like to be apprised of the outcome in this regard.

(Para No. 2.11, Rec. Sl. No. 7)

The CEO, Prasar Bharati during his evidence also stated that the Government has been kind enough to offer 3000 new recruitment. In the light of the above, the committee would like to emphasize that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting should co-ordinate with the Staff Selection Commission that all the vacant posts are filled up without further delay. The Committee also recommend that expeditious steps should be taken for constitution of Recruitment Board for filling up of vacancies in Prasar Bharati.

(Para No. 2.12, Rec. Sl. No. 7)

## **Reply of the Government**

On the basis of recommendation of the Group of Ministers on Prasar Bharati (GOM) for filling up of 3452 essential category of posts in Prasar Bharti, the Ministry had taken up the matter with the Department of Expenditure (DOE which cleared 1150 posts for filling up in the first phase. Recruitment Regulations for the Group 'B' and Group 'C' posts, that formed part of 1150 critical posts, have been notified by the Prasar Bharati following approval of the Government. The Prasar Bharati has placed request to the Staff Selection Commission for recruitment and filling up of these Group 'B' and Group 'C' posts under a special dispensation given to it.

As per the advice of DOE, the proposal for the revival of the remaining 2302 posts was moved in March 2013 for concurrence of DOE. DOE have advised to resubmit the proposal for revival of the remaining posts after filling up of 1150 posts already cleared by them.

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting obtained the approval of the Department of Personnel & Training (DOP&T) and the advice of Department of Legal Affairs for undertaking recruitment against Group 'B' and 'C' posts of the Prasar Bharati through the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) as a one-time special dispensation so as to enable filling up of the critical posts expeditiously. The Prasar Bharati has placed the request with Staff Selection Commission for filling up of Group 'B' and Group 'C' posts that formed part of critical vacancies, live vacancies and backlog vacancies for SC and ST categories. For some of these posts advertisements have also been issued for recruitment through the SSC.

The revised proposal for notification of Prasar Bharati Recruitment Board (PBRB), as approved by the Prasar Bharati Board in its meeting held on 16.05.2012 has been concurred by the Department of Expenditure and DOP&T with some modifications. The notification for enabling constitution of PBRB has been referred for vetting/ concurrence of the Ministry of Law & Justice.

### **Issues related to transmission in Border Areas**

#### **(Recommendations Sl. No. 11)**

The Committee note that AIR has been expanding their broadcasting services throughout the country including in hilly and inaccessible areas of the country. At present AIR has terrestrial coverage (primary) of 91.90 per cent area and 99.20 per cent population of the country. Also 21 radio channels (Programmes) of AIR are available through DD Direct Plus DTH Platform (Ku band) all over the country except Andaman and Nicobar Islands. These programmes can be received through a set top box on DTH platform. The Committee further note that during the last years and current year, various schemes for up-gradation of power/coverage of 11 transmitters of AIR and installation of 132 additional FM transmitters of various capacities have been undertaken. The Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, during the course of evidence also stated the commissioning of high power AIR transmitter in Rajkot, the signals of which can reach well within Pakistan and another one on the eastern side at Chinsura to be commissioned shortly. While appreciating these initiatives of

the Ministry, the Committee feel that the AIR and Doordarshan still have not been able to reach out to the remotest corners of sensitive areas of North eastern States and North. This is evident from the fact that in these sensitive areas, people are not even aware of their country, their constitution, their rights and duties. The Committee are concerned to note that people of some parts of our country are being forced to listen/view, radio/TV of neighbouring countries. The Committee emphasize that the funds earmarked for north east region should be fully utilized and infrastructure in these areas be upgraded urgently so that the culture, national feelings of the people of these areas are not impacted adversely.

### **Reply of the Government**

Prasar Bharati has stated that AIR's 21 Radio Channels in KU Band on DD's free-to-air DTH platform are available all over the country except Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Now, 6 DTH Channels in C-Band have been made available to Andaman & Nicobar Islands also.

Special schemes for improvement of coverage in North East and J&K region were approved by Government of India. The Schemes are under various stages of implementation. A scheme for improvement of coverage along Indo-Nepal Border has been proposed in XII Plan.

Prasar Bharati has also informed Doordarshan has been assigning priority to provision of TV coverage to border areas of the country in the various expansion Plans formulated from time to time. At present, 273 TV transmitters (HPTs-48, LPTs-88, VLPTs-132, Transposers-5) are functioning in border districts of the country.

In North East Region, 132 transmitters (HPTs-25, LPTs-39, VLPTs-68) are functioning. As part of 11<sup>th</sup> Plan, five earth stations at Imphal, Kohima, Itanagar, Gangtok & Agartala have been upgraded; eleven Studio centres (partially digital) in NE region are being made fully digital in 2013-14. In addition, projects of setting up of digital HPT at Guwahati and replacement of old ageing HPTs by new HPTs at Dibrugarh & Tura are under implementation in NE region.

As part of continuing schemes from 11<sup>th</sup> Plan, 5 HPT projects are under implementation in J&K :

1. HPT, Green Ridge (Uri) - (Kashmir region)
2. HPT, Himbotingla (Kargil) - (Ladkah region)
3. HPT Natha Top - (Jammu region)
4. HPTs Rajouri (DD1 & DD NEWS) - (Jammu region)

Eight HPTs, one each at Pithoragarh & Tanakpur (Uttarakhand), Bankatwa, Nishangara & Siddharth Nagar (Uttar Pradesh) and Forbesganj, Jaynagar & Raxaul (Bihar) are proposed under 12<sup>th</sup> Plan. The EFC proposal containing the above projects has been circulated to appraisal agencies during Dec. 2012. The revised EFC Memo in respect of Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development of DD/AIR by incorporating the Comments of Planning Commission, and Ministry of Finance has been forwarded to Ministry of Finance on 23.5.2013 so as to convene the EFC meeting at the earliest.

Total expenditure incurred under Plan (Capital) during 11<sup>th</sup> Plan is Rs. 645.84 crore. Out of this, an expenditure of Rs. 47.13 crore was incurred for NE region. Out of total expenditure of Rs. 208.08 crore incurred under Plan (Capital) during 2012-13, Rs. 35.31 crore was incurred for NE region.

(Ministry of Information & Broadcasting O.M. No. N-18013/1/2013-B(D) dated 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2013)

## **Digitisation and the issue of Set top Boxes**

### **(Recommendations Sl. No. 13)**

The Committee note that to usher a new era in broadcasting the Government has completed the first phase of digitization and digital addressable system has come into effect in three metro cities viz. Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata and phase-II of digitization in 38 cities across the country is in progress. The digitization process has been held up in Chennai due to a court case. The Committee learn that out of roughly 150 million TV homes in India, 40-50 million are DTH and about 80 million homes are cable TV homes. According to the Ministry against the total requirement of 160 lakhs STBs, 105 lakh have already been installed and as per data furnished by the MSOs by March, 2013 there would be sufficient STBs with no shortage. While taking note of the Ministry's submission that transition from non-addressable cable TV system to Digital Addressable System involved massive exercise and poor progress of installation of STBs in phase-II of digitization in some cities and also the resistance from the cable industry, the Committee feel that the progress in this regard should be in commensurate with the availability of equipments and infrastructure rather than blindly restricting the target upto December, 2014. Further, apprehending security issues associated with imported STBs and component of STBs, the Committee during the examination of Demands for Grants (2012-13) in their Thirty second Report had recommended the Ministry to coordinate with the Department of Electronics and Information Technology so as to have indigenous production of STBs. The Committee, in this regard, during the evidence of Department of Electronics and Information Technology on Demands for Grants (2013-14), have been informed that C-DAC under the Department of Electronics and Information Technology would be ready with CAS only after 12 months. Further, from the submission of the Secretary, Deity, the Committee understand that the domestic manufacturing of Electronic hardware would see a breakthrough during 2013-14. The Committee also note that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting are in the process of formulating a policy whereby in the third and fourth phase of digitization there could be a possible 40 per cent or around 40 per cent reservation of STBs for domestic manufacturers.

(Para 2.18 of Rec. Sl. No. 13)

### **Reply of the Government**

The target dates for implementation of digital addressable system were set with the approval of the Cabinet, based up on the recommendations of TRAI. Cable TV digitization for Phase-I and Phase-II were completed as per the target date notified by the Ministry. It may be appreciated that the smooth transition from non-addressable cable TV system to Digital Addressable system would involve various measures. Considering that digital switch-over of cable television networks is a massive exercise, which requires all stakeholders, namely, Broadcasters, Multi System Operator (MSO) and Local Cable Operators (LCOs) to get prepared in the form of putting in place requisite technical infrastructure to facilitate a seamless transition on the due dates, the Ministry of I&B, which has been overseeing the digital-switch

over, has taken initiatives to ensure that the stipulated timelines for the DAS are adhered to. The Ministry had set up a Task Force on 22.7.2011 under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary (I&B) to review the progress made towards the implementation DAS within the mandated timelines. The Task Force comprised of representatives of Cable Operators Federation of India (COFI), Multi System Operator (MSO) Alliance, Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF), News Broadcasters Association (NBA), Direct to Home (DTH) Association, FICCI, CII, ASSOCHAM, Consumer Electronics and Appliances Manufacturers Association (CEAMA), other Central Government Departments, TRAI, Consumer organizations, etc. Additionally, the Ministry also constituted various sub-groups of MSOs, Local Cable Operators, Independent MSOs to have more focused digitization and address their specific issues regarding to digitization.

Efforts to achieve the target of digitization in the Phase –I

The Task Force met on fortnightly basis and held 20 meetings to review the progress of digitization

Ministry closely monitored procurement and progress of installation of STBs by various MSOs regularly.

Sub-Groups constituted by the ministry for national level MSOs, independent MSOs and Local Cable Operators helped the Ministry to get a feedback from ground.

Additionally, data was also collected from DTH operators on a daily basis.

Ministry embarked on an aggressive Public Awareness Campaign in the Electronic and Print Media.

6 Video spots and 12 Radio jingles were brought out by the Ministry for broadcast on Television and radio.

An intensive SMS Campaign was also launched on the Mobile phones.

Additionally cinema slides and hoardings on bus shelters etc, were also put up.

The 'Blackout Advertisement' carried out by the Ministry on all prominent Television channels created a massive public awareness about the digitization deadline.

More than 200 channels carried 'blackout advertisement' of the Ministry on the same day and time in a synchronized fashion which is a record of sorts.

Ministry also launched a Face book account and started a special website on digitization.

Extensive field visits were taken up by officials from the Ministry and technical teams from BECIL to assess the ground realities and provide continuous feedback so that the digitization process could incorporate the learning from the field.

A Toll free number was also designated to answer queries of people about digitization.

Technical Team of the Ministry carried out inspections at the headends of MSO to ensure digital switch over

In the countdown to the digitization, Ministry set up a Control Room with a toll free number to answer queries of consumers .In order to facilitate a seamless transition, major MSOs deputed their representatives in the Control Room to address and clarify various queries relating to acquisition of Set Top Boxes, various schemes of purchase of STBs, package rates offered by MSOs etc. The Control Room received more than 5000 calls within a span of 15 days.

Efforts taken for the digitalization in Phase – II

The Task Force has been reconstituted to include representatives of MSOs, LCOs and Consumer Organizations of 38 cities. Following measures have been taken to achieve the target:

The Task Force set up by the Ministry reviewed progress of digitization in Phase-II every week.

State Governments nominated nodal officers in 38 cities to review the progress of implementation with MSOs and LCOs

The Ministry collected data from MSOs about their stock position of STBs, procurement plan, and data relating to installation of STBs regularly. In the run up to the deadline, the data on seeding of STBs has been collected on a daily basis.

The Ministry conducted two rounds of meeting with nodal officers of 38 cities to ascertain preparedness in these cities.

The Ministry has stepped up the Public Awareness campaign through print and electronic media as has been done in Phase-I.

All India Radio and Private FM Stations were broadcasting radio jingles on its National and regional networks for creating public awareness.

The Ministry has already brought out a print advertisement in all 38 cities in the respective regional languages.

Several rounds of SMS campaign was launched in 38 cities

As part of the awareness initiative, television channels broadcast video spots; black out advertisements, scrolls, etc well in advance informing the public about the cutoff date and need for STBs to watch Television after 31.3.2013.

The manpower in the Control Room of the Ministry has been augmented for addressing queries from consumers. In order to facilitate a seamless transition on the due date of 31st March 2013, major MSOs deputed their representatives in the Control Room to address and clarify various queries relating to acquisition of Set Top Boxes, various schemes of purchase of STBs, package rates offered by MSOs etc. The Control Room is still functioning.

Technical teams of the Ministry undertook inspection on the head ends of MSOs in 38 cities to assess their readiness.

With all these efforts Phase-I and Phase-II of cable TV digitization has been completed. It is proposed to adopt similar strategy in the remaining phases of cable TV digitization with more focus of aggressive public awareness campaign and stringent monitoring of availability and installation of STBs in collaboration with the nodal officers of the State Governments

## **Para 2.19**

(i) In view of the emerging scenario, the Committee feel that the process of 100% digitization will not be smooth and there may be more problems in Phase III & IV of digitization. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to move with caution and incorporate in-built safeguards in their digitization policy so as to tackle the anticipated apprehensions.

### **Reply of the Government**

Suggestion of the Committee is noted. The Ministry would devise separate strategy in terms of public awareness, monitoring of progress of digitization for Phase-III and Phase-IV.

(ii) While appreciating the Ministry's submission for providing 40% reservation of STBs for domestic manufacturers, the Committee impress upon the Ministry to create a congenial

atmosphere for MSOs, cable Operators and broadcasters and have an overall friendly policy for domestic manufacturers.

### **Reply of the Government**

As mentioned in against para 2.18 above, Ministry had constituted Task Force to review the progress and to steer the implementation in time bound manner. Representatives of MSOs, LCOs, Broadcasters, Consumers, STB manufacturers and Consumers were members of the Task Force. Similar strategy would be adopted for the remaining two phases. Issue of providing reservation for local STB manufacturers is also being discussed.

(iii) Considering the potential security threats involved with imported STB, the Committee recommend the Ministry to formulate a suitable policy and co-ordinate with the concerned Ministries/Departments for mandatory security clearance of imported STBs immediately

### **Reply of the Government**

The issue was discussed with the Department of Electronics & IT and they have already made it mandatory that all the STBs must comply with the Indian Safety Standards. All the manufacturers are now required to get the STBs tested from an approved test house for the Safety standards. It is mandatory that after testing, every STBs must have a test certificate.

### **Community Radio**

#### **(Recommendations Sl. No. 15)**

The Committee note that Community Radio is a crucial communication tool particularly in communities where most people can neither read nor write and it provides an opportunity to community to speak about issues concerning their lives. The Committee have been informed that at present, 148 CRS are operational in the country and 230 applications are pending for grant of licenses. The Committee note that in the Twelfth Plan, a small scheme viz. Strengthening Community Radio Movement in India has been proposed for strengthening Community Radio Movement in India. The Scheme aims at setting up 100 new Radio Stations and supporting 30 existing CRSs. The Committee are concerned to note that as many as 230 applications are pending for grant of licenses for community Radio. In view of importance of CRS as a low cost communication medium that can be leveraged for broadcasting local issues/ messages in vernacular languages on issues of social concern by community organizations as well as the Government, the Committee feel that there is an imperative need to find ways and means to make the scheme financially remunerative so as to attract more number of applicants for setting up of CRS. The Committee are also of the opinion that reputed universities/ Government institutions can be provided financial and technical assistance to set up their own CRS on a pilot basis so as to popularize the concept which can be scaled up at a later stage.

(Para No. 2.22, Rec. Sl. No. 15)

## Reply of the Government

One reason for the slow growth of community radio stations (CRS) can be attributed to lack of resources with Non-Government Organizations to meet the capital cost of setting up CRS and hand holding. Their capacity to mobilize resources is extremely limited.

2. To address this issue, Ministry of I & B had proposed a new Plan Scheme “Supporting Community Radio Movement in India” to provide financial assistance to genuine grass roots organizations to enable them set up CRS. The scheme is under consideration in the Ministry.

3. The Plan Scheme “Supporting Community Radio Movement in India” has two components namely:

- (i) Community Radio Support Scheme (CRSS) to provide financial assistance to existing and new CRS. It has an allocation of Rs.90 Crore for five years. It will support every year around 100 new CRS and 30 existing CRS.
- (ii) Information, Education and Communication Activities (IEC Activities) for community radio for organizing Awareness/capacity building Workshops, publicity of the Scheme, National Sammelan, developing a content sharing platform, developing a Management Information System, conduct evaluations and Impact studies and present National Awards etc. Rs.10 Crores have been allocated for this component for a period of 5 years.

4. Financial assistance to community radio stations will be provided for following activities:

- (i) **Financial Support to new Community Radio Stations (CRSs) for acquisition of equipment:-** This support will be available to those CRSs which have received the Letter of Intent (LOI) from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for setting up of CRS in India, but are not yet operational. Every year about 100 new CRS will be supported.
- (ii) **Equipment acquisition by the existing Community Radio Stations for upgradation/replacement etc:-** Under this, CRSs which are already on air for a period of at least 3 months would be provided financial support for the upgradation of their equipment/technology for enhancing their performance. Every year about 30 existing CRS will be supported.

In the above two cases, up to 50% of the cost would be provided by the Ministry, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 7.50 lakhs. The remaining amount will have to be mobilized and borne by the grantee.

(iii) **Capacity Building through Training Support:**

For the purpose of capacity building of Community Radio Broadcasters, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting will identify suitable institutions in various parts of the country and will enter into Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with them for providing training to CR operators/station managers/content producers/ technicians and community representatives as per the terms and conditions of MOU. Community Radio Stations would be asked to nominate persons for professional

training in these institutions. Payments relating to the cost of training would be made to the institutions directly by the Ministry as per MOU.

**(iv) Emergency grant to Community Radio Stations:**

Emergency grant will be provided to CRSs to cover the damages caused to the equipment due to natural calamities, lightening, cyclone etc. Screening Committee will examine the proposals submitted by CRSs and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting will take action after getting the approval of the Inter-Ministerial Committee. The Emergency Grants will be only for equipment replacement.

**(v) Innovation Grants:**

Innovation Grant would be provided to encourage innovation in the field of content development, CR Technology, Research etc. These grants will be given to the CRSs, individuals and organizations working in the field of Community Radio. The quantum of the grant would be decided by the Screening Committee, subject to the approval of the Inter-Ministerial Committee. The proposals in this regard would be invited through a competitive process.

5. The Universities/Educational Institutions, holding permission to set up CRS, will also be eligible to apply for financial assistance to set up their community radio stations. At present majority of the CRS are operated by Universities/Educational Institutions. Out of total 150 operational CRS, 88 are being run by Universities/Educational Institutions.
6. Govt. is also organizing awareness workshops across the country to popularize the scheme among community based organizations. So far 46 workshops have been organized. Once the Plan Scheme to provide financial assistance is announced, more applicants will be encouraged to apply for permission to set up CRS.

(Ministry of I& B, O.M. No. 403/103/2013-CRS, Dated: 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2013)

**Information Sector**

**(Recommendations Sl. No. 16)**

The Committee find that out of total plan allocation of Rs. 905 crore for the year 2013-14, the Information sector has been allocated Rs. 235 crore, which comes out to 25.96 per cent of the budgetary allocation. Against this the utilization was to the tune of Rs. 147.27 crore (upto February, 2013). Considering the fact that budget for 2013-14 has been raised substantially as compared to previous years, the Committee would like to emphasize the Ministry to make sincere and concerted efforts for full utilization of funds and achievement of objectives laid down under this sector.

**Reply of the Government**

The progress of expenditure vis-à-vis the allocation is being reviewed on weekly basis at the level of Secretary (I&B). All sincere and concerted efforts will be made to ensure full utilization of funds allocated under BE-2013-14.

**Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC)**

**(Recommendations Sl. No. 17)**

Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) is a 'Centre of Excellence' in the field of communication, teaching, training and research. The Committee note that during the year 2012-13, against the proposed outlay of Rs. 16.00 crore for IIMC, the allocation at BE stage was Rs. 11.00 crore, which was further reduced to Rs. 4.70 crore at RE stage and the same was utilized fully. The allocation at BE stage for the year 2013-14 under the scheme is Rs. 7.00 crore. The Committee note that Regional Centres of IIMC at Amratvati, Kottayam, Aizawl and Jammu are functioning from temporary premises and the plots of land for permanent campuses for their Regional Centres have already been identified, but the same are yet to be transferred to IIMC. The Ministry of I&B and IIMC are pursuing with the respective State Governments in this regard. Needless to emphasize that the Ministry/IIMC would be ready with their DPRs for construction of buildings once, the lands are registered in IIMC's name. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should vigorously pursue the matter with concerned State Governments for early transfer of land.

(Para 2.24, Rec. Sl. No. 17)

**Reply of the Government**

Land for construction of permanent campus at Aizawl Regional Centre has been transferred to IIMC and it has initiated the process of preparing the DPR. As regards other Regional Centres at Amravati, Jammu and Kottayam, the land for construction of permanent campus has been identified but yet to be transferred to IIMC. The Ministry of I&B and IIMC authorities are in regular consultation with the respective State Governments for facilitating early transfer of the land to IIMC for these Regional Centres so that the process of preparation of the DPRs could be initiated.

(MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING, File No. M-16012/5/2012-IP&MC Dated; 29.05.2013)

**(Recommendations Sl. No. 18)**

As regards the proposal for degree granting power to IIMC, the Committee note that after due deliberations between the legislative Department and the Ministry/IIMC, a Draft Bill was prepared by the Legislative Department and was sent to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for scrutiny and examination. After examination and scrutiny the draft Bill has again been referred to the Legislative Department. The Ministry has also informed that after finalization of the draft Bill, the approval of the Cabinet will be sought for introduction of Bill in Parliament. The Committee recommend that necessary steps should be taken for clearance of Bill from the Cabinet and its introduction in Parliament under intimation to the Committee.

(Para 2.25, Rec. Sl. No. 18)

### **Reply of the Government**

A draft Note for the Cabinet along with a draft Bill was earlier circulated to the concerned Ministries/Departments for approval/comments in August 2012. However, due to substantial changes carried out in the draft Bill in consultation with the Legislative Department, the draft Note for the Cabinet along with the revised draft Bill has again been circulated to concerned Ministries/Departments on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2013 for approval/comments. After obtaining comments/approval of these Ministries/Departments, the draft Cabinet Note will be forwarded to the Department of Legal Affairs and Legislative Department for finalisation of the draft Bill. Thereafter, approval of the Cabinet will be sought for introduction of the Bill in the Parliament.

(MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING, File No. M-16012/5/2012-IP&MC Dated; - 29.05.2013.)

### **Initiatives of the Ministry in Social Media**

#### **(Recommendations Sl. No. 19)**

The Committee find that in order to disseminate information on the policy initiatives of the Government through the social media platform and to reach out to the young population of the country and sensitizing them of the Government's policies and programmes, the Ministry launched its You Tube Channel, Facebook page and Twitter account in September, 2012 and last week of December, 2012. The Committee note that the channel has provided a window to disseminate information on key issues and events regularly in an effective manner. As part of the initiatives undertaken, the 43rd International Film Festival of Goa from 20th to 30th November, 2012 was publicized and promoted in a big way through the channel thereby giving it a better profile on the social media network. The Committee note that the response of the initiatives taken was good and till 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2013 the channel received 90,000 video views and got subscriber list of approximately 1049. The Committee also find that the Ministry's venture in the facebook has also been well received with weekly reach of 15,000, 75,000 post views and 361 followers. Further, a Digital Volunteer Programme which aims at dissemination of development message in the social media space has also been started. The Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, during the evidence informed about the initiatives and stated that as a Government initiative, it surpasses any other initiative taken by any other Ministry of Government of India. The Committee have been informed that the Ministry will frame a comprehensive social media policy and place an appropriate infrastructure to harness and leverage the potential of social media. Taking note of the above initiatives, the Committee recommend the Ministry to take urgent steps to frame the social media policy in co-ordination with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. The details of appropriate infrastructure to harness and leverage the potential of social media should be worked out and put in place.

### **Reply of the Government**

As on 29-05-2013, the Youtube Channel of the Ministry has received more than 2,55,000 views and approximately 2486 subscribers. Facebook has 3300 likes and has a weekly reach of

more than 25,000 accounts. Twitter account has more than 17,000 followers. Blog has more than 1,18,000 page views and has more than 490 subscribers. Goggle account of the Ministry has more than 1 lakh followers. More than 1650 people have registered with the Ministry as Digital Volunteers under “My India initiative and applications are still pouring in.

In order to harness the potential of Social Media space effectively and to put in place the necessary infrastructure for the same, The Ministry has proposed to establish a “New Media Wing” in the Ministry to address the communication and dissemination requirements of the Government on social media platforms. The proposed wing would proactively pursue the engagement of the Government through a social media strategy aimed at focussed and enhanced dissemination, image and perception management. In this regard, a draft Note for the Cabinet has been prepared and circulated to all Ministries/Departments including M/o Communication and IT for inter-ministerial consultation. The comments of the Ministries/Departments are being received. After the inter-ministerial consultation the Cabinet Note will be sent to the Cabinet Sectt. for placing the same before the Cabinet.

For establishment of the “New Media Wing”, which is a component of the Plan Scheme of the Ministry, a provision of Rs. 2250 crore has been made for the 12th plan period. The EFC for the said scheme is scheduled to be held shortly.

(File No. P.11017/28/2013-PPC dated 3.6.2013)

## **CHAPTER –III**

### **RECOMMENDATION / OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT**

#### **Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR)**

##### **(Recommendations Sl. No. 3)**

The Committee note that Broadcasting Sector of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting comprises of a PSU, the Broadcasting Engineering Consultants India (BECIL) and an autonomous Corporation-Prasar Bharati with two wings viz. All India Radio and Doordarshan. For the Twelfth Plan, the proposed IEBR was Rs.5000 crore while the approved IEBR was Rs.1000 crore. For the year 2012-13, Rs.400 crore had been earmarked under IEBR component. The Committee further note that the initial IEBR projected at Rs.400 crore, approved for financing Prasar Bharati's Plan for the year 2012-13 was reduced to Rs.200 crore at Revised Estimate Stage. The Committee are dismayed to note that during the year 2012-13, the revenue generated by AIR and Doordarshan was Rs.1263.56 crore and expenditure incurred from IEBR (upto February, 2013) was Rs.1583.43 crore leading to a gap of Rs.319.87 crore between the revenue earned and expenditure met out of IEBR. It is astonishing to note that despite widening gap between revenue receipt and expenditure, the target for IEBR during Twelfth Plan have been reduced to mere Rs.1000 crore. The Committee would like to know the rationale behind steep reduction in IEBR target and how it is proposed to meet the burgeoning expenditure without generating IEBR. They would like the Ministry to re-visit this vital aspect. The Committee would await necessary details in this regard.

##### **Reply of the Government**

For Twelfth Plan Ministry of I&B proposed Rs. 5000 Crore to be funded by Prasar Bharati from Internal Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR) for the scheme 'Content Development & Dissemination' under Revenue Plan. The position of the Ministry has remained same so far. However Prasar Bharati has expressed its inability to incur this expenditure due to its IEBR funds being used for other obligations.

Prasar Bharati has intimated that the funds accrued from Internal Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR) are being kept in Bank account and utilized for meeting the normal requirement such as – (i) Salary and wages of persons engaged on contractual and outsourcing (ii) Other Administrative expenses-Medical expenses, Domestic Travel expenses, Foreign Travel expenses, Power Supply Charges, Machinery and equipment/Tools & Plants, Minor Works, Augmentation & replacement of existing infrastructure and repair and maintenance of capital assets spread all over the country. (iii) Programme expenditure including software production and acquisition for Content Development and Dissemination of routine nature and Service Tax.

Importantly, any organization of this magnitude should have a cushion of amount worth of 4 months operating cost to face any eventuality of grant not being received in time or delayed etc.

The details of revenue earned (IEBR) and utilization of IEBR by Prasar Bharati during last three years are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Revenue (IEBR)	Total expenditure ( Plan & Non-Plan)	Out of IEBR
2010-11	1306.00	2939.73	1112.78
2011-12*	1409.54	3340.57	1444.36
2012-13*	1552.90	3412.85	1327.86

\* Subject to reconciliation of accounts.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting File No. G-20019/1/2013-B(Fin) Dated 07.06.2013)

### **Implementation of Optical Fibre Connectivity Schemes**

#### **(Recommendations Sl. No. 10)**

The Committee are also of the strong opinion that there is an imperative need to have a national broadcaster to spread nationalism, maintain cultural heritage of the country, protect and promote the language and dialects of people from across the country. The Committee would like the Ministry to take note of the concern of the Committee and apprise them of the action taken by the Government in this regard.

#### **Reply of the Government**

Section 12 of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990, envisages that the Prasar Bharati while discharging its functions shall be guided by factors such as: upholding the unity and integrity of the country and the values enshrined in the Constitution, providing adequate coverage to the diverse cultures and languages of the various regions of the country by broadcasting appropriate programmes, promoting national integration by broadcasting in a manner that facilitates communication in the languages in India, etc. The Ministry and the Prasar Bharati are bound by and committed to the provisions of the Prasar Bharati Act.

(File No. 44011/02/2012-BAP dated 04.06.2013)

## **CHAPTER –IV**

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

#### **Autonomy and Accountability of Prasar Bharati**

##### **(Recommendations Sl. No. 8)**

The Committee have been consistently expressing their concern over the sorry state of affairs in functioning of the public broadcaster - Prasar Bharati and their operational and financial autonomy. In this regard, the Committee note various concerns of the Prasar Bharati which include:-

- (i) As per Section 3(4) of the Prasar Bharati Act, the general superintendence, direction and management of the affairs of Prasar Bharati shall vest in the Prasar Bharati Board. However, the functional autonomy as envisaged in the Act gets diluted by Various other Sections, especially Section 32 and proviso to Section 33 thereby compelling Prasar Bharati to seek prior permission from the Government on matters of recruitment, remuneration and other conditions of service.
- (ii) The operational autonomy of the organization has been diluted because of shortage of staff and
- (iii) Uncertainty of funding pattern.

The Committee note that to address various issues related to financial and operational autonomy of the organization, several measures/ initiatives have been taken which include cabinet approval of proposal for providing Prasar Bharati non-plan support for meeting 100 per cent expenses towards salary and salary related expenses. However, all other operating expenses of Prasar Bharati are to be met out of its internal revenue earning which are decreasing year after year and Prasar Bharati have expressed its inability to fully meet the financial requirement of the organization. To improve the financial and functional autonomy of Prasar Bharati, CEO, Prasar Bharati submitted before the Committee that they require help in grant of service tax exemption to Prasar Bharati, issue of directives to all the Ministries/PSUs to extensively use the public service broadcaster viz. AIR and Doordarshan for releasing all of their publicity campaigns in respect of their policies and programmes and ensuring complete waiver of space segment and spectrum charges on actual basis every year for and uninterrupted allocation of frequency authorization/space segment to AIR/DD. The Committee feel that all these issues merit serious consideration to bring effectiveness in the functioning of Prasar Bharati and the Ministry should consider them for follow up action

#### **Reply of the Government:**

The recommendations of the Committee have been noted for compliance.

(File No. 44011/02/2012-BAP dated 04.06.2013)

**Comments of the Committee**  
**(Please see Para No. 8 of Chapter I)**

### **(Recommendations Sl. No. 9)**

The Committee note with satisfaction that a panel led by Shri Sam Pitroda with 11 Working Groups has now been constituted for the purpose of reviewing the institutional framework of Prasar Bharati including its relationship with Government, its continuing role as a public broadcaster and measures needed to ensure technical up-gradation of the organization. The Committee would like the Ministry to pursue the matter with the expert panel for early submission of the report. In the meanwhile, the Committee would emphasize that a balance should be struck between the Ministry and Prasar Bharati in such a way that Prasar Bharati enjoys fair amount of autonomy while the objective of the public service broadcaster is not lost sight of.

(Para No. 2.14, Rec. Sl. No. 9)

### **Reply of the Government**

The directions of the Committee have been communicated to the Prasar Bharati for placing them before the Expert Committee for compliance.

(File No. 44011/02/2012-BAP dated 04.06.2013)

### **Comments of the Committee (Please see Para No. 11 of Chapter I)**

### **(Recommendations Sl. No. 12)**

The Committee note that there is a proposal for up-gradation of 58 existing FM/MW transmitters, setting up of 157 new FM transmitters of various capacities and eight high power transmitters along Indo-Nepal Border. However, the scheme is yet to be approved/sanctioned by the competent authority. The Committee emphasise that Prasar Bharati should take up these projects/schemes in the right earnest, get approvals for them early and closely monitor their implementation.

### **Reply of the Government**

AIR has stated that improvement of FM coverage and that of alongwith Indo-Nepal Border is part of Umbrella Scheme "Broadcast Infrastructure Network Development". This scheme is under process for approval of competent authority.

Doordarshan has informed that in the 12th Plan, Doordarshan has proposed establishment of following eight high power transmitters along Indo Nepal Border.

Sr.no.	State	Location of HPT
1.	Uttarakhand	Pithoragarh
2.	Uttarakhand	Tanakpur
3.	Uttar Pradesh	Bankatwa
4.	Uttar Pradesh	Nishangara
5.	Uttar Pradesh	Siddharth Nagar
6.	Bihar	Forbesganj
7.	Bihar	Raxaul
8.	Bihar	Jaynagar

The above 8 HPTs are included in the 12th Plan scheme “Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development”. The EFC proposal containing the above projects has been circulated to appraisal agencies during Dec. 2012. The revised EFC Memo in respect of Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development of DD/AIR by incorporating the Comments of Planning Commission, and Ministry of Finance has been forwarded to Ministry of Finance on 23.5.2013 so as to convene the EFC meeting at the earliest.

(Ministry of Information & Broadcasting O.M. No. N-18013/1/2013-B(D) dated 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2013)

**Comments of the Committee**  
**(Please see Para No. 14 of Chapter I)**

## **CHAPTER –V**

### **RECOMMENDATION / OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES ARE OF INTERIM IN NATURE**

#### **Expansion of FM Radio**

##### **(Recommendations Sl. No. 14)**

The Committee Note that the Cabinet in its meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2011 had approved 'Policy Guidelines on Expansion of FM Radio broadcasting service through private agencies(Phase-III)'. These were notified on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2011. The Committee have been informed that permission for FM radio channels will be awarded through ascending e-auction, as followed by Department of Telecommunications for the auction of 3G and BWA spectrum, mutatis-mutandis, as recommended by the GoM on licensing methodology for FM Phase-III. An Application Review Committee (ARC) has been constituted in the Ministry for short listing of prospective bidders to participate in e-auction for award of license of FM channels under FM Radio (Phase-III). The Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting also submitted during the course of evidence that the Ministry is in the process of auctioning 839 new private FM Radio stations in 294 cities which is just about to begin. However, the post evidence reply of the Ministry wherein it has been stated that shortlisting of bidders can take place only when Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) is issued, gives an impression that the Ministry is yet to issue the NIA thereby delaying the subsequent stages involved in the process.

(Para No.2.20 of Rec. Sl. No. 14)

Keeping in view the fact that expansion of FM Radio Phase-III is one of the thrust areas of the Ministry during the Twelfth Plan and more than one and a half years have elapsed since the notification of guidelines in July, 2011, the Committee feel that the efforts of the Ministry need to be intensified further so as to achieve the projected targets. Therefore, the Committee recommend the Ministry to expedite the execution of various stages of auctioning of 839 new Private FM Radio Stations so that the number of cities having private FM Radio stations is significantly increased thereby helping in overall expansion of FM Radio stations.

(Para No.2.21 of Rec. Sl. No. 14)

#### **Reply of the Government**

Recommendations of the Committee have been noted for compliance. E-auction of 839 new private FM stations are proposed to be completed during the current financial year i.e. 2013-14. All efforts are being made/will be made to achieve the target of e-auctioning of 839 channels in 294 cities.

(Replies to para nos. 2.20 and 2.21)

(F.No.N-38032/13/2013-FM dated 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2013)

## **Setting up National Centre of Excellence for Animation, Gaming and Special Effects**

### **(Recommendation Sl. No. 20)**

The Committee are constrained to note that though the scheme of National Centre of Excellence for Animation Gaming and Special Effects was conceptualized in 2007-08, it has still not been formally approved. The Committee express their serious displeasure that continued inter-Ministerial consultation and the constant landing of the proposal at the doorsteps of the Department of Expenditure, Department of Economic Affairs, the Planning Commission, Legal Affairs and the Ministry of Law and Justice without any constructive outcome has caused inordinate delay in implementation of the scheme. Considering the fact that the scheme was conceived and formulated at the beginning of the Eleventh Plan and even after six precious years approval/ clearances are still awaited for the scheme, the Committee feel that the Ministry is not serious about implementation of this scheme. The Ministry has informed that EFC for the project is likely to be approved by May, 2013. The Committee recommend the Ministry to streamline and fast track the approval for the scheme so that the centre can be set up in the current financial year itself.

(Para 2.27, Rec. Sl. No.20)

### **Reply of the Government**

Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has taken up this matter on priority with appraisal agencies such as Deptt. of Expenditure, Deptt. of Economic Affairs, Planning Commission for their concurrence/approval to enable this Ministry for early commencement of this scheme namely "Setting up of National Centre of Excellence for Animation, Gaming and Special Effects". An amount of Rs.11.00 crore has been allocated for the current financial year 2013-14.

Planning Commission has advised that the scheme being in PPP model with cost less than Rs. 100.00 crore is to be appraised by PPPAC and Advisor (Infrastructure), Planning Commission. A discussion with representative of Planning Commission was also held in the chamber of Secretary (I&B) to finalise the mode of operation/methodology for implementation of the scheme. Accordingly, revised proposal in PPP format is being referred to Advisor (Infrastructure). Once the financial approval for the scheme is obtained, process for selection of a Financial Consultant and Transaction Adviser will be undertaken.

(File No. M-35018/7/2013-DO(F.I.))

## **Global Film School**

### **(Recommendations Sl. No. 21)**

The Committee note that as part of the Twelfth Plan Scheme 'Infrastructure Development Programme relating to Film Sector' there is a proposal for improving the infrastructure of the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune to match the global standards.

The Committee further note that Planning Commission has accorded in-principle approval for the scheme with a total proposed outlay of Rs. 167 crore, out of which Rs. 80 crore is for FTII. The Committee also find that for the year 2013-14, an allocation of Rs. 32.50 crore has been made out of which an amount of Rs. 15 crore has been allocated for FTII. Some of the components under infrastructure development of FTII are augmentation of the resources and replacement of old/ obsolete equipments both in Film and TV industry; introduction of the new technologies such as High Definition TV, advanced computer animation, digital film recording, etc.; updating the existing equipment to bring about overall improvement in the standards of higher professional education in the field of film making and TV production; expansion of some parts of buildings of FTII which also include advance resource and knowledge centre; construction of a new main theatre, etc. Considering the contribution made by Indian film industry nationally and internationally, the Committee is of the firm view that the setting up of a new institute of global standards is indeed the need of the hour. The Committee has been informed that based on the comments of Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance, the EFC Memo has been revised and circulated and the meeting of the EFC is scheduled for 05.04.2013. While taking a serious note of the callous attitude and inaction on the part of the Ministry due to which the scheme has been delayed, the Committee recommend the Ministry to fast track the scheme and take urgent necessary steps for the approval and implementation.

### **Reply of the Government**

The proposal to upgrade Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) has been included in the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan Scheme 'Infrastructure Development Programme Relating to Film Sector'. The total allocation for upgradation of FTII is Rs. 80 crore during the 12th Plan. After obtaining in-principle approval of the Planning Commission, the scheme has been appraised by Expenditure Finance Committee on 05.04.2013. The proposal has now been submitted for the approval of the competent Financial Authority. The scheme would be implemented immediately on receipt of approval from the Competent Authority.

[F. No. M-21013/4/2013-F(F) dated 28th May, 2013]

### **Cinematograph Act, 1952**

#### **(Recommendations Sl. No. 22)**

The Committee note the Central Board of Film Certification, has been set up by the Central Government under section 3 of the Cinematograph Act 1952 for the purpose of sanctioning films for public exhibition. An amendment to the Act was initiated by the Ministry way back in 2008 and a proposed Bill in this regard was circulated to all concerned Ministries including Ministry of Law & Justice for comments/views. After incorporating their views/comments, the draft was further submitted to the Ministry of Law and Justice for their final vetting before submission to the Cabinet for approval. In due course, however, it was realized that there are number of issues such as the process of certification, categories of certification, powers of the Ministry to enact laws concerning certification of the

Cinematograph films for exhibition under Entry 60, List-1 of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, etc. which needed to be looked into. The Government felt that relevant provision of the Act should be re-examined thoroughly with an eye on public sensibilities, rapid changes in mode of exhibition due to emerging technologies and also to strike a balance between the Fundamental Right to freedom of speech and expression guaranteed by Article 19(1) (a) of the Constitution of India *vis-à-vis* the restrictions imposed under Article 19(2). In this background, the Ministry have constituted a Committee of Experts i.e. Justice MukulMudgal Committee to look into issues related to functioning of CBFC and the certification process.

(Para No. 2.29)

In view of the growing number of controversies relating to certification for Films, the Committee also feel that there is an urgent need to have a relook at the six decade old Cinematograph Act so as to bring it in tune with present times. In fact, the amendments should have come much earlier. The Committee desire that Ministry should impress upon the Expert Committee to examined the issues within a specific timeframe.

The Committee also recommend that the Ministry should take all necessary steps so that an amount of Rs.10 crore earmarked for CBFC under Twelfth Plan for undertaking various activities under the scheme of 'Upgradation Modernisation and Expansion of CBFC and Certification Process' can be utilized meaningfully.

(Para No. 2.30)

### **Reply of the Government**

The Cinematograph Act, 1952, which is almost six decades old, needs to be contemporized in order to make the process of certification of films for exhibition in tune with the changed times and also make it an effective tool to tackle piracy. It is, therefore, proposed to introduce Cinematograph Bill by repealing the Cinematograph Act, 1952.

In this regard, the Ministry of I&B has constituted an expert Committee to examine issues of certification under Cinematograph Act, 1952 headed by Justice MukulMudgal (Retired High Court Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana) to review the Cinematograph Act in a time bound manner.

The Committee since its constitution already **held three meetings** [at New Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata]and various issues of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 have been discussed. **Once the Report of the Committee is accepted by the Ministry, efforts will be made to introduce the draft bill in the Parliament as per the provisions laid down in this regard.**

### **Twelfth Plan scheme of 'Upgradation Modernisation and Expansion of CBFC and Certification Process'**

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting under 12<sup>th</sup> Plan has a Scheme title "Infrastructure Development Programme relating to Film Sector", which has six components related to various Media Units under Film Wing. One component is titled as 'Upgradation

Modernisation and Expansion of CBFC and Certification Process' for undertaking various activities of CBFC and has been allocated an amount of Rs.10.00 Crores under 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan (2012-17). The total allocation sought for the whole scheme is Rs.167.00 Crores. In-principle approval by Planning Commission has been accorded. **After seeking the approval of the competent financial authority, CBFC will be able to complete its activities during the current Plan Scheme period.**

(Reply to paras No.2.29 and 2.30)

[File No.M-11014/1/2013-DO(FC)], dated May 29, 2013)

**New Delhi**  
**13 December, 2013**  
**22 Agrahayana, 1935 (Saka)**

**RAO INDERJIT SINGH,**  
**Chairman**  
**Standing Committee on**  
**Information Technology**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (2013-14)**

**MINUTES OF THE FOURTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE**

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The Committee sat on Thursday, the 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2013 from 1100 hours to 1240 hours in Committee Room 'C', Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

**Shri Rao Inderjit Singh – Chairman**

**MEMBERS**

***Lok Sabha***

2. Shri Nikhil Kumar Choudhary
3. Shri Khagen Das
4. Shri A. Ganeshamurthi
5. Smt. Darshana Jardosh
6. Shri Baidya Nath Prasad Mahato
7. Shri Sadashivarao D. Mandlik
8. Dr. Thokchom Meinya
9. Dr. (Prof.) Prasanna Kumar Patasani

***Rajya Sabha***

10. Shri Joy Abraham
11. Shri Salim Ansari
12. Shri B.K. Hariprasad
13. Shri Basawaraj Patil
14. Dr. C.P. Thakur

**SECRETARIAT**

- |    |                   |   |                     |
|----|-------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Shri Brahm Dutt   | - | Joint Secretary     |
| 2. | Shri N.C. Gupta   | - | Director            |
| 3. | Shri A.K. Garg    | - | Additional Director |
| 4. | Dr. Sagarika Dash | - | Deputy Secretary    |

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee convened to xxxx xxxx xxxx consider and adopt draft Action Taken Report on Forty-sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2013-14) relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

3. xxxx xxxx xxxx

4. xxxx xxxx xxxx

5. xxxx xxxx xxxx

6. xxxx xxxx xxxx

7. xxxx xxxx xxxx

8. The Committee, then, took up for consideration the Draft Action Taken Report on action taken by the Government on recommendations contained in Forty-sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2013-14) relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The draft Report was adopted by the Committee without any modification. The Committee, thereafter, authorized the Chairman to finalize and present the Report to the House on a date convenient to him.

9. The Committee also placed on record their appreciation for the valuable assistance provided by the officials of the Secretariat attached to the Committee in drafting of the Report.

**The Committee, then, adjourned.**

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xxxx xxxx xxxx **matter not related to the Report**

**ANNEXURE-II**

**ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS  
CONTAINED IN THEIR FORTY-SIXTH REPORT  
(FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

**[Vide Paragraph No. 5 of Introduction]**

(i)	Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government	
	Rec. Sl. Nos.:- 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19	
	Total	13
	Percentage	59.09
(ii)	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government	
	Rec. Sl. No.:- 3 and 10	
	Total	02
	Percentage	9.09
(iii)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the government have not been accepted by the Committee and require reiteration	
	Rec. Sl. Nos.:- 8, 9 and 12	
	Total	03
	Percentage	13.64
(iv)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of the reply which is of interim nature	
	Rec. Sl. Nos:- 14, 20, 21 and 22	
	Total	04
	Percentage	18.18