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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(2014-15)**

SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2015-16)**

EIGHTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

April, 2015/ Vaisakha, 1937 (Saka)

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(2015-16)**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 24.04.2015

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 24.04.2015



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

April, 2015/ Vaisakha, 1937 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(2014-15)

Shri Anurag Singh Thakur - Chairperson

Lok Sabha

2. Shri L.K. Advani
3. Shri Prasun Banerjee
4. Dr. Sunil Baliram Gaikwad
- * 5. Dr. K.C. Patel
6. Shri Hemant Tukaram Godse
7. Dr. Anupam Hazra
8. Dr. J. Jayavardhan
9. Shri P. Karunakaran
10. Shri Virender Kashyap
11. Shri Harinder Singh Khalsa
12. Smt. Hema Malini
13. Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya
14. Ms. Mehbooba Mufti
15. Shri Paresh Rawal
16. Dr. (Smt.) Bhartiben Dhirubhai Shiyal
17. Shri Abhishek Singh
18. Shri D.K. Suresh
19. Shri Ramdas C. Tadas
20. Smt. R. Vanaroja
- **21. **VACANT**

Rajya Sabha

22. Shri Javed Akhtar
23. Shri Salim Ansari
24. Smt. Jaya Bachchan
25. Shri Vijay Jawaharlal Darda
26. Shri Santiuse Kujur
27. Shri Derek O'Brien
28. Dr. K.V.P. Ramachandra Rao

(ii)

29. Shri Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar
30. Mahant Shambhuprasadji Tundiya
31. Shri Meghraj Jain

Secretariat

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. | Shri K. Vijayakrishnan | - | Additional Secretary |
| 2. | Shri J.M. Baisakh | - | Director |
| 3. | Dr. Sagarika Dash | - | Deputy Secretary |

-
- * Nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 11.09.2014 vice Shri Feroze Varun Gandhi, M.P.,
vide Bulletin Part – II w.e.f. 11.09.2014
- ** Shri Deepender Singh Hooda, M.P. Lok Sabha ceased to be a Member of the
Committee as he has been shifted to the Committee on Energy vide Bulletin Part - II
w.e.f. 14.11.2014.
- # Nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 14.01.2015 vide Bulletin Part-II dated
16.01.2015.

(iii)

ABBREVIATIONS

AIR	-	All India Radio
BCEIL	-	Broadcasting Engineering Consultants India Limited
BE	-	Budget Estimate
BECIL	-	Broadcasting Engineering Consultants India Limited
CAS	-	Conditional Access System
CBFC	-	Central Board of Film Certification
CFSI	-	Children's Film Society of India
CR	-	Community Radio
CRSS	-	Community Radio Support Scheme
DAS	-	Digital Addressable System
DAVP	-	Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity
DD	-	Doordarshan
DTH	-	Direct to Home
FTII	-	Film and Television Institute of India
GBS	-	Gross Budgetary Support
GoM	-	Group of Ministers
ICAR	-	Indian Council of Agricultural Research
IEBR	-	Internal and Extra Budgetary Resource
IEC	-	Information, Communication and Education
IIMC	-	Indian Institute of Mass Communication
LCOs	-	Local Cable Operators
MHA	-	Ministry of Home Affairs
MHRD	-	Ministry of Human Resource Development
MSO	-	Multi System Operator
NFAI	-	National Film Archive of India
NFDC	-	National Film Development Corporation
NFHM	-	National Film Heritage Mission
RC	-	Receiving Centres
RE	-	Revised Estimate
SRFTI	-	Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute
STBs	-	Set Top Boxes
TAC	-	Technical Advisory Committee

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Information Technology (2014-15), having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Eighth Report on Demands for Grants (2015-16) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

2. The Standing Committee on Information Technology (2014-15) was constituted on 31st August, 2014. One of the functions of the Standing Committee, as laid down in Rule 331E of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, is to consider the Demands for Grants of the Ministry/Department concerned and to make a Report on the same to the House.

3. The Committee considered the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for the year 2015-16 which were laid on the Table of the House on 13th March, 2015. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on 8th April, 2015.

4. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 22nd April, 2015.

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

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

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

New Delhi

22 April, 2015

2 Vaisakha, 1937 (Saka)

ANURAG SINGH THAKUR

Chairperson

Standing Committee on

Information Technology

REPORT

PART – I

I. Introductory

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B), through the mass communication media comprising radio, television, films, press and print publications, advertising and traditional modes of communication such as dance and drama, plays an important role in helping the masses to have access to free flow of information. The Ministry are involved in catering to the entertainment needs of various age groups and focusing attention of the people, among other things, on issues of national integrity, environmental protection, health care and family welfare, eradication of illiteracy and issues relating to women, children, minority and other disadvantaged sections of the society.

2. The following is the mandate of the Ministry of I&B:

- News services through All India Radio (AIR) and Doordarshan (DD) for the people, including Indians abroad;
- Development of Broadcasting and Television;
- Import and Export of Films;
- Development and promotion of film industry;
- Organization of film festivals and cultural exchanges for the purpose;
- Advertising and Visual Publicity on behalf of the Government of India and to get feedback on publications;
- Administration of the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 in respect of newspapers;
- Administration of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 in respect of certification of films;
- Dissemination of information about India within and outside the country through publications on matters of national importance;
- Research, reference and training to assist the media units of the Ministry;
- Financial assistance to distinguished artistes, musicians, instrumentalists, dancers, dramatists, etc. who have substantially contributed to the Ministry's institutions;
- Internal relations in respect of broadcasting and news services.

II. Implementation status of recommendations of the Committee contained in the Fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2014-15) of the Ministry of I&B.

3. The Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Information Technology on the 'Demands for Grants' of the Ministry of I&B was presented to Parliament on 22nd December, 2014. The Action Taken Notes on the observations /recommendations contained in the Fourth Report on the Demands for Grants (2014-15) was received on

18th March, 2015. The Action Taken Report on the subject will be presented to the House in due course.

III. Demands for Grants of the Ministry of I&B for the year 2015-16

4. Demand No. 61 presented to Parliament on 13th March, 2015 by the Ministry of I&B has provision for expenditure of the Secretariat of the Ministry, their media units and Grants-in-aid/Budgetary support to the autonomous/ statutory bodies under the administrative control of the Ministry for the financial year 2015-16. Briefly, the Demands are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

	Voted		
	Revenue	Capital	Grand Total
Plan	889.53	25.00	914.53
Non-Plan	2796.58	0.00	2796.58
Total	3686.11	25.00	3711.11

5. The overall position of the proposed allocation BE, RE and Actual Expenditure for the year 2014-15 and BE for the year 2015-16 under Plan, non-Plan segment is as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

	Plan		Non-Plan	
Year	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16
Proposed	1834.14	2037.62	2856.09	3116.47
BE	1005.00	914.53	2311.00	2796.58
RE	752.00	--	2424.80	--
Actual Expenditure (31.03.2015)	738.18	--	2412.14	--
% age of utilization	98.16	--	99.48	--

6. The allocations at BE, RE stage and Actual Expenditure on the Plan side during each year of the Annual Plans 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 are given as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Amount at BE stage	Amount at RE stage	Actual Expenditure	% age of utilization with respect to RE
2012-13	905.00	676.00	612.09	90.55
2013-14	905.00	740	715.22	96.65
2014-15	1005	752.00	738.18	98.16
2015-16	914.53			

7. When the Committee desired to know the reasons for the reduction of BE funds at RE stage, the Ministry, in a written note, stated that the reduction in Budgetary Support to Annual Plan 2014-15, was from Rs. 1005 crore at BE stage to Rs. 752 crore at RE stage. This was mainly due to the overall resource position of Government of India. The pace of expenditure in the Ministry has been quite satisfactory, as can be seen from the fact that by September 2014, the expenditure was more than 50% of the BE 2014-15.

8. On being asked about the efforts made so that funds are not reduced at RE stage, the Ministry stated that to improve plan expenditure, various measures have been taken by the Ministry which inter-alia include, periodic review, mid-term appraisal of all major schemes and regular monitoring of expenditure and implementation. Apart from the monitoring & review of progress of plan schemes by the Ministry and the Planning Commission, the implementing agencies also continuously monitor the progress. It may further be added that the outlay for the plan schemes pertaining to Prasar Bharati constitutes a major chunk of the total plan outlay of the Ministry. An amount of Rs. 378.76 crore was released to Prasar Bharati by the Ministry, which constitutes 75% of Prasar Bharati's BE outlay (excluding Kisan Channel). The Ministry have since taken specific steps to improve the planning and implementation of the schemes by Prasar Bharati which include delegation of financial power upto Rs. 300 crore to Prasar Bharati Board, restoration of sanctioning power to DGs upto Rs. 20 crore and rationalizing the procurement period in Prasar Bharati.

9. The thrust areas for the year 2015-16 are as under:-

- i. Digitization of Cable Television Network
- ii. Community Radio Expansion for Community Empowerment
- iii. Kisan Channel (Added in the Union Budget 2014-15)
- iv. Digitalization of Broadcast Network of Prasar Bharati
- v. Integrated Approach to Media Campaign
- vi. Film Heritage Mission to restore and preserve India's rich cinematic resources
- vii. Investment in Content Development of Prasar Bharati to enhance its competitive edge
- viii. Strengthening, upgradation and modernization of infrastructure in Information and Film Sector

IV. BROADCASTING SECTOR

10. The Broadcasting Sector of the Ministry constitutes the Prasar Bharati, an autonomous corporation established under the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 and a PSU, the Broadcasting Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL). The Prasar Bharati has two wings, viz. All India Radio and Doordarshan. The 12th Plan outlay for the broadcasting sector is Rs.5833.00 crore. The BE, RE and actual for 2014-15 and BE for 2015-16 for the broadcasting sector are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)		
Broadcasting Sector	2014-15	2015-16
Proposed	1579.62	1668.37
BE	646.03	635.33
RE	464.00	
Actual Expenditure (31.3.2015)	462.98	
% w.r.to. RE	99.78	

A. Prasar Bharati - Budget Estimates (2015-16)

11. The Prasar Bharati is the Public Service Broadcaster in the country, with All India Radio and Doordarshan as its two constituents. It came into existence on 23rd November, 1997 with a mandate to organize and conduct public broadcasting services to inform, educate and entertain the public and to ensure a balanced development of broadcasting in the country. For the 12th Five Year Plan, the Government approved a total outlay of Rs. 3826 crore, viz. Rs. 2614.86 crore for Continuing Schemes and Rs. 1211.14 crore for New Schemes. The outlay for broad schemes 'Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development' is Rs. 3500 crore, Rs. 186 crore for scheme 'Content Development and Dissemination' and Rs. 140 crore for 'Special project'. In addition, an outlay of Rs. 100 crore has been approved during the Annual Plan 2014-15 for the Kisan Channel which is a new initiative of the present government. This has increased the total outlay of Prasar Bharati to Rs. 3926 crore in the 12th Five Year Plan.

12. The proposed outlay, BE, RE and Actual Expenditure in respect of Prasar Bharati, during the years 2013-14 and 2014-15 and BE for the year 2015-16 are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)			
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
BE	514.00	605.03	605.03
RE	410.00	436.00	--
Actual Expenditure	410.00	436.00	--

13. A statement showing scheme-wise BE, RE and Actual Expenditure during Annual Plans of 2012-13 and 2013-14 and 2014-15 in respect of All India Radio and Doordarshan is as under:-

(Rs. in crore)										
Scheme No.	Name of the Scheme	2012-13			2013-14			2014-15		
		BE	RE	Actual expenditure	BE	RE	Actual expenditure	BE	RE	Estimated expenditure
A	All India									

	Radio									
Sch-I	Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development	244.90	174.90	146.33	201.00	145.44	170.09	217.00	189.99	189.99
Sch-II	Content Creation and Dissemination	52.00	25.02	19.56	42.00	33.00	24.09	10.00	10.00	10.00
Sch-III	Special Projects Renovation of Auditorium at Broadcasting House, New Delhi	0.10	0.08	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01
Sub-total		299.00	200.00	165.89	243.50	178.44	194.18	227.01	200.00	200.00
B	Doordarshan									
Sch-I	Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development	225.98	158.50	208.08	195.00	184.56	197.75	268.00	200.00	200.00
Sch-II	Content Creation and dissemination	60.00	54.00	61.02	65.00	47.00	42.84	10.00	10.00	10.00
Sch-III	Special Projects (i) Global coverage of DD International (ii) Broadcast Museum (iii) Kisan Ch.	0.21	0.12	0.00	10.50	0.00	0.00	0.02 100.00	0.00 26.00	0.00 26.00
Sub-total		286.00	212.52	269.10	270.50	231.56	240.59	378.02	236.0	236.00
Grant Total		585.00	412.52	434.99	514.00	410.00	434.77	605.03	436.00	436.00

14. Regarding the overall GBS allocation to Prasar Bharati and IEBR raised during the year 2014-15 by Prasar Bharati, the Ministry informed that under Plan funds, Government has allocated Rs. 436.00 crore to Prasar Bharati for the year 2014-15. Prasar Bharati allocates Rs. 200 crore per year from IEBR for Content Development under Software scheme as per the 12th Five year proposal. Under Revenue Non-Plan, Government has allocated Rs. 2001.98 crore to Prasar Bharati towards salary and salary related expenses for 2014-15. Besides this, as informed by Prasar Bharati, it has incurred Rs. 1183.82 crore on other administrative expenses from its IEBR.

(a) Prasar Bharati - IEBR

15. When asked about the details of revenue generated by Prasar Bharati during the year 2013-14 and 2014-15 and the funds utilized under IEBR, the Ministry/Prasar Bharati submitted as under:-

Year	Revenue Generated	Expenditure from IEBR
2013-14	1622.84	1541.32
2014-15	1865.00*	1800.00*

*** Expected during 2014-15.**

16. On being enquired about the activities for which expenditure out of IEBR has been spent, the Ministry, in a written reply, stated that as per expenditure statements furnished by Prasar Bharati, the utilization of IEBR generated by Prasar Bharati has been towards other administrative expenses, including Power Supply Charges, Payment to Armed Guards, Office expenses, Satellite payment, Programme expenses, and expenses towards Motor vehicle and domestic travel, etc. In some cases expenses have also been incurred by Prasar Bharati towards meeting excess expenditure on implementation of Plan Schemes. Apart from this, Prasar Bharati has informed that they are utilizing Rs. 200 crore from IEBR on content development under Software Scheme since 2013-14.

17. The details of Gross Revenue Projections and Revenue earned by Prasar Bharati during the years 2013-14 and 2014-15 are as under:-

Year	Revenue Projection	Revenue Receipts
2013-14	1996.00	1622.84
2014-15	2195.00	1380.00*

***Upto February, 2015**

18. In order to increase the revenue, Prasar Bharati has been adopting aggressive marketing strategies to increase the revenue receipts besides, putting into the best use its spare infrastructure available with the field formations across the country. The other aspects that have been undertaken are: better publicity like – newspaper insertions, Media Plan, appointing Media Adviser, bill-boards, New Media campaign, etc. and better professional handling of the Prasar Bharati Marketing Divisions. The above

aspects are expected to increase the revenue, which would perceptibly bridge the gap between income and expenditure of Prasar Bharati.

19. On the budgetary allocations to Prasar Bharati and the level of self-sufficiency in IEBR generation, Prasar Bharati, in a written note, submitted that with the resources of Prasar Bharati for Content Development being diverted to bridge the gap for shortfall in Non-Plan grants, decreased Plan support for Content in 2014-15 the IEBR funds for Content Development has further been reduced. This has affected quality of Content leading to lower TRPs and in turn affecting the revenues in 2014-15, especially by DD.

(i) Shortfall in Salary and consequent shortage of funds for content generation

20. The Committee have been informed by Prasar Bharti that the Government's commitment is to pay 100% salary of government servants, who were recruited by the Ministry of I&B 30-35 years ago, and their services placed with Prasar Bharati with no option or choice whatsoever. Prasar Bharti contended that it is obligatory for Government to pay their salaries at Government grades and pensions thereafter, which are as per their terms of recruitment. In the last 3 years, Government have not been able to meet their obligations to the full, leaving behind large gaps as under:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Salary Shortfall</u>
2012-13	Rs. 147 crore
2013-14	Rs. 136 crore
2014-15	Rs. 146 crore

21. This entire funding had to be borne by Prasar Bharati from its internal earnings (IEBR) that are in fact meant for Operations and Content. Several pleas made to the Government by Prasar Bharti to refund the earlier overdue amount of Rs. 282 crore (first 2 years without interest) have not met with success.

22. Prasar Bharati further submitted that adequate provisions have not been made under the scheme for Content Development & Dissemination. As against approximately Rs. 80 crore in the previous financial year, only Rs. 20 crore were allocated in 2014-15 and no allocation has been made for 2015-16. In view of the above situation, Prasar Bharati is faced with an unprecedented scenario, whereby it will have absolutely no funds at all to operate DD-Kashir, DD-Urdu and North East channels. Additionally, Prasar Bharti is also faced with huge pendency of past payments. The situation is further compounded by the fact that almost Rs. 500 cr has been taken away from Prasar Bharti by the Government (from its funds that could be deployed for Content), and despite several requests made by PB, no refunds have yet been made. Prasar Bharti's compulsion to pay salaries to Government employees out of its own earnings (IEBR) has severely restricted its ability to spend on content generation and the resultant poor quality of content and poor viewership.

23. The Committee have also been informed that India's investment on Content (as a share of total expenditure) is one of the lowest in the world where public broadcasting is concerned. While Japan (NHK) and Britain (BBC) spend between 70 and 75% of their overall expenditure on Content, Prasar Bharati can spend only 8-13%, which means that it is doomed to poor Content, leading to poor viewership, leading to poor revenue. All attempts to break this cycle through additional funding by the Government has not led to the desired results so far, and the downward spiral continues.

24. When asked about their comments on the matter, the Ministry in a post-evidence note informed that Prasar Bharati is always consulted before any allocation of funds is proposed. Despite delays in response from Prasar Bharati, efforts are made to accommodate their requests. Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has, in fact, been proactive in pushing Prasar Bharati to seek releases from Government of India. In the 11th Plan, an EFC proposal of Rs.142.00 crore was approved for software production/acquisition for different Doordarsan Channels. Similarly, another scheme for AIR at a cost of Rs.100 crore was approved for the same purpose. Funds were also allocated to Kashir Channel and DD Channels in North East for Content creation. In fact, the entire amount was not spent by PB in 11th Plan period and an amount of Rs.186.00 crore which remained unspent, was allowed to become ongoing scheme in the 12th Plan period. This unspent amount had to be utilized during the first 3 years of the 12th plan period (i.e. 2012-13, 2013-14 & 2014-15). An amount of Rs.179 crore has been allocated to Prasar Bharati till 31st March, 2015.

25. According to Ministry of I&B, the Cabinet Secretariat, vide their OM No. 31/CM/2012(i) dated 18/9/2012, had conveyed the Cabinet's decision of meeting all operating expenses of Prasar Bharti through (IEBR) except Salary and salary related expenses. Prasar Bharati had also consented after due consultation with the Working Group on Information and Broadcasting to invest Rs.200 crore during each year of the 12th Plan from IEBR. Accordingly, no new plan scheme has been approved for Content development during the 12th Plan period. Prasar Bharati has been spending Rs.200 crore annually from 2013-14 for the Content Development Scheme. Prasar Bharati, vide their letter dated 01.01.2015, requested the Ministry for recouping the excess expenditure of Rs. 342.33 crore under Plan and Non-Plan incurred by them during 2012-13 and 2013-14. The proposal of Prasar Bharati was referred to M/o Finance. On this matter, M/o Finance stated that Autonomous Bodies/ grantee institutions should restrict their expenditure within the sanctioned amount and any excess expenditure over and above sanctioned amount may need to be borne by them. If any excess expenditure is incurred by them out of their own resources, Government cannot reimburse/ recoup them.

(ii) Monetization/Utilization of Land Resources

Prasar Bharati through a written note stated that it has made efforts to generate internal resources through sources like monetization of land and building. It pays hundreds of crore to maintain these unused lands and has to fight several litigations

against State Governments and other authorities for their retention, without being able to use because of lack of Plan schemes and Plan funds. For instance, in Delhi alone, Prasar Bharati has approximately 270 acres of land in Kingsway Camp, a large part of which could be utilised for Government housing and other social purposes. Prasar Bharati made this proposal over two years ago so that a part of the proceeds could be earmarked for the development of popular technologies like FMisation, Digital TV transmission and Free Dish, without burdening the Government with unforeseen requirements. In Khampur, within the NCT of Delhi, there is another 600 acres of land that could also be utilised for Government's critical needs like housing and infrastructure and if a part of the proceeds could be put in Prasar Bharati's accounts, Prasar Bharati could serve the nation better. There are nearly 46 large chunks of land in urban areas all over India that were used 30 years ago before Satellite arrived as "AIR's Receiving Centres (RC)". These are under constant threat from encroachers, builders, government and semi-government authorities, because of their location and lucrative value and Prasar Bharati has been pleading for over two years with the Government for monetising a part of these assets; but Government has been insisting on no monetisation or utilisation of property even for Bill Boards, Bank's ATMs for employees, which is perhaps unfair and 100 per cent of inventory of all lands when Prasar Bharati concern is with less than 5 per cent which means that the decision could be deferred indefinitely until all unnecessary details are available with the Government.

26. When asked as to what action the Ministry have taken on the above proposal of the Prasar Bharati, the Ministry, in a post-evidence note stated that a proposal on the issue of revenue generation by offering spaces within the premises of AIR and Doordarshan for opening ATMs, and small branches of banks and for putting up billboards, etc. was sent by Prasar Bharati. However, no proposal for Kingsway Camp as mentioned above has been received from Prasar Bharati. As per stipulation, in the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990, all property and assets (including the Non-Lapsable Fund) which immediately, before the appointed day, vested in the Central Government for the purpose of Akashwani or Doordarshan or both shall stand transferred to the Corporation on such terms and conditions as may be determined by the Central Government and the book value of all such property and assets shall be treated as the capital provided by the Central Government to the Corporation.

27. As per Cabinet approval to the proposal for financial restructuring of Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) dated 14.09.2012 "Property and Assets will be transferred on book value to Prasar Bharati as per provisions of Section 16(a) of Prasar Bharati Act, 1990. Normal accounting principles will be followed to determine their future value". The Cabinet decision/approval has to be effected on issue of formal transfer order spelling out the terms and conditions after completion of inventorisation of all assets under them. As the progress of inventorization was getting delayed, a meeting was convened by the Ministry on 21.05.2013 wherein AIR and DD were directed to finalize the inventorization of all assets within 6 months so as to finalize the

terms and conditions for Transfer of property and assets on book value to Prasar Bharati as per provisions of 16(a) of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990. The Ministry vide letter dated 19.03.2014, requested Prasar Bharati to furnish the complete information in respect of movable and immovable properties in the uniform format as on 31.03.2014 within two months. Thereafter, the Ministry requested Prasar Bharati several times to furnish the requisite information. Prasar Bharati, vide letter dated 14.10.2014, furnished partial data of immovable property of AIR and DD. Moreover, the information furnished by Prasar Bharati in respect of immovable property is incomplete in respect of book value, ownership status, etc. Prasar Bharati has not furnished information in respect of movable property.

(b) Review of Prasar Bharati - Sam Pitroda Committee Report

28. An Expert Committee under Shri Sam Pitroda had been constituted for the purpose of reviewing the institutional framework of Prasar Bharati, including its relationship with the Government. In order to revitalize Prasar Bharati, the Sam Pitroda Committee, in its report submitted in February, 2014, made 26 recommendations in the areas of (i) Governance and Organisation, (ii) Funding, (iii) Human Resources, (iv) Content, (v) Technology, (vi) Archiving, (vii) Social Media, and (viii) Global Outreach. With a view to implementing the recommendation of the Expert Committee, the Ministry had requested Prasar Bharati to prepare an action plan for undertaking reviews/ studies/ audits, on four areas including creation of inventory of all immovable assets of Prasar Bharati and the Committee in their 4th Report on Demands for Grants (2014-15) had recommended to expedite the action plan.

29. Giving an update in this regard, the Ministry stated that Prasar Bharati has undertaken several internal assessments towards providing course of action for implementation of the broad objectives of the Sam Pitroda Committee and that it is likely to submit the course of action plan after obtaining approval of the Prasar Bharati Board.

30. Prasar Bharati, however, in a separate note submitted to the Committee, informed that the Ministry had written to Prasar Bharati on 13.03.2014 mentioning only 4 issues (out of the 26 core recommendations of the Pitroda Committee). In response, Prasar Bharati had sought clarity from the Ministry on whether the recommendations of the Pitroda Committee had at all been accepted by the Government, in part or full. This is critical for Prasar Bharati to be aware of, before investing significant resources that such “reviews/studies/audits” would require. The reply of the Ministry in this regard is awaited. Notwithstanding lack of clarity from the Government on the fate of the Pitroda Report, Prasar Bharati, with the approval of the Prasar Bharati Board, has proposed several operational and policy initiatives which are aligned with the thrust of the Pitroda Committee’s recommendations. While an “overall action plan” would be much needed, Prasar Bharati opted not to delay matters, pending Government’s acceptance of the Pitroda Report, and opted to address each issue separately and individually, based on

the criticality. However, not much progress has been made on these initiatives. In order to move ahead on these initiatives with a structured roadmap and plan, Prasar Bharati has proposed to set up a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) drawing from industry experts and domain specialists.

31. On being asked about further plans to resolve the issues and move ahead with review of Prasar Bharati and any timeline fixed for review of the organization, the Ministry, in their post-evidence note, stated that the recommendations of the Sam Pitroda Committee shall be concretized after the studies on manpower, technology and funding are completed and a vision for Prasar Bharati is prepared on the basis of the outcome of the studies.

(c) Roadmap for Revival of Prasar Bharati

32. The Committee specifically desired to know about the efforts made by Prasar Bharati to be competitive in the present scenario where private players are doing really well. In this context, on the future roadmap for revival of Prasar Bharati, the CEO, Prasar Bharati, in evidence, submitted that Prasar Bharati has been transmitting only on short wave and medium wave. There are very few listeners for short and medium wave. Prasar Bharati can just do the FMization. It has ready towers of Doordarshan which have become useless. It is because there is no matching antenna. So, instead of those Doordarshan towers, which have become redundant to a large degree, if they are used only for FM antenna hosting, Prasar Bharati can cover many areas. Secondly, if the satellite Dish TV the Government of India has, is utilized properly, it will be useful because it was done for 50 channels and those 50 channels also 'B' Grade channels. Now giving 112 is a nice package. People can surf through 100 channels. They can decide on 10 channels of their choice and feed them in. The platform of giving the people of India a free dish, and for that if required, the Government of India can even subsidize the set top box amount of Rs. 2,000. It is lesser than starting more towers and it is lesser than doing more infrastructure work. So, this Free Dish can be popularized which Prasar Bharati has been trying desperately for the last one year.

33. When asked about their position on the issue of Free Dish and FMization, the Ministry, in a post-evidence note, informed that Free Dish is a call for Prasar Bharati to take. As far as the current position is concerned, Doordarshan has upgraded its technical infrastructure of DD Free Dish DTH platform and is presently providing free to air 64 SDTV channels in MPEG-2 DVB-S. The technical infrastructure of the remaining 48 SDTV channels in MPEG-4 DVB-S2 standard has also been installed and tested. These 48 channels will be Conditional Access System (CAS) enabled in free-to-view mode for subscribers. Subscribers will be able to view these CAS enabled channel after one time annual registration and reactivation to enable Doordarshan to know actual number of active subscribers. Doordarshan will commission its remaining 48 SDTV channels in MPEG-4 DVB-S2 channel after implementing the CAS service, thereby upgrading its platform to 112 SDTV channels in 2015-16, but this is subject to approval of MHA

regarding security clearance of one of the shortlisted CAS service provider which is a Chinese party. The Ministry have also written to MHA on 09.03.2015 seeking its views on the matter. Regarding shutting down of short and medium wave and FMization, the Ministry, *vide* letter dated 13.03.2015, have conveyed to Prasar Bharati that the revision in 12th Plan, if any, may be got approved by Prasar Bharati Board and the final scheme proposal may be sent to the Ministry for taking necessary approvals from the CCEA.

(d) Amendments to various Sections of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990

34. The Committee's attention has been drawn to certain Sections of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 that reportedly hampers the autonomous character of Prasar Bharati. In this context, Prasar Bharati, in a written note, stated that Prasar Bharati has not been able to fully live up to the hopes and aspirations of the country during 17 years of its existence. It is because of the fact that it never enjoyed autonomy in the real sense of the term. An inherent flaw in the Act that effectively negates its autonomy is vast rule making powers given to the Government under section 32 of the Act. Section 32 (2)(c) of the Act gives power to Central Government to prescribe the control, restrictions and conditions subject to which Prasar Bharati may appoint officers and other employees under section 9(1) of the Act. This provision impinges upon the autonomy of Prasar Bharati and goes against the spirit of the Act. Similarly, Section 32(2)(d) gives the power to the Central Government to prescribe the manner in which and the conditions and restrictions subject to which Recruitment Board may be established under Section 10(1). This provision enables the Government to control the Recruitment Board. It is necessary to delete this provision so that the Recruitment Board is free from Government's control to ensure its impartiality and transparency in keeping with the principle of grant of autonomy to Prasar Bharati. Similarly, clause (e) which empowers the Central Government to lay down the qualifications and other conditions of service of Members of the Recruitment Board and their period of office under Section 10(2) also needs to be deleted on the same grounds as mentioned above.

35. It has further been stated that while Section 33 of the Act empowers Prasar Bharati to make regulations, the proviso to Section 33(2) lays down that regulations under clauses (c) and (d) shall be made only with the prior approval of the Central Government. Clauses (c) and (d) relate to the method of recruitment and conditions of service of officers and employees of the Corporation. In keeping with the principle of autonomy of Prasar Bharati, Prasar Bharati should be free to prescribe the Recruitment Regulations and other service conditions of its employees. As such, the proviso needs to be deleted.

36. When asked about their comments on Sections 32 and 33 of the Act and the status of comprehensive review of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990, the Ministry, in a written note, submitted that the Group of Ministers (GOM) on Prasar Bharati has reviewed the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 and made comprehensive recommendations for amendment of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 and recommended certain amendments to

the Act. These amendments are aimed at improving governance in Prasar Bharati, making the Chairperson and Members more accountable and enabling the Government to make timely interventions and effectively supervise the functioning of Prasar Bharati. The GOM has also recommended for deletion of Section 13 of the Act, regarding constitution of Parliamentary Committee and also Section 14 of the Act, regarding establishment of Broadcasting Council. The GoM has, however, not made any recommendations on Sections 32 and 33 of the Prasar Bharati Act. The Ministry also do not perceive that Sections 32 and 33 of the Prasar Bharati Act affect the autonomous character of Prasar Bharati. In so far as section 33 is concerned, Prasar Bharati is empowered to make regulations on various matters. Approval of the Central Government is required only for notifying service conditions of employees of Prasar Bharati. This may not be dispensed with as the Government is granting non-plan grant-in-aid for meeting 100% salary and salary related expenses of Prasar Bharati.

37. On the status of the draft Cabinet Note, the Ministry informed the Committee that it had circulated a draft Cabinet Note for inter-Ministerial consultation for approval of Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Amendment Bill for making amendments to the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 on the recommendations of the Group of Ministers on Prasar Bharati. However, with the passage of time, it has been observed that there is a requirement for further assessing and analyzing the proposal made in the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Amendment Bill. Therefore, the Ministry have withdrawn the aforesaid draft Cabinet Note.

38. On being asked about the future course of action and the manner in which the Ministry propose to address the concerns expressed over certain clauses of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990, the Ministry have stated that they are reassessing and analyzing the proposals made in the earlier draft Bill towards making amendments to certain clauses of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 and shall formulate a view on a fresh draft Cabinet Note for inter-Ministerial consultation.

(e) Kisan Channel under Doordarshan and All India Radio

39. The Government had approved a Scheme on Kisan channel with an allocation of Rs. 100 crore during 2014-15. The Kisan Channel will be dedicated to the interest of the agriculture. This will disseminate real time information to the farmers regarding new farming techniques, water conservation, organic farming, etc. The details of BE, RE, Actual Expenditure for the Kisan Channel for the year 2014-15 and BE for the year 2015-16 are as under:-

(Rs. in Crore)

Scheme	BE (2014-15)			RE (2014-15)	Actual (upto 12.3.2015)	BE (2015-16)
Kisan Channel	100.00	DD	AIR	26.00	26.00	45.00

		90.00	10.00			
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40. Explaining underutilization of funds allocated for the scheme, the Ministry stated that there is some gestation period involved in carrying out due research for writing script authenticated by Agriculture Scientists and experts and preparing a rich content, which would be beneficial to the farmers. Rs.100 crore budget could not have been expended within this financial year and it may have caused wastage of public exchequer as time was too short.

41. The physical and financial targets achieved under the scheme during the year 2014-15 are as under:-

- earmarking of a dedicated Studio for the Kisan Channel has been accomplished and Studio-A in CPC has been earmarked for telecast of the Kisan Channel,
- 51 professionals out of 67 posts advertised have joined the Kisan Channel so far,
- training and appropriate orientation of the manpower for this niche channel which is the pure Science Channel and different from an entertainment Channel in the bouquet of Channels of Doordarshan is also very important, and that's why endeavour has been made to impart requisite training and orientation of the manpower working in Kisan Channel by experts from IARI besides, inhouse training and orientation,
- Integrated automated Playout System for Kisan Channel has been installed at CPC Delhi. Production and post-production equipment required immediately have been procured and installed,
- DTH facility has been upgraded and will have provision to carry DD Kisan Channel on DTH platform also.

42. To a query on the efforts made for effective utilization of funds during the year 2015-16, the Ministry stated that for effective utilization of funds for refurbishing of Studio which is presently being used by Kisan Channel from CPC, Engineer-in-Chief and other senior ADGs from Engineering Branch have been requested to process the case of renovation and refurbishing of the Studios, which is in need of urgent repairs as the Studios were built in early 1980, post the Asiad Games, and since then though some additions have been made in the Studio it is in dire need of an overhaul. For this – repair, renovation, overhaul and refurbishment work, a budget of Rs.10 crore has been projected out of Rs.45 crore in the BE as of now of Kisan Channel for 2015-16. The remaining Rs.35 crores would be judiciously spent for generating the requisite content and other routine administrative expenditure.

(f) Scheme of Global Coverage for DD International

43. The details of proposed, BE, RE and Actual allocation for the scheme for the year 2013-14, 2014-15 and BE for 2015-16 are as under:-

(Rs.in crore)				
Year	Proposed Allocation	BE	RE	Actual Allocation (upto 12.03.2015)
2013-14	34.00	10.00	0.00	0.00
2014-15	10.95	0.01	0.00	0.00
2015-16	0.50	0.00		

44. On being asked about the reasons for 'Nil' allocation under the scheme, the Ministry/Prasar Bharati stated that keeping in view the proposed launch and need of fund during the FY 2015-16, a token amount of Rs. 0.50 crore had been proposed, so that more funds could be asked for at a later date/at RE stage. However, no funds were allocated in BE. Other stakeholder MEA has also been requested to provide funds for the proposed launch of DD India international channel.

45. Prasar Bharati submitted that the international channels of other countries do well mainly due to the involvement of the Foreign Offices coupled with strong Govt. support to ensure a global reach. The investments made by some countries in their international channels are as under:

Japan (NHK World)	:	approx. Rs. 934 crore per year
Germany (DW)	:	approx Rs. 2330 crore per year
China (CCTV)	:	approx. Rs. 1869 crore per year
Russia (Russia Today)	:	approx. Rs. 2492 crore per year
France (France 24)	:	approx. Rs. 1558 crore per year
Qatar (Al Jazeera)	:	approx. Rs. 2181 crore per year

46. However, according to Prasar Bharati, Doordarshan currently has a very low budget for production of programmes. It is apparent from the above figures that the allocations made in other countries for international channels are much higher than the allocations made for DD International. In so far as the current year (FY 2015-16) is concerned, against a proposed allocation of Rs. 0.50 crore, no amount was provided in BE. Other Ministries need to be pooled in their resources/content for quality programmes for the viewership abroad.

47. When the Committee desired to know the global coverage of Doordarshan and where it stands as compared to national channels of other countries, the Ministry, in a written note, stated that the national broadcaster of India (Prasar Bharati) doesn't have an overseas TV presence, while a few private TV channels have made single country

break-through, but these private channels do not present the real picture of India to Indian and foreign viewers abroad.

48. On being asked about the steps/initiatives taken by the Ministry/Prasar Bharati for global coverage of Doordarshan, the Prasar Bharati informed the Committee that since 1995 Doordarshan has been trying to build the bridges of communication with Indians living abroad and also trying to showcase its diverse culture, values and rich heritage to the world by launching its first international channel. Upon the expansion of this International Channel into 24x7, Doordarshan signed an agreement with M/s Pan Am SAT (later Intelsat Inc.) for achieving global foot print of its international channel in Asia, Africa, Europe and North America by placing it on 'C' band of IS-10 and G-13 satellites. This allowed several Indian embassies, Indians settled abroad and people of Indian Peace Keeping Force to receive the channel with a dish as small as 1.2 meter. However, due to non-availability of the channel on any major local distribution platform, its viewership remained insignificant, although it entailed a cost of Rs 30 crore per annum and approximately Rs. 500 crore was spent over a period of 16 years.

49. Due to problem in services being provided by M/s Intelsat and subsequent termination of contract in March 2011, Doordarshan started availing the service of INSAT-4B in both KU band & C band. However, DTH transmission in KU band was mostly over the Indian mainland and transmission in C band provided footprint in only 37 countries of Asia, Middle East and CIS.

50. While Doordarshan did make efforts to distribute its international channel in various parts of the world but made little progress in the last mile distribution due to policies which did not permit large scale spending on carriage fees. On the other hand, countries like Japan, Germany, China, Russia, France, etc. invested heavily on ensuring global reach for its international channels. In India too, most of the private channels made their presence the world over and in this respect DD has so far been unable to match their coverage. Doordarshan has also tried to have the presence of DD India felt in the various regions of the globe through active correspondence with MEA. But till date the only breakthrough has been with the Central Asia Division, where a meeting took place between the officials of MEA and PB for strengthening AIR & DD presence in Central Asia.

51. Prasar Bharti informed the Committee that for the first time, "DD India" Channel for both Indian and foreign viewers abroad, a prestigious and important project of Prasar Bharati, has been approved "in principle" in 118th Board meeting of Prasar Bharati held on 20th November, 2013. After detailed discussions and deliberations, the MoU with Duestsche Welle was signed on 5th August, 2014. DD India on DW's Hotbird 13-B is mounted on Freq.11.604 GHz with Polarization-Horizontal; FEC-5/6; Symbol Rate: 27.500 Msymbols/s as a free-to-air basic package through a DTH Ku-band platform. It is available across the whole of Europe, Central Asia and the Arab world of West Asia and North Africa connecting around 120 million households abroad. This was a significant development as it is for the first time in the history of Prasar Bharati that

the Doordarshan programmes would be available in a “free-to-air” basic package mode on a DTH Platform to the viewers overseas. DD India has also signed up with ITV for carriage and downlink of the channel content in USA & Canada. DD India is airing scroller messages asking viewers to share information on quality of signal, inputs on the content which will help in further customizing the fare for the audiences.

52. On being asked about further details of the launching of DD India channel, Prasar Bharati informed that test Transmission of DD India has been rolled out on DW’s Hotbird 13-B with the relay of the President’s Message & Republic Day Celebrations. The look and feel of channel has been given a facelift and DD India sports a vibrant channel logo woven around India Colours. DD India’s Fixed Point Chart has been designed keeping in mind the Indian diaspora. DD India is also working on tie-ups with rights owners of new Films and Film Based programming for DD India which is highly sought after by the Indian Diaspora. A promotional campaign in Europe (and some funding) preceding the launch is needed, which could best be handled through MEA. It would also be necessary to provide additional publicity and support through the Indian Missions, India-oriented organisations and OCI/NRI bodies, on which Prasar Bharati needs help and support from MEA or MOIA, since Prasar Bharati has very meagre financial resources. The date for formal launch/announcement of the channel by Hon’ble Prime Minister could be between 13th & 14th April, 2015.

B. Expansion of FM Radio

53. The Government, on 16.1.2015, approved the e-Auction of the 1st batch of 135 channels in 69 existing cities based on the reserve price formula approved by the Cabinet in 2011. A list of 135 channels to be auctioned in the 1st batch is at Annexure-I. The Government have already selected an e-auctioneer, C1 India, through global tender and in a transparent manner to conduct the e-auction of private FM channels. Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) for bidding for the first batch was issued on 2nd March, 2015. A total of 28 applications have been received till the last date. The applications are being examined to declare pre-qualified bidders. To indicate and approve the list of successful bidders under FM Phase-III auctions, a Committee comprising of Secretaries of the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Department of Telecommunications and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has been constituted on 12.03.2015, with the seniormost Secretary, to be its Chairperson. As per tentative time lines of Private FM Phase-III (First Batch) auctions, scrutiny of bidders is expected to be completed by the 4th week of April, 2015 and auction will take place by the end of April, 2015 or May, 2015 subject to fulfilment of all procedural formalities.

54. On the issue of e-Auction of FM Radio, the Secretary elaborated in evidence as under:-

“As far as FM Radio is concerned, the honourable Member has given a very good suggestion. In this connection, I would like to mention that in 69 cities we have existing channels which are vacant, we will be auctioning

these vacant channels. In next phase, for which we have already received the recommendations of TRAI, once we complete this task by May, we will look into it. Latur city is also included in it, right now, I don't have the list so I do not want to do any guess. Once these auctioning are completed you will come to know everything. We have uploaded the complete list by a very transparent system and everyone knows about the list. This Government has worked in a very transparent way. As we have done in the case of spectrum, or in coal, we will follow the same system and auctioning will be done in a very transparent way."

C. Scheme of Strengthening Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC)

55. As per the Outcome Budget (2015-16), the Plan Scheme of Strengthening of Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC), a subordinate office under the Ministry of I&B, has been sanctioned in the 12th Plan with a total cost of Rs. 90.00 crore with a view to protecting citizens from broadcast of undesirable content. Violations in content - programme and advertisements for TV Channels are carried out as per Programme and Advertising Codes enshrined in the Cable Television Regulation Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder and violations for radio content are carried out as per the license guidelines. To achieve this, the existing content monitoring facility will be enhanced from existing 300 TV Channels to 1500 TV Channels in a phased manner. Centralized content monitoring facility for private FM and Community Radio Stations (CRS) will also be set up.

56. The details of the proposed allocation, BE, RE, and actual expenditure under the scheme for the years 2013-14 and 2014-15 and BE for the year 2015-16 are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)				
Year	Proposed Allocation	BE	RE	Actual Allocation (upto 12.03.2015)
2013-14	20.00	12.00	17.00	11.00
2014-15	20.00	20.00	25.00	18.85
2015-16	21.00	21.00		

57. On being enquired about the number of TV channels covered under the monitoring facility as of now, the Ministry stated that at present there are only 836 TV channels permitted in the country. By 2016-17, all existing permitted TV channels upto a number of 1500 are proposed to be covered. About cases of TV channels violating the content guidelines during 2014-15 and action taken on the same, the Ministry informed that 36 channels were found to be violating guidelines during the period 1.1.2014 to 30.3.2015 and advisory/warnings were issued to them.

58. Regarding the physical targets set under the scheme for the year 2015-16, it was informed that the content monitoring capacity of 600 satellite TV Channels will be enhanced to 900 TV Channels along with Centralized content monitoring system for private FM channels and CRS during 2015-16. A target of monitoring 30 CR stations by March 2015 was set for EMMC which was also achieved by EMMC. It is proposed to bring under the ambit of monitoring by EMMC 60 CR stations by July 2015 (from the existing 30) and 170 CRS by March 2016. In so far as FM Radio is concerned, at present recordings are examined on complaint basis by BECIL. However, FM Radio monitoring is also envisaged to be brought within the ambit of monitoring by EMMC within the plan period. Requirement of technical upgradation and monitoring facility for monitoring FM & CRS as per AIR code by EMMC has been assessed. BECIL has been entrusted with the task and the work is in progress. Once monitoring starts from EMMC, it will require enhanced manpower.

D. Scheme of Supporting Community Radio (CRS) Movement in India

59. In the 12th Five year Plan, a new scheme namely Supporting Community Radio Movement in India has been introduced. In addition to IEC Activities, the new scheme provides financial assistance to new and existing CRS for equipment acquisition and training, etc. The scheme also supports innovations in the CR sector. The details of BE, RE and Actual Expenditure in respect of the above scheme are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)				
Year	Proposed Allocation	BE	RE	Actual Allocation (upto 12.03.2015)
2014-15	27.00	13.00	2.65	1.59
2015-16	8.00	6.30		

60. Regarding underutilization of funds, the Ministry stated that the funds planned for financial assistance to CRS for purchase of equipment and capacity building and support to innovations in CR sector was a back end subsidy, as per the scheme and it was felt that the entire allocation may not be utilized during this financial year. Therefore, the RE was reduced to Rs. 2.65 crore. It was further stated that the funds planned for capacity building of community radio stations and support to innovations in CR sector also could not be utilized as the mode and content module of these activities is still under finalization with the stakeholders.

(Ref: MLoP, Q. 78)

61. The Ministry informed that at present 359 applications are under consideration for permission to set up CRS. When the Committee desired to know how many clearances are still pending from various Ministries, the Ministry submitted the following statement:-

Name of Ministry	MHA	WPC Wing	Ministry of Defence	MHRD	ICAR
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Number of clearances awaited	53	65	69	20	02
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62. Asked as to what are the broad reasons for such a huge pendency of applications and efforts made to clear the pendency, the Ministry, in a post-evidence note, stated that most of the cases pending in Ministries concerned are within prescribed time limit as laid down in the Policy Guidelines. As per Policy Guidelines, Ministries/Departments concerned are required to furnish their comments/clearances within 3 months of receipt of application by them. Regular monthly co-ordination meetings have helped down the pendency of applications beyond specified period of 3 months and out of 209 the no. of cases pending in Ministries concerned for more than 3 months is 50 as on 10.04.2015.

63. On the issue of delay in engaging consulting agency for conducting the study on effectiveness of Community Radio Stations, the Ministry, in the post-evidence reply, stated that 16 organizations submitted proposals to conduct the study. The eligibility, technical bids and financial bids have now been evaluated by the Evaluation Committee. The Evaluations Committee has selected the agency. Approval of the competent authority is being sought to engage the agency selected by the Committee. The prime objective of the study is to assess the effectiveness of CRS in providing tangible and intangible, direct and indirect benefits to the community like creating awareness about relevant local issues, providing useful information and nature of participation of community in the CRS, etc. However, this may shed some light on training needs/capacity building of CRS operators and community members /volunteers.

V. INFORMATION SECTOR

64. The details of the BE, RE and Actual expenditure for the year 2014-15 and BE for the year 2015-16 under information sector are as under:

(Rs. in crore)		
Information Sector	2014-15	2015-16
Proposed	288.57	297.94
BE	247.82	70.65
RE	201.69	
Actual Expenditure (31.3.2015)	198.16	
% w.r.to. RE	98.30	

(a) Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP)

65. The Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity is the nodal organization for multimedia advertising and information dissemination on the policies, programmes and achievements of the Government of India. For the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17), an initial outlay of Rs. 467.50 crore under the Scheme “People’s Empowerment through Development Communication” and Rs. 15 crore for the “Media Infrastructure Development Programme” had been provided. The BE, RE & Actual expenditure for the year 2014-15 and BE for the year 2015-16 under DAVP are as follows:-

(Rs. in crore)

	Proposed 2014-15	BE 2014-15	RE 2014-15	Actuals Upto 12.3.2015	Proposed 2015-16	BE 2015-16
Revamping and restructuring of DAVP	6.00	4.00	5.00	3.97	6.00	3.00
People’s Empowerment through Development Communication	200.00	174.00	155.20	143.04	210.00	20.00
Total	206.00	178.00	160.20	147.01	216.00	23.00

66. The main reason for reduced allocation during BE 2015-16 is that the Revised Cost Estimate (RCE) proposal for DCID programme, in which additional fund requirement of Rs.350 crore has been proposed, is yet to be finally approved by the competent authority.

67. The physical targets and achievements of DAVP during 2014-15 are as follows:-

S.No	Particulars	Targets	Achievements
1	Exhibition (No. of Exhibition days)	1698	1764
2	Display Classified (No. of insertions in thousand)	5.00	7.24
4	Advertising on TV/Radio (No. of display units* in thousand)	75.0	77.1
5	Printed Publicity (No. of jobs)	12	12
6	Outdoor Publicity (No. of display days in lakhs)	5.5	5.5

* One display unit of Radio Spot will consist of 1 insertion in TV channels, 3 insertions in radio, 10 insertions in digital cinema, 1000 SMSes and 2500 impressions on Internet.

68. On being asked as to why an allocation of Rs. 23 crore only has been made under DAVP at BE during 2015-16, the Ministry further stated that pending the EFC approval of the RCE, the funds remaining out of the original approved EFC of Rs. 470 crore for the 12th Plan were adjusted in the BE of 2015-16. This is precisely the reason for lower allocation in BE 2015-16 as compared to the allocation made during 2014-15. However, it is stated that additional requirement of funds of Rs. 350 crore through RCE is already under process in view of the higher allocation needed for the scheme under DCID, which seeks to empower, educate and inform the people in achieving the Government's twin objects of inclusive governance and participatory democracy.

69. The Committee were informed that People's Empowerment through Development Communication (Information Dissemination) under the DCID programme is a Plan Scheme conceived with an objective to use communication for development and empowerment of the people. It aims to ensure peoples' participation in various programmes and schemes of the Government aiming at welfare of people, promoting national integration and ensuring nation building. Hence, there is a need to increase the intensity of various multi-media campaigns and generate new campaigns about various new initiatives. DAVP hence plans an extensive outreach through various media platforms. In order to achieve its goal of speedier development through balanced growth of various sectors, Government of India has launched various flagship programmes like Make In India, Digital India, Skill India, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Clean India-Green India (Swacchh Bharat, Namami Gange), Jan Dhan Yojana, Skill India, DBTL-Pahal, etc., apart from projects like Indradhanush, etc. There is an increased necessity to communicate about all these programmes to empower, educate and inform the target audience and to increase their participation in these programmes.

70. The Ministry of I&B are collaborating with the executing Ministries of various programmes. This implies that the Ministry of I&B has been given the mandate of wide publicity of certain programmes of the Government of India from its own budget, in addition to the spending made by the client Ministries. However, in the absence of a substantial allocation under the DCID programme, a sustained campaign to involve people's participation in these flagship programmes of the Government of India would not be possible. The matter will be pursued with the Ministry of Finance.

VI. FILM SECTOR

71. The BE, RE and actual expenditure for the year 2014-15 and BE for the year 2015-16 for various schemes under the Film Sector are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Film Sector	2014-15	2015-16
Proposed	165.95	271.31
BE	111.15	208.55
RE	86.41	
Actual Expenditure (12.3.2015)	77.04	
% w.r.to. RE	89.16	

A. Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune

72. The Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune, is a premier institute under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for imparting training in the art and technique of film making and television programmes. The Institute implements Plan Scheme primarily for augmentation and modernisation of the training infrastructure and training method with a view to increasing the output of trained manpower, developing the available facilities with proper and modern infrastructure and making available the facilities wherever possible for film shooting, etc. with a view to generating revenue for the Institute. The Plan Scheme also endeavours to create a suitable environment for film and television learning with modern technology.

73. The proposed allocation, BE, RE, Actual expenditure for the years 2013-14 and 2014-15 and the BE for the year 2015-16 are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Proposed Allocation	BE	RE	Actual expenditure (upto 12.03.2015)
2014-15	35	25	19	19
2015-16	25	20	--	--

74. The Committee desired to know the main activities of FTII during 2014-15 and the extent to which successful implementation of these activities got affected due to reduction of BE funds at RE stage during 2014-15. To this, the Ministry informed that the main activity under the component relating to FTII in the Plan Scheme is upgradation of existing infrastructure, creation of additional infrastructure and procurement of equipment. An amount of Rs. 19 crore was released during 2014-15

under the Plan Scheme. Out of this, FTII released Rs. 11.5 crore to Civil Construction Wing, All India Radio (CCW) – the agency which is undertaking construction works and Rs.6.5 crore were utilized for procurement of machinery and equipments. As part of infrastructure development, FTII has taken up construction of Acting Studio Floor and Studio, New Classroom Theaters, Residential Accommodation for faculty and staff, New Main Theater and upgradation of existing infrastructure. As far as procurement of equipment are concerned, emphasis has been given on the digital production and strengthening of the related work flow.

75. On being asked about the courses being offered by FTII and status with regard to actual faculty and student strength vis-à-vis their sanctioned strength in various courses offered by FTII, the Ministry informed that the Film & Television Institute of India, Pune (FTII) offers the following courses:-

Sl. No,	Name Of The Course	Sanctioned Strength	On Roll
1	<u>Three Year Post Graduate Diploma Course In Film</u> Direction, Cinematography, Editing & Sound Recording & Designing	12 students per course per year as per provisions	241
2	Two Year Post Graduate Diploma Course In Acting And Art Direction & Production Design	12 students per course per year as per provisions	44
3	One Year Post Graduate Certificate Course In Television	12 students per course per year as per provisions	47
4	One Year Post Graduate Certificate Course In Feature Film Screen Play Writing	12 students per course per year as per provisions	10
	TOTAL:	252	342

The faculty strength of FTII is as under:-

Sanctioned Strength	Filled (Regular)	Filled (Contract)	Remarks
50	24	26	Faculties on contract basis empanelled against permanent vacancies. Several Vacancies have been advertised to be filled on permanent basis.

76. When asked about the problems/difficulties being encountered by FTII, the Ministry, in a written note, submitted that FTII faces certain difficulties in areas such as Academic, Human Resources and Technological upgradation. The courses and diplomas which are being offered by FTII are not recognised by any higher educational authority or by any statute. This causes difficulties in terms of seeking higher academic pursuits by them. Non-availability of recognition of the major courses offered by them equivalent to masters is a major concern. Although the faculty of the Institute possess the best possible qualification available in the country and experience, their scale of pay is below the academic pay scale being offered to faculty of other higher educational institutions. The Institute is therefore not in the position to attract the best talent available in the country as faculty.

77. Another challenge is the rapid change of technology in the film and television industry which necessitates the constant upgradation of not only the infrastructure/equipment but also the skills of the faculty as well as the curriculum. The Institute has been facing demand from the limited number of employees who were appointed between 1974 and 2004 (225 persons) for pensionary benefits. A favourable resolution would go a long way in improving the overall environment in campus.

78. To a query as to what measures have been taken to address the aforesaid problems, the Ministry stated that towards addressing the issue of recognition of courses being offered by the Institute, Government is in the process of introducing a Bill to declare both the Film & Television Institute of India, Pune, and the Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute, Kolkata, as institutions of national importance. Draft Cabinet Note, in this regard, has been submitted to the Cabinet for approval. Meanwhile, on a suggestion of PMO, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has recently requested the Ministry to consider including these institutes under the existing Central University Act. The proposal is under active consideration with the Ministry of HRD. As regards the scale of pay of faculty and the issue of pensionary benefit of some of the employees, the Ministry of I&B is taking up these issues with the Ministry of Finance. The Ministry implements Plan schemes to constantly upgrade the infrastructure/equipment of the Institute as well as the skill upgradation of faculty/ staff.

B. National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM)

79. As per the Outcome Budget (2015-16), the Ministry of I&B are implementing this new 12th Plan scheme, viz. the National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM) to restore, digitize and archive films and filmic material through the National Film Archive of India. Administrative approval for implementation of the Scheme was issued on 24th November, 2014. The Scheme proposes to preserve film heritage with the goal of 'preservation without errors, access without end'. The objective of the scheme is to undertake preservation and restoration of India's film heritage in a mission mode under the NFHM spread over 2014-15 to 2020-21. The scheme is envisaged at a total cost of Rs. 597.41 crore - Rs. 291 crore during the 12th Five Year Plan and Rs. 306.41 crore during the 13th Plan. The proposed activities in the Plan Scheme are as follows:-

- (a) Restoration of 1050 feature films and 960 short films
- (b) Digitisation of 1050 feature films and 1200 short films
- (c) Striking of inter negatives of 1050 feature films and 960 short films for archiving purposes
- (d) Construction of vaults of International Standards for preservation of such restored material and
- (e) Conduct of training programmes

80. The proposed allocation, BE, RE, Actual expenditure for the years 2013-14 and 2014-15 and the BE for the year 2015-16 are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)				
Year	Proposed Allocation	BE	RE	Actual Allocation
2013-14	721.38	20.00	0.01	0.00
2014-15	20.00	4.70	10.01	10.00 (upto 12.03.2015)
2015-16	135.86	137.00		

81. The Committee desired to know the reasons for huge variations in funds allocated to the scheme at proposal stage, BE stage and RE stage. To this, the Ministry, in a written note, stated that the proposed allocation of Rs.74.39 crore under the National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM) was projected during 2013-14 in accordance with year-wise phasing of expenditure as envisaged in the Plan Scheme at that time subject to approval of the Scheme. However, duly taking into consideration the overall Plan allocation for that year, an amount of Rs.20.00 crore was allocated. Since the Scheme was not approved, the allocation could not be utilized. During 2014-15, the proposed allocation projected was Rs.20.00 crore to cater to the requirement of initiating the Scheme as the Plan Scheme was still under consideration. However, an amount of Rs.4.70 crore was allocated as BE 2014-15. During this time, a separate proposal for including certain committed liabilities was also being considered. The Plan

Scheme was approved along with the additional committed liabilities and administrative approval was accorded in the month of November, 2014. Accordingly, additional funds were allocated under RE 2014-15 for the Scheme to meet the committed liabilities.

82. About the reasons for increased allocation of Rs. 137 crore for the year 2015-16, the Ministry informed that the allocation for 2015-16 also includes the funds meant for DAVP Scheme.

83. When asked about the physical targets set to be achieved during the year 2015-16 under the Scheme, the Ministry informed that administrative approval for implementation of the NFHM Scheme was issued on 24th November, 2014. The Scheme is executed through the National Film Archive of India (NFAI). NFAI has initiated preparatory work of the Scheme which includes setting up of a high level advisory committee, identification of consultants for deployment of project management team and development of RFP for engaging a service provider for undertaking the job of restoration, consideration and digitisation of archival material. Setting up of office for project management team and initial work regarding construction of vaults is proposed during 2015-16. The process regarding identification and appointment of manpower to various divisions of NFHM has been initiated and is likely to be achieved in the next six months. A High Power Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (I&B), including AS&FA of the Ministry, Chairperson of Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, Children's Film Society, India (CFSI), Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata (SRFTI), National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), eminent experts from the film industry, among others, is being set up which will monitor the progress of the implementation of the Scheme. In addition, a project management team would be engaged which will be responsible for progressing the Mission.

C. Production of Films and Documentaries in various Indian languages

84. As per the Outcome Budget (2015-16), the planned scheme of production of Films and Documentaries in various Indian languages (12th Plan Outlay of Rs. 170 crore) has three components: (i) Production of Films in various Indian Languages, (ii) Production of Children's Films, and (iii) Production of Documentary and Short Films. The BE, RE and Actual expenditure under the Scheme for the year 2014-15 and the BE for 2015-16 are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)				
Year	Proposed Allocation	BE	RE	Actual Allocation
2013-14	33.75	30.00	9.25	8.46
2014-15	33.75	30.00	7.82	5.25
2015-16	50.50	10.00		

85. When the Committee desired to know the reasons for reduction of BE funds of Rs. 33.00 crore to Rs. 7.82 crore at RE stage and underutilization of funds during the year 2014-15, the Ministry, in a written note, submitted that due to non-receipt of worthy proposals from the prospective children's film makers, Children's Film Society, India did not undertake any new proposal for production. In addition, the under production films of Children's Film Society, India (CFSI) could not be completed as per schedule since film production depends on certain factors like availability of child artists, suitable weather, etc. which consumed significant time. In respect of the Films Division, the guidelines for production of documentaries through Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) were also not finalised leading to lesser requirement of funds.

86. As regards the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), an executive decision was taken to review the financial arrangement between the Ministry of I&B and NFDC. The financial arrangement has not been finalised so far. The Memorandum of Understanding, an apparatus to execute the scheme 'Production of films in different Indian languages', was also not framed. These factors were responsible for non-release of funds to NFDC for accepting the new proposals and accordingly the funds allocated at BE stage were cut short significantly at RE stage. However, action is being taken in consultation with the Ministry of Finance to resolve the issues and put in place financial arrangements with NFDC.

87. On being asked about the details of the executive decision, the Ministry informed that a Presidential Directive was issued on 07.06.2013 directing the NFDC to facilitate an immediate and comprehensive internal audit of utilization of Government money and compliance with electronic media advertisement policy. At the same time, it was also decided to review all financial arrangements between the Ministry of I&B and NFDC to decide upon the future course of action. This has affected non-release of further funds to NFDC for implementing the plan schemes, including the scheme "production of films in various Indian languages" as financial arrangement with NFDC is still not finalized. The matter is, at present, under active consideration with the Ministry of Finance.

88. To a query as to why an allocation of Rs. 10.00 crore only has been made for the year 2015-16 and whether this amount will be sufficient to meet the requirement as mandated in the scheme, the Ministry stated that funds for this component have been allocated duly taking into consideration the overall allocation made for the Ministry for the year 2015-16. Due to funds constraints, the budget available were re-oriented and allocated to different plan schemes in accordance with justifiable priority. Production activities would be undertaken within the allocation. In case any pressing need/insufficient funds are observed in future, the amount may be arranged through re-appropriation, if savings are available in other schemes.

89. The Committee enquired about the number of documentaries produced in 2014-15 with support from the Ministry to which the Ministry informed that the Films Division produced 22 documentaries/short films during 2014-15. The details are as under:-

Sl No.	Organisation	Nature of film	No. of films produced
1	Films Division	Documentary/short films	22
2	Children's Film Society, India	Children's film	2
3	National Film Development Corporation *	Feature film in regional Indian languages	Nil

* As no funds were released during the year 2014-15 due to lack of MOU between NFDC and the Ministry, no films were produced by NFDC.

90. To a query on the difficulties being faced by the Ministry in effective implementation of the scheme and efforts made to popularize the scheme, the Ministry stated that participation by film makers are invited through advertisements. The films/documentaries/short films made are released in theatres and screened in various National & International Film Festivals to popularise them. National Film Awards encourage production of quality films. The children's films are exhibited amongst the children through special screening in schools all over the country. Towards encouraging young film makers as well as nurturing talent available in the country workshops and master classes on various aspects of film making are conducted in the film festivals. Availability of more funds under the components Production of documentaries, Production of films in various Indian languages and Production of children's films may accelerate the mandate of production of films under the scheme.

D. Central Board of Film Certification, Mumbai (CBFC)

91. The Board of Film Censors, re-named as the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) in June 1983, was set up by the Central Government under Section 3 of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 for the purpose of certifying films for public exhibition. The objective of CBFC is to ensure healthy entrainment and recreation to the public in accordance with the provisions of the Cinematograph Act. The Plan Schemes for CBFC include (i) Upgradation, Modernisation and Expansion of CBFC and Certification Process and (ii) Training for Human Resources Development (Plan).

92. The proposed allocation, BE, RE, Actual expenditure for the year 2014-15 and the BE for the year 2015-16 are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)				
Year	Proposed Allocation	BE	RE	Actual Allocation (upto 12.03.2015)
2014-15	3.00	2.00	0.70	0.54
2015-16	2.00	4.00	--	--

93. On being asked the reasons for the reduction of fund from Rs. 5 crore at BE to Rs. 0.50 crore at RE during 2014-15 and the major activities which got affected due to this reduced allocation, the Ministry stated that during 2014-15 against the proposed allocation of Rs. 3.00 crore the BE was fixed at Rs. 2.00 crore duly taking into consideration the overall budgetary allocation for the Ministry. The Plan Scheme envisages provision of digital projection at various regional offices of CBFC, creation of additional space and putting in place an online certification mechanism. There was some delay, especially with regard to online certification process, as a number of technical details were to be worked out and the requirements specific to film certification were to be understood in consultation with various stakeholders. Moreover, the RFP proposal initially prepared did not contain the requisite technical details, the functional requirement specifications or the relevant service level agreement for the corresponding services. To address this issue, the Ministry are now in the process of progressing the project with the help of the National Informatics Centre Services Inc. (NICSI) for which a proposal is under consideration in the Ministry of Finance. CBFC is also in the process of augmenting the space as well as provision of digital projection in their regional offices in a phased manner.

94. On the increase of allocation from Rs. 2 crore to Rs. 4 crore during 2015-16, the Ministry informed that although, initially an allocation of Rs.2.00 crore was projected, considering the need to immediately set up the online certification mechanism and augmenting the space, especially the Mumbai office, as well as provision of digital projection system at various regional offices in a phased manner, the allocation was revised to Rs.4.00 crore and it would be ensured that necessary measures are taken to implement the Scheme as well as utilize the funds by monitoring at the highest level periodically.

95. On being asked about the details of online certification of films, the Ministry stated that at present the online process is partial in nature limited to submission of application. Efforts are being made to set up transparent and fully functional online certification process which include submission of application online, payment of fee, uploading of script/trailers/promos. The proposed scheme envisages making online all the processes right from the submission of application to issue of certificate. This would be an end to end solution with high level of security for the benefit of the industry.

96. When asked about the problems being faced by the CBFC to effectively carry out the functions and responsibilities, the Ministry stated that following the resignation of the then Chairperson of CBFC and nine other members, a new Board was set up under the Chairmanship of Shri Pahlaj Nihalani. Ten more members were also appointed to the Board, who are from the film fraternity. In order to ensure that the CBFC effectively as well as transparently carries out its responsibilities, online certification process is being implemented. Interactions with the stakeholders are being held. The Cinematograph Act 1952 is also being proposed to be amended to meet the present day requirements of certification process.

(a) Amendment to the Cinematograph Act, 1952

97. When the Committee desired to know the status of amendment of the Cinematograph Act, 1952, the Ministry informed that an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice Mukul Mudgal, Retired Chief Justice, High Court of Punjab and Haryana, to examine the issues of certification under the Cinematograph Act, 1952 had been set up. The Committee submitted its report along with a draft Cinematograph Bill in September 2013. The Committee revisited all the issues of the Cinematograph Act and also addressed the areas of concern and made recommendations on the following issues:-

- (i) Composition of advisory panels
- (ii) Guidelines for certification, including portrayal of women in films, etc.
- (iii) Classification of certification of films
- (iv) Jurisdiction of Appellate Tribunal
- (v) Powers of State Governments *vis-a-vis* Central Government
- (vi) Treatment of piracy

98. Based on the recommendations of the Expert Committee as well as inputs received from the other stakeholders, the Ministry are in the process of preparing a Bill for amending the Cinematograph Act, 1952. A draft Bill duly incorporating the recommendations of the Expert Committee and the inputs given by various stakeholders, has been prepared and forwarded to the newly constituted Board of the CBFC for their comments before proceeding further.

PART-II
OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Budget Analysis

As per Demand No. 61 of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B), the budgetary allocation for 2015-16 is for a total amount of Rs. 3711.11 crore, which include Rs.914.53 crore for Plan and Rs.2796.58 crore for Non-Plan. The Committee note that there is an overall increase in the size of the Budget by Rs.395.11 crore for the year 2015-16 crore compared to the budgetary support for the year 2014-15 at BE stage. A look at the financial performance of the Ministry indicates that they have been able to achieve cent per cent utilization with respect to RE allocations in the year 2014-15, which is a healthy trend. Considering the fact that the expenditure registered a little above 50% at the BE stage, i.e. during the first two quarters of 2014-15, the Ministry need to have better planning for improving the benchmark of expenditure. Taking note of the fact that the outlay for the Plan schemes pertaining to Prasar Bharati constitutes a major chunk of the total Plan outlay of the Ministry, specific steps need to be taken to improve the planning and implementation of different schemes by Prasar Bharati. The Committee note that the Ministry have taken steps in this direction which include delegation of financial power up to Rs.300 crore to the Prasar Bharati Board, restoration of sanctioning power to DGs up to Rs.20 crore and rationalizing the procurement period in Prasar Bharati. The Committee feel that these measures would facilitate quick decision making in Prasar Bharati, paving the way for the smooth and speedy execution of approved projects. The Committee's attention has been drawn to the fact that despite the decent pace of utilization at the BE stage, substantial reduction of funds take place which is undoubtedly hampering the timely execution of

planned schemes. In the opinion of the Committee, this is an area which requires focused attention of the Ministry of Finance. The Committee suggest that the Ministry of I&B, in consultation with the Ministry of Finance, evolve a mechanism which should ensure that funds once allocated at the BE stage are not withdrawn, unless there is a major shortfall in utilization, so that the execution of planned schemes does not suffer mid-way due to want of funds. The Committee desire that their suggestion may be brought to the notice of the Ministry of Finance for appropriate action at the Ministry's end. Besides, the Committee want the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to make earnest efforts to bring improvement in their overall financial performance, which will enable them to achieve the laid down physical targets.

Prasar Bharati - Generation of IEBR

2. The Committee note that during the year 2014-15, the Government had allocated Rs. 436 crore under Plan funds and Rs. 2001.98 crore under Non-Plan funds for Prasar Bharati to meet salary and salary related expenses. Separately, Prasar Bharati allocates Rs. 200 crore annually from its IEBR for Content Development under Software Scheme as per the 12th Five Year Plan proposal. As against the projected revenue of Rs. 2195.00 crore, the revenue receipts of Prasar Bharati during the year 2014-15 stood at Rs. 1380 crore up to February, 2015 which was expected to rise to Rs.1800 crore. The Committee have been informed that in addition to adopting aggressive marketing strategies, Prasar Bharati has also undertaken measures for better publicity of programmes to augment IEBR generation. One of the areas of concern expressed by Prasar Bharati relates to diversion of IEBR resources towards meeting Non-Plan expenditure because the Ministry have not fulfilled the obligation to pay 100% salary of Government servants recruited with Prasar Bharati for the past three

years. The Committee find that an amount of Rs.429 crore is due to Prasar Bharati from the year 2012-13 to 2014-15. Diversion of resources of Prasar Bharati meant for Content Development has reportedly affected revenue generation by Prasar Bharati, especially Doordarshan. In view of the Cabinet decision taken in September, 2012 wherein it was decided that all operating expenses would be met by Prasar Bharati through IEBR, except salary and salary related expenses, the Committee recommend the Ministry to take steps for early release of payment of Rs.429 crore due to Prasar Bharati.

Monetization/Utilization of Land Resources

3. The Committee have been given to understand that Prasar Bharati has submitted certain proposals to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for monetization of available land resources for garnering revenue which could be effectively utilized by them for development purposes. However, these proposals are yet to be approved by the Ministry pending fulfillment of procedural formalities required under provisions of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990. Under Section 16 of the Prasar Bharati Act, all property and assets shall stand transferred to (Prasar Bharati) on such terms and conditions as may be determined by the Central Government and the book value of all such property and assets shall be treated as the capital provided by the Central Government to the Corporation, on the terms and conditions to be determined by the Central Government. The Committee have also been given to understand that the proposal for financial restructuring of Prasar Bharati was approved by the Cabinet in September, 2012. According to the Ministry, the Cabinet decision/approval has to be effected on issue of formal transfer order spelling out the terms and conditions after completion of inventorisation of all assets under them. The Committee find it very hard to believe that even after a lapse of 17

years, the Central Government has not yet formulated the terms and conditions of such transfer. Since Prasar Bharati needs funds, and monetization of land can provide the much needed revenue, the Committee suggest that while complete inventorisation is undertaken, simultaneous efforts may be made to unlock the value of a few select identified properties as a 'pilot case'.

Review of Prasar Bharati – Sam Pitroda Committee Recommendations

4. It is disquieting to note that there has not been much headway in the implementation of the recommendations of the Sam Pitroda Committee Report, which was presented to the Government in February, 2014. This Expert Committee was constituted to review the institutional framework of Prasar Bharati, including its relationship with the Government. There seems to be lack of coordination and cohesion between the Ministry of I&B and Prasar Bharati in so far as implementation of these recommendations are concerned, because Prasar Bharati claims to have taken several operational and policy initiatives separately, particularly in the absence of any clarity from the Government about the acceptance of the Sam Pitroda Committee's entire range of recommendations. The Committee take a serious view of this casual and lackadaisical approach of the Government on such an important matter. Considering that the overall action plan of Prasar Bharati is getting delayed, the Committee recommend that the Ministry should come out with a definite action plan for the implementation of the recommendations of the Expert Committee in a time-bound manner. The Committee should be apprised of the action taken in the matter within a period of three months.

Roadmap for Revival of Prasar Bharati

5. The Committee recognize that the idea of providing Free Dish and progressive Fmization can play vital role in shaping future roadmap for revival

of Prasar Bharati. As part of its Free Dish endeavour, Doordarshan has upgraded the technical infrastructure of DD Free Dish DTH Platform and is presently providing free to air 64 SDTV channels in MPEG-2DVB-S. The technical infrastructure of the remaining 48 SDTV channels has also been installed and tested. Once these channels are made Conditional Access System (CAS) enabled in free-to-view mode, subscribers can view these channels with a one-time annual registration. Doordarshan is planning to commission these 48 SDTV channels in Free Dish mode only after implementing the CAS Service, upgrading its platform to 112 channels. The Committee need hardly emphasize that popularization of Free Dish may indeed prove to be one of the major keys which can turn around Doordarshan in a big way, especially when it is competing with private TV channels who are providing hundreds of channels to its viewers. Therefore, the Ministry should make efforts to complete all the procedural formalities so as to facilitate the expeditious execution of the Free Dish Project. Further, to bring Prasar Bharati in the revival track, it needs to move swiftly with its FMization initiative. On the issue of FMization, the Ministry have informed that it is for the Prasar Bharati to take a call on FMization. It had conveyed to Prasar Bharati that the issue can be addressed at the time of revision in the 12th Plan which may be got approved by the Prasar Bharati Board and the final scheme proposal may be forwarded to the Ministry for approval by CCEA. The Committee recommend that Prasar Bharati should accordingly go ahead and formulate a comprehensive proposal on FMization at the earliest for seeking Cabinet approval.

Amendments to various Sections of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990

6. Another issue which has engaged the attention of the Committee relates to the functional autonomy of Prasar Bharati. The Committee have been given

to understand that the sections in the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 which empower the Central Government to regulate the recruitment conditions in Prasar Bharati are impinging upon the autonomous character of the organization. According to the Ministry, the Group of Ministers (GoM) on Prasar Bharati had reviewed the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 and recommended certain amendments to the Act to improve the governance in Prasar Bharati. The Committee have, however, been informed that these contentious Sections were not covered in the GoM recommendations. The Ministry are in the process of assessing and analysing the proposals made in the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Amendment Bill. The Committee recommend that the Ministry may suitably amend the provisions of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 so that the functional autonomy of Prasar Bharati envisaged in the Act is not diluted and the much desired autonomy for the national broadcaster is secured.

Kisan Channel under Doordarshan and AIR

7. The Committee note that the Scheme of Kisan Channel had been approved during the year 2014-15, with an initial allocation of Rs. 100 crore, i.e. Rs. 90 crore for Doordarshan and Rs. 10 crore for All India Radio. However, the BE allocation was reduced to Rs. 26 crore at RE stage which was, of course, utilized fully during the year 2014-15. The Ministry have informed that the BE allocation for the Scheme was reduced to Rs. 26 crore at RE stage owing to factors such as gestation period involved in carrying out research for writing script authenticated by Agricultural Scientists and experts preparing rich content. With regard to the targets, the Committee note that earmarking of a dedicated studio has been made; 51 professionals have joined the channel against 67 posts advertised; and efforts have been made to impart training and orientation of manpower working in Kisan Channel from the Indian Agricultural

Research Institute (IARI). Integrated automated play out system for the channel has been installed and apart from procurement of equipment, the DTH facility has been upgraded. During the year 2015-16, the Ministry propose to spend Rs. 10 crore on infrastructure development and Rs. 35 crore on generating rich content. The Committee would like to stress the significance of a channel like the Kisan channel in an agrarian country like India where issues, like dissemination of real time information to farmers on farming techniques, water conservation, organic farming, etc. hold crucial importance to the farmers. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to complete all the remaining infrastructural and studio up-gradation work for the scheme during the current fiscal itself and also spend Rs. 35 crore earmarked for content judiciously. The Committee urge the Ministry/ Prasar Bharati to focus on areas of advancement of the channel by generation of rich content and ensure active participation of experts in the field of agriculture and agronomy so that the dedicated Kisan Channel proves to be an advancement over the Krishi Darshan Programmes and that the farmers benefit out of it.

Scheme of DD International

8. The Committee find that for the Scheme of Global coverage for DD International, though a token amount of Rs. 50 lakh had been proposed during 2015-16, no fund has been allocated at the BE stage. On this issue, Prasar Bharati has stated that while countries like Japan, Germany, China, Russia, France, etc. invest heavily in their international channels, Doordarshan currently has a very low budget for production of programmes under the DD International Scheme. Further, the Committee have been informed that Prasar Bharati does not have any overseas TV presence though a few private TV channels have made some inroads into the international arena. These channels do not present

the true picture of India to Indians and foreign viewers abroad. Regarding the initiatives taken for global coverage of DD, the Committee are given to understand that DD had signed an agreement with M/s Pan SAT for achieving global foot print but its viewership remained insignificant due to non-availability of the channel on the local distribution platform. Subsequently, even that contract got terminated. The Committee are further given to understand that even though Doordarshan made efforts to distribute the international channel, it could not make much progress due to policies not favourable for large scale spending on carriage fees. The efforts of Doordarshan through regular correspondence with the Ministry of External Affairs have also not been very successful, except with the Central Asia Division. The Committee note that after detailed discussion and deliberations, an MoU has been signed with Duestsche Welle on 5th August, 2014 for providing DD India Free-to-Air basic package through DTH Ku band platform which is available to viewers across Europe, Central Asia, the Arab world of West Asia and North America, connecting around 120 million households abroad. Prasar Bharati needs further help and support from the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs as it has very limited financial resources to promote DD International. While appreciating the above initiative of the Ministry/Prasar Bharati, the Committee feel that they should both work more aggressively on tie-ups and ownership rights for the advancement of DD India programmes so that the channel gets international attention and acclaim, as the official voice of India. The Committee are of the considered view that adequate funds need to be allocated to the plan scheme of DD International and efforts be made to get financial and resource support from MEA, MOIA and other Ministries concerned.

Expansion of FM Radio

9. The Committee find that the Government have approved the e-Auction of the 1st batch of 135 FM channels in 69 existing cities on 16th January, 2015. C1 India has been selected as the e-Auctioneer through global tender and Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) have been issued on 2nd March, 2015. The Committee have been apprised that applications are being examined and a Committee has been constituted with Secretaries of the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Department of Telecommunications and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for indicating and approving the list of successful bidders. The auction is expected to be completed by the end of April or May 2015. The Ministry, during evidence, has stated that the procedure of auction for the existing vacant 69 channels will be very transparent and that the next phase of auctioning will follow after the completion of the first phase. The Committee feel that commissioning of additional FM radios will bring added revenue to the Government exchequer and improve the programme content by providing a wider choice to the listeners through carriage of non-news items such as sports, cultural events, traffic and weather information, public announcements, etc. While welcoming the initiative of the Government, the Committee recommend to the Ministry to take all necessary steps to ensure that the auctioning takes place in a fair and transparent manner, and as per schedule.

Scheme of Strengthening Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC)

10. The Committee note that the Plan Scheme of Strengthening Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC) has been sanctioned with a total allocation of Rs. 90 crore in the 12th Plan, with the objective of protecting citizens from broadcast of undesirable content. Under this plan Scheme, it is proposed to

enhance the monitoring facility for content from the existing 300 TV channels to 1500 TV channels in a phased manner. During the year 2014-15, out of the RE allocation of Rs. 25 crore, an amount of Rs. 18.85 crore has been expended by the Ministry. The Committee are given to understand that at present there are 836 permitted TV channels which are under the surveillance of the Monitoring Centre. During the period from 1.1.2014 to 30.03.2015, a total number of 36 TV channels were found to be violating the content guidelines and the Ministry have issued advisory/warnings to them. The Committee note that apart from enhancing the monitoring capacity of 600 channels to 900 channels, the Ministry propose to bring 60 Community Radios (from existing 30) and all 170 CRSs under the ambit of EMMC by July, 2015 and March, 2016, respectively. Keeping in view the aforesaid targets and the fact that FM radio monitoring is also envisaged to be brought under the fold of EMMC, the Committee recommend the Ministry to complete the technical and monitoring upgradation for the Centre without any delay and ensure deployment of adequate manpower needed for the purpose.

Scheme for Supporting Community Radio Movement (CRS) in India

11. The Committee note that the Ministry have been implementing the Plan Scheme of Supporting Community Radio Movement in India which aims at providing financial assistance to new and existing Community Radios for acquisition of equipment, training, etc. Keeping in view the huge potential for establishing a large number of CRs in India, the Committee, in their 4th Report on Demands for Grants (2014-15), had recommended the Ministry to take necessary steps to encourage the movement by simplifying the existing procedure and launching of awareness campaigns. The Committee are, however, concerned to note that the Budget Estimate of Rs. 13 crore for the

scheme was reduced to Rs. 2.65 crore at the RE stage and full funds could not be utilized due to non-finalization of mode and content module of activities. The Committee further note that in total 209 applications for setting up of CRS are pending with various Ministries. Even though the number of applications pending in the Ministries concerned has come down substantially, 50 applications are still pending which have crossed the stipulated timeline beyond 3 months. The Committee are of the view that the matter of pendency of clearances should be taken up with the Ministries/agencies concerned for their early clearance. On the issue of engagement of a consulting agency for study of the effectiveness of CRS, the Committee have been informed that out of 16 proposals submitted by different agencies, one agency has been shortlisted and selected, which will assess the effectiveness of CRS. The study is likely to throw light on the training needs and capacity building of personnel. The Committee feel that the study will help in finalizing the content module which is partly coming in the way of the successful implementation of the scheme. Further, the Ministry need to identify areas which warrant specific attention so that funds crucial for the Scheme do not remain idle and unutilized. The Committee, therefore, recommend to the Ministry to expedite the study and apprise them of the progress made in this regard.

Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP)

12. The Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) is the nodal organization for advertising and disseminating information on policies, programmes and achievements of Government of India. The Committee note with satisfaction that out of an allocation of Rs. 160.20 crore, the Ministry have been able to spend Rs. 147.01 crore (91.76%). There has been a cent percent achievement of physical targets under Scheme of DAVP during 2014-15. The

Committee are given to understand that due to total exhaustion of funds allocated for the entire 12th Plan period, left over amount of Rs. 23 crore only from original approved fund of Rs. 470 crore has been allocated for the schemes of DAVP during 2015-16. The Committee have been informed that a Revised Cost Estimate (RCE) proposal for additional requirement of funds to the tune of Rs. 350 crore has already been mooted and is in process. The Ministry have expressed apprehension that if adequate funds are not made available under the scheme, the multimedia campaign of flagship programmes of the Government of India such as Make in India, Digital India, Skill India, Jan Dhan Yojana, etc. will get adversely affected. The Committee fully agree with this and are of the view that sustained campaign for people's participation in the flagship programmes of the Government of India should not suffer due to want of funds. As such, the Committee recommend that the Ministry should pursue with the Ministry of Finance for adequate allocation under the scheme.

Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune

13. The Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune, is a premier Institute under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for imparting training in the art and technique of film making and television programming. The Committee note that under the Plan scheme of upgradation of infrastructure and procurement of equipment, Rs. 19 crore had been allocated to FTII during the year 2014-15 out of which FTII has released Rs. 11.5 crore to the civil construction wing of All India Radio which is undertaking the construction work for them. An amount of Rs. 6.5 crore were utilized for procurement of machinery and equipment. The Committee also note that FTII offers various courses, viz. three-year Post Graduate Diploma in Film, two-year Post Graduate Diploma in Acting, Art Direction and Production Design, one-year

Certificate Course in Television, one-year Post Graduate Certification Course in Feature Film, Screen Play writing, etc. Presently, as against the sanctioned strength of 252 students for the above courses, 342 students are on the roll of FTII. So far as the faculty strength is concerned, the Institute has a sanctioned strength of 50 of which 24 are regular and 26 are being filled (through contract basis empanelled against vacancies). During the examination of the Demands for Grants (2014-15), the Ministry had informed that the Institute is facing many difficulties such as non-recognition of major courses by higher educational institutes, low pay scale for faculty, etc., and to address these issues, the Ministry are in the process of introducing a Bill to declare both the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) and the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI), Kolkata, as Institutes of national importance and draft Cabinet Note in this regard has been submitted for approval. The Committee are, however, concerned to note that not much progress has been made on in this matter. In the mean time, on the suggestion of PMO, the Ministry of Human Resource Development have requested the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to consider including these Institutes under the existing Central University Act. The Committee are also of the view that the problem of non-recognition of the Institutes will be addressed to a great extent by attracting the best of students and faculties if these Institutes are included under the Central University Act. Therefore, the Ministry should consider the above proposal seriously and pursue its feasibility with the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The Committee may be apprised of the progress on both the proposals, i.e. introduction of the draft Bill and the proposal of MHRD on the inclusion of the Institutes in the Central University Act.

National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM)

14. The Ministry of I&B have been implementing the Plan Scheme of National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM). The Scheme aims at undertaking preservation and restoration of Indian film heritage in a mission mode, spreading over 2014-15 to 2020-21. The total allocation for the scheme is Rs. 597.41 crore (Rs. 291 crore for the 12th Plan and Rs 306.41 crore for the 13th Plan). The activities of the Scheme include, *inter-alia*, restoration of 1050 feature films and 960 short films, dissemination of 1050 feature films and 1200 short films, construction of vaults of international standards for preservation of restored material, etc. The RE allocation of Rs. 10.01 crore has been fully utilized and an allocation of Rs. 137 crore has been made for 2015-16 which includes the allocation meant for the DAVP scheme. As part of the preparatory exercise, the National Film Archives of India (NFAI), the organization responsible for the execution of the Scheme, has initiated the process of identification and appointment of manpower which is likely to be achieved within six months. The Committee have been informed that a high power Committee has been constituted with eminent experts of the film industry to monitor the various stages of implementation. Additionally, the Ministry propose to engage a project management team to review the progress of the Mission. The Committee may be apprised of the progress of the Scheme along with deliverables/ targets achieved for the year 2015-16.

Scheme for Production of Films and Documentaries

15. The Committee note that under the Plan Scheme of Production of Films and Documentaries in various Indian languages, the BE allocation for the year 2014-15 was reduced to Rs. 7.82 crore at RE stage and even the entire RE allocation could not be utilized. Non-receipt of worthy proposals from

children's film makers, non-furnishing of new proposals by the Children's Film Society, non-finalization of guidelines regarding production of documentaries through NGOs, etc. have been cited as the main reasons by the Ministry for underutilization of funds. The Committee note with concern that apart from the above reasons, an Executive Directive issued on 7.6.2013 for reviewing the financial arrangement between the Ministry of I&B and the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) severely affected the utilization of funds under the Scheme. The Committee learn that as the financial arrangement between the Government and NFDC could not been finalized, funds could not be released to NFDC during 2014-15. A look at the total number of documentaries/ short films created during the year 2014-15 reveals that though the Films Division created 22 documentaries/short films, the Children's Film Society produced only 2 children's films and not a single feature film in regional languages could be produced with support of NFDC. The Committee feel that in a country like India, with a rich tradition of films in regional languages, there is an urgent need to promote more feature films in regional languages by way of providing more funds/ resources and nurturing and pooling the available talent. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to expedite finalization of financial arrangement with the NFDC by taking up the matter with the Ministry of Finance. Efforts need to be intensified for production of more feature films in regional languages. The Committee may be apprised of the progress on the matter.

Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)

16. The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has been set up under Section 3 of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 for certifying films. The Plan Scheme of "Upgradation, Modernization and Expansion of CBFC and Certification

Process” envisages provision of digital projection at regional offices of CBFC, creation of additional space and putting in place online certification mechanism. The Committee are concerned to note that the online certification process in CBFC got delayed due to shortcomings in the RFP proposal which did not contain the technical details and functional requirement. The existing online process is partial in nature, limited to submission of application. It is understood that complete online process would provide an end-to-end solution with high level of security. The enhanced allocation of Rs. 4 crore is proposed to be utilized for progressing with online project being implemented with the help of the National Informatics Centre. The Committee, while trusting that online certification will bring in more transparency and efficiency in the certification process, recommend the Government to complete the online certification process in a time bound manner. The Committee are also given to understand that based on the recommendations of Justice Mukul Mudgal Committee constituted to examine issues of certificate under the Cinematograph Act, 1952, the Ministry have prepared a draft Bill for amending the Cinematograph Act, 1952; the draft Bill has been forwarded to the Board of CBFC for their comments. The Committee, while hoping that all the concerns of the Mudgal Committee, viz. composition of advertisement panel, classification of certification of films, jurisdiction of Appellate Tribunal, etc. have suitably been addressed in the Bill, recommend the Government to expedite all the processes and formalities involved in the introduction of the Bill in Parliament.

New Delhi
22 April, 2015
2 Vaisakha, 1937 (Saka)

ANURAG SINGH THAKUR
Chairperson
Standing Committee on
Information Technology

Annexure-I**List of 135 channels to be auctioned in 1st Batch in FM Phase-III in 69 cities**

S. No.	Name of City	State	No. of Channels for Auction
	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
	Category "A+"		
1	Chennai	Tamil Nadu	1
2	Delhi	Delhi	1
3	Mumbai	Maharashtra	2
			4
	Category "A"		
4	Ahmedabad	Gujarat	1
5	Bangalore	Karnataka	1
6	Hyderabad	Telangana	4
7	Jaipur	Rajasthan	1
8	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh	3
9	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	3
10	Nagpur	Maharashtra	2
11	Pune	Maharashtra	2
12	Surat	Gujarat	2
			19
	Category "B"		
13	Amritsar	Punjab	1
14	Agra	Uttar Pradesh	2
15	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	2
16	Asansol	West Bengal	2
17	Cochin	Kerala	1
18	Jamshedpur	Jharkhand	1
19	Madurai	Tamil Nadu	1
20	Patna	Bihar	3
21	Rajkot	Gujarat	1

22	Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh	1
23	Vijayawada	Andhra Pradesh	2
			17
	Category "C"		
24	Ahmednagar	Maharashtra	2
25	Ajmer	Rajasthan	2
26	Akola	Maharashtra	3
27	Aligarh	Uttar Pradesh	3
28	Aurangabad	Maharashtra	2
29	Bareilly	Uttar Pradesh	2
30	Bhubaneswar	Orissa	1
31	Bikaner	Rajasthan	3
32	Bilaspur	Chhatisgarh	3
33	Chandigarh	Chandigarh/UT	2
34	Dhule	Maharashtra	3
35	Gorakhpur	Uttar Pradesh	3
36	Gulbarga	Karnataka	3
37	Guwahati	Assam	1
38	Jalgaon	Maharashtra	2
39	Jammu	J&K	3
40	Jhansi	Uttar Pradesh	3
41	Jodhpur	Rajasthan	1
42	Kolhapur	Maharashtra	2
43	Kota	Rajasthan	1
44	Kozhikode	Kerala	2
45	Mangalore	Karnataka	1
46	Muzzaffarpur	Bihar	3
47	Mysore	Karnataka	2
48	Nanded	Maharashtra	3
49	Nasik	Maharashtra	2
50	Patiala	Punjab	1
51	Pondicherry	Pondicherry	1
52	Rajahmundry	Andhra Pradesh	3

53	Rourkela	Orissa	2
54	Sangli	Maharashtra	2
55	Sholapur	Maharashtra	2
56	Siliguri	West Bengal	1
57	Srinagar	J&K	3
58	Tiruchy	Tamil Nadu	2
59	Tirunelveli	Tamil Nadu	2
60	Tirupati	Andhra Pradesh	2
61	Tuticorin	Tamil Nadu	2
62	Udaipur	Rajasthan	1
63	Warangal	Telangana	3
			85
	Category "D"		
64	Agartala	Tripura	2
65	Aizwal	Mizoram	2
66	Hissar	Haryana	1
67	Itanagar	Arunchal Pradesh	2
68	Karnal	Haryana	1
69	Shillong	Meghalaya	2
			10
GRAND TOTAL			135

**MINUTES OF THE SEVENTEENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (2014-15) HELD ON 8TH APRIL, 2015**

The Committee sat on Wednesday, the 8th April, 2015 from 1400 hours to 1545 hours in Committee Room 'D', Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Anurag Singh Thakur - Chairperson

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Dr. Sunil Baliram Gaikwad
3. Shri Virender Kashyap
4. Shri Harinder Singh Khalsa
5. Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya
6. Dr. (Smt.) Bhartiben Dhirubhai Shiyal
7. Shri Abhishek Singh
8. Shri D.K. Suresh

Rajya Sabha

9. Smt. Jaya Bachchan
10. Shri Meghraj Jain

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. | Shri K. Vijayakrishnan | - | Additional Secretary |
| 2. | Shri J.M. Baisakh | - | Director |
| 3. | Dr. Sagarika Dash | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 4. | Shri Shangreiso Zimik | - | Under Secretary |

Representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

	Name	Designation
1.	Shri Bimal Julka	Secretary (I&B)
2.	Shri Jawhar Sircar	CEO, Prasar Bharati
3.	Shri Jitendra Shankar Mathur	Additional Secretary
4.	Shri Vinod Kumar Thakral	AS&FA
5.	Shri K. Sanjay Murthy	Joint Secretary (Films)
6.	Shri Mihir Kumar Singh	Joint Secretary (P&A)
7.	Ms. R. Jaya	Joint Secretary (B-I)
8.	Shri Puneet Kansal	Joint Secretary (B-II)
9.	Shri K.M. Gupta	Economic Advisor
10.	Dr. Munish Kumar	Economic Advisor
11.	Shri Vijay Kumar Choubey	C.C.A.
12.	Dr. (Mrs.) Promodita Sathish	Addl. Eco. Advisor
13.	Mrs. Rolley Mahendra Varma	Director {IP &F(S)}

2. After the welcome address by the Chairperson, the representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting were called in and the Committee took their evidence on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry for the year 2015-16.

3. The representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting made a power-point presentation highlighting the expenditure made so far against the 12th Plan Outlay, major achievements in different sectors, new initiatives launched in Information, Film and Broadcasting sectors, etc.

4. Thereafter, CEO, Prasar Bharati made a Powerpoint presentation indicating the share of expenditure under different heads, impact of paying salary from IEBR, refund of funds from Government, resource crunch under Capital Plan, roadmap for revival, i.e., FMisation and enhancement of channels with free Dish, etc.

5. Members, then, sought clarification on various points which were responded to by the representatives of the Ministry. With regard to the points to which information was not readily available, the Chairperson asked the Ministry to submit written replies.

6. The Chairperson, then, thanked the representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for deposing before the Committee.

The witnesses then withdrew.

Verbatim Proceedings of the sitting have been kept on record.

The Committee, then, adjourned.

**MINUTES OF THE NINETEENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (2014-15) HELD ON 22nd APRIL, 2015**

The Committee sat on Wednesday, the 22nd April, 2015, from 1030 hours to 1100 hours in Committee Room 'B', Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Anurag Singh Thakur- Chairperson

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

11. Shri L. K. Advani
12. Dr. Sunil Baliram Gaikwad
13. Dr. K.C. Patel
14. Dr. J. Jayavardhan
15. Shri Virender Kashyap
16. Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya
17. Dr. (Smt.) Bhartiben Dhirubhai Shiyal
18. Shri Abhishek Singh
19. Shri D. K. Suresh
20. Smt. R. Vanaroja

Rajya Sabha

21. Shri Salim Ansari
22. Shri Santiuse Kujur
23. Shri Meghraj Jain

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------|---|----------------------|
| 5. | Shri K. Vijayakrishnan | - | Additional Secretary |
| 6. | Shri J.M. Baisakh | - | Director |
| 7. | Dr. Sagarika Dash | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 8. | Shri Shangreiso Zimik | - | Under Secretary |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee convened to consider and adopt two Draft Reports on 'Demands for Grants (2015-16)' relating to thexxxxx..... and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

3. The Committee, thereafter, took up for consideration and adoption the two Draft Reports on 'Demands for Grants (2015-16)' relating to thexxxxx.....and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and adopted the same without any modification.

4. The Committee, then, authorized the Chairperson to finalize the draft Reports, incorporating therein changes arising out of factual verification, if any, by the Ministry/ Department and present the Reports to the House during the current session of Parliament.

The Committee, then, adjourned
