

14

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(2020-21)**

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

**[Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the
Committee contained in their Second Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on
„Demands for Grants (2019-20)]**

FOURTEENTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

February, 2021/Magha, 1942 (Saka)

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„Demands for Grants (2019-20)]**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 08.02.2021

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 08.02.2021



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

February, 2021/Magha, 1942 (Saka)

CONTENTS		
		Page No.
COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE		(ii)
INTRODUCTION		(iii)
CHAPTER I	Report.....	1
CHAPTER II	Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government.....	19
CHAPTER III	Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of replies of the Government.....	32
CHAPTER IV	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and require reiteration	33
CHAPTER V	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies are of interim in nature.....	39
ANNEXURES		
I.	Minutes of the Third sitting of the Committee held on 16 October, 2020.	40
II.	Analysis of Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in their Second Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha)	42

COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (2020-21)

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3. Shri Karti P. Chidambaram
4. Shri Sunny Deol
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- #21. Smt. Sumalatha Ambareesh

Rajya Sabha

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23. Dr. Subhash Chandra
24. Shri Y. S. Chowdary
25. Shri Shaktisinh Gohil
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29. Shri Syed Zafar Islam
30. Dr. Narendra Jadhav
31. Shri Nabam Rebia

Secretariat

1. Shri Y.M. Kandpal - Joint Secretary
2. Smt. Geeta Parmar - Additional Director
3. Smt. Rinky Singh - Assistant Executive Officer

*Nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 15.10.2020 vide Bulletin Part-II dated 15.10.2020

#Nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 28.12.2020 vide Bulletin Part-II dated 28.12.2020

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Information Technology (2020-21), having been authorised by the Committee, present this Fourteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Second Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on „Demands for Grants (2019-20)“ of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

2. The Second Report was presented to Lok Sabha and also laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 10th December, 2019. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting furnished their Action Taken Notes on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Second Report on 9th March, 2020.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 16 October, 2020.

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

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

New Delhi;
04 February, 2021
15 Magha, 1942 (Saka)

DR. SHASHI THAROOR,
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Information Technology.

CHAPTER I

REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on Information Technology deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Second Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on „Demands for Grants (2019-20)“ relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

2. The Second Report was presented to Lok Sabha/laid in Rajya Sabha on 10 December, 2019. It contained 20 Observations/Recommendations. Replies of the Government in respect of all the Observations/Recommendations have been received from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and are categorized as under:-

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| (i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government
Rec. Sl. Nos.:- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 15, 17, 18, 19 and 20 | Total -14
Chapter-II |
| (ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government
Rec. Sl. No.: NIL | Total - NIL
Chapter-III |
| (iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and require reiteration
Rec. Sl. Nos.:- 8, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 16 | Total - 06
Chapter-IV |
| (iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are of interim in nature
Rec. Sl. No.:- NIL | Total – NIL
Chapter-V |

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

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

Prasar Bharati/DD Kisan Channel

(Recommendation Sl. Nos. 4 and 5)

5. The Committee in their Report on DFG(2019-20) of the Ministry of I & B had expressed their displeasure to note that during 2017-18 and 2018-19, against BE of Rs.63 crore and 45.16 crore, resp. allocated to DD Kisan Channel contents and RE of Rs.46.58 crore and Rs.34.51 crore, resp. only 74% and 56% of the funds, resp. were utilised. Though, a decision was taken for in-house production of the programmes, DD Kisan did not have adequate manpower to do so and as a result, many of the travelogue based programs could not be produced and the reality show was deferred. Besides, there were logistic issues in finalizing the reality show “Mahilakisan Awards”, shortage of staff in programmes wing of many Kendras, insufficient prescribed fee structure for Artists, Producers, Casuals, Resource Persons, etc. to engage talent for production of programmes for DD Kisan. Considering that planning & coordination in the Ministry was not optimal and required improvement, the Committee had hoped that Prasar Bharati would learn from their past experience and take adequate corrective measures to optimally utilise the funds of Rs. 29.72 crore allocated during 2019-20 for DD Kisan and recommended that in-house production of programmes at DD Kisan should be commensurate with the available manpower.

6. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in their Action Taken Reply has submitted as under:-

“(i) DD Kisan sources content through the scheme of Self-Financed Commissioning (SFC) apart from developing content in-house. The bulk of the sanctioned budget is utilized for the SFC programmes. A review of the low budget utilization revealed shortcomings in the scheme, which led to litigations on account of which payments had been held up, as matters were sub-judice.

(ii) In the interim, Prasar Bharati upon review, amended the scheme/guidelines recently (158th meeting of the Prasar Bharati Board in November 2019) to overcome the shortcomings, based on learnings. The amended scheme has since been implemented.

(iii) As regards in-house production, more than 200 episodes of the Travelogue based programs in collaboration with all Kendras of Doordarshan were produced in 2018-19 and 2019-20. Reality Show “Mahila Kisan Awards” was recorded and telecast in the FY 2018-19. As it was the first reality based program of DD Kisan with women farmers representing all States and UT’s of India, the planning and production required lot of detailing. The production operations were spread over nine months. Fifty five programs of one hour each were produced and telecast.

iv) Expenditure of Rs.13 Crore have already been made, it is expected that Rs. 20 Crores allocated for DD Kisan will be spent by the end of the current financial year.”

7. The Committee have been informed that DD Kisan sources content through Self-Financed Commissioning (SFC) scheme apart from developing content in-house and the bulk of the sanctioned budget is utilized for the SFC programmes. A review of the low budget utilization revealed shortcomings in the SFC scheme, which led to litigations on account of which payments were held up, as matters were sub-judice. The Committee note with satisfaction that Prasar Bharati, in the interim, upon review has amended the scheme/guidelines which has since been implemented. The Committee would like to be informed of the important features incorporated in amended scheme/guidelines in comparison to the old SFC scheme.

8. As regards in-house production, the Committee note more than 200 episodes of the Travelogue based programs in collaboration with all Kendras of Doordarshan have been produced during the years 2018-19 and 2019-20. Further,

out of Rs. 29.72 crore allocated during 2019-20, DD-Kissan could utilise 13 crore and the likely expenditure up to 31 March is Rs. 20 crore. The Committee do not find it a very happy situation, if compared with the budgetary allocations for DD Kisan at RE, 2017-18 and 2018-19 which were on the higher side at Rs.46.58 crore and Rs.34.51 crore, respectively. The Committee hope that the problems confronted by DD-Kissan during 2018-19 that led to under-utilisation of funds like problem of shortage of staff in programmes wing in many Kendras to produce any programmes for DD Kisan, insufficient prescribed fee structure for Artists, Producers, Casuals, Resource Persons, etc. would have been resolved and funds allocated in the succeeding years would be optimally utilised. Further, with regard to 200 episodes of the travelogue based programs produced during the years 2018-19 and 2019-20, the Committee would like to be apprised about the status of the Programmes that were actually telecast.

Capital Assets (incl. Kisan Channel)

(Recommendation Sl. No. 6)

9. The Committee had noted that during 2017-18 and 2018-19, budget provision of Rs. 213 crore and Rs.141.50 crore, respectively made for DD Capital Assets (incl. Kisan Channel) was reduced to Rs.118.34 crore and Rs.112.17 crore, respectively at RE stage and the utilization was only Rs. 52.02 crore (44 percent) and Rs.80.08 crore (71 percent), respectively. The Committee were not convinced with oft-repeated reasons for the shortfall viz. GST related issues while processing of sanctions; delays in obtaining WPC clearance in some projects; delays in some Earth station projects on account of tender opening date's extension due to non-receipt of sufficient bids/bidders quarries; delays in supply of equipment by firms for certain projects; etc. While taking a serious note of the manner in which the budgetary allocations were being reduced each year for creation of DD Capital Assets (incl. Kisan Channel) at RE stage and the actual expenditure was even lesser, the Committee had desired the Ministry to give serious consideration to the implementation of their infrastructural projects which were

instrumental in ensuring the performance of the Public electronic media and fulfilling its obligations to the nation, by taking timely corrective measures for anticipated delays.

10. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in their Action Taken Reply has submitted as under:-

“As regards to Capital Assets, as has been stated above, regular monitoring mechanism at the highest level of management has been put in place by Prasar Bharati. Procurement procedures have been streamlined. Project review meetings are being held regularly at Zonal level, HQ level and Prasar Bharati Secretariat level. Various activities involved in procurement of capital equipment and execution of works are being critically assessed against targets and milestones that have been fixed by the management.

Regular interaction is being done with WPC authorities for obtaining their clearance in time. Advance tendering action has also been taken for next year’s projects.”

11. **The Committee had noted that Prasar Bharati could utilise only 44% and 71% of the funds allocated for DD Capital Assets at RE, 2017-18 and 2018-19. From Action Taken Reply, the Committee note that Prasar Bharati has taken various corrective measures to avoid procedural delays in implementation of infrastructural projects as recommended like regular monitoring mechanism at the highest level of management has been put in place, procurement procedures have been streamlines, project review meetings are being held regularly at Zonal, HQ and Prasar Bharati Secretariat levels, various activities involved in procurement of capital equipment and execution of works are being critically assessed against targets and milestones that have been fixed by the management, regular interaction is being done with WPC authorities for obtaining their clearance in time and advance tendering action has also been taken for next year’s projects. The Committee suggested that steps should be taken to monetize existing archival material and footage by placing them in revenue generating mode on YouTube and other similar facilities.**

In view of the foregoing, the Committee draw some satisfaction that Prasar Bharati have analysed their shortcomings and taken remedial steps accordingly. The Committee hope that these measures would improve the pace of implementation of projects of national importance. They would further like to know that how these steps have impacted the physical and financial performance of Prasar Bharati in respect of DD Capital Assets during 2019-20. The Committee also recommend that steps should be taken to monetize existing archival material and footage by placing them in revenue generating mode on YouTube and similar facilities.

All India Radio (AIR)

(Recommendation SI. No.8)

12. In their Report, the Committee had noted that during 2019-20, BE of Rs.187.40 crore was kept for creation of Capital Assets in AIR. It was informed that the extension of Scheme „Broadcasting Infrastructure & Network Development“ for 3 years (2017-20) was approved in the middle of FY 2018-19 resulting in under-utilization of funds during the year and hence allocation during the year 2019-20 also included provision for the projects not completed in the previous year. These projects included Mast strengthening works of high power MW Transmitters, SITC of Servers and Radio Studio Automation, Procurement of digital audio consoles, Procurement of 5 TV Transmitters, Erection of 100 M Self Supporting Towers, Construction of buildings or FM transmitter along Indo-Nepal Border (5 Nos.), VPN Connectivity at 47 Stations, Renovation of Auditorium at BH, Delhi and Creation of Archival facility at Guwahati. The Committee, however had hoped that Ministry of I & B/Prasar Bharati would make concerted efforts to complete the projects within fixed timelines to improve AIR services.

13. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in their Action Taken Reply has submitted as under:-

"The progress of various projects is submitted hereunder:

“ i. Mast strengthening works at 39 places were to be carried out from the allocated funds of 2019-20. Work has been completed at 20 places and is in progress at 16 other places.

- ii. Servers for studio automation have been ordered. Delivery period for these equipment is 18 months.
- iii. Tender processing for the erection of 100M Towers is in advanced stage for different places.
- iv. Building work for the INDO-NEPAL border projects has been completed.
- v. Auditorium work at Broadcasting House, Delhi has been completed. Funds will be booked before March 2020.”

14. The Committee are not satisfied with the manner in which the Ministry have furnished the Action Taken Replies to their recommendation. The Committee note that the status of all the projects for which a provision was made in the budgetary allocation for the year 2019-20 has not been furnished. Though the progress with respect to projects viz. Mast strengthening works of high power MW Transmitters, SITC of Servers and Radio Studio Automation, Erection of 100 M Self Supporting Towers and construction of buildings or FM transmitter along Indo-Nepal Border (5 Nos.) has been provided, the reply is silent with regard to the status of projects viz. Procurement of digital audio consoles, Procurement of 5 TV Transmitters, VPN Connectivity at 47 Stations, Creation of Archival facility at Guwahati. In this background, the Committee would like to know the projects which remained incomplete and also the reasons for their slow progress. The Committee have been informed that funds would be booked before March 2020. In such case, the reasons for mismatch of physical and financial targets may also be apprised, in case of shortfall in physical targets.

(Recommendation Sl. No.9)

15. One of the thrust areas of the Ministry of I&B, during the year 2019-20, was the physical coverage in terms of FM Radio and Television. It was informed that AIR had 495 FM transmitters. The uncovered areas were located to cover with appropriate FM Stations, particularly in view of the fact that the neighboring countries might have stronger FM stations and might indulge in activities which would not be conducive to

India's interests. In this regard, the Committee had desired to be apprised of the planning of Ministry of I&B/Prasar Bharati for installing AIR/TV transmitters to cover the border areas of the country. Transmitters of adequate power should be set up in sensitive border areas to effectively counter anti-India propaganda by the neighboring countries. Besides, a thought should be given to shortwave radio transmissions utilizing DTH technology for the benefit of Diaspora population.

16. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in their Action Taken Reply has submitted as under:-

"i. AIR has 501 FM transmitters functional at 458 locations across the country and presently reaching about 54 % of the area and about 64 % of the total population of the country. In order to further augment the FM terrestrial coverage, projects for setting up of 143 FM transmitters including 112 nos. of 100 W FM transmitters are under implementation in the country. After commissioning of these transmitters, AIR coverage in FM mode is likely to increase to about 74% population of the country. AIR is regularly strengthening FM coverage along border areas. Out of 143 FM transmitters, 6 nos. of 10 kW & one 1 kW FM Transmitters along Indo-Nepal border, 2 nos. of 10 kW FM Transmitters along Indo-Pak border and 8 nos. 1 kW FM transmitters in North East Regions are under implementation.

Prasar Bharati has modernized Short Wave transmitters with latest DRM Digital Radio technology at its Delhi and Bengaluru facilities. Further plan for modernization of Short Wave in DRM Digital Radio mode is approved and being implemented at Kurseong facility while obsolete analog transmitters are being phased out.

Prasar Bharati is also extensively exploring other digital means for carrying AIR channels as an alternative. Various AIR channels are available on internet through Prasar Bharati website, and on NewsonAir app on Android and iOS mobile platform for global audiences. Several Radio Channels have also been made available on satellite using the DD Free Dish DTH infrastructure.

As regards Doordarshan, in view of multi-channel TV coverage through its free-to-air DTH service "DD FreeDish", new transmitters for expansion of terrestrial coverage are now not envisaged, except a few in border areas of J&K. For strengthening terrestrial TV coverage in border areas, projects for setting up the following five new High Power TV transmitters in J&K are under implementation.

HPT, Green Ridge
HPT, Himbotingla
HPT, Natha Top (Patnitop)
HPTs, Rajouri (DD National & DD News)

These HPTs are presently at various stages of implementation. Further, It is submitted that Doordarshan"s "DD FreeDish" service can be received anywhere in the country including border areas with the help of small sized dish receive units. Prasar Bharati has recently distributed 30,000 DTH receive Set in Jammu and Kashmir. Further, Prasar Bharati is in the process of procuring 1,20,000 receive sets for further distribution in the country including J&K."

17. **The Committee have been informed that AIR has 501 FM transmitters reaching about 54% of the area and about 64% of the total population of the country. Further, in order to augment the FM terrestrial coverage, projects for setting up of 143 FM transmitters including 112 nos. of 100 W FM transmitters are under implementation in the country. With regard to installation of AIR/TV transmitters to cover the border areas of the country, the Committee find that very few FM transmitters are proposed to be installed as out of 143 FM transmitters, 6 nos. of 10 kW & one 1 kW FM Transmitters along Indo-Nepal border, 2 nos. of 10 kW FM Transmitters along Indo-Pak border and 8 nos. KW FM transmitters in North East Regions are under implementation. In view of the hostile activities on borders, these areas are vulnerable and therefore in order to strengthen them, the number of High Power FM transmitters need to be increased. The Committee also reminded the Ministry of its undertaking to restore AIR"sFM Gold radio transmissions to their former patterns.**

18. **The Committee draw some satisfaction to note that for strengthening terrestrial TV coverage in border areas, setting up the five new High Power TV transmitters in J&K are at various stages of implementation. The Committee are hopeful that the proposed HPTs in J & K would be effective enough to curb anti-**

India propaganda on TV from across the border and the work would be completed within specific timeframe. The Committee would like to be kept informed of the progress in this regard.

FILM SECTOR

National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM)

(Recommendations Sl. Nos.11 and 12)

19. The Committee had noted that non-implementation of the NFHM Scheme under „Film“ Wing led to shortfall in financial targets of the Ministry of I&B during the last three years. During 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19, against BE of Rs. 30 crore, Rs. 50.00 crore and Rs. 57.78 crore, respectively and RE of Rs. 16 crore, Rs. 6.02 crore and Rs. 15.00 crore, the actual expenditure was Rs. 10.84 crore, Rs. 6.02 crore and Rs. 10.51 crore, respectively. Again during 2019-20, the Ministry of I & B had proposed to the Ministry of Finance to reduce the budgetary allocation of Rs. 22.48 crore to Rs. 5 crore at RE stag. While considering it a poor commentary on the functioning of the Ministry, the Committee had desired that the Ministry should undertake its budgetary exercise with seriousness and urged to gear up the implementation of various important activities under the NHFM scheme.

20. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, in the Action Taken Reply to Recommendation No. 11 has submitted as under:-

“At the commencement of the NFHM Scheme, it was assessed that the Executing agencies for the works like Film condition assessment of the film reels, Preventive Conservation of film reels and Digitization of Film reels would be in place during 2016-17. However, the executing agency could be engaged for the work of „Film condition assessment of the film reels“ after due procedure during 2016-17, while the tender process for other activities could not be initiated. This led to less utilization of allotted funds under RE 2016-17.

The entire scheme was put under review in 2017 and all tender processes under NFHM were put on hold until the review. This included „Condition assessment“ for which the executing agency was already engaged and for which work had begun. The other tenders viz. digitization and restoration of filmic material, creation of IT infrastructure at NFAl, etc., which were at various stages of tendering, were also stalled. This led to downsizing of funds in 2017-18 and 2018-19.

The work under „Preventive Conservation“ could only commence on completion of work under „Collection Assessment“. As the work under collection assessment could not be completed in time due to the review, the work under preventive conservation could not be initiated in time even though the executing agency was selected, which led to underutilization of funds in 2018-19.

Further, an agency for undertaking the infrastructure development work for creation of storage facilities at NFAI could not be finalized during this time which led to reduction of RE in 2017-18 and in 2018-19.”

21. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in the Action Taken Reply to Recommendation No. 12 has submitted as under:-

“During the year 2017-18, the entire scheme was put under review and all tender processes under NFHM were put on hold until the review. This included „Condition assessment“ for which the executing agency was already engaged and for which work had begun. The other tenders viz. preventive conservation of film content at NFAI, digitization and restoration of filmic material, creation of IT infrastructure at NFAI, etc., which were at various stages of tendering, were also stalled.

The work under „Preventive Conservation“ could only commence on completion of work under „Collection Assessment“. As the work under collection assessment could not be completed in time due to the review, the work under preventive conservation could not be initiated in time even though the executing agency was selected. Now, the work under collection assessment has completed. Basis the work output of collection assessment, the selected agency for preventive conservation is set to initiate resource mobilization and commence work. Also, the executing agency for construction of storage facilities is now in place and it is being ensured to regularly review the work.

It is being ensured to speed up the various tender processes, viz. „Digitization of Film Content“, „Restoration of Film Content“ and „IT Solutions“, such that the executing agencies are engaged in timely manner as per extant procedure for effective implementation of the NFHM Scheme and proper utilization of the allotted funds.

Frequent reviews by the Technical Committee of NFHM has been initiated for optimally utilizing the allocated funds. The High Level Committee meetings are being regularly held which is reviewing the project for effective implementation. It is being ensured to speed up the various tender processes for appointment of executing agencies in timely manner as per extant procedure for effective implementation of the NFHM Scheme and proper utilization of allotted funds.

An amount of Rs.22.48 crore was allocated for NFHM during 2019-20, which was reduced to Rs.3.61 crore at RE stage. The final grant has been fixed at Rs.8.11 crore and the expenditure incurred is Rs.5.40 Crore, as on date.”

22. The Committee have been told that though it was assessed that the executing agencies for the works like Film condition assessment, Preventive Conservation and Digitization of Film reels would be in place during 2016-17, the executing agency could be engaged for the work of „Film condition assessment of the film reels“ after due procedure during 2016-17, while the tender process for other activities could not be initiated which led to less utilization of allotted funds under RE 2016-17. Further, the entire scheme was put under review in 2017 and all tender processes under NFHM were put on hold until the review. This included „Condition assessment“ for which the executing agency was already engaged and for which work had begun. The other tenders viz. digitization and restoration of filmic material, creation of IT infrastructure at NFAl, etc., which were at various stages of tendering, were also stalled which led to downsizing of funds in 2017-18 and 2018-19. Also, as the work under collection assessment could not be completed in time due to the review, the work under preventive conservation could not be initiated in time even though the executing agency was selected, which led to underutilization of funds in 2018-19.

In this background, the Committee note that though budgetary allocation Rs.22.48 crore for NFHM during 2019-20 was reduced to Rs.3.61 crore at RE stage, the final grant was fixed at Rs.8.11 crore. The Committee note that as on 9 March, 2020, the expenditure incurred is Rs.5.40 Crore (66.58%), which cannot be termed a satisfactory performance. The Committee urge the Ministry to take urgent steps to evaluate reasons for dismal performance all these years to ensure better performance in the succeeding years.

23. The Committee note with some satisfaction that the work under collection assessment has now been completed and the selected agency for preventive conservation is set to initiate resource mobilization and commence work. Also, the executing agency for construction of storage facilities is now in place and it is being ensured to regularly review the work. It is also being ensured to speed up the various tender processes. The executing agencies are engaged in timely manner as per extant procedure for effective implementation of the NFHM Scheme and proper utilization of the allotted funds. Frequent reviews by the Technical Committee of NFHM has been initiated for optimally utilizing the allocated funds. The High Level Committee meetings are being regularly held which is reviewing the project for effective implementation. In view of the forgoing, the Committee trust that one of the important projects of the Ministry of I & B viz. NFHM for preserving and conserving country"s cinematic heritage would not be allowed to suffer for inefficiency on the part of the Ministry and henceforth physical and financial targets under the project would be optimally achieved.

National Centre for Excellence for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (NCoE)

(Recommendation Sl. No.13)

24. The Committee had learnt that the Planning Commission had given in-principle approval to the NCoE, a 12th plan project which was based on Public Private Partnership model. The administrative approval for NCoE were issued with a total outlay of Rs. 167.70 crore and it was to be implemented in four year period from 2016-17 to 2019-20. The Committee were disappointed to note that during 2016-17 and 2018-19, only Rs.0.39 crore and Rs. 1.63 crore, respectively were utilized under the project whereas there was NIL expenditure in 2017-18. It was informed that Indian Institute of Mass Communication (Executing partner) had released RFP on 03.02.2017

for selection of Operating Partner for NCoE and the Ministry was in the process of identifying the operating and academic partner for the Centre nearly three years later. While considering that in the changing scenario where Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comic are the new emerging technologies in media, the Committee had desired the Ministry to make concerted efforts to find out and finalise the operating and academic partner for the NCoE project and ensure that the funds of Rs. 20.50 crore earmarked for the NCoE project are not left unutilized.

25. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, in the Action Taken Reply, have submitted as under:-

“A Committee consisting of Additional Secretary & FA, Additional Secretary and Joint Secretary (Films) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting was constituted in August, 2019 to supervise the selection of Operating Partner for setting up the institute. The Committee observed that a considerable time has passed since tender documents were submitted and scrutinized in the year 2017. During the time, a lot of technological improvements, curriculum modifications, changes in proposed fees, etc. have occurred in the AVGC sector. The Committee has accordingly suggested that it would be desirable to consider the changes in the sector since the year 2017, in wider consultations with key players in AVGC sector. After due deliberations, it has been decided that the present RFP should be terminated and a fresh RFP be drawn for selection of operating partner.

26. **The Committee in their earlier Report had noted that Indian Institute of Mass Communication (Executing partner) had released RFP on 03.02.2017 for selection of Operating Partner for NCoE and the Ministry was in the process of identifying the operating and academic partner for the Centre and earnestly desired the Ministry to make concerted efforts to find out and finalise the operating and academic partner for the NCoE project and ensure that the funds of Rs. 20.50 crore earmarked for the NCoE project are not left unutilized. The Committee note from action taken reply that in August, 2019, a committee was constituted consisting of AS & FA, AS and JS (Films) of the Ministry to supervise the selection of Operating Partner for setting up the institute which observed that**

a considerable time has passed since tender documents were submitted and scrutinized in the year 2017. As a lot of technological improvements, curriculum modifications, changes in proposed fees, etc. have occurred in the AVGC sector, the committee has suggested to consider the changes in the sector since the year 2017, in wider consultations with key players in AVGC sector. After due deliberations, it has been decided to terminate the present RFP and a fresh RFP would be drawn for selection of operating partner.

The Committee are aware since 03.02.2017 when RFP was first drawn for selection of operating partner, a lot have changed in the AVGC sector and therefore there is a need that a fresh RFP should be drawn in this regard. However, the Committee strongly deprecate the manner in which NCoE project which is a 12th Plan project and proposed to be implemented in four year period from 2016-17 to 2019-20 allowed to suffer, certainly put a question mark on the working of the organisation. Evidently, the project has suffered due to inefficiency and complacency on the part of the Ministry. Needless to mention the project implementation within timelines is required to be adhered more seriously than done hitherto.

Upgradation, Modernisation and Expansion of CBFC

(Recommendation Sl. No.14)

27. The Committee had noted that there was under-utilisation of funds under the scheme „Upgradation, Modernisation and Expansion of CBFC“ during 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19. The shortfall in achievement of financial targets attributed to constraint like shortage of space in CBFC office for not procuring/installing Digital Projection System and Digital Theatres as planned, was hardly convincing. Again, during 2019-20, the Ministry had proposed to reduce BE of Rs. 2.50 crore to Rs. 1.30 crore at RE stage.

The Committee had deprecated such a casual approach of the Ministry of I&B to find an amicable solution to such a trivial issue of shortage of space in CBFC office and desired to take necessary steps in this regard urgently. The Committee had also desired that the recommendations of the Benegal Committee on the broader issue of film certification be reviewed and acted upon without further delay.

28. In their Action Taken Reply, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have submitted as under:-

“There was shortage of space in CBFC office due to which CBFC could not procure/ install Digital Projection System and Digital Theatres as planned. Therefore, the funds allocated for the said purposes could not be utilized which led to shortfall in financial targets.

Continuous follow-up of the activities is being taken up with CBFC to complete the activities as per schedule. The necessary approvals are also being taken up on priority basis to ensure the optimal utilization of allocated funds.

29. **The Committee had noted the under-utilisation of funds 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 under the scheme „Upgradation, Modernisation and Expansion of CBFC“ for shortage of space in CBFC office due to which CBFC could not procure/install Digital Projection System and Digital Theatres as planned. The Committee were unhappy with reduction of allocation during 2019-20 at BE of Rs. 2.50 crore to Rs. 1.30 crore at RE stage and take necessary steps in this regard urgently. The Committee note from action taken reply that continuous follow-up of the activities is being taken up with CBFC to complete the activities as per schedule. The necessary approvals are also being taken up on priority basis to ensure the optimal utilization of allocated funds. The Committee would like to be apprised of the utilisation of funds for the activity during 2019-20.**

30. The Committee further note that Ministry's reply is silent on their recommendation to review and act upon the Benegal Committee recommendations on the broader issue of film certification without further delay. The Committee reiterate their recommendation and desired to initiate required steps promptly. The Committee also reiterate their recommendation regarding comprehensive review and updating of the Cinematograph Act, 1952.

Production of films and documentaries in various Indian Languages

(Recommendation Sl. No.16)

31. The Committee were not convinced with the reasons adduced by the Ministry for under-utilisation of funds allocated under the scheme „Production of films and documentaries in various Indian Languages“ during 2018-19, like the funds were earmarked for production of film „Bangabandhu“ in Audio-Visual Co-production agreement with Bangladesh and the film was at research and scripting stage under the direction of eminent filmmaker Shri Shyam Benegal. The Committee desired to know the reasons for making a provision of Rs. 14 crore during 2017-18 for production of film „Bangabandhu“ when the film was at research and scripting stage only. The Committee urged the Ministry to take utmost care while preparing the budget estimates.

32. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, in their Action Taken Reply, have submitted as under:-

“It was expected that the research and scripting for the film „Bangabandhu“ would be completed during first half of 2017-18 and that the production would commence during the second half of the financial year. Hence, a fund allocation of Rs.14 crores was made for production of the film during the year 2017-18.

The co-production agreement for production of film „Bangabandhu“ between National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) and Film Development Corporation (FDC), Bangladesh was signed on 14.01.2020. The script for the film has now been finalized and the shooting will start in March, 2020. It is expected that the film will be completed by March, 2021.

As on date, a total amount of Rs.8.50 crore has been released towards production of the film.”

33. The Committee in their earlier Report had desired to know the reasons for making a provision of Rs. 14 crore during 2017-18 for production of film „Bangabandhu“ when the film was at research and scripting stage only. In their reply, the Ministry have clarified that the allocation was made as it was expected that the research and scripting for the film „Bangabandhu“ would be completed during first half of 2017-18 and the production would commence during the second half of the financial year. In this regard, the Committee would reiterate their earlier recommendation to the Ministry to take utmost care while preparing the budget estimate.

34. The Committee note that the co-production agreement for production of film „Bangabandhu“ between National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) and Film Development Corporation (FDC), Bangladesh was signed on 14.01.2020 and the script for the film has also been finalized. However, the Committee take a serious note of the fact that production of the film „Bangabandhu“ which was expected to start in second half of 2017-18 have met with inordinate delays. Whatever might be the reasons, it reflects on the inefficiency of NFDC to sort out the issues that led to delays in Production of feature film “Bangabandhu” on the life of Sheikh Mujibur Rehman, which is significant in betterment of the relationship with the neighboring country.

35. The Committee are aware due spread of Coronavirus in the country and resulting lockdown in various States in the month of March, 2020, the shooting of the film would have been interrupted. However, the Committee would like the Ministry/NFDC to ensure to make up the delays and complete the Film within the timelines i.e. March, 2021.

CHAPTER II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Budget Proposals and Thrust Areas

(Recommendation SI. No.1)

The Committee note that the thrust areas of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for the current fiscal year 2019-20 are Digitalization of Prasar Bharati (AIR & Doordarshan), Accelerated investment on Content Development of Prasar Bharati, Expanding Community Radio Stations in the country, Integrated approach to media campaign for better impact of Government messaging and its visibility on the field, Implementation of National Film Heritage Mission and Organization of National / International Film Festivals, Setting up of Film and Television Institute, Arunachal Pradesh, Golden Jubilee Edition of the International Film Festival of India, Production of feature film “Bangabandhu” on the life of Sheikh Mujibur Rehman, Promotion of Film Sector in India and making India a preferred shooting destination for Film and Television producers around the world under the umbrella of Champion Sector Scheme. To achieve these objectives, the Ministry had proposed an outlay of Rs.1068.05 crore for their Central Sector Schemes for the year 2019-20, however, it was downsized by the Ministry of Finance to Rs.900.00 crore. Further, out of the same, a major chunk of Rs. 473 crore has been allocated to Prasar Bharati, Rs.238 crore to Film Sector and Rs.165 crore to Information Sector and Rs.24 crore to Broadcasting Sector (Other than Prasar Bharati).The Committee find that the financial performance of the Ministry during the current fiscal year so far does not augur well. The utilization of funds in respect of the schemes under Prasar Bharati and Film Sector is far below the targets. In case of Prasar Bharati, out of an allocation of Rs.473.00 crore, Rs.26.83 crore (5.6 percent) could be spent up to July, 2019. Same is the case with Film Sector, where out of an allocation of Rs.156 crore, only Rs.16.79 crore (10.17 percent) have been spent.

The Committee desire the Ministry/Prasar Bharati to look into the reasons, for the meager utilization of funds more meticulously and take corrective measures urgently so that no major schemes suffer due to underutilization and adequate funds are made available to the Ministry in next financial year based on their performance this year.

Review of the Past Performance

(Recommendation SI. No.2)

The Committee note with concern that during 2017-18 and 2018-19, BE of Rs.840 crore and Rs.735.05 crore, respectively kept for the Central Sector Schemes of the Ministry of I & B, was reduced to Rs.597.77 crore and Rs.712.66 crore, respectively, at RE stage. Obviously, the reduced allocations would have resulted in downsizing of all the major schemes undertaken during these years. The Ministry of I & B has submitted that the Ministry of Finance do not elaborate the reasons for reduction of funds, though

generally it is related to pace of expenditure. Hence, reduction of allocations at RE stage certainly reflects the inability of the Ministry to implement their schemes in a timely manner. The Committee, therefore strongly feel that reduction in the allocations puts the priorities of the Ministry out of gear and results in under-achievement of targets. Hence, this must be avoided.

(Recommendation SI. No.3)

The Committee regret to note that Ministry of I & B was not able to utilize even the reduced allocation during the 2017-18 and 2018-19. Out of RE of Rs.597.77 crore and Rs.712.66 crore, respectively, the actual expenditure was Rs.501.42 Cr (83.88 percent) and Rs.656.78 crore (92.16 percent), respectively. Whatever might be the constraints, they were not new to the Ministry/Prasar Bharati and being faced by them year after year.

The Committee are sure that all such aspects are taken into consideration while sanctioning of a scheme/project. The Committee would, therefore, like to be assured that the Ministry would remain prepared and take all necessary steps to resolve such problems in order to implement their schemes while using the allocated funds optimally.

Reply of the Government

In order to make implementation more effective and to improve plan expenditure, various measures have been taken by the Ministry which include: periodic review, mid-term appraisal of all major schemes and regular monitoring of expenditure.

For effective and better utilization of resources, a comprehensive rationalization and restructuring of the Plan Schemes has been carried out by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in 2019-20 which will be implemented from 2020-21. It was aimed to consolidate fragmented schemes to avoid thin spread of resources for optimal output and outcome. Various small schemes/programmes with similar objectives and activities spread across different media units have been merged together under umbrella schemes. New sub-schemes required for further strengthening of different activities are also clubbed under these comprehensive schemes. Further, the schemes having purely administrative nature have been shifted to the category- Establishment Expenditure and Other Central Expenditure. The consolidation of resources will provide flexibility in use, leading to better utilization of funds benefiting each sector. Also, with rationalization of ongoing schemes, the media units have been delegated with powers to take decisions in view of their functionality and its impact on its other components which inter-alia will be helpful for effective supervision and implementation of the projects under the schemes. After the rationalization of 14 Central Sector Schemes, Ministry now has only 5 Central Sector Schemes. This would ensure better and effective monitoring of Schemes at various implementation stages.

Review of the progress of physical and financial targets in respect of the schemes is regularly held at the meetings of the Senior Officers of the Ministry chaired by Secretary (I&B). The concerned Additional Secretary/Joint Secretaries also regularly monitor the implementation of various schemes under their charge. The media units are directed to

pinpoint the obstacles/hurdles in implementing their projects. The issues are addressed in the meetings held in the Ministry and resolved with consultations with all stakeholders. The media units also deploy their teams in the field to monitor physical progress of the projects.

With regard to Prasar Bharati, following steps have been taken by Ministry/Prasar Bharti:

i) It is submitted that one of the reasons for seeking reduction of allocation and its insufficient utilization was also that the extension of scheme "Broadcast Infrastructure and Network Development" for the period 2017-20, was approved only in February, 2019. Majority of the projects are targeted for completion in the last quarter of FY 2019-20. Supply orders for significant number of tenders have already been awarded.

In order to enhance participation of the bidders and to further improve the process of tendering, a Standard Operating Protocol (SOP) has been formulated which addresses issues like Estimation of Cost, Preparation of Specifications with Industry feedback, queries from the bidders, Extension of tender opening date etc. Interaction with vendors and regular monitoring is being done to resolve issues in a timely manner. It is expected that these measures would step-up budget utilization facilitated by effective tender processes.

ii) Prasar Bharati has given an assurance that keeping in mind of the low expenditure trend of the past years, they are closely monitoring Budget and Spends across its networks of DD and AIR. Regular monitoring at the highest levels of Management is undertaken for early identification of bottlenecks and their resolution, timely execution of projects, which is likely to improve pace of expenditure and full utilization of Grants.

iii) Ministry has rationalized Broadcast Infrastructure and Network Development which help in rolling savings from one sub head to another within the overall framework of the scheme.

iv) To promote content spending on quality programming, the Prasar Bharati Board in its 158th meeting in November 2019 has accorded approval to revised guidelines for content procurement based on past learnings. The revised guidelines will help overcome past challenges in timely procurement of content and will ensure quality content is sourced effectively.

These steps along with close monitoring are expected to ensure improvement in utilization of allocated resources thereby Ministry will be able to exhaust its resources up to optimal level during 2019-20.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/33/2019-PC Cell dated 09.03.2020)

Prasar Bharti/DD Kisan Channel

(Recommendation SI. No.4)

The Committee are displeased to note the lagging performance of Prasar Bharati during the last two years. Prasar Bharati was allocated Budget outlay of Rs.430 crore during 2017-18 for All India Radio and Doordarshan. However, the allocation was drastically reduced at RE stage to Rs.282 crore. Even the reduced allocation was not

optimally utilised and the actual expenditure was Rs.201.57 crore (71.47%). Similarly, during 2018-19, out of an allocation of Rs.326.74 crore which was on a even less as compared to the previous year, only Rs.280.70 crore (85.90 percent) could be utilised.

The shortfall was attributed to less expenditure during the years in respect of DD Kisan channel, where during 2017-18 and 2018-19, BE of Rs.63 crore and 45.16 crore, respectively allocated as Grants-in-aid to DD Kisan Channel contents, was reduced at RE stage to Rs.46.58 crore and Rs.34.51 crore, respectively. These substantial reductions in the allocations, which was assessed as necessary by the Prasar Bharati for DD Kisan Channel content development, have resulted in delays in execution of the schemes proposed during these years. The Committee find it unfortunate that even the reduced allocation were not utilised and the actual expenditure was far below the targets and was Rs.34.47 crore only (74 percent) and Rs.19.35 crore only (56 percent), respectively. The funds remained under-utilized as a decision was taken that DD Kisan would make the programmes through in-house production, thus putting on hold the commissioning of programmes through Self Financing Commissioning (SFC) mode. As DD Kisan does not have adequate manpower resources to make in-house programmes, many of the travelogue based programs could not be produced and the reality show was deferred for the next financial year.

The Committee find it strange that a decision was taken without giving a thought to the need for availability of adequate manpower for commissioning of programmes. The Committee are of the opinion that whole budgetary exercise done by the Ministry/Prasar Bharati is meaningless if the implementation of their schemes/programmes is not taken seriously. The Committee strongly recommend that in-house production of programmes at DD Kisan Channel should be commensurate with the available manpower resources.

(Recommendation SI. No.5)

Other reasons for under utilization of funds during the last two years are stated to be the logistic issues for non-finalization of the reality show “Mahilakisan Awards”, problem of shortage of staff in programmes wing in many Kendras resulting in their inability to produce any programmes for DD Kisan, insufficient prescribed fee structure for Artists, Producer, Casuals, Resource Person, etc. to engage talent for production of any programme for DD Kisan.

The Committee find these reasons as unconvincing as many of all these aspects could have been anticipated and taken care of by Prasar Bharati well in advance. All these reasons adduced by the Ministry/Prasar Bharati for under-utilisation of funds speaks volumes about the functioning of Prasar Bharati and the Committee are of the considered opinion that planning & coordination in the Ministry is not optimal and requires improvement.

The Committee earnestly hope that the Prasar Bharati, while learning from their past, would take adequate corrective measures so as to optimally utilise the funds of Rs. 29.72 crore allocated during 2019-20, for DD Kisan channel and the same grounds will not be cited by them again for under utilisation. The farmers, who are the target

viewers in this case, should not remain deprived of the services of the DD Kisan Channel because of the non-performance of Prasar Bharati.

Reply of the Government

- i) DD Kisan sources content through the scheme of Self-Financed Commissioning (SFC) apart from developing content in-house. The bulk of the sanctioned budget is utilized for the SFC programmes. A review of the low budget utilization revealed shortcomings in the scheme, which led to litigations on account of which payments had been held up, as matters were sub-judice.
- ii) In the interim, Prasar Bharati upon review, amended the scheme/guidelines recently (158th meeting of the Prasar Bharati Board in November 2019) to overcome the shortcomings, based on learnings. The amended scheme has since been implemented.
- iii) As regards in-house production, more than 200 episodes of the Travelogue based programs in collaboration with all Kendras of Doordarshan were produced in 2018-19 and 2019-20. Reality Show “Mahila Kisan Awards” was recorded and telecast in the FY 2018-19. As it was the first reality based program of DD Kisan with women farmers representing all States and UT’s of India, the planning and production required lot of detailing. The production operations were spread over nine months. Fifty five programs of one hour each were produced and telecast.
- iv) Expenditure of Rs.13 Crore have already been made, it is expected that Rs. 20 Crores allocated for DD Kisan will be spent by the end of the current financial year.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/33/2019-PC Cell dated 09.03.2020)

Comments of the Committee (Please see Para Nos. 7&8 of Chapter I)

Capital Assets (incl. Kisan Channel)

(Recommendation Sl. No. 6)

The Committee further observe that during the financial year 2017-18 and 2018-19, a provision of Rs.213 crore and Rs.141.50 crore, respectively was made at BE stage in respect of Grants for creation of Capital Assets (incl. Kisan Channel), which was, however reduced to Rs.118.34 crore and Rs.112.17 crore, respectively at RE stage and out of the same, only 52.02 crore (44 percent) and Rs.80.08 crore (71 percent), respectively could be utilized. The Committee take a serious note of the manner in which the budgetary allocations each year are being reduced at RE stage and the actual expenditure is even lesser.

The Committee are not convinced by the oft repeated excuses given by the Ministry/Prasar Bharati for non-execution of their projects like GST related issues while processing of sanctions, delays in obtaining WPC clearance in some projects, delays in some Earth station projects on account of tender opening date’s extension due to non-receipt of sufficient bids/bidders quarries, and delays in supply of equipment by firms for certain projects, etc. The Committee view that these infrastructural projects are

instrumental in ensuring the performance of the Public electronic media and fulfilling its obligations to the nation. They therefore desire that the ministry should give serious considerations to their implementations by taking timely corrective measures for anticipated delays.

Reply of the Government

As regards to Capital Assets, as has been stated above, regular monitoring mechanism at the highest level of management has been put in place by Prasar Bharati. Procurement procedures have been streamlined. Project review meetings are being held regularly at Zonal level, HQ level and Prasar Bharati Sectt. level. Various activities involved in procurement of capital equipment and execution of works are being critically assessed against targets and milestones that have been fixed by the management.

Regular interaction is being done with WPC authorities for obtaining their clearance in time. Advance tendering action has also been taken for next year's projects.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/33/2019-PC Cell dated 09.03.2020)

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

(Recommendation Sl. No.7)

A budgetary provision of Rs. 97.28 crore has been made during 2019-20 for Arun Prabha Channel as there are 111 projects which are for commissioning programme for DD Arun Prabha during the year. CEO, Prasar Bharati have submitted that with the Prasar Bharati recently changed content policy, payment to the producers would be made in advance enabling them to invest and do a good job. The committee are hopeful that all the projects in respect of Arun Prabha Channel, proposed during the current year would be executed well within the timelines and the allocations thus made would be optimally utilized.

Reply of the Government

DD- ArunPrabha was launched on 09.02.2019 by Hon^{ble} Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and 24x7 telecast has been started. The commissioning for creation of content started in the last month of Financial Year 2018-19 i.e. March 2019. There are 111 projects under commissioning in different genres i.e. Travelogue, Magazine, Quiz, Thriller, Mythology, Documentary, Telefilm and Daily Soap. Around Rs 52.64 crore has been utilized. The progress is being monitored on weekly basis by CEO Prasar Bharati and it is anticipated that the full amount is likely to be spent during the financial year.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/33/2019-PC Cell dated 09.03.2020)

(Recommendation Sl. No.9)

The Committee are informed that in the current fiscal 2019-20, one of the thrust areas of the Ministry of I&B is the physical coverage in terms of FM Radio and Television. Secretary, I&B informed the Committee that as on date, All India Radio has 495 FM transmitters. The uncovered areas have been located that should be covered with appropriate FM Stations, particularly in view of the fact that the neighboring countries may be having FM stations which are much stronger and indulging in activities which are not conducive to India's interests.

In this regard, the Committee would like to be apprised of the planning of Ministry of I&B/Prasar Bharati for installing AIR/TV transmitters to cover the border areas of the country. The Committee are of the opinion that transmitters of adequate power should be set up in sensitive border areas so that anti-India propoganda by the neighboring countries is effectively countered. Thought should also be given to shortwave radio transmissions utilizing DTH technology for the benefit of Diaspora populations.

Reply of the Government

AIR has 501 FM transmitters functional at 458 locations across the country and presently reaching about 54 % of the area and about 64 % of the total population of the country. In order to further augment the FM terrestrial coverage, projects for setting up of 143 FM transmitters including 112 nos. of 100 W FM transmitters are under implementation in the country. After commissioning of these transmitters, AIR coverage in FM mode is likely to increase to about 74 % population of the country. AIR is regularly strengthening FM coverage along border areas. Out of 143 FM transmitters, 6 nos. of 10 kW & one 1 kW FM Transmitters along Indo-Nepal border, 2 nos. of 10 kW FM Transmitters along Indo-Pak border and 8 nos. 1 kW FM transmitters in North East Regions are under implementation.

Prasar Bharati has modernized Short Wave transmitters with latest DRM Digital Radio technology at its Delhi and Bengaluru facilities. Further plan for modernization of Short Wave in DRM Digital Radio mode is approved and being implemented at Kurseong facility while obsolete analog transmitters are being phased out.

Prasar Bharati is also extensively exploring other digital means for carrying AIR channels as an alternative. Various AIR channels are available on internet through Prasar Bharati website, and on NewsonAir app on Android and iOS mobile platform for global audiences. Several Radio Channels have also been made available on satellite using the DD Free Dish DTH infrastructure.

As regards Doordarshan, in view of multi-channel TV coverage through its free-to-air DTH service "DD FreeDish", new transmitters for expansion of terrestrial coverage are now not envisaged, except a few in border areas of J&K. For strengthening terrestrial TV coverage in border areas, projects for setting up the following five new High Power TV transmitters in J&K are under implementation.

HPT, Green Ridge
HPT, Himbotingla
HPT, Natha Top (Patnitop)

HPTs, Rajouri (DD National & DD News)

These HPTs are presently at various stages of implementation. Further, It is submitted that Doordarshan's "DD FreeDish" service can be received anywhere in the country including border areas with the help of small sized dish receive units. Prasar Bharati has recently distributed 30,000 DTH receive Set in Jammu and Kashmir. Further, Prasar Bharati is in the process of procuring 1,20,000 receive sets for further distribution in the country including J&K.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/33/2019-PC Cell dated 09.03.2020)

Comments of the Committee
(Please see Para No. 17 of Chapter I)

(Recommendation Sl. No.10)

In view of the unsatisfactory performance of Prasar Bharati during 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 (up to July, 2019) the Committee would like to be informed of the revised procedure, if any, being implemented by the Ministry of I&B/ Prasar Bharati to improve its budgetary performance.

Reply of the Government

- i. Prasar Bharati has taken initiatives for timely booking of allocated funds by revising the procurement procedure with time targets for each task. Prasar Bharati has assigned the task to one dedicated ADG level officer for the procurement related activities.
- ii. In order to enhance better participation of the bidders and to further improve the process of tendering, a Standard Operating Protocol (SOP) has been formulated and is being followed. This addresses issues like Estimation of Cost, Preparation of Specifications with Industry feedback, queries from the bidders, Extension of tender opening date etc.
- iii. Monthly budget review meeting is being conducted to speed up the implementation of all the projects and for the satisfactory booking of funds.
- iv. All the above activities are being personally reviewed by both CEO Prasar Bharati and Member (Finance) on a regular basis with all the key department heads for Engineering and Content Procurement.
- v. A dashboard is also being developed for the same to ensure accurate reporting and visibility to progress across the network to facilitate senior management reviews.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/33/2019-PC Cell dated 09.03.2020)

Production of films and documentaries in various Indian Languages

(Recommendation Sl. No.15)

The scheme “Production of Films and Documentaries in various Indian Languages” with a mandate to encourage production of good quality movies in various Indian languages which are socially relevant to the Indian Society includes production of documentaries, children’s films, short films, animation films and news magazines. The scheme supports production of films with cinematic, thematic and aesthetic excellence catering to cinema theatres all across the country for supplying public service awareness films for screening before main feature films. The Committee are, however, not happy to note that the performance of the Ministry in respect of the scheme during the last two years have been abysmally low as the actual expenditure against the budgetary allocations of Rs. 16.00 crore and Rs. 14.00 crore during 2017-18 and 2018-19, for the scheme have been very less and remained at the level of Rs. 09.41 crore (58.81 %) and Rs.09.91 crore (70.78%), respectively. The Committee are not convinced by the reasons for under-utilisation of funds during 2017-18 that no funds were released to NFDC as a clause was inserted in the guidelines that NFDC will not be considered as an implementing agency under the scheme. What the Committee gathered is that the said clause/note was inserted in the relative guidelines on 16.04.2018 and hence conclude that this cannot be the reason for under-utilisation of funds during 2017-18. Hence, the Committee would like the Ministry to ascertain the factual position and inform them accordingly.

Reply of the Government

No funds were released to NFDC during the Financial year 2017-18 as a proposal for merger of NFDC with other film units is under consideration in the Ministry.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/33/2019-PC Cell dated 09.03.2020)

Information Sector

Up-gradation of IIMC to International Standards

(Recommendation Sl. No.17)

The Committee are informed that there had been major short-fall in respect of „Up-gradation of IIMC to International Standards” scheme. However, the Committee are distressed to note that a provision of Rs. 3 crore was made at BE, 2018-19 merely on the presumption that approval from Ridge Management Board and other Civic authorities of Delhi Government would be obtained for construction of guest house, hostel building and academic block of IIMC at New Delhi. The Committee note that till date IIMC is not in a position to start construction activities. Though, IIMC is now in possession of the Environment Clearance issued by the State Level Expert Appraisal Committee (SLEAC) and height clearance from the Airport Authority of India, the clearance from the Ridge Management Board has been referred to the Supreme Court appointed Central Empowered Committee (CEC). On 24.09.2019, IIMC made a detailed presentation

before the Three Member CEC. On 15.10.2019, the CEC visited IIMC for site inspection and with these developments, IIMC is hopeful of getting required clearance and permission from the DDA to begin construction during 2019-20.

The Committee are at loss to understand that the project which was included in 11th Five Year Plan has not yet taken off. Moreover, when the project had to pass through so many procedural requirements before the construction work is started, then why a provision was made for this activity during 2018-19. The Committee owe an explanation in this regard.

Reply of the Government

i. Under the Plan Scheme (now Central Sector Scheme) "Upgradation of IIMC to International Standards" there is a proposal to construct an academic block, hostel block and a guest house admeasuring 12,933 sqm at the 16.22 acres in Delhi campus. This proposal was held up since 2012 for want of necessary clearances from civic and other regulatory authorities as the campus is located in the Ridge Area of Delhi.

ii. It is submitted that IIMC has made continuous efforts to obtain the necessary clearances which have been fruitful. On 24.09.2019 IIMC was asked to appear for a hearing before the Supreme Court appointed Central Empowered Committee (CEC). The Institute made a presentation before the three member CEC, following which, the Chairman, CEC asked IIMC to carry out certain modifications in building plans insisting upon going vertical to the extent permissible and reduce ground area coverage. After consulting the architect, it was found feasible to co-locate the guest house in the proposed hostel block, freeing up 1,560 sqm plinth area. Accordingly, the building designs were modified and submitted to the CEC.

iii. As a result of these efforts the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) of the Supreme Court has recommended in its report to the Supreme Court dated 22.10.2019 that DG, IIMC may be permitted to construct the proposed new Hostel cum Guest House block and the Administrative block within the Ridge Area subject to certain conditions. As per the advice of Hon^{ble} Supreme Court, IIMC has filed an affidavit on 26.11.2019 stating that IIMC will abide by the conditions laid down in the recommendation. The matter is yet to be listed for hearing.

iv)Accordingly, the BE of Rs. 3.00 Crores was sought under the scheme in FY 2018-19 on the reasonable assumption that approval of Building Plans would be obtained soon. The funds were sought on the assumption that they will receive the clearance well within 2018-19.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/33/2019-PC Cell dated 09.03.2020)

Supporting Community Radio Movement in India

(Recommendation SI. No.18)

The Committee regret to note the underutilization of funds for the scheme "Supporting Community Radio Movement in India" during the last three years. During 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19, against reduced allocation at RE stage of Rs. 3.63

crore, Rs. 1 crore and Rs. 2.60 crore, respectively, only Rs.1.36 crore, Rs. 0.34 crore and Rs. 1.26 crore had been utilised.

The Committee are not happy with the casual reply of the Ministry for under-utilisation of funds under the scheme like only 8 workshops were held for capacity-building and raising awareness for Community Radio in 2016-17, and during 2018-19, six awareness workshops were conducted, the other activities planned such as National and Regional Sammelans could not be held and the allocation remained unutilized. The Committee are inclined to believe that the physical and financial targets under the scheme are not taken seriously by the Ministry.

The Committee urge the Ministry to look into the activities under the scheme in the right perspective, as this is an area which needs Ministry's consideration to promote growth of Community Radio Stations, especially in remote and rural areas. The Committee therefore like the Ministry to ensure that physical targets planned during 2019-20 under the scheme are fully achieved and the funds of Rs. 3.80 crore optimally utilised.

Reply of the Government

To ensure physical target planned under the scheme are fully achieved various activities are planned. National Community Radio Sammelan was organized in the month of August 2019. Now, process has been simplified to release the grants for purchase of equipment. Funds allocated for Grants-in-Aid have been fully utilized. Extra budget was demanded for this purpose. 8 Community Radio Awareness workshops were planned to be conducted. So far 6 workshops have been conducted; the remaining 2 workshops will be conducted in the month of March 2020. It is expected that the funds would be utilized completely under the scheme.

The Ministry I&B have also taken several measures for expanding the reach of Community Radio Stations, preferably in CR dark districts and Aspirational Districts. The Ministry is also having regular meetings with the concern Ministries to expedite the process.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/33/2019-PC Cell dated 09.03.2020)

Implementation of Central Sector Schemes in North Eastern Region

(Recommendation Sl. No.19)

The Committee regret to note that the budgetary provisions for implementation of the CSS of the Ministry of I & B/Prasar Bharati in the North Eastern Region remained under-utilised during the last two years. Out of the financial outlay of Rs. 60.63 crore and Rs. 122.21 crore during 2017-18 and 2018-19, respectively, the actual expenditure remained Rs. 52.02 crore(85.79%) and Rs. 65.24 crore (53.38%), respectively. It is evidently clear that the North Eastern Region is not being paid the due attention that it deserves. The Committee desire that the Ministry of I & B/Prasar Bharati should take effective and urgent measures to overcome the difficulties/deficiencies

being faced in the implementation of various Central Sector Schemes in NER in order to bring the people of these areas in the mainstream so that they do not feel alienated and neglected, because of the lack of responsive attitude of the Ministry/Prasar Bharati. Utmost care, therefore needs to be taken to ensure that the budgetary allocation of Rs. 115.00 crore under Prasar Bharati and Rs. 47.65 crore under the Ministry of I & B, for implementation of their schemes in NER during 2019-20 are optimally utilized.

Reply of the Government

As against the BE 2019-20 of Rs.162.50 crore for expenditure in North East Region, the RE fixed for the year was Rs.105.15 crore. The expenditure in North East Region upto February 2020 is Rs. 88.41 crore. Prasar Bharati has informed that an amount of Rs.60.39 crore has already been incurred (upto February 2020).Major portion of funds has been incurred for content creation in DD Arun Prabha Channel. The other important projects in Northeast include new Film Institute at Arunachal Pradesh and New campus for IIMC centre at Aizawal. Expenditure incurred under NE component for Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) 2020 (organised from 28th January to 3rd February, 2020) are being booked. Rs. 15 lakh has been sanctioned for Global Cinema Festival 2020, Gangtok Sikkim held from 28th February to 1st March, 2020. Also, Community Radio Awareness Workshops are planned to be scheduled in March, 2020. It is expected that the Ministry will be able to utilize earmarked funds for NER.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/33/2019-PC Cell dated
09.03.2020)

Performance of National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)

(Recommendation Sl. No. 20)

The Committee would appreciate having information with regard to the performance of NFDC during 2017-18, 2018-19, and 2019-20 and shortfall in achievement of its physical and financial targets, if any, during these years along with the reasons, thereof.

Reply of the Government

Performance of National Film Development Corporation Ltd.

A. Production of Films in various Indian languages –

Year	Financial		Physical		Reasons for Shortfall
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	
2017-18	Rs.24 Cr.	Nil	Nil	Nil	No funds were given to NFDC as the competent authority decided to wait for finalization of

					merger proposal of NFDC.
2018-19	Rs.21 Cr.	Rs.8.45 Cr.	5	2 films under production	Initially, NFDC has submitted the proposal for production of five films i.e Laal Maati (Marathi), Chaman Bahaar(Hindi), KD-KaruppuDurai (Tamil), Lonak(Hindi), A painful case(Malyalam). Later NFDC informed that "A Painful case" is not eligible for funding as the director has already directed its first film. Further NFDC informed that films namely "Chaman Bahaar" and KD-Karuppu Durai have not received suitable response from the producer and therefore funds sanctioned for these films was not utilized. NFDC only produced two films i.e "laal Maati" and "Lonak" which are under production.
2019-20	Rs.57 Cr.**	Rs.10 Cr.	5	1 film completed 2 films under production	Funds were released to NFDC for production of 5 films namely Korangi Nunchi (Who Will Marry Thomas), Chaad (The Roof), Joseph ki Macha (Joseph's Son), Ped Pe Kamra (Kangri), Ek Laal Kameej (A Red Shirt). Rs. 3 crore has been released to NFDC for production of these five films. Rs. 7 crore has been released to NFDC for production of film "Bangabandhu".

**** Due to revision of budget of film "Bangabandhu" from Rs.35.00 crores to Rs.70.00 crores therefore 40% Indian contribution is also revised from Rs.19.00 crores to Rs.37.00 crores (including GST & NFDC Production fees) and Rs.20.00 crores for the scheme "Production of films in various Indian languages" hence total Revised Estimate in the year 2019-20 will be Rs. 57.00 crores. (Rs.37.00 crores + Rs.20.00crores = Rs.57.00 crores)**

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/33/2019-PC Cell dated 09.03.2020)

CHAPTER III

RECOMMENDATION/OBSERVATION WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT

-NIL-

CHAPTER IV

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

All India Radio (AIR)

(Recommendation Sl. No.8)

The Committee note that during 2019-20, BE of Rs.187.40 crore has been kept for creation of Capital Assets in AIR. The Committee are informed that the extension of Schemes „Broadcasting Infrastructure & Network Development“ for 3 years (2017-20) was approved in the middle of FY 2018-19 resulting in under-utilization of funds during 2018-19 and therefore allocation during the current year also includes provision for the projects not completed in the previous year. These projects are Mast strengthening works of high power MW Transmitters, SITC of Servers and Radio Studio Automation, Procurement of digital audio consoles, Procurement of 05 nos. of TV Transmitters, Erection of 100 M Self Supporting Towers, Construction of buildings or FM transmitter along Indo-Nepal Border (5 Nos.), VPN Connectivity at 47 Stations, Renovation of Auditorium at BH, Delhi and Creation of Archival facility at Guwahati. The committee hope that Ministry of I & B/Prasar Bharati would make concerted efforts to complete these projects within fixed timelines to improve AIR services.

Reply of the Government

The progress of various projects is submitted hereunder:

- i. Mast strengthening works at 39 places were to be carried out from the allocated funds of 2019-20. Work has been completed at 20 places and is in progress at 16 other places.
- ii. Servers for studio automation have been ordered. Delivery period for these equipment is 18 months.
- iii. Tender processing for the erection of 100M Towers is in advanced stage for different places.
- iv. Building work for the INDO-NEPAL border projects has been completed.
- v. Auditorium work at Broadcasting House, Delhi has been completed. Funds will be booked before March 2020.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/33/2019-PC Cell dated 09.03.2020)

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

FILM SECTOR

National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM)

(Recommendation Sl. No.11)

One of the reasons for shortfall in financial targets during the last three years in respect of the Film Wing of the Ministry of I&B is stated to be non-implementation of the NFHM Scheme. The Committee observe that during 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19, BE of Rs. 30 crore, Rs. 50.00 crore and Rs. 57.78 crore, respectively was kept for the scheme. The same was reduced to Rs. 16 crore, Rs. 6.02 crore and Rs. 15.00 crore, respectively at RE stage and the actual expenditure remained Rs. 10.84 crore, Rs. 6.02 crore and Rs. 10.51 crore, respectively. The plea of the Ministry of I&B for less utilization of funds that the entire scheme was put under review in 2017 and all tender processes under NFHM were put on hold until the review was done, is hardly convincing. In such a case, the Committee would like to be apprised of the reasons for financial shortfall in 2016-17 and 2018-19. The Committee earnestly desire that the Ministry of I&B should make realistic estimates for better utilization of funds.

Reply of the Government

At the commencement of the NFHM Scheme, it was assessed that the Executing agencies for the works like Film condition assessment of the film reels, Preventive Conservation of film reels and Digitization of Film reels would be in place during 2016-17. However, the executing agency could be engaged for the work of „Film condition assessment of the film reels“ after due procedure during 2016-17, while the tender process for other activities could not be initiated. This led to less utilization of allotted funds under RE 2016-17.

The entire scheme was put under review in 2017 and all tender processes under NFHM were put on hold until the review. This included „Condition assessment“ for which the executing agency was already engaged and for which work had begun. The other tenders viz. digitization and restoration of filmic material, creation of IT infrastructure at NFAI, etc., which were at various stages of tendering, were also stalled. This led to downsizing of funds in 2017-18 and 2018-19.

The work under „Preventive Conservation“ could only commence on completion of work under „Collection Assessment“. As the work under collection assessment could not be completed in time due to the review, the work under preventive conservation could not be initiated in time even though the executing agency was selected, which led to underutilization of funds in 2018-19.

Further, an agency for undertaking the infrastructure development work for creation of storage facilities at NFAI could not be finalized during this time which led to reduction of RE in 2017-18 and in 2018-19.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/33/2019-PC Cell dated 09.03.2020

National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM)

(Recommendation Sl. No.12)

Further, a budgetary provision of Rs. 22.48 crore has been made under NFHM scheme during 2019-20. As earlier informed, it was being ensured by the Ministry of I&B to speed up various tender processes for appointment of executing agencies as per extant procedure for effective implementation of the NFHM scheme. However, the Committee note to their dismay that the Ministry of I&B has failed in their efforts to utilize allocated funds for NFHM scheme during 2019-20 and has proposed to the Ministry of Finance to reduce allocation to Rs. 5 crore, at RE stage. This is a poor commentary on the functioning of the Ministry of I & B. The Committee, however, feel that adequate attention has not been given to the scheme and the Ministry have either not acted timely or prudently.

The Committee, earnestly desire that the budgetary exercise should be undertaken with seriousness so that the NFHM scheme does not get hampered and there is proper utilization of funds. The Committee also urge the Ministry to gear up the implementation of various important activities under the NFHM scheme.

Reply of the Government

During the year 2017-18, the entire scheme was put under review and all tender processes under NFHM were put on hold until the review. This included „Condition assessment“ for which the executing agency was already engaged and for which work had begun. The other tenders viz. preventive conservation of film content at NFAI, digitization and restoration of filmic material, creation of IT infrastructure at NFAI, etc., which were at various stages of tendering, were also stalled.

The work under „Preventive Conservation“ could only commence on completion of work under „Collection Assessment“. As the work under collection assessment could not be completed in time due to the review, the work under preventive conservation could not be initiated in time even though the executing agency was selected. Now, the work under collection assessment has completed. Basis the work output of collection assessment, the selected agency for preventive conservation is set to initiate resource mobilization and commence work. Also, the executing agency for construction of storage facilities is now in place and it is being ensured to regularly review the work.

It is being ensured to speed up the various tender processes, viz. „Digitization of Film Content“, „Restoration of Film Content“ and „IT Solutions“, such that the executing agencies are engaged in timely manner as per extant procedure for effective implementation of the NFHM Scheme and proper utilization of the allotted funds.

Frequent reviews by the Technical Committee of NFHM has been initiated for optimally utilizing the allocated funds. The High Level Committee meetings are being regularly held which is reviewing the project for effective implementation. It is being ensured to speed up the various tender processes for appointment of executing agencies in timely manner as per extant procedure for effective implementation of the NFHM Scheme and proper utilization of allotted funds.

An amount of Rs.22.48 crore was allocated for NFHM during 2019-20, which was reduced to Rs.3.61 crore at RE stage. The final grant has been fixed at Rs.8.11 crore and the expenditure incurred is Rs.5.40 Crore, as on date.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/33/2019-PC Cell dated 09.03.2020)

Comments of the Committee
(Please see Para Nos. 22 and 23 of Chapter I)

National Centre for Excellence for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (NCoE)

(Recommendation Sl. No.13)

Another area of shortfall under the Film Wing during the last three years was the project for setting up a National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming & Comics. The Committee learn that the Planning Commission has given in-principle approval to the NCoE, which is a 12th plan project and it is based on Public Private Partnership model. The basic idea was to rope in private players to partner with Government to run the project. Further, the administrative approval for NCoE had been issued with a total outlay of Rs. 167.70 crore, to be implemented in a four year period from 2016-17 to 2019-20.

The Committee are, however, disappointed to note that during 2016-17 and 2018-19, there was under-utilisation of funds and Rs.0.39 crore and Rs. 1.63 crore was utilized under the project. During 2017-18, there was NIL expenditure. The less utilization of funds for the scheme is stated to be on account of review of the activities of NCOE in the Ministry. Indian Institute of Mass Communication (Executing partner) released RFP on 03.02.2017 for selection of Operating Partner for NCoE. The Ministry is in the process of identifying the operating and the academic partner for the Centre nearly three years later.

The Committee express their concern over the delays in implementation of NCoE project during all these years. It is a matter of serious concern that no dedicated officer has been appointed by the Ministry of I & B to oversee this project. The Committee, therefore, recommend to the Ministry to take immediate corrective action in this regard. The Committee are of the considered opinion that when the animation sector is growing fast in the country and in the changing scenario, Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comic are the new emerging technologies in media, the Ministry should make concerted efforts to find and finalise the operating and academic partner for the NCoE project to fulfil its objective to be a Centre for excellence at the national level to impart world class talent pool in India to cater to the needs of the Indian industry and global players. The Committee expect that the Ministry would soon make sincere efforts to find the operating and academic partners for the project and the funds of Rs. 20.50 crore earmarked for the NCoE project are not left unutilized.

Reply of the Government

A Committee consisting of Additional Secretary & FA, Additional Secretary and Joint Secretary (Films) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting was constituted in August, 2019 to supervise the selection of Operating Partner for setting up the institute. The Committee observed that a considerable time has passed since tender documents were submitted and scrutinized in the year 2017. During the time, a lot of technological improvements, curriculum modifications, changes in proposed fees, etc. have occurred in the AVGC sector. The Committee has accordingly suggested that it would be desirable to consider the changes in the sector since the year 2017, in wider consultations with key players in AVGC sector. After due deliberations, it has been decided that the present RFP should be terminated and a fresh RFP be drawn for selection of operating partner.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/33/2019-PC Cell dated 09.03.2020)

Comments of the Committee (Please see Para No. 26 of Chapter I)

Upgradation, Modernisation and Expansion of CBFC

(Recommendation Sl. No.14)

The Committee note that there has been under-utilisation of funds for the scheme „Upgradation, Modernisation and Expansion of CBFC“ during the last three years. During 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19, against RE of Rs. 3.51 crore, Rs. 2.50 crore and Rs. 1.30 crore, respectively, Rs. 3.09 crore, Rs. 1.49 crore and Rs. 0.94 crore was utilised. The shortfall in achievement of financial targets is attributed to constraint like shortage of space in CBFC office for not procuring/ installing Digital Projection System and Digital Theatres as planned which is hardly convincing.

The Committee regret to further note that keeping in view the likely expenditure, Ministry has now proposed to reduce BE, 2019-20 of Rs. 2.50 crore kept for the activity to Rs. 1.30 crore at RE stage. Obviously, the Ministry is not able to find an amicable solution to such a trivial issue of shortage of space in CBFC office in the fourth consecutive year so that CBFC could procure and install Digital Projection System and Digital Theatres as planned. The Committee deprecate such a casual approach of the Ministry in implementation of their scheme and call upon the Ministry of I & B to take necessary steps in this regard urgently. The Committee also desire that the recommendations of the Benegal Committee on the broader issue of film certification be reviewed and acted upon without further delay.

Reply of the Government

There was shortage of space in CBFC office due to which CBFC could not procure/ install Digital Projection System and Digital Theatres as planned. Therefore, the funds allocated for the said purposes could not be utilized which led to shortfall in financial targets.

Continuous follow-up of the activities is being taken up with CBFC to complete the activities as per schedule. The necessary approvals are also being taken up on priority basis to ensure the optimal utilization of allocated funds.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/33/2019-PC Cell dated 09.03.2020)

Comments of the Committee
(Please see Para Nos. 29 and 30 of Chapter I)

Production of films and documentaries in various Indian Languages

(Recommendation Sl. No.16)

Further, the reason for under-utilisation of funds allocated in the FY 2018-19 like the funds were earmarked for production of film „Bangabandhu“ in Audio-Visual Co-production agreement with Bangladesh and the film was at research and scripting stage under the direction of eminent filmmaker Sh. Shyam Benegal is not acceptable to the Committee. The Committee would like to know why at the first place allocation of Rs. 14 crore was made during 2017-18, for production of film „Bangabandhu“ when it was at research and scripting stage. The Committee desire that the Ministry should take utmost care to prepare the budget estimates.

Reply of the Government

It was expected that the research and scripting for the film “Bangabandhu” would be complete during first half of 2017-18 and that the production would commence during the second half of the financial year. Hence, a fund allocation of Rs.14 crores was made for production of the film during the year 2017-18.

The co-production agreement for production of film “Bangabandhu” between National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) and Film Development Corporation (FDC), Bangladesh was signed on 14.01.2020. The script for the film has now been finalized and the shooting will start in March, 2020. It is expected that the film will be completed by March, 2021.

As on date, a total amount of Rs.8.50 crore has been released towards production of the film.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/33/2019-PC Cell dated 09.03.2020)

Comments of the Committee
(Please see Para Nos. 33, 34 and 35 of Chapter I)

CHAPTER V
OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH
REPLIES ARE OF INTERIM IN NATURE

-NIL-

New Delhi;
04 February, 2021
15 Magha, 1942 (Saka)

DR. SHASHI THAROOR,
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Information Technology.

**MINUTES OF THE THIRD SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (2020-21) HELD ON 16th OCTOBER, 2020**

The Committee sat on Friday, the 16th October, 2020 from 1100 hours to 1300 hours in Committee Room 'B', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Dr. Shashi Tharoor – Chairperson

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Karti P. Chidambaram
3. Shri Santosh Pandey
4. Sanjay Seth
5. Shri L.S. Tejasvi Surya
6. Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma

Rajya Sabha

7. Dr. Anil Agrawal
8. Shri Y.S. Chowdary
9. Shri Syed Zafar Islam
10. Shri Nabam Rebia

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Shri Y.M. Kandpal | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Dr. Sagarika Dash | - | Additional Director |
| 3. | Smt. Geeta Parmar | - | Additional Director |
| 4. | Shri Shangreiso Zimik | - | Deputy Secretary |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee convened to consider and adopt four Draft Action Taken Reports on Demands for Grants (2019-20).....xxxxx....xxxxx.....

3. The Committee took up the following draft Reports for consideration:-

- (i)xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....
- (ii) Draft Action Taken Report on Demands for Grants (2019-20) of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting,
- (iii)xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....xxxxx....., and
- (iv)xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....

4. After due deliberations, the Committee adopted the above Report with slight modifications.

5. The Committee, then, authorized the Chairperson to finalize the Report and present the same to the House during the next session of Parliament.

(....xxxxx....xxxxx.....)

- 6.xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....
- 7.xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....
- 8.xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....
- 9.xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....
- 10.xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....

....xxxxx....xxxxx.....

Verbatim proceedings of the sitting have been kept on record.

The Committee, then, adjourned.

....xxxx....Matters not related to Report.

**ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE
OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THEIR SECOND REPORT**

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

[Vide Paragraph No. 5 of Introduction]

(i)	Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government Rec. Sl. Nos.:- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 15, 17, 18, 19 and 20	Total - 14
	Percentage	70
(ii)	Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government Rec. Sl. No.: Nil	Total - Nil
	Percentage	0.00
(iii)	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and require reiteration Rec. Sl. Nos.:- 8, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 16	Total - 06
	Percentage	30
(iv)	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which the replies of the Government are of interim in nature Rec. Sl. No.:- NIL	Total - Nil
	Percentage	0.00