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**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 Eighth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on  
„Demands for Grants (2020-21)]**

**SEVENTEENTH REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

*February, 2021/Magha, 1942 (Saka)*

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„Demands for Grants (2020-21)]**

**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)*

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

**Dr. Shashi Tharoor - Chairperson**

### **Lok Sabha**

2. Smt. Locket Chatterjee
3. Shri Karti P. Chidambaram
4. Shri Sunny Deol
5. Dr. Nishikant Dubey
6. Smt. Raksha Nikhil Khadse
7. Dr. Sukanta Majumdar
8. Shri Dhairyasheel Sambhajirao Mane
9. Ms. Mahua Moitra
10. Shri P. R. Natarajan
11. Shri Santosh Pandey
12. Shri Nisith Pramanik
13. Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore
14. Dr. Gaddam Ranjith Reddy
- \*15. Shri Jayadev Galla
16. Shri Sanjay Seth
17. Shri Chandan Singh
18. Shri L.S. Tejasvi Surya
19. Dr. T. Sumathy (A) Thamizhachi Thangapandian
20. Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma
- #21. Smt. Sumalatha Ambareesh

### **Rajya Sabha**

22. Dr. Anil Agrawal
23. Dr. Subhash Chandra
24. Shri Y. S. Chowdary
25. Shri Shaktisinh Gohil
26. Shri Suresh Gopi
27. Shri Md. Nadimul Haque
28. Shri Syed Nasir Hussain
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 |

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\*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 Seventeenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Eighth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on „Demands for Grants (2020-21)“ of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

2. The Eighth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and also laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2020. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting furnished their Action Taken Notes on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Eighth Report on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2020.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 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 Eighth 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 Eighth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on „Demands for Grants (2020-21)“ relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

2. The Eighth Report was presented to Lok Sabha/laid in Rajya Sabha on 13 March, 2020. It contained 26 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<br>Rec. Sl. Nos.:- 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 20, 21, 22, 25 and 26              | Total -18<br>Chapter-II    |
| (ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government<br>Rec. Sl. No.: NIL                                   | Total - NIL<br>Chapter-III |
| (iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and require reiteration<br>Rec. Sl. Nos.:- 15 and 18 | Total - 02<br>Chapter-IV   |
| (iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are of interim in nature<br>Rec. Sl. No.:- 2, 14, 17, 19, 23 and 24                           | Total – 06<br>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.

**(Recommendation SI. No. 4)**

5. During the Report on DFG (2020-21) of the Ministry of I & B, the Committee had noted with regret the recurring nature of reduction in budgetary allocations of the Ministry during the last three years at RE stage, particularly, in view of Ministry's admission that the reduction by the Ministry of Finance(MoF) was generally related to the pace of expenditure. During 2019-20 also, MoF reduced the allocation at BE of Rs. 900 crore by 30.51% to Rs. 625.39 crore at RE stage due to the fact that the Ministry could utilise only 31.03% of the allocated funds up to 30.09.2019. Expressing their apprehension on the poor budgetary exercise in the Ministry of I & B, the Committee had desired the Ministry to ensure that the assessment of requirement of funds for its three Sectors are made on realistic anticipation to make the budgetary exercise more meaningful and accurate.

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

“Against the RE of Rs. 625.39 crore, Ministry booked an expenditure of Rs. 607.21 crore (97%) during 2019-20.”

7. **While observing that the recurring nature of reduction in budgetary allocations of the Ministry of I & B by the Ministry of Finance (MoF) during the last three years at RE stage was mainly related to their pace of expenditure, the**

**Committee wanted to be assured that the Ministry would make realistic assessment of their requirement of funds for its three Sectors for a more meaningful and accurate budgetary exercise. Through action taken reply, it has been informed that against the RE of Rs. 625.39 crore, Ministry booked an expenditure of Rs. 607.21 crore (97%) during 2019-20. However, the Ministry has not informed about their planning, if any, towards making a realistic assessment of their requirement of funds towards a more meaningful budgetary exercise in the coming years unlike during 2019-20 when BE of Rs. 900 crore was reduced by the MoF at RE stage and similar trend witnessed by the Committee for last three years. The Committee would like to be informed accordingly.**

**(Recommendation Sl. No. 8)**

8. The Committee had noted that though there were 33 sanctioned FM transmitters, they were either not installed or non-functional for reasons like delays in acquisition of site or construction of building, environmental clearance. In some cases matter was under consideration with Ministry of I & B and Ministry of Defence for logistic support. The Committee had, therefore, desired that people should not be kept deprived of the benefits of FM transmitters for procedural delays and all the sanctioned FM transmitters be made functional on priority basis.

9. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in their Action Taken Reply have stated as under:

“Prasar Bharati is making all efforts to make the transmitters functional at the earliest. The current status and target date of completion of all the 33 FM transmitters towers is placed at *Appendix- I.*”

10. The Committee note from the action taken reply that the timelines with respect to 31 sanctioned FM transmitters vary from June, 2020 to March 2023. Besides, in respect of 2 sanctioned transmitters at Namsai and Anini in Arunachal Pradesh, no timelines have been given as for one project at Namsai, work for construction has still not been awarded and for another project at Anini, security fencing and suitable site is being identified. Prasar Bharati has stated



to be making all efforts to make the transmitters functional at the earliest. The Committee hope that with consistent efforts of Prasar Bharati, all the 33 sanctioned transmitters will be made functional within the fixed timelines. The Committee may be informed of the latest update in respect of each of the transmitters along with the details of timelines for installing FM transmitters at Namsai and Anini in Arunachal Pradesh.

**(Recommendation SI. No.9)**

11. While observing that the main criteria for allocation of FM transmitters is the locations in border areas, LWE areas and aspirational districts and in respect of LWE and border areas, coverage across the country is decided in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs keeping in mind security/strategic issues, the Committee had desired the Ministry/Prasar Bharati to cover all the locations in border areas, LWE areas and aspirational districts with FM transmitters in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs so that people of these areas do not remain deprived of the benefits of FM services.

12. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in their Action Taken Reply have stated as under:

“With a focus to improve districts which rank poorly in important socio-economic indicators, NITI Aayog has finalized 115 Aspirational Districts [35 identified by MHA Left Wing Extremism (LWE) Affected Districts+50 identified by Ministries of Central Government+30 identified by NITI Aayog], Government has a vision to improve the social indicators in these districts. The details of these 115 districts alongwith current All India Radio (AIR) presence and schemes currently under implementation in these districts are given at *Appendix-II*. The details on FM Coverage in LWE affected and Aspirational Districts are as under

Districts	Present coverage (approx.) (%)		Coverage after completion of ongoing project (%)	
	By area	By pop.	By area	By pop.
<b>LWE Affected (35 districts)</b>	30	45	35	50
<b>Remaining Aspirational Districts (80 Districts)</b>	60	65	75	80

With regard to border areas, AIR has 103 FM transmitters, which are providing coverage along the bordering areas. Additionally, projects for installation of 19 FM transmitters in border areas are under implementation. Fact at a Glance on FM Broadcast in the bordering areas is given at *Appendix-III*.

In addition to terrestrial broadcast, AIR is also utilizing other platforms for reaching to the people across the country. At present, 38 channels of AIR are made available on Doordarshan's DTH platform (DD Free Dish) and live streaming of more than 248 AIR channels and stations has been started which can also be received through internet by browsing Prasar Bharati's website and also by downloading app <News On Air> on smart mobile phones."

**13. The Committee note that as of now 45% of the population of 35 LWE districts and 65% of 80 Aspirational Districts has FM coverage. The Committee further note that even if the Ministry's projects under implementation for setting up of FM transmitters are completed, 50% of the population of LWE districts and 80% of the Aspirational Districts would be covered. Keeping this in view, the Committee would like the Ministry to strengthen their efforts to increase FM coverage for the benefit of the populace in 115 Aspirational districts.**

The Committee note that AIR as of now has 103 FM transmitters which are providing coverage along the border areas of the country. Further, the projects for installation of 19 FM transmitters in border areas are under implementation. The Committee find from the details provided by the Ministry with regard to borders along with FM transmitters and coverage that after the projects for installation of 19 FM transmitters in border areas are completed, percentage of border coverage would vary from 40% to 70% except Indo-Bangladesh border in which case there would be 93.25% border coverage with FM transmitters. In this regard, the Committee would impress upon the Ministry to pay focused attention to increase the number of FM transmitters in some of the sensitive border areas to effectively counter hostile anti-India propaganda from neighbouring countries. In this connection, broadcast in local languages are particularly important.

**(Recommendation SI. No.10)**

14. The Committee had learnt that Ministry of I & B through their proposal to increase reach of DD channels in strategic locations like J&K region had distributed 30,000 Set

Top Boxes (STBs) in J&K and further distribution of STBs was underway in consultation with MHA. The Committee had desired to be informed of the criteria adopted by the Ministry for distribution of STBs in strategic areas and the target kept for distribution of STBs during 2020-21.

15. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in their Action Taken Reply have stated as under:

"Distribution of Set Top Boxes (STBs) is planned to be carried out in remote, rural and LWE areas which are usually media dark areas, under the guidance of Ministry of I&B and MHA. A large population residing in these areas has limited access to the information due to lack of penetration of the print, TV and digital media. Also, the cable infrastructure in such areas is very poor. Further, it also popularizes DD Free Dish in such areas to empower people with host of communication services at their doorstep. These STBs are planned to be distributed through nodal officers assigned by concerned state Government/MHA/Ministry of I&B. The criteria adopted for identification of the eligible households while distributing 30,000 set top boxes in J&K region was as follows:

- i. The household should be within 0-5 Kms from IB/LOC. Preference was given to those households which are nearer to the IB/LOC.
- ii. The household should have TV/LCD with them.
- iii. The household should have formal electricity connection.
- iv. The distance of household from the border shall be recorded by the committee while formulating list of eligible beneficiaries.
- v. Preference shall be given to BPL households.
- vi. The household (beneficiary) should have mobile phone as mobile no. is a pre-requisite for registration.
- vii. The priority should be given to households, having no access to Television Cable Network."

**16. The Committee had noted that Ministry of I & B had planned to distribute Set Top Boxes (STBs) in remote, rural and LWE areas which are usually media dark areas, under the guidance of MHA and in their endeavour had distributed 30,000 STBs in J&K and further distribution of STBs was underway. The Committee had desired about the criteria adopted for distribution of STBs and the STBs targeted to be distributed during 2020-21. Though the Ministry has provided the information with regard to criteria for**

**distribution of STBs, nothing has been mentioned about the number of STBs targeted to be distributed during 2020-21. The Committee would desire to know as to whether the identification of the beneficiaries for STBs during 2020-21 has been done on the criteria adopted for the same and how many STBs are planned to be distributed during the year. Further, number of STBs for distribution should be suitably enhanced so that population residing in remote, rural and LWE areas can have access to all the information and do not remain alienated for lack of penetration of the print, TV and digital media.**

**(Recommendation Sl. No.11)**

17. The Committee had noted that Prasar Bharati(PB) had seventeen 24x7 regional channels which were operational across India and PB had also placed eleven limited hours DD regional channels on DD Free Dish in March" 2019, for increasing its reach across India. The Ministry/PB, in their efforts to convert these channels into 24x7 in phased manner, planned to convert channels of Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand in the first phase. It was further planned to automate the rest of the channels for 24x7 operation apart from migrating existing channels to the cloud based architecture for automated playout. The Committee had, however desired to be informed of the proposed timelines for making all DD regional channels for 24x7 operation

18. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in their Action Taken Reply have stated as under:-

"i. The technical infrastructure at DDK Dehradun, DDK Raipur and DDK Ranchi have been upgraded for transmission/ production on 24X7 basis for the regional channels originating from these places. The limited hours regional channels of Uttrakhand, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand have now been started operating on 24x7 basis w.e.f. 01.04.2020. In the current COVID-19 crisis, Prasar Bharati has started a new 24X7 GEC channel „DD Retro“ utilizing spare capacity on 13.04.2020 for showcasing iconic and archival content, which has been welcomed by the viewers, and the popularity of the channel is increasing progressively.

Further, as an interim measures to enable 24x7 broadcast disseminating news and current information during COVID-19 crisis, the transmission of remaining eight limited hours channels has been augmented from 02.04.2020.This has been done by repurposing existing News Content in Hindi/English to ensure

24X7 broadcast so that there are no blank hours on these channels. This has been done by utilizing the limited technical resources currently available at the respective Kendras.

However, to augment these channels with local/regional content further technical upgrades may be necessary in the areas of program production and production of news. The post-production and external coverage facilities will also be required to be augmented apart from automated playout facilities. Technology options for the same are being evaluated.”

**19. The Committee note with satisfaction that Prasar Bharati, as planned, has upgraded the technical infrastructure at DDK Dehradun, DDK Raipur and DDK Ranchi for transmission/production on 24X7 basis for the regional channels originating from these places and the limited hours regional channels of Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand have been operating on 24x7 basis w.e.f. 01.04.2020. It has started a new 24X7 GEC channel “DD Retro” utilizing spare capacity on 13.04.2020 for showcasing iconic and archival content. Further, transmission of remaining eight limited hours channels has been augmented from 02.04.2020, as an interim measures to enable 24x7 broadcast disseminating news and current information during COVID-19 crisis by utilizing the limited technical resources currently available at the respective Kendras.**

The Committee have been informed that in order to augment these channels with local/regional content further technical upgrades may be necessary in the areas of program production and production of news. The post-production and external coverage facilities will also be required to be augmented apart from automated playout facilities and technology options for the same are being evaluated. The Committee trust that Prasar Bharati would make all sincere efforts in this direction keeping in view the importance of local/regional content to increase the reach of the information to the masses. The Committee would desire to be informed of the timelines for completion of these projects.

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

#### **Human Resource**

20. The Committee had noted with grave concern that out of sanctioned strength of 26129 personnel, 133959 posts (48%) were lying vacant in Programme Wing, Engineering Wing, News Wing and Administrative Wing of AIR and in Doordarshan, out of sanctioned strength of 19662 personnel, 7919 posts (59.72%) were vacant in its various Wings. Therefore, a public broadcaster was allowed to compromise with the quality of the programmes. It was, however, learnt that the ongoing Manpower Audit had identified several areas viz. Sales, Marketing, Digital and I.T., Creative & Content Strategy and Corporate Strategy & Planning where there was a mismatch between the skills and resources required by DD and AIR and the current manpower. The Committee had desired to know the progress in the matter with full details.

21. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in their Action Taken Reply have stated as under:-

“M/s Ernst and Young LLP, the agency conducting the Manpower Audit of Prasar Bharati, had submitted the modified final report on Manpower Audit on 13.11.2019 and the same was placed before the 159th Prasar Bharati Board in its meeting held on 04.02.2020. The Board had made some observations and the Board authorised the CEO to accord final acceptance to all remaining deliverables due from M/s E&Y LLP including acceptance of the final report, after all detailing, modifications, clarifications and improvements, as found necessary are in place.

Detailing is currently underway to address the mismatch between the existing manpower and the skills and resources available in Prasar Bharati and the future roadmap proposed in the report. An implementation plan will be thereafter drawn by Prasar Bharati to bridge the gaps and to address the future needs of AIR and Doordarshan.”

**22. The Committee learn that M/s Ernst and Young LLP has submitted its modified final report on Manpower Audit of Prasar Bharati on 13.11.2019 which was placed before the 159<sup>th</sup> Prasar Bharati Board in its meeting on 04.02.2020. The Board after making observations authorised the CEO to accord final acceptance to all remaining deliverables due from M/s E&Y LLP**

**including acceptance of the final report, after all detailing, modifications, clarifications and improvements, as found necessary.**

**The Committee find it surprising that even after 6 months since 4th February, 2020, detailing is still underway which would address the mismatch between the existing manpower and the skills and resources available in Prasar Bharati and the future roadmap proposed in the report. It has been stated that only after detailing is done, an implementation plan will be drawn by Prasar Bharati to bridge the gaps and to address the future needs of AIR and Doordarshan. Taking a serious note of such a casual approach of Prasar Bharati in dealing with matters relating to its existing manpower and the skills and resources, etc., the Committee urged the Prasar Bharati to take faster action on the issues affecting its performance. The Committee trust that Prasar Bharati would take all the required steps expeditiously to address the future needs of AIR and Doordarshan.**

**(Recommendation Sl. No.15)**

23. The Committee had noted with regret that Sam Pitroda committee constituted to review the institutional framework of Prasar Bharati, including its relationship with the Government and to revitalize Prasar Bharati in had submitted its report in February, 2014, however, its recommendations had not been implemented by the Ministry. The Committee found the plea of the Ministry unconvincing that the Expert Committee recommendations required action by various Divisions of the Ministry and by the Prasar Bharati and it was a time consuming process. Hence, the Committee categorically asked about the details of action initiated by the Ministry on the recommendations of the Expert Committee and also response of the concerned Departments. The Committee desired the Ministry/Prasar Bharati to avoid any further delays in this regard.

24. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in their Action Taken Reply have stated as under:-

“The Expert Committee under the chairmanship of Shri Sam Pitroda had submitted its report on 24.01.2014. The Committee gave 26 recommendations on eight different subjects which are as follows:

(i) Governance and Organisation, (ii) Funding, (iii) Human Resources, (iv) Content, (v) Technology, (vi) Archiving, (vii) Social Media, and (viii) Global Outreach.

The recommendations of the Committee have been examined, and steps towards implementation have been taken on the recommendations accepted by the Ministry.”

**25. While expressing concern over the inordinate delays in implementation of the recommendations of the Sam Pitroda committee which submitted its report in February, 2014, the Committee had urged the Ministry to avoid any further delays. In their action taken reply, the Ministry has informed that the recommendations of the expert committee have been examined, and steps taken on the implementation of the recommendations accepted by the Ministry. The Committee while finding the reply of the Government evasive would like to know that out of 26 recommendations given by the expert committee, how many have been accepted and falls under which of the subjects viz. (i) Governance and Organisation, (ii) Funding, (iii) Human Resources, (iv) Content, (v) Technology, (vi) Archiving, (vii) Social Media, and (viii) Global Outreach. A brief on each of the recommendations not accepted by the Ministry may also be furnished along with reasons for not acceptance.**

**(Recommendation Sl. No.18)**

26. The Committee had noted that the Net IEBR generation by Prasar Bharati during the last four years is almost static. The net IEBR during 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 had been Rs. 1378.5 crore, Rs. 1304.26 crore Rs. 1355.36 crore and Rs. 1401.83 crore, respectively against the projections of Rs. 2212 crore, Rs. 1425 crore, Rs. 1388 crore and Rs. 1596 crore, respectively. Further, the IEBR utilized for programme production during these years were only 39.77 percent, 39.40 percent, 33.61 percent and 33.40 percent, respectively. The Committee had desired that Prasar Bharati should make serious efforts to optimally utilize funds made available to them and strive hard to make itself a commercial viable entity in the long run and attain self-sufficiency in due course. Prasar Bharati should further aim for higher revenue receipts and explore ways and means to achieve the same. The Committee had also desired to



be informed of the IEBR target vis-a-vis achievement during 2019-20 and IEBR projections for the year 2020-21.

27. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in their Action Taken Reply have stated as under:

“As forwarded by Prasar Bharati, the revenue figures of Prasar Bharati for the year 2019-20 and proposed target for FY 2020-21 are as follows

(Figures in Rs. crore)

Prasar Bharati Vertical	Revenue Head	Target F.Y.2019-20		Achievement F.Y. 2019-20		Proposed Target F.Y. 2020-21	
AIR	Commercial	555.44	644.92	305.23	377.17	342.06	414.00
	Resources	89.48		71.94		71.94	
DD	Commercial	704.14	1004.14	348.83	852.69	499.99	996.00
	DTH	300.00		503.86		496.01	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			1649.06		1229.86		1410.00

In addition to above, during the year 2019-20, Prasar Bharati earned a revenue of Rs.15.95 Cr., Rs.7.29 Cr. and Rs.111.43 Cr. respectively from Miscellaneous Receipts, other resources (Recording/Training), and interest on term deposits.

Prasar Bharati has intimated that the lowering of Proposed Targets for F.Y 2020-21 is due to current COVID-19 Crisis and the uncertain times ahead.

As per Prasar Bharati, several avenues of revenue continue to be constrained given its primary role as Public Service Broadcaster. While VVIP coverages and other similar coverage of national importance are non-monetized by the public broadcaster, the same are also distributed to private broadcasters at no cost in public and national interest who monetize the same without any constraints. Prasar Bharati is also duty bound to broadcast programs relating to national interest, environment, public health, agricultures, health & family welfare, adequate coverage to diverse cultures, and language of various regions which also cannot be commercially exploited. Prasar Bharati has also recently provided slots to various state Governments for running educational content due to COVID-19 pandemic at very low rates in order to fulfil the role of public service broadcaster.

Further, as Services of Doordarshan are Free to Air (FTA) and do not have any subscription fee unlike many private commercial channels, thus advertisements

remain the only revenue source and which has also been impacted by COVID-19 and reducing spending by both public and private sector.”

**28. The Committee are disappointed to note that during the year 2019-20 Prasar Bharati had fallen short of the target for its revenue receipt of Rs. 1649.06 crore and the achievement remained Rs. 1229.86 crore only. Further, during 2020-21, the target for revenue receipt has been kept at a lower side at Rs. 1410 crore as compared to 2019-20 of Rs. 1649.06 crore due to current COVID-19 crisis and the uncertain times ahead. It is of little solace to the Committee that during 2019-20 Prasar Bharati has earned a revenue of Rs.15.95 crore, Rs.7.29 crore and Rs.111.43 crore from miscellaneous receipts, other resources (Recording/ Training) and interest on term deposits, respectively. The Committee feel that the Prasar Bharti are not giving serious attention to explore the opportunities/possibilities for revenue generation which could be in the form of allowing advertising and sponsorship, tie up with leading marketing partners, making their archival treasures a source of revenue, etc. While acknowledging the prevailing circumstances due to COVID crisis, the Committee, however, reiterate their earlier recommendation that Ministry/Prasar Bharati should identify new revenue streams and also take cost saving measures to raise their revenue and make themselves a commercially viable entity in the long run and attain self-sufficiency in due course.**

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

**Development Communication and Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC)**

29. The Committee in their earlier Report had noted that during 2019-20, the expenditure under DCDFC was less, which is related to their participation in various film festivals and core production of films, marketing of films. The Committee, however hoped that as assured, the Ministry would perform better during 2020-21 by improving their participation in film festivals and helping various State Governments in organizing small film festivals, etc.

30. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in their Action Taken Reply have stated that:

“The suggestions of the Committee would be adhered to. An amount of Rs.115.50 crore has been allocated under the DCDFC scheme during 2020-21. The total expenditure incurred under the DCDFC scheme is Rs.6.12 crore in the first quarter of the 2020-21. The expenditure has been low due to non-participation in ear marked film festivals due to the pandemic.”

**31. While noting a meagre expenditure under DCDFC during 2019-20 for participation in various film festivals and core production of films, marketing of films, the Committee had expected better performance of the Ministry during 2020-21. From action taken reply, the Committee note that out of Rs.115.50 crore allocated under the DCDFC scheme during 2020-21, the Ministry could merely spend Rs.6.12 crore in the first quarter of the 2020-21 which is not a happy situation. The reason for less expenditure has been attributed to non-participation in ear marked film festivals due to the pandemic. The Committee can understand the challenges being faced by the Ministry due spread of Coronavirus in the country, however, they would desire the Ministry to strengthen its machinery and continue their efforts to make up the delays and complete the projects targeted for the year so that budgetary allocation under DCDFC is optimally utilised.**

**(Recommendation Sl. No.21)**

**National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM)**

32. The Committee had noted with concern that the expenditure on the NFHM scheme which aimed to have a building of international standards, for conservation of films was negligible during 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 (up to January, 2020). Against BE of Rs. 50.00 crore, Rs. 57.78 crore and Rs. 22.48 crore which was substantially reduced at RE stage to Rs. 6.02 crore, Rs. 15.00 crore and Rs. 3.61 crore, the expenditure was Rs. 6.02 crore, Rs. 10.51 crore and Rs. 3.33 crore, respectively. The Secretary, I & B admitted that work related to NHFM was delayed as decision could

not be taken as to who would do the construction work. He, however informed that of late NBCC had secured the tender and would do the construction activity. The Committee, however, cautioned the Ministry to avoid lackadaisical approach for such an important project while hoping that the project would soon take off as envisaged and assured.

33. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in its Action Taken Reply has submitted as under:

"National Film Archives of India (NFAI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NBCC regarding "Planning, Designing and Construction of Storage Facility (Vaults) of global standards at NFAI", as part of work related to NFHM. The executing agency for construction of storage facilities is now in place and it is being ensured to regularly review the work. Frequent reviews by the Technical Committee of NFHM have 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.

Further, 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.

After rationalization of schemes, allocation under the scheme NFHM has been merged within the allocation of the Scheme 'DCDFC'. An amount of Rs.15.48 crore has been allocated under the NFHM scheme during 2020-21.

Upto the end of May 2020, the total expenditure incurred under the NFHM scheme during 2020-21 is Rs.41.52 lakhs."

**34. The Committee draws some satisfaction from the fact that National Film Archives of India (NFAI) has signed a MoU with NBCC regarding "Planning, Designing and Construction of Storage Facility (Vaults) of global standards at NFAI", as part of work related to NFHM. The executing agency for construction of storage facilities is now in place and it is being ensured to regularly review the work. In order to optimally utilise the allocated funds, the Technical Committee of NFHM have been initiated. The High Level Committee meetings are being regularly held which is reviewing the project for effective implementation. Further, 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. The Committee are hopeful that with sincere and continuous efforts, Rs.15.48 crore allocated under the NFHM scheme during 2020-21 would be fully utilised. The NFHM scheme aiming for preservation of country's cinematic heritage should be completed in a time bound manner.**

## CHAPTER II

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

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

The budget of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is spread across three sectors, viz, Film Sector, Information Sector and Broadcasting Sector (including Prasar Bharati). The Committee note that in order to avoid thin spread of resources for optimal output and outcome, the Ministry, as per the direction of Ministry of Finance(MoF), undertook a rationalization of its Central Sector Schemes (CSS) effective from Financial Year 2020-21. Out of 14 schemes in 2019-20, only 5 schemes remain in FY 2020-21 under CSS viz. (i) Development Communication & Information Dissemination (DCID), (ii) Development Communication & Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC), (iii) Champion Service Sector, (iv) Broadcasting Infrastructure Development (Prasar Bharati) and (v) Supporting Community Radio. According to the Ministry, the consolidation of resources will provide flexibility in use, leading to better utilization of funds benefiting each sector. The components of 5 schemes have been shifted to 'Establishment Expenditure', while components of 4 schemes got shifted to 'Other Central Expenditure'. The Committee trust that these initiatives would help in better implementation of various schemes of the Ministry and thus would yield the desired results.

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

The Ministry concurs with the overall views of the Committee. For effective and better utilization of resources and to improve the expenditure, a comprehensive rationalization and restructuring of the schemes has been implemented in 2020-21 by the Ministry. After the rationalization of 14 Central Sector Schemes (CSS), Ministry has now only 5 Central Sector Schemes. It was aimed to consolidate fragmented schemes to avoid thin spread of resources for optimal outputs and outcomes. 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.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/6/2020-PC Cell dated 31.07.2020)

## **II. Demands for Grants for 2020-21**

### **(Recommendation SI. No. 3)**

The Committee note that budgetary allocation of Rs. 740 crore has been made for CSS of the Ministry of I & B for the year 2020-21 which is Rs. 160 crore less than the allocation of Rs. 900 crore made during 2019-20. The Committee are given to understand that due to rationalisation of the CSS during the year, there is a decrease in the allocation under CCS and corresponding increase in allocation under Establishment Expenditure and Other Central Expenditure, while the Gross allocation for Ministry's budget grant remain same at Rs. 4375.21 crore during 2020-21 as it was in the year 2019-20.

The Committee regret to note that the Ministry proposed an allocation of Rs. 817 crore to execute their projects/schemes under Film Sector, Information sector and Broadcasting Sector (including Prasar Bharati) for the year 2020-21, however, MoF has approved Rs. 740 crore only. The Committee have, however been assured that the reduced allocation would not affect the performance of the Ministry as there is recourse to seek additional funds from MoF at the stage of Supplementary Grants or the Revised Estimates (RE) stage, depending upon expenditure incurred by the Ministry. The Committee hope that the Ministry would perform better during this year and RE, 2020-21 would see an upward trend unlike in the previous years.

### **Reply of the Government**

Rationalization and Restructuring of the Plan Schemes will definitely ensure their better execution and monitoring at the implementation stage. Also, the regular monitoring at the level of Additional Secretary/Joint Secretary will ensure timely implementation.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/6/2020-PC Cell dated 31.07.2020)

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

The Committee are constrained to note the recurring nature of reduction in budgetary allocations of the Ministry of I& B during the last three years at RE stage. During 2017-18, BE of Rs. 840 crore was drastically reduced by 28.83% to Rs. 597.77crore. The Ministry has stated that the reduction at RE stage by the MoF is generally related to the pace of expenditure. The Committee are sure the performance during the previous year resulted in less budgetary allocation at BE of Rs. 735.05 crore by the MoF at BE 2018-19. Again, the allocation at BE, 2018-19 was reduced to Rs. 712.66 crore at RE stage. The Committee further observe that underutilization of budgetary allocation of Rs. 900 crore to Ministry of I & B during 2019-20 was quite alarming that prompted the MoF to reduce the allocation by 30.51% to Rs. 625.39 crore. The Ministry admitted that up to 30.09.2019, the Ministry had incurred only 31.03% of the allocated funds at BE 2019-20. Keeping in view the above, the Committee apprehends the poor budgetary exercise in the Ministry. The Committee would, therefore, desire the Ministry of I& B to ensure that the assessment of requirement of funds for its three Sectors are made on realistic anticipation to make the budgetary exercise more meaningful and accurate.

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

Against the RE of Rs. 625.39, Ministry booked an expenditure of Rs. 607.21 (97%) during 2019-20.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/6/2020-PC Cell dated 31.07.2020)

#### **Comments of the Committee (Please see Para No. 7 of Chapter I)**

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

The Committee take a serious note of the fact that during the last three years, the main reason for under-utilisation of budgetary allocations remained non-execution of the projects/schemes mainly of Prasar Bharati, as a major chunk of the total plan allocations for the Ministry are made every year for the organisation. A representative of the Ministry submitted during evidence that during 2019-20, about Rs. 200 crore was provided to Prasar Bharati, largely for



Doordarshan and some amount for All India Radio, however, due to the process involved in commissioning of the content by the Prasar Bharati which took a lot of time to unravel, the amount remained unspent. The Committee further note to their dissatisfaction that even reduced allocations during 2017-18 and 2018-19 were not optimally utilized and utilisation remained at 83.88 percent and 92.16 percent, respectively. The Ministry have informed that during 2019-20, out of RE of Rs. 625.39 crore, 83.71 percent have been utilized up to February, 2020 and hope that the funds would be fully utilized. However, keeping in view the restriction imposed by the MoF for carrying out expenditure up to 25 percent and 10 percent in the last quarter/month, the Committee apprehend shortfall in optimal utilisation of funds. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of I & B should take timely measures and prepare targets for quarterly utilisation of funds for implementation of their projects lest it would lead to shortfall in physical and financial targets during 2020-21.

### **Reply of the Government**

Prasar Bharati has achieved overall expenditure target of 90.92% in 2019-20 as compared to 67.78% expenditure made in 2018-19 due to various measures taken by Prasar Bharati for timely completion of projects. In the last quarter of the financial year 2019-20, however, there were several restrictions in travel and transportation, etc. due to COVID-19 pandemic, hampering the full utilization of funds.

An amount of Rs.103.15 Crore (88.15%) out of Rs.117.02 Crore, provided for Content Development to Prasar Bharati in 2019-20, has been utilized by the end of the financial year 2019-20. The target could not be achieved due to lockdown in the last quarter of FY 2019-20 hampering the various activities of the content production including preview of the newly acquired programmes.

An amount of Rs.185.31 Crore (92.54%) out of Rs.200.24 Crore, provided for Creation of Capital Assets in 2019-20, has been utilized by the end of financial year 2019-20. The main reason for not utilizing fully the allocated amount is COVID-19 pandemic and Lockdown in the country as some equipment could not be supplied and balance payment of various equipment could not be made in March, 2020, as requisite documents could not be timely submitted due to nationwide lockdown.

Regarding utilization of funds during FY 2020-21, Prasar Bharati has informed that quarterly physical and financial targets for Capital Schemes and for Content Development have been fixed and being monitored through online dashboard. All out efforts are being made to utilize the allocated budget from the beginning of current financial year.

Timely procurement action is being taken and monitored to meet physical and financial targets to utilize the allocated budget for the current financial year.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/6/2020-PC Cell dated 31.07.2020)

### **Broadcasting Sector(Including Prasar Bharati)**

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

The Committee note with dismay that Prasar Bharati failed miserably in utilizing the budgetary allocation during the last three years even when there was substantial reduction in allocations at RE 2017-18 and RE 2019-20. During 2017-18, against BE and RE of Rs. 430 crore and Rs. 282 crore, the utilisation was Rs. 201.57 crore(71.47 percent). During 2018-19, against BE and RE of Rs. 315.70 crore and Rs. 326.74 crore, the utilisation was Rs. 222.58 crore(68.12 percent). Further, during 2019-20, against BE and RE of Rs. 473.00 crore and Rs. 317.36 crore, the utilisation is Rs.149.93 crore(up to December, 2019).The Committee are apprehensive that due to restriction imposed by MoF for carrying out expenditure in the last quarter/month, Prasar Bharati will not be able to fully utilize the available funds. The main reasons for under-utilisation of funds during the last two years are stated to be decision taken to make the programmes for DD Kisan in house instead of commissioning them through SFC mode, non-production of many of the travelogues based programmes and deferment of Reality shows to next Financial Year, non-finalisation of the Reality show “MahilaKisan Awards” due to logistic reasons, non-utilisation of funds for production of programs for DD Kisan Channel by DD Kendras of Prasar Bharati including North East Kendras due to shortage of staff and also due to bad climatic and road conditions, delays in setting up of HDTV Studios, upgradation of DTH Platforms under the scheme “Grants to Prasar Bharati for creation of Capital Assets, procurement process of Digital Terrestrial TV(DTT) and launch of DD-Arunprabha Channel happened during the last quarter of FY 2018-19 and as funds were released by the Ministry

in the Month of March' 2019 only, the commissioning process for creation of content could be started only in March.

The Committee are not at all convinced with such repeated excuses made by the Ministry year after year for under-utilisation of funds which clearly shows the lackadaisical approach of the Ministry. They are of the view that the stated administrative and procedural hurdles could have been overcome had the Prasar Bharati put in focused efforts in this direction. The Committee desire that Prasar Bharati should make concerted efforts to avoid any delays in implementation of the schemes/activities projected for the year for full and fruitful utilisation of the budgetary allocations for the year 2020-21.

### **Reply of the Government**

In order to overcome administrative and procedural impediments for timely completion of capital projects, the procurement process of both AIR and Doordarshan has been unified and one ADG level officer has been assigned the responsibility for such procurement for all capital projects by the Prasar Bharati.

Further, Prasar Bharati has intimated that action has already been initiated for the projects targeted for 2020-21. These targeted projects are under various stages of implementation and are expected to be completed during 2020-21. All out efforts are being put to utilize the allocated budget from the beginning of current financial year. It is the constant endeavour of Prasar Bharati to complete the projects within the specified time frame. Monitoring mechanism has been strengthened considerably. Procurement procedures have been streamlined. Project review meetings are being held regularly at Zonal level, 'Project Monitoring & Budget Monitoring Units' level and various activities involved in procurement of capital equipment and execution of works are critically assessed and targets are fixed. Use of e-Office, e-Mail, WhatsApp group and audio/videoconferencing, etc. is being made regularly to fast track the process of implementation of the projects. A Dashboard for tracking, and monitoring of the implementation of projects and the expenditure incurred thereon in timely manner has been created.

The budget provided for the Content Development is mainly utilized for commissioning and Self Finance Commissioned (SFC) programmes of DD Arunprabha and DD Kisan channel. In this regard, 48 out of 109

commissioning programmes for DD Arunprabha have been completed, and are ready for telecast. The payments for these 48 programmes have already been released. The remaining programmes are expected to be completed by the end of second quarter of the current financial year 2020-21.

As regard to Self Finance Commissioned (SFC) programmes of DD Kisan, Prasar Bharati has intimated the Ministry that the agreements with SFC producers have already been completed and the programmes are proposed to be scheduled for telecast from June 2020 onwards. It may also be noted that the scheduling was delayed due to Lockdown imposed due to COVID-19 pandemic, as complete production and post-production activities came to a sudden halt. Further, DD Kisan is in a process of getting a special programme series on “Sustainable Organic Farming” under Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) mode. In addition, in-house programmes are being produced in collaboration with north eastern Kendras and other Doordarshan Kendras in the network.

The pending payments and legacy issues are being sorted out so that the budget provided may be effectively utilized in a time-bound manner.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/6/2020-PC Cell dated 31.07.2020)

### **Modernisation of AIR & DD**

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

The Committee find to their satisfaction the optimal or nearly optimal utilisation of funds allocated under schemes for modernization project of AIR during the last three years. However, the Committee are not happy to note underutilization of funds allocated for the schemes under modernization project of Doordarshan. During 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20, against the allocation of Rs. 118.38 crore, Rs. 112.17 crore and Rs. 211.58 crore, Doordarshan could utilize only Rs. 52.02 crore, Rs. 80.08 crore and Rs. 77.75 crore (up to December, 2019), respectively. In view of the pace of expenditure up to December, 2019, the Committee apprehend optimal utilisation of allocated funds for Doordarshan. This is not a satisfactory position. The Committee also note that during 2020-21, for modernization of AIR and Doordarshan, budgetary allocation of Rs. 131.98 crore and Rs. 111.05 crore, respectively has been made. In case of AIR, the amount has to be utilized for modernization, augmentation and replacement of transmitters,

augmentation and replacement of broadcast equipment, modernization and digitization of studios, FM expansion/replacement, etc., and in case of Doordarshan, the amount allocated has to be utilised for studio schemes, transmitter schemes, satellite broadcast schemes and for infrastructure augmentation, etc.

The Committee find that these infrastructural projects are instrumental in ensuring the progress of the public electronic media and enabling it to fulfill its obligations to the nation. The Ministry/Prasar Bharati thus should give serious consideration to their implementation. The Committee would like to the Ministry/Prasar Bharati to take all necessary steps to ensure optimum utilisation of funds during 2020-21 and apprise them of the progress made in the augmentation of AIR and Doordarshan.

### **Reply of the Government**

As intimated by Prasar Bharati, in the financial year 2020-21, all out efforts are being put to utilize the allocated budget from the beginning of current financial year. It is the constant endeavour of Prasar Bharati to complete the projects within the specified time frame. Monitoring mechanism has been strengthened considerably by developing a dashboard which facilitates monitoring of various stages of all projects under Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development Scheme (BIND). This would enable Prasar Bharati to make timely intervention in case of any reported bottleneck. Further, procurement procedures have been streamlined.

The following steps have also been taken by Prasar Bharati in order to avoid delays in implementing the scheme and to utilize the allocated funds optimally.

- (i) 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 which addresses issues like Estimation of Cost, Preparation of Specifications with Industry feedback, Queries from the bidders, Extension of tender opening date, etc.
- (ii) In order to make the procurement process more systematic and efficient, the tender Document is in the process of being revised.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/6/2020-PC Cell dated 31.07.2020)

**(Recommendation SI. No. 8)**

The Committee find that though 33 FM transmitters towers have been sanctioned, they are either not installed or non-functional for reasons like delays in acquisition of site or construction of building, environmental clearance and in some cases matter is under consideration with Ministry of I & B and Ministry of Defence for logistic support. It is apathy on the part of Prasar Bharati to keep the people deprived of the benefits of FM transmitters for reasons of procedural delays on their part. Hence, the Committee desire that all the sanctioned FM transmitters should be made functional on priority basis and they may be apprise of the progress made.

**Reply of the Government**

Prasar Bharati is making all efforts to make the transmitters functional at the earliest. The current status and target date of completion of all the 33 FM transmitters towers is placed at **Appendix-I**.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/6/2020-PC Cell dated 31.07.2020)

**Comments of the Committee  
(Please see Para No. 10 of Chapter I)**

**(Recommendation SI. No. 9)**

The Committee note that the main criteria for allocation of FM transmitters are the locations in border areas, LWE areas and aspirational districts. Further, in respect of LWE and border areas, coverage across the country is decided in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs keeping in mind security/strategic issues. The Committee desire the Ministry/Prasar Bharati should cover all the locations in border areas, LWE areas and aspirational districts with FM transmitters in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs so that people of these areas are not deprived of the benefits of FM services.

**Reply of the Government**

With a focus to improve districts which rank poorly in important socio-economic indicators, NITI Aayoghas finalized 115 Aspirational Districts (35 identified by MHA Left Wing Extremism (LWE) Affected Districts+50 identified by

Ministries of Central Government+30 identified by NITI Aayog), Government has a vision to improve the social indicators in these districts. The details of these 115 districts alongwith currentAll India Radio (AIR) presence and schemes currently under implementation in these districts are given at **Appendix-II**

The details on FM Coverage in LWE affected and Aspirational Districts are as under:

Districts	Present coverage(approx.) (%)		Coverage after completion of ongoing project (%)	
	By area	By pop.	By area	By pop.
LWE Affected (35 districts)	30	45	35	50
Remaining Aspirational Districts (80 Districts)	60	65	75	80

With regard to border areas, AIR has 103 FM transmitters, which are providing coverage along the bordering areas. Additionally, projects for installation of 19 FM transmitters in border areas are under implementation. Fact at a Glance on FM Broadcast in the bordering areas is given at **Appendix-III**.

In addition to terrestrial broadcast, AIR is also utilizing other platforms for reaching to the people across the country. At present, 38 channels of AIR are made available on Doordarshan’s DTH platform (DD Free Dish) and live steaming of more than 248 AIR channels and stations has been started which can also be received through internet by browsing Prasar Bharati’s website and also by downloading app <News On Air> on smart mobile phones.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/6/2020-PC Cell dated 31.07.2020)

**Comments of the Committee  
(Please see Para No. 13 of Chapter I)**

**(Recommendation Sl. No. 10)**

The Committee learn that the Ministry of I & B have proposed to increase reach of Doordarshan channels in strategic locations like J&K region and have so far distributed 30,000 Set Top Boxes (STBs) in J&K and further distribution of STBs

is underway in consultation with MHA. The Committee would like to be informed of the criteria adopted by the Ministry for distribution of STBs in strategic areas and the target kept for distribution of STBs during 2020-21.

### **Reply of the Government**

Distribution of Set Top Boxes (STBs) is planned to be carried out in remote, rural and LWE areas which are usually media dark areas, under the guidance of Ministry of I&B and MHA. A large population residing in these areas has limited access to the information due to lack of penetration of the print, TV and digital media. Also, the cable infrastructure in such areas is very poor. Further, it also popularizes DD Free Dish in such areas to empower people with host of communication services at their doorstep. These STBs are planned to be distributed through nodal officers assigned by concerned state Government/MHA/Ministry of I&B.

The criteria adopted for identification of the eligible households while distributing 30,000 set top boxes in J&K region was as follows:

- i. The household should be within 0-5 Kms from IB/LOC. Preference was given to those households which are nearer to the IB/LOC.
- ii. The household should have TV/LCD with them.
- iii. The household should have formal electricity connection.
- iv. The distance of household from the border shall be recorded by the committee while formulating list of eligible beneficiaries.
- v. Preference shall be given to BPL households.
- vi. The household (beneficiary) should have mobile phone as mobile no. is a pre-requisite for registration.
- vii. The priority should be given to households, having no access to Television Cable Network.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/6/2020-PC Cell dated 31.07.2020)

**Comments of the Committee  
(Please see Para No. 16 of Chapter I)**



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

The Committee note that there are currently seventeen (17) 24x7 regional channels operational and available across India through various delivery platforms including DD Free Dish. Apart from these regional channels, Prasar Bharati has placed eleven(11) limited hours DD regional channels on DD Free Dish in March' 2019, for increasing its reach across India. The Ministry are making efforts to convert these channels into 24x7 in phased manner within the available resources. In the first phase, channels of Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand are being planned to be converted 24x7. Automated play out systems for these channels have been commissioned and necessary other technical facilities are being upgraded. Further to automate the rest of the channels and to improve the efficiency of 24x7 channels, technology piloting is ongoing for cloud based automated channel playout and channel management. Based on the learnings and evaluation of the same, the rest of the channels shall be automated for 24x7 operation apart from migrating existing channels to the cloud based architecture for automated playout. The Committee would like to be informed of the proposed timelines for making all DD regional channels for 24x7 operation and the physical and financial targets fixed in this regard for 2020-21.

### **Reply of the Government**

The technical infrastructure at DDK Dehradun, DDK Raipur and DDK Ranchi have been upgraded for transmission/ production on 24X7 basis for the regional channels originating from these places. The limited hours regional channels of Uttrakhand, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand have now been started operating on 24x7 basis w.e.f. 01.04.2020. In the current COVID-19 crisis, Prasar Bharati has started a new 24X7 GEC channel "DD Retro" utilizing spare capacity on 13.04.2020 for showcasing iconic and archival content, which has been welcomed by the viewers, and the popularity of the channel is increasing progressively.

Further, as an interim measures to enable 24x7 broadcast disseminating news and current information during COVID-19 crisis, the transmission of remaining eight limited hours channels has been augmented from 02.04.2020. This has been done by repurposing existing News Content in Hindi/English to ensure 24X7 broadcast so that there are no blank hours on

these channels. This has been done by utilizing the limited technical resources currently available at the respective Kendras.

However, to augment these channels with local/regional content further technical upgrades may be necessary in the areas of program production and production of news. The post-production and external coverage facilities will also be required to be augmented apart from automated playout facilities. Technology options for the same are being evaluated.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/6/2020-PC Cell dated 31.07.2020)

**Comments of the Committee  
(Please see Para No. 19 of Chapter I)**

**(Recommendation Sl. No. 12)**

The Committee note that the Ministry of I & B/ Prasar Bharati have taken several measures for expanding the reach of Community Radio Stations (CRS) preferably in CR Dark districts and Aspirational Districts. The process for release of Grant-in-aid to eligible CR Stations is being streamlined and matter is being pursued with the other Ministries to expedite the process of obtaining clearances. The Committee also note that there are 117 Aspirational Districts in the country and a total of 21 Community Radio Stations are operational in these 18 districts. The Committee would like to be informed of the timelines for opening of CRS in all the aspirational districts in the country and physical and financial targets fixed for 2020-21.

**Reply of the Government**

7 Community Radio (CR) Awareness workshops have been organized in 2019-20 by targeting CR dark and Aspirational Districts at various parts of the country. Around 300 organizations comprising Educational Institutions, NGOs and KVKs were invited to attend the workshop.

In the current year, target is to bring more and more organizations from these areas to establish Community Radio station (CRS). In the current year target is to have at least one CRS in each of the Aspirational District.

As far as Grants to CRSs are concerned, as and when any application is being received which is processed immediately for next course of action. Till date, grants were released to all CRS applications (which were complete in all respects).

Consistent communication and meetings are being held to obtain clearances from the concerned Ministries.

Efforts would be made to achieve the financial target in the current Financial Year.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/6/2020-PC Cell dated 31.07.2020)

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

The Committee find it a matter of grave concern that in AIR, out of the total sanctioned strength of 26129 personnel, 13395 posts are vacant(48%); 4850 posts are vacant in Programme Wing, 1299 in Engineering Wing, 25 in News Wing and 6798 in Administrative Wing. Similarly, in Doordarshan, out of the total sanctioned strength of 19662 personnel, 7919 posts are vacant(59.72%); 1715 posts are vacant in Programme Wing, 4140 in Engineering Wing, 60 in News Wing and 2004 in Administrative Wing. It is regrettable that a public broadcaster has been allowed to compromise with the quality of the programmes. Of late, the ongoing Manpower Audit has identified several areas where there is a mismatch between the skills and resources required by DD and AIR and the current manpower. These areas include Sales, Marketing, Digital and I.T., Creative & Content Strategy and Corporate Strategy & Planning. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress in this regard with full details.

### **Reply of the Government**

M/s Ernst and Young LLP, the agency conducting the Manpower Audit of Prasar Bharati, had submitted the modified final report on Manpower Audit on 13.11.2019 and the same was placed before the 159th Prasar Bharati Board in its meeting held on 04.02.2020. The Board had made some observations and the Board authorised the CEO to accord final acceptance to all remaining deliverables due from M/s E&Y LLP including acceptance of the

final report, after all detailing, modifications, clarifications and improvements, as found necessary are in place.

Detailing is currently underway to address the mismatch between the existing manpower and the skills and resources available in Prasar Bharati and the future roadmap proposed in the report. An implementation plan will be thereafter drawn by Prasar Bharati to bridge the gaps and to address the future needs of AIR and Doordarshan.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/6/2020-PC Cell dated 31.07.2020)

**Comments of the Committee  
(Please see Para No. 22 of Chapter I)**

**(Recommendation Sl. No. 16)**

The Committee have been informed that Prasar Bharati in their efforts to increase and strengthen its media presence on various social media platforms has re-developed and deployed its Corporate Website, which now has live TV, live radio, videos, news podcasts, radio magazines, etc. Further, in order to increase its digital presence, all DD Channels and News Units of DD have a dedicated YouTube channel where content is being uploaded daily and important news and live coverages are being live streamed, all major services and stations of AIR now have a dedicated live stream on Mobile Apps apart from YouTube channels, all DD & AIR units including news have dedicated social media handles to further publicize the content being made available digitally, NewsOnAir App has been created as its global digital platform available on both Android and iOS Platforms where all Radio and TV content can be accessed digitally, etc.

While it is appreciated that steps have been taken by Prasar Bharati to upgrade its Website and establish its presence in You Tube, the Committee feel that all social media channels such as Twitter, Instagram and Facebook should also be explored as they are by now well established channels of communication being employed by mainstream media channels and garner high response rates among the public.

### **Reply of the Government**

Steps have been taken to increase and strengthen Prasar Bharati's media presence on various Social Media Platforms like Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Telegram in addition to YouTube, corporate and news websites and NewsOnAIR App on “Andorid” and “iOS” mobile platforms. The details of Social Media Presence across platforms are placed at **Appendix-IV**.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/6/2020-PC Cell dated 31.07.2020)

### **Development Communication and Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC)**

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

The Secretary, I & B admitted that during 2019-20, the expenditure under DCDFC has been less, which is related to their participation in various film festivals and core production of films, marketing of films. The Committee hope that as has been assured to them, the Ministry would perform better during 2020-21 by improving their participation in film festivals and helping various State Governments in organizing small film festivals, etc.

### **Reply of the Government**

The suggestions of the Committee would be adhered to. An amount of Rs.115.50 crore has been allocated under the DCDFC scheme during 2020-21. The total expenditure incurred under the DCDFC scheme is Rs.6.12 crore in the first quarter of the 2020-21. The expenditure has been low due to non-participation in ear marked film festivals due to the pandemic.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/6/2020-PC Cell dated 31.07.2020)

**Comments of the Committee  
(Please see Para No. 31 of Chapter I)**

## **National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM)**

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

The Committee note that National Film Heritage Mission(NFHM) is aimed to have a building of international standards, for conservation of films. However, the expenditure on the schemes was negligible during the last three years. During 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 (up to January, 2020) against BE of Rs. 50.00 crore, Rs. 57.78 crore and Rs. 22.48 crore which was substantially reduced at RE stage to Rs. 6.02 crore, Rs. 15.00 crore and Rs. 3.61 crore, the actual expenditure has been Rs. 6.02 crore, Rs. 10.51 crore and Rs. 3.33 crore, respectively. The Secretary, I & B admitted that work related to NHFM has been delayed as decision was not taken as to who will do the construction work. However, now NBCC has secured the tender and will be doing the construction activity. The Committee, however, sound a word of caution that such lethargy on the part of the Ministry may be avoided at all cost while undertaking such important projects. They are, however, hopeful that the project will now take off now as envisaged and assured to the Committee.

### **Reply of the Government**

National Film Archives of India (NFAI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NBCC regarding “Planning, Designing and Construction of Storage Facility (Vaults) of global standards at NFAI”, as part of work related to NFHM. The executing agency for construction of storage facilities is now in place and it is being ensured to regularly review the work. Frequent reviews by the Technical Committee of NFHM have 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.

Further, 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.

After rationalization of schemes, allocation under the scheme NFHM has been merged within the allocation of the Scheme 'DCDFC'. An amount of Rs.15.48 crore has been allocated under the NFHM scheme during 2020-21.

Upto the end of May 2020, the total expenditure incurred under the NFHM scheme during 2020-21 is Rs.41.52 lakhs.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/6/2020-PC Cell dated 31.07.2020)

**Comments of the Committee  
(Please see Para No. 34 of Chapter I)**

**National Centre for Excellence for Animation, Visual effects, Gaming and Comics (NCOE)**

**(Recommendation Sl. No. 22)**

The NCoE aims to be build a Centre for excellence at the national level to impart world class talent pool in India to cater to the requirements of the Indian industry and global players. The project will be done by PPP mode. The private sector will run the Centre and the Government will be providing the land and part construction cost. The Committee note that almost nothing has been spent on the Schemes for the last three years. Secretary, I& B informed that delays have occurred due to non-finalisation of the tender.

The Committee while expressing their unhappiness over the delay would like to draw the attention of the Ministry to review their entire tendering process from the scratch which is causing unwarranted delays in the execution of important projects/schemes. The Committee, however, hope that the Ministry will make serious efforts to finalise the tender and work in this regard would progress during 2020-21.

**Reply of the Government**

20 acres of Land has been acquired from Govt. of Maharashtra at Dadasaheb Phalke Chitranagari (Film City), Goregoan Mumbai for developing building infrastructure. Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) has been selected as executing agency for implementation of this Plan Scheme. A committee of experts has been constituted to supervise and review the project for effective implementation.

After rationalization, allocation under NCoE scheme has been shifted to Other Central Expenditure of IIMC under respective object heads under Non Salary Component.

Rs. 20.50 crore under NCoE scheme is allocated to Other Central Expenditure of IIMC during 2020-21.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/6/2020-PC Cell dated 31.07.2020)

### **Information Sector**

#### **(Recommendation Sl. No. 25)**

The Committee have been informed that one of the achievements under Information Sector, is to Counter Fake news. The Committee note that the Ministry has setup a Fact Check Unit under PIB as a measure to counter fake news on policies, schemes, programs etc. by Government of India which has started functioning from December 17, 2019. The Unit has a presence on prominent social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. Out of 1332 complaints received so far, over Whatsapp and Gmail 160 have been countered till date. Keeping in view the insignificant number of complaints so far received, the Committee feel that the Ministry should work in conjunction with social media platforms. Plenty of efforts will be needed in order to make significant impact to counter fake news.

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

The Fact Check Unit of PIB endeavours to reply to queries received on a real time basis. Efforts are made to expedite the process of obtaining replies from Central Government Ministries/Departments to whom the query has been referred for fact check, adhering to the philosophy of replying as early as possible.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/6/2020-PC Cell dated 31.07.2020)



## **Implementation of Central Sector Schemes (CSS) in North Eastern Region**

### **(Recommendation SI. No. 26)**

The Committee note that the budgetary allocation for the Central Sector Schemes in North Eastern Regions during 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 remained under-utilised. Out of the allocation of Rs. 60.63 crore, Rs. 122.21 crore and Rs. 105.15 crore, respectively, the actual expenditure remained at the level of Rs. 49.44 crore, Rs. 65.24 crore and Rs. 46.01 crore (up to December, 2019), respectively. The Committee also note that lesser allocation of Rs. 74 crore has been made for CSS in NE states during 2020-21 as compared to last year. The Committee desire that adequate attention need be paid by the Ministry in the implementation of CSS Schemes in Northeastern region to connect them with the mainstream and generate employment opportunities. It will be appreciated if funds allocated are optimally utilized for boosting the implementation of CSS in these regions.

### **Reply of the Government**

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is committed for the implementation of CSS Schemes in the North Eastern States to connect them with the mainstream and generate employment opportunities. The funds to the tune of Rs. 127.70 crore (121.4%) have been utilized out of the earmarked RE of Rs. 105.15 crore for the financial year 2019-20.

Against the budget of Rs. 57.50 crore (RE) earmarked by Prasar Bharati for Northeastern Region during 2019-20, an expenditure of Rs.83.64 crore (145.4 %) was incurred upto 31.03.2020.

An amount of Rs. **74.0 crore** has been allocated at the stage of BE 2020-21 and the same is likely to be fully utilized in current financial year.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/6/2020-PC Cell dated 31.07.2020)

**CHAPTER- III**

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

-NIL-

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

**(Recommendation Sl. No. 15)**

The Committee are distressed to find that Sam Pitroda committee constituted to review the institutional framework of Prasar Bharati, including its relationship with the Government and to revitalize Prasar Bharati in had submitted its report in February, 2014, however, its recommendations have not been implemented by the Ministry till date. The Committee made 26 recommendations in the areas of (i) Governance and Organisation, (ii) Funding, (iii) Human Resources, (iv) Content, (v) Technology, (vi) Archiving, (vii) Social Media, and (viii) Global Outreach. The Ministry pleaded that the Expert Committee recommendations required action by various Divisions of the Ministry and by the Prasar Bharati, Directorate General: Doordarshan and Directorate General: All India Radio which is a time consuming process. The Committee are unable to appreciate the justification given by the Ministry for delays in implementing the recommendations of the expert committee.

Not convinced with the oft repeated reply of the Ministry, the Committee would like to know the details of action so far initiated by the Ministry on the recommendations of Sam Pitroda Committee and response of the concerned Departments. The Committee further desire that immediate action is warranted on the recommendations of the Sam Pitroda expert committee by avoiding any further delays, in the interest of Prasar Bharati.

**Reply of the Government**

The Expert Committee under the chairmanship of Shri Sam Pitroda had submitted its report on 24.01.2014. The Committee gave 26 recommendations on eight different subjects which are as follows:

(i) Governance and Organisation, (ii) Funding, (iii) Human Resources, (iv) Content, (v) Technology, (vi) Archiving, (vii) Social Media, and (viii) Global Outreach.

The recommendations of the Committee have been examined, and steps towards implementation have been taken on the recommendations accepted by the Ministry.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/6/2020-PC Cell dated 31.07.2020)

**Comments of the Committee  
(Please see Para No. 25 of Chapter I)**

**(Recommendation Sl. No. 18)**

The Committee note that the Net IEBR generation by Prasar Bharati during the last four years is almost static. The net IEBR during 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 had been Rs. 1378.5 crore, Rs. 1304.26 crore Rs. 1355.36 crore and Rs. 1401.83 crore, respectively against the projections of Rs. 2212 crore, Rs. 1425 crore, Rs. 1388 crore and Rs. 1596 crore, respectively. However, it is a matter of concern that only 39.77 percent, 39.40 percent, 33.61 percent and 33.40 percent, respectively of IEBR were utilized for programme production during these years. Keeping in view the importance of the content generation for the growth of Prasar Bharati, it is imperative to make availability of sufficient funds for the content development. Hence, there is a need to contribute a sizeable portion of the IEBR for content development. As the Ministry of I & B has also been providing financial support for content development, the Committee desire that the Government should ensure that Prasar Bharati make serious efforts to optimally utilize funds made available to them and strive hard to make itself a commercial viable entity in the long run and attain self-sufficiency in due course.

The Committee also desire that Prasar Bharati should aim for higher revenue receipts and explore ways and means to achieve the same. The Committee may be informed of the IEBR target and achievement during 2019-20 and IEBR projections for the year 2020-21.

## Reply of the Government

As forwarded by Prasar Bharati, the revenue figures of Prasar Bharati for the year 2019-20 and proposed target for FY 2020-21 are as follows:

(Figures in Rs. crore)

Prasar Bharati Vertical	Revenue Head	Target F.Y.2019-20		Achievement F.Y. 2019-20		Proposed Target F.Y. 2020-21	
<b>AIR</b>	Commercial	555.44	644.92	305.23	377.17	342.06	414.00
	Resources	89.48		71.94		71.94	
<b>DD</b>	Commercial	704.14	1004.14	348.83	852.69	499.99	996.00
	DTH	300.00		503.86		496.01	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			<b>1649.06</b>		<b>1229.86</b>		<b>1410.00</b>

In addition to above, during the year 2019-20, Prasar Bharati earned a revenue of Rs.15.95 Cr., Rs.7.29 Cr. and Rs.111.43 Cr. respectively from Miscellaneous Receipts, other resources (Recording/Training), and interest on term deposits.

Prasar Bharati has intimated that the lowering of Proposed Targets for F.Y 2020-21 is due to current COVID-19 Crisis and the uncertain times ahead.

As per Prasar Bharati, several avenues of revenue continue to be constrained given its primary role as Public Service Broadcaster. While VVIP coverages and other similar coverage of national importance are non-monetized by the public broadcaster, the same are also distributed to private broadcasters at no cost in public and national interest who monetize the same without any constraints. Prasar Bharati is also duty bound to broadcast programs relating to

national interest, environment, public health, agricultures, health & family welfare, adequate coverage to diverse cultures, and language of various regions which also cannot be commercially exploited. Prasar Bharati has also recently provided slots to various state Governments for running educational content due to COVID-19 pandemic at very low rates in order to fulfil the role of public service broadcaster.

Further, as Services of Doordarshan are Free to Air (FTA) and do not have any subscription fee unlike many private commercial channels, thus advertisements remain the only revenue source and which has also been impacted by COVID-19 and reducing spending by both public and private sector.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/6/2020-PC Cell dated 31.07.2020)

**Comments of the Committee  
(Please see Para No. 28 of Chapter I)**

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

**(Recommendation Sl. No. 02)**

The Committee also note that Ministry of Finance has mandated Evaluation of schemes for their continuation beyond 2019-20 and to make them co-terminus with Finance Commission Cycle i.e. 2020. NITI Aayog and Department of Expenditure provided the broad framework for undertaking the evaluations of all Centrally Sponsored Schemes and CSS under implementation by Ministry/Department. The Ministry of I & B carried out the last evaluation of CSS by M/s CHROME Ltd. in 2017. As has been informed, a fresh evaluation of all the CSS of the Ministry has been initiated by M/s KPMG and will be completed soon. The Committee would like to be informed of the progress in the matter and plan of action decided by the Ministry of I & B once M/s KPMG completes its evaluation of CSS of the Ministry.

**Reply of the Government**

Evaluation of all the Central Sector Schemes of this Ministry is under progress. The evaluation process is taking more time for completion, due to the prevailing situation of the Corona Pandemic.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/6/2020-PC Cell dated 31.07.2020)

**(Recommendation Sl. No. 14)**

The Committee are given to understand that as per section 9 of Prasar Bharati Act, 1990, all recruitment in Prasar Bharati are to be made in consultation with the Recruitment Board. The Ministry has notified 'The Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Establishment of Recruitment Board Rules, 2020' for establishment of Recruitment Board on 12.02.2020 in the Gazette of India. Further action is being taken in coordination with Prasar Bharati. A comprehensive review of the posts and the manner of staffing is being undertaken by Prasar Bharati. The Committee take a serious view for the delays in establishment of the Recruitment Board in Prasar Bharati. The Committee, however, recommend that matter should not be further delayed and be

expedited to take future course of action. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress in the matter.

### **Reply of the Government**

The current status of establishment of Prasar Bharati Recruitment Board is as under:-

- i. In pursuance of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Establishment of Recruitment Board Rules, 2020 notified by Ministry of I&B in the Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 12.02.2020, Prasar Bharati had initiated action for establishment of the Prasar Bharati Recruitment Board.
- ii. In pursuance of the decision of the Prasar Bharati Board, a Committee of senior officers of Prasar Bharati was constituted on 12.02.2020 to complete the groundwork for establishment of Recruitment Board. Progress on the same was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic developments and subsequent nationwide Lockdown.
- iii. With the easing of the Lockdown, the Committee has since submitted its recommendations to be placed for the consideration of the Prasar Bharati Board. The Recruitment Board will be constituted at the earliest with the approval of the Prasar Bharati Board.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/6/2020-PC Cell dated 31.07.2020)

### **(Recommendation Sl. No. 17)**

The Committee note that Prasar Bharati has taken a number of policy decisions to regain the viewers' confidence towards Doordarshan which are inter-alia revised guidelines have been approved for content procurement to promote quality programming, which will help overcome past challenges in timely procurement of content and ensuring that quality content is sourced effectively to address the need of the viewers, planning to have separate exclusive entertainment channel to compete with private GEC channels, emphasizing on its DD News channel in terms of programming format, look & feel, graphics etc. so as to increase the viewer base towards a credible and authentic news channel, re-



orientation of its DD India channel as an English News Channel to attract global audience including Indian diaspora across the globe besides ongoing efforts at HD Upgradation and Channel Automation.

While commending these steps in right direction, the Committee would like to ensure that plans drawn by Prasar Bharati are implemented in letter and spirit to have the desired and long lasting impact on the viewers.

### **Reply of the Government**

Implementation of revised guideline for content was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As an interim emergency measure, iconic programs of Doordarshan were acquired and telecast on various Doordarshan Channels as well as archival content on All India Radio. The re-telecast of iconic programs has seen tremendous and unprecedented public response as reported by BARC. A viewership of 77 million for “Ramayan” was reported on 16.04.2020, making it potentially the most viewed entertainment programme in the world.

Further, during this period, as the priority has been shifted towards informing and keeping the citizens updating the COVID-19 situation with factual news, DD News and DD India have made all out efforts to make programming to spur solidarity, promote positivity in such a crisis situation. News and Infomercials on COVID-19 aired by Doordarshan ranked it amongst the top 5 social messaging advertisers across the television industry.

Doordarshan and AIR are also discharging their public service mandate by enabling mass education across the network in partnership with state governments. As per BARC analysis, daily tune-ins by 2-14 year-olds has increased from 10 Million (Pre-COVID) to 37 Million and for the 15-21 age group, Daily Tune-ins increased from 9 Million (Pre-COVID) to 32 Million during Week 15’ 2020.

As regard the capital infrastructure is concerned, under the 3-year action plan 2017-2020, the three major Doordarshancenters located in Delhi, i.e., DDK Delhi, DD News & Central Production Centre (CPC) Delhi were proposed to be fully migrated to HD. Accordingly, implementation of projects for HD Migration at these three Kendras are in progress. These Kendras have already been provided Video Walls in eight Studios to improve the look and

feel for Studio Production. HD Production Vans and HD Camcorders have also been provided for field acquisition of the programs in HD.

This migration will enable production and transmission for channels viz. “DD National”, “DD Bharati”, “DD News”, “DD Sports”, “DD Urdu”, “DD Kisan” and one International channel- “DD India” originating from these centers completely in HD format.

Besides DDK Delhi & CPC Delhi, Earth stations at DDK Bengaluru, Dehradun, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Patna, Raipur, Ranchi and Srinagar have also been provided spectrum efficient equipment to make them capable to uplink HD Channels in MPEG-4. Upgradation of earth station at eleven locations of Doordarshan network, i.e., DDK Ahmedabad, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Jaipur, Jalandhar, Jammu, Kolkata, Lucknow, Shimla and Thiruvananthapuram is presently under implementation.

Automated HD playout facility has been provided at DDK Ahmadabad, Bhubaneswar, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jalandhar and Srinagar. Recently, HD automated playout facility has also been provided at three Kendras, namely, Dehradun, Raipur and Ranchi and 24X7 transmission has been started from these places with effect from 01.04.2020.

Modernization and Augmentation of production/ transmission facilities for migration to HD at remaining Kendras originating different Regional channels is also proposed.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/6/2020-PC Cell dated 31.07.2020)

## **FILM SECTOR**

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

The Committee note that the performance of the Ministry of I& B for their schemes under Film Sector is not at all satisfactory. During 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20, against the budgetary allocation of Rs. 207.00 crore, Rs. 165.84 crore and Rs. 165.00 crore, respectively, which was substantially reduced at RE stage to Rs. 111.13 crore, Rs. 111.96 crore, Rs. 133.13 crore, respectively, the utilisation

remained atRs. 83.39 crore (75.03%), Rs. 93.52 crore (83.52%) andRs. 78.06 crore(58.63%) (up to January, 2019), respectively. The Committee note that during 2019-20 under the scheme 'Infrastructure Development Programme Relating to Film Sector', 77.7 percent of the allocated funds were utilized, under 'Development Communication & Dissemination of Filmic Content(DCDFC)' against BE and RE ofRs. 53.87 crore and Rs. 63.39 crore only, Rs. 23.77 crore (37.51 percent) were spent, while under 'Setting up a Centre for Excellence for Animation, Gaming and VFX(Main Sectt.)', against BE and RE of Rs.20.50 crore and Rs.2 lakh, respectively, nothing has been spent. The Committee do not appreciate the manner in which the Ministry has been surrendering the unspent balances each year under Film Sector. The Committee desire that the Ministry should carry the proper assessment of their schemes and take corrective measures in this regard.

With regard to the Film Sector, the Committee urge the Ministry of I& B to undertake a comprehensive review of The Cinematograph (Amendment) Act, 1952 so as to resolve the entire gamut of issues relating to film censorship/certification and apprise them about the progress made in this direction within the next three months.

### **Reply of the Government**

The suggestions of the Committee would be adhered to.

The recommendations/ observations made by the Standing Committee on Information Technology in its report presented in the Lok Sabha on 16.3.2020 on Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill 2020 are under examination in the Ministry.

Overhauling of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 to amend or repeal on the basis of the recommendations of the Committee of Experts is under review.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/6/2020-PC Cell dated 31.07.2020)

### **Champion Services Sector Scheme**

#### **(Recommendation Sl. No. 23)**

The Committee note that the Ministry of I & B proposes to initiate a new Scheme viz. 'Champion Services Sectors Scheme'. At present, the proposal for the same is with the Ministry of Commerce, for getting their approval. The Scheme

intends to provide incentives to foreign film makers to shoot in India. The objective is to make India a hub for world film production. According to the Ministry of I&B, India offers a diversity of landscape and locations in the different States and Union Territories, making it an appealing destination for production of both international and domestic film. With a diverse range of production and post production facilities across India, the country offers multiple well-equipped film production hubs. India also has a talent pools of actors, producers, directors, writers and experienced crew including competent line producers across the many regional film industries. The low production and post production cost and favourable dollar-rupee exchange rate add additional attraction. Further to promote Indian cinema and to facilitate permission for film shooting by foreign film makers in India, Ministry has set up Film Facilitation Office (FFO) under the aegis of the NFDC. The FFO acts as a single-window facilitation point for the foreign film producers in assisting them to get requisite permissions, disseminates information on shooting locations and facilities available with the Indian Film Industry for production and post-production. A website <https://ffo.gov.in/en> was launched on 20.11.2018 as single-window facilitation point. Foreign film makers interested to shoot their Feature films, Reality TV shows and Commercial TV Series in India can make the applications online for permission of film shootings in the country. The website also provides useful information about shooting locations, shooting incentives being given by various States, International treaties for co-production, Trade Association, film cities and many others.

The Committee appreciate the initiative taken by the Ministry with an objective to make India a hub for world film production and desire to be informed of the progress in the matter. The Committee are hopeful that the said Scheme would take off this year as assured by the Secretary, I & B.

**(Recommendation Sl. No. 24)**

24. The Committee are of the considered opinion that permission of shooting in heritage places in India like it is practiced in foreign countries should be given. The Secretary I & B admitted that this practice in India will help to encourage tourism. The Committee are of utmost desire that the Ministry of I & B should take up the matter with the concerned Ministries in this regard and inform the Committee about the progress, if any, made.

## **Reply of the Government**

The action plans for the growth of Audio Visual Service Sector in India have been finalized after detailed consultation with various stakeholders. A proposal on Audio Visual Sector Sub-Scheme under Champion Service Sector Scheme, has been forwarded to Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Department of Expenditure and NITI Aayog. NITI Aayog has supported Ministry of I&B's proposal on Audio-visual Services under the Champion Sector Scheme.

The Ministry is working with various Central Ministries and State Governments for giving shooting permissions at heritage places in India.

An amount of Rs.30 crore has been allocated under the CSSS during 2020-21.

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/6/2020-PC Cell dated 31.07.2020)

**New Delhi;**

**04 February, 2021**  
**15 Magha, 1942 (Saka)**

**DR. SHASHI THAROOR,**

**Chairperson,  
Standing Committee on  
Information Technology.**

**Appendix – I**

**The current status and target date of completion of all the 33 FM transmitters towers**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>PLACE</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Target Date</b>
1.	Almora (UK)	5 kW FM Tr. at DD site	1 kW FM Transmitter installed. 5 kW FM Transmitter diverted to Ludhiana brought to Almora and installed. Diplexer brought	June 20
2.	Almora (UK)	1 kW FM Tr. at DD site	from Jammu under re-tuning. Erection work of 50 M tower completed.	June 20
3.	Champawat (UK)	1kW FM Tr. (Relay)	Building works under progress. Tender for 50 M SS tower under TE.	Sept.20
4.	Coochbehar (Bihar)	10 kW FM Tr. with limited studio facility	As an interim arrangement, 100 W FM Transmitter has been installed at Coochbehar and taken into regular service. Firm has been asked to take-up the re-erection works for 100 M SS tower.	March 21
5.	Etawah (UP)	10kW FM Transmitter	Construction of building & fencing work under progress. Transmitter& antenna received. Tender of SETC of 100 M tower under TE. Order will be placed after clarification from Vigilance Wing requesting GFR to be followed on SITC of Tower.	March 21
6.	Haldwani (UK)	10 kW FM Tr. (Relay)	Building works completed. Bids received against tender for procurement of transmitter. TE completed for erection of 100M tower.	March 21
7.	Kokrajhar (DD site)(Assam)	10kW FM Transmitter	Project approved by 2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Empowered Committee held on 30.05.2019. 6-bay antenna to be procured as structural analysis of existing TV tower does not support 16-panel antenna.	Dec. 20

8.	Ludhiana (Punjab)	10kW FM Transmitter	Construction of building under progress. 10kW FM transmitter received. TE completed for erection of 100M tower.	March 21
9.	Suryapet	10 kW FM Tr. (Relay)	10 kW FM transmitter commissioned on reduced power with 45 M mast. Order placed for erection of 100 M tower. Material under inspection and foundation under progress.	Sept. 20
10	Sultanpur (UP)	10kW FM Transmitter	Construction of building and retaining wall under progress. Transmitter & FM antenna received & TE completed for erection of 100M tower.	March 21
11	Rajahmundry (in place of Kakinada)(A.P.)	10kW FM Transmitter	TE completed for procurement of 10 kW transmitter and combiner.	Dec. 20
12	Muzzaffarpur (Bihar)	10kW FM Transmitter	10 kW Transmitter installed. Channel combiner spared from Kolkata to be used with existing CTI is getting re-tuned. Programme Content decided.	June 20
13	Ratlam (MP)	10kW FM Transmitter	Building works under progress. 10 kW Transmitter received. DSETC of 100 M SS tower is under erecting process.	Oct. 20
14	Namsai (Arunachal Pradesh)	1kW FM Tr. (Relay)	Work to be awarded for construction of building and security fencing.	
15	Anini (Arunachal Pradesh)	1kW FM Tr. (Relay)	Suitable site for establishing 1 kW FM Set-up being identified.	
16	Champhai (Mizoram)	1kW FM Tr. (Relay)	Tr. installed and tested on dummy load. Erection of 50M tower completed.	June 20
17	Changlang (Arunachal Pradesh)	1kW FM Tr. (Relay)	Tr. installed and tested on dummy load. Erection of 50M tower completed. Security Support sought by ZO from local administration before formal	June 20

			commissioning.	
18	Khonsa (Arunachal Pradesh)	1kW FM Tr. (Relay)	Tr. installed and tested on dummy load. Erection of 50M tower completed. Security Support sought by ZO from local administration before formal commissioning.	June 20
19	Kolasib (Mizoram)	1kW FM Tr. (Relay)	Transmitter installed. Erection of 50M tower completed. Under test transmission. Permanent Power supply issue being resolved.	June 20
20	Tamenglang (Manipur)	1kW FM Tr. (Relay)	Site taken over and matter related to physical possession of rooms of school building resolved.  Erection Antenna & Cable are to be delivered of 50 M SS tower under progress.	Sept. 20
21	Zunheboto (Nagaland)	1kW FM Tr. (Relay)	1 kW FM transmitter under installation. Erection of 50 M SS tower under progress.	June 20
22	Dahod (Gujarat)	10 kW FM Tr.	Project approved by 3 <sup>rd</sup> Empowered Committee held on 17.09.2019. Indent placed for procurement of 10 kW FM Transmitter and 6-bay antenna. Suitable site being identified.	March 23
23	Jaspur (Uttarakhand)	10 kW FM Tr.	Indent placed for procurement of 10 kW FM Transmitter and 6-bay antenna. Suitable site identified and joint survey being undertaken.	March 23
24	Rampur (Uttar Pradesh)	10 kW FM Tr.(Relay)	Indent placed for procurement of 10 kW FM Transmitter and 6-bay antenna.	March 23
25	Rameshwaram (T.N.)	20 KW FM Tr.(Relay)	Indent under placement for procurement of 20 kW FM Transmitter and 16-panel antenna.	March 23



26	Gadania	10 kW FM Tr.	Transmitter Building completed and taken over. Transmitter under installation. SETC of 100 M SS Tower is under tendering progress. Antenna & Cable are to be delivered.	March 21
27	Nanpara	10 kW FM Tr.	Transmitter Building completed and taken over. Transmitter under installation. SETC of 100 M SS Tower is under tendering progress. Antenna & Cable are to be delivered.	March 21
28	Maharajganj	10 kW FM Tr.	Transmitter Building work is under progress. Transmitter received. SETC of 100 M SS Tower is under tendering progress. Antenna & Cable are to be delivered.	March 21
29	Narkatiaganj	10 kW FM Tr.	Transmitter Building completed and taken over. Transmitter under installation. SETC of 100 M SS Tower is under tendering progress. Antenna & Cable are to be delivered.	March 21
30	Bathanaha	10 kW FM Tr.	Transmitter Building completed and taken over. Transmitter under installation. SETC of 100 M SS Tower is under tendering progress. Antenna & Cable are to be delivered.	March 21
31	Sitamarhi	10 kW FM Tr.	Transmitter Building work is under progress. Transmitter received.	March 21
32	Kupwara (DD Site)	10 kW FM Tr.	New Project approved by 4 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Empowered Committee held on 05.02.2020	March 22
33	Gurej (DD Site)	10 kW FM Tr.	New Project approved by 4 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Empowered Committee held on 05.02.2020	March 22

**Appendix-II**

**AIR setups and scheme under implementation in 115 Aspirational Districts (35 MHA LWE Pool + 50 Ministry Pool + 30 NitiAayog Pool)**

Sl. No.	District Name	State	Aspirational District Pool	Present AIR setup	FM transmitters under installation	Partly FM Coverage
<b>35 Aspirational Districts ( MHA Pool- LWE Affected)</b>						
1.	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh	MHA LWE	100 kW MW & 10 kW FM (Rainbow)	---	--
2.	Aurangabad	Bihar	MHA LWE	100 W FM	--	6 kW FM Sasaram
3.	Banka	Bihar	MHA LWE	--	100 W FM	---
4.	Gaya	Bihar	MHA LWE	100 W FM	--	---
5.	Jamui	Bihar	MHA LWE	--	100 W FM at Jamui&Siakindra	--
6.	Muzaffarpur	Bihar	MHA LWE	100 W FM	10 KW FM (DD Site)	--
7.	Nawada	Bihar	MHA LWE	--	100 W FM	--
8.	Bastar	Chhattisgarh	MHA LWE	100 kW MW, 100 W FM (Jagdapur)	--	--
9.	Bijapur	Chhattisgarh	MHA LWE	--	--	--
10.	Dantewada	Chhattisgarh	MHA LWE	--	--	--
11.	Kanker	Chhattisgarh	MHA LWE	100 W FM	--	--
12.	Kondagaon	Chhattisgarh	MHA LWE	--	--	--

13.	Narayanpur	Chhattisgarh	MHA LWE	--	100 W FM	--
14.	Rajnandgaon	Chhattisgarh	MHA LWE	100 W FM (Dongargarh)		
15.	Sukma	Chhattisgarh	MHA LWE	100 W FM (Konta)		
16.	Bokaro	Jharkhand	MHA LWE	100 W FM	--	
17.	Chatra	Jharkhand	MHA LWE	100 W FM	--	10 kW FM FMDaltonganj & 6 kW FM Hazaribagh
18.	Dumka	Jharkhand	MHA LWE	100 W FM	--	--
19.	Garhwa	Jharkhand	MHA LWE	--	--	10 kW FM FMDaltonganj
20.	Giridih	Jharkhand	MHA LWE	100 W FM	--	--
21.	Gumla	Jharkhand	MHA LWE	100 W FM	--	--
22.	Hazaribagh	Jharkhand	MHA LWE	6 KW FM		
23.	Khunti	Jharkhand	MHA LWE	--	--	10 kW FM Ranchi
24.	Latehar	Jharkhand	MHA LWE	--		10 kW FM FMDaltonganj
25.	Lohardaga	Jharkhand	MHA LWE	--		10 kW FM Ranchi
26.	Palamu	Jharkhand	MHA LWE	10 kW FM (Daltonganj)		
27.	PashchimiSinghbhum	Jharkhand	MHA LWE	10 kW FM (Chaibasa)	--	--
28.	PurbiSinghbhum	Jharkhand	MHA LWE	10 kW FM Jamshedpur (2 nos.) at 100 W F	--	--

				M at Ghatshila		
29.	Ramgarh	Jharkhand	MHA LWE	--		6 kW FM Hazaribagh
30.	Ranchi	Jharkhand	MHA LWE	100 kW MW, 10 kW FM, 10 kW FM (Rainbow)	--	---
31.	Simdega	Jharkhand	MHA LWE	--	--	--
32.	Gadchiroli	Maharashtra	MHA LWE	100 W FM	100 W FM Aheri&Sironch	--
33.	Koraput	Odisha	MHA LWE	100 kW MW, 1 kW FM (Jeypore)	---	--
34.	Malkangiri	Odisha	MHA LWE	--	100 W FM	--
35.	Khammam	Telangana	MHA LWE	10 kW FM Kotlagudam, 100 W FM Khammam		
<b>50 Aspirational Districts (Ministry Pool)</b>						
36.	Vizianagaram	Andhra Pradesh	Ministry Pool	--	--	---
37.	Y.S.R. Kadapa	Andhra Pradesh	Ministry Pool	100 kW MW 1 kW FM	--	10 kW FM Tirupati&Anantapur
38.	Namsai	Arunachal Pradesh	Ministry Pool	100 W FM	1 kW FM T	
39.	Hailakandi	Assam	Ministry Pool	--		

40.	Udalguri	Assam	Ministry Pool	100 W FM		
41.	Khagaria	Bihar	Ministry Pool	---	--	--
42.	Purnia	Bihar	Ministry Pool	10 kW FM	--	10 kW FM Siliguri
43.	Korba	Chhattisgarh	Ministry Pool	100 W FM	--	--
44.	Mahasamund	Chhattisgarh	Ministry Pool	1 kW FM (Sarapalli)	--	--
45.	Dahod	Gujarat	Ministry Pool	--	10 kW and 100 W FM	10 kW FM Godhra
46.	Narmada	Gujarat	Ministry Pool	--	100 W FM Kevadia Colony	
47.	Mewat	Haryana	Ministry Pool	--	--	20 kW FM Delhi
48.	Chamba	Himachal Pradesh	Ministry Pool	100 W FM at Chamba, Chaurikhas and Bharmaur	--	--
49.	Baramula	Jammu & Kashmir	Ministry Pool	100 W FM (Uri)	10 kW FM (Uri)	--
50.	Kupwara	Jammu & Kashmir	Ministry Pool	20 kW MW	10 kW FM (DD Site)	--
51.	Godda	Jharkhand	Ministry Pool	--	100 W FM	--
52.	Raichur	Karnataka	Ministry Pool	10 kW FM	--	--
53.	Yadgir	Karnataka	Ministry Pool	--	--	10 kW FM Raichur

54.	Wayanad	Kerala	Ministry Poo 	100 W Kalpeta	--	--
55.	Chhatarpur	Madhya Pra desh	Ministry Poo 	20 kW MW & 5 kW FM	--	--
56.	Guna	Madhya Pra desh	Ministry Poo 	10 kW FM & 100 W FM (Ch anderi)	--	--
57.	Rajgarh	Madhya Pra desh	Ministry Poo 	3 kW FM	--	--
58.	Osmanabad	Maharashtra	Ministry Poo 	10 kW FM	--	10 kW FM So lapur
59.	Washim	Maharashtra	Ministry Poo 	--	100 W FM	10 kW FM Ak ola & Yavatm al
60.	Chandel	Manipur	Ministry Poo 	100 W FM Cha ndel and More h	---	10 kW FM Im phal
61.	Ribhoi	Meghalaya	Ministry Poo 	--	--	10 kW FM Sh illong
62.	Mamit	Mizoram	Ministry Poo 	100 W FM Ran gdil and Pukzin g	--	6 kW FM Aiz awal
63.	Kiphire	Nagaland	Ministry Poo 	100 W FM Sa mtore	--	--
64.	Bolangir	Odisha	Ministry Poo 	10 kW FM	--	--
65.	Dhenkanal	Odisha	Ministry Poo 	1 kW FM Joran da	--	10 kW FM Cu ttack
66.	Gajapati	Odisha	Ministry Poo 	100 W (Parala khemundi)	--	---

67.	Kandhamal	Odisha	Ministry Pool	---	100 W (Phulbani)	--
68.	Firozpur	Punjab	Ministry Pool	100 W FM	--	20 kW FM Amritsar and Fazilka
69.	Moga	Punjab	Ministry Pool	---	--	6 kW FM Bhatinda and 10 kW FM Ludhiana
70.	Dholpur	Rajasthan	Ministry Pool	---	--	5 kW FM Gwalior and Agra
71.	Karauli	Rajasthan	Ministry Pool	100 W FM	--	10 kW FM SawaiMadhopur
72.	Sirohi	Rajasthan	Ministry Pool	--	--	10 kW FM Mount Abu
73.	West Sikkim	Sikkim	Ministry Pool	100 W Mangang, Chunlang, Lachen and Lachen	--	10 kW FM Gangtok
74.	Ramanathapuram	Tamilnadu	Ministry Pool	100 W FM Rameshwaram	20 kW FM at Rameshwaram (DD Site)	--
75.	Virudhunagar	Tamilnadu	Ministry Pool	--	---	10 kW FM at Madurai and Kodaikanal
76.	Asifabad	Telangana	Ministry Pool	--	--	--
77.	Bhopapalli	Telangana	Ministry Pool	--	--	10 kW FM Warangal
78.	Dhalai	Tripura	Ministry Pool	1 kW MW Dharmanagar, 6 K	--	5 kW FM Longtharai

				W FM kailasha har, 100 W Va nguman and S akan		
79.	Chandauli	Uttar Prades h	Ministry Poo l	--	--	10 kW FM Va ranasi
80.	Fatehpur	Uttar Prades h	Ministry Poo l	--	100 W FM	10 kW FM Ba nda and 20 k W FM Raeba reli*
81.	Siddharthnagar	Uttar Prades h	Ministry Poo l	--	100 W FM (Naugrah)	10 kW FM M aharajgang*
82.	Haridwar	Uttarakhand	Ministry Poo l	100 W FM	--	10 kW FM M ussoorie
83.	Udham Singh Na gar/ Jaspur	Uttarakhand	Ministry Poo l	100 W FM (Ka shipur)	10 kW FM Transmitter at Haldwani and Jaspur	--
84.	DakshinDinajpu r	West Bengal	Ministry Poo l	10 kW FM (Bal urghat)	--	10 kW FM Si liguri
85.	Nadia	West Bengal	Ministry Poo l	10 kW FM (Kri shnanagar)	--	--
30 Aspirational Districts (Ministry Pool)						
86.	Baksa	Assam	NitiAayog	--	--	--
87.	Barpeta	Assam	NitiAayog	100 W FM	--	--
88.	Darrang	Assam	NitiAayog	--	--	--
89.	Dhubri	Assam	NitiAayog	10 kW FM	--	--
90.	Goalpara	Assam	NitiAayog	1 kW FM	--	--
91.	Araria	Bihar	NitiAayog	100 W FM (For	10 kW FM	10 kW FM Sil



				besganj)	(SSB Site B athnaha)	iguri
92.	Begusarai	Bihar	NitiAayog	--	100 W	--
93.	Katihar	Bihar	NitiAayog	--	--	10 kW FM Pu rnia
94.	Sheikhpura	Bihar	NitiAayog	--	--	--
95.	Sitamarhi	Bihar	NitiAayog	100 W FM	10 KW FM (SSB Site)	--
96.	Pakur	Jharkhand	NitiAayog	--	--	--
97.	Sahibganj	Jharkhand	NitiAayog	--	--	--
98.	Barwani	Madhya Pra desh	NitiAayog	--		
99.	Damoh	Madhya Pra desh	NitiAayog	--		
100	Khandwa	Madhya Pra desh	NitiAayog	10 kW FM		
101	Singrauli	Madhya Pra desh	NitiAayog	--		
102	Vidisha	Madhya Pra desh	NitiAayog	--		
103	Nandurbar	Maharashtra	NitiAayog	--	100 W	--
104	Kalahandi	Odisha	NitiAayog	200 kW MW & 5 kW FM Bhaw anipatna		
105	Rayagada	Odisha	NitiAayog	100 W FM		
106	Baran	Rajasthan	NitiAayog	--	----	
107	Jaisalmer	Rajasthan	NitiAayog	10 kW FM	--	--
108	Bahraich	Uttar Prades	NitiAayog	100 W FM	10 kW FM (	10 kW FM La

		h			Nanpara- S SB)	khimpur
109	Balrampur	Uttar Prades h	NitiAayog	100 W FM		
110	Chitrakoot	Uttar Prades h	NitiAayog	---	100 W FM (	Kurwai)
111	Shrawasti	Uttar Prades h	NitiAayog	--	--	10 kW FM Na npara*
112	Sonebhadra	Uttar Prades h	NitiAayog	6 kW FM Obra	--	--
113	Birbhum	West Bengal	NitiAayog	3 kW FM Shan tiniketan	--	--
114	Maldah	West Bengal	NitiAayog	100 W FM	-	10 kW FM (B alurghat)
115	Murshidabad	West Bengal	NitiAayog	6 kW FM	-	-

**Details of borders along with FM transmitters and Coverage**

Sl. No.	International Borders		Existing FM Coverage		FM Under implementation	
	Border Name	Length (km)	Number of transmitters	% Border Covered	Number of transmitters	% Border after commissioning of FM transmitters
1.	Indo-Pakistan Border	3323	27	55	4	65
2.	Indo-Bangladesh Border	4097	36	93	2	93.25
3.	Indo-Nepal Border	1758	13	25	9	70
4.	Indo-Bhutan Border	600	11	35	2	60
5.	Indo-Myanmar Border	1643	21	30	3	40
6.	Indo-China/Tibetan Border	3380	5	No cross border coverage	0	No cross border coverage
7.	Indo-Srilanka Border	>400 (Maritime)	0	0	1	50
Total (Some transmitters have multiple border coverage)			101		19	

**The details of Social Media Presence across platforms**

S.N	Channel Name	SM Platform	URL	Page Like/ Followers/ Subscribers
1	DD National			
		Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/DoordarshanNational">https://www.facebook.com/DoordarshanNational</a>	Page Likes: 2,099,300
		Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/ddnational">https://twitter.com/ddnational</a>	Followers: 627.9K
		Instagram	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/ddnational/">https://www.instagram.com/ddnational/</a>	Followers: 434K
		Youtube	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/DoordarshanNational">www.youtube.com/DoordarshanNational</a>	Subscribers: 2.8M
2	DD Kisan			
		Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/DDKisanChannel/">https://www.facebook.com/DDKisanChannel/</a>	Page Likes: 146,343
		Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/DDKisanChannel">https://twitter.com/DDKisanChannel</a>	Followers: 66.7K
		Instagram	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/dd_kisan/">https://www.instagram.com/dd_kisan/</a>	Followers: 2254
		Youtube	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnDfmcUyhgJp6xC1LmBLfUg">www.youtube.com/channel/UCnDfmcUyhgJp6xC1LmBLfUg</a>	Subscribers: 529K
3	DD Bharati			
		Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/DDBharati/">https://www.facebook.com/DDBharati/</a>	Page Likes: 7,401
		Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/dd_bharati">https://twitter.com/dd_bharati</a>	Followers: 61.1K
		Instagram	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/dd_bharati/">https://www.instagram.com/dd_bharati/</a>	Followers: 5402
		Youtube	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIAnlTV3O9NYWMI-DwYZaWg/featured">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIAnlTV3O9NYWMI-DwYZaWg/featured</a>	Subscribers: 153K
4	DD Urdu			
		Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/DDUrduChannel/">https://www.facebook.com/DDUrduChannel/</a>	Page Likes: 5,483
		Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/urdudoordarshan">https://twitter.com/urdudoordarshan</a>	Followers: 5,122
		Instagram	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/dd_urdu/">https://www.instagram.com/dd_urdu/</a>	Followers: 1091
		Youtube	<a href="http://Youtube.com/c/ddurdu">Youtube.com/c/ddurdu</a>	Subscribers: 9,706

5	DD News			
		Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/DDKisanChannel/">https://www.facebook.com/DDKisanChannel/</a>	Page Likes: 146,343
		Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/DDKisanChannel">https://twitter.com/DDKisanChannel</a>	Followers: 66.7K
		Instagram	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/dd_kisan/">https://www.instagram.com/dd_kisan/</a>	Followers: 2254
		Youtube	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnDfmcUyhgJp6xC1LmBLfUg">www.youtube.com/channel/UCnDfmcUyhgJp6xC1LmBLfUg</a>	Subscribers: 529K
6	DD India			
		Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/DDIndiaLive/">https://www.facebook.com/DDIndiaLive/</a>	Page Likes: 11K
		Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/DDIndialive">https://twitter.com/DDIndialive</a>	Followers: 25.9K
		Instagram	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/ddindialive/">https://www.instagram.com/ddindialive/</a>	Followers: 2616
		Youtube	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGDQNvybfDDeGTf4GtigXaw">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGDQNvybfDDeGTf4GtigXaw</a> )	Subscribers: 35.8K
7	DD Sports			
		Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Doordarshansports/">https://www.facebook.com/Doordarshansports/</a>	Page Likes: 438K
		Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/ddsportschannel">https://twitter.com/ddsportschannel</a>	Followers: 64.9K
		Instagram	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/dd.sports/">https://www.instagram.com/dd.sports/</a>	Followers: 11.9K
		Youtube	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/user/doordarshansports">https://www.youtube.com/user/doordarshansports</a>	Subscribers: 644K
8	DD Kashir			
		Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/DDKashirChannel/">https://www.facebook.com/DDKashirChannel/</a>	Page Likes: 21,890
		Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/ddkashirchannel">https://twitter.com/ddkashirchannel</a>	Followers: 3,358
		Instagram	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/ddkashirchannel/">https://www.instagram.com/ddkashirchannel/</a>	Followers: 1639
		Youtube	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOqU-HfQxoyImaCW2tCDxJA">www.youtube.com/channel/UCOqU-HfQxoyImaCW2tCDxJA</a>	Subscribers: 169K
9	DD Punjabi			
		Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/ddpunjabijal/">https://www.facebook.com/ddpunjabijal/</a>	Page Likes: 16,978
		Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/DdPunjabi">https://twitter.com/DdPunjabi</a>	Followers: 995
		Instagram		Followers:

		Youtube	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/user/ddpunjabi1">www.youtube.com/user/ddpunjabi1</a>	Subscribers: 38.5K
10	DD Uttar Pradesh			
		Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/DDUttarPradesh/">https://www.facebook.com/DDUttarPradesh/</a>	Page Likes: 7537
		Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/DDUttarPradesh">https://twitter.com/DDUttarPradesh</a>	Followers: 5027
		Instagram	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/dduttarpradeshddup/">https://www.instagram.com/dduttarpradeshddup/</a>	Followers: 1281
		Youtube	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/user/DDUttarPradesh">www.youtube.com/user/DDUttarPradesh</a>	Subscribers: 31.5k
11	DD Madhya Pradesh			
		Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/ddmadhyapradesh/">https://www.facebook.com/ddmadhyapradesh/</a>	Page Likes: 3,891
		Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/DDMadhyaPradesh">https://twitter.com/DDMadhyaPradesh</a>	Followers: 989
		Instagram	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/ddmadhyapradesh/">https://www.instagram.com/ddmadhyapradesh/</a>	Followers: 325
		Youtube	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjL_oswCjWhUUZWnynQDRXw">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjL_oswCjWhUUZWnynQDRXw</a>	Subscribers: 31.6K
12	DD Rajasthan			
		Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/ddrajasthantv/">https://www.facebook.com/ddrajasthantv/</a>	Page Likes: 5,429
		Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/ddrajasthantv?s=08">https://twitter.com/ddrajasthantv?s=08</a>	Followers: 2,343
		Instagram	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/ddrajasthan/">https://www.instagram.com/ddrajasthan/</a>	Followers: 382
		Youtube	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4kvbaH_nW7gOKVIZnbQ1eg">www.youtube.com/channel/UC4kvbaH_nW7gOKVIZnbQ1eg</a>	Subscribers: 16.7K
13	DD Bihar			
		Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/DDBiharChannel/">https://www.facebook.com/DDBiharChannel/</a>	Page Likes: 12,788
		Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/ddbiharchannel">https://twitter.com/ddbiharchannel</a>	Followers: 3,104
		Instagram	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/ddbihar_channel/">https://www.instagram.com/ddbihar_channel/</a>	Followers: 441
		Youtube	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCo3JYDa7EjbcWsisib2StKA">www.youtube.com/channel/UCo3JYDa7EjbcWsisib2StKA</a>	Subscribers: 14.3K
14	DD Girnar			

		Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/ddgirnar/">https://www.facebook.com/ddgirnar/</a>	Page Likes: 15,782
		Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/ddgirnarlive">https://twitter.com/ddgirnarlive</a>	Followers: 17.6K
		Instagram	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/ddgirnar">https://www.instagram.com/ddgirnar</a>	Followers: 2313
		Youtube	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/user/DDGirnarOfficial">https://www.youtube.com/user/DDGirnarOfficial</a>	Subscribers: 197K
15	DD Odia			
		Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/DDOdiaChannel">https://www.facebook.com/DDOdiaChannel</a>	Page Likes: 7,413
		Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/dd_odia">https://twitter.com/dd_odia</a>	Followers: 992
		Instagram	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/dd_odia">https://www.instagram.com/dd_odia</a>	Followers: 547
		Youtube	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/c/ddodisha">www.youtube.com/c/ddodisha</a>	Subscribers: 79.7k
16	DD Bangla			
		Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/ddbanglatv/">https://www.facebook.com/ddbanglatv/</a>	Page Likes: 43,530
		Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/DDBanglaTV?s=08">https://twitter.com/DDBanglaTV?s=08</a>	Followers: 3,404
		Instagram		Followers:
		Youtube	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIcW8Lfj5zE67tvsQ27Ib_g">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIcW8Lfj5zE67tvsQ27Ib_g</a>	Subscribers: 33.3K
17	DD Sahyadri			
		Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/dd.sahyadri/">https://www.facebook.com/dd.sahyadri/</a>	Page Likes: 59,212
		Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/DDSahyadri">https://twitter.com/DDSahyadri</a>	Followers: 8,319
		Instagram	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/ddsahyadri/">https://www.instagram.com/ddsahyadri/</a>	Followers: 7568
		Youtube	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/user/ddsahyadri">www.youtube.com/user/ddsahyadri</a>	Subscribers: 256K
18	DD Podhigai			
		Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/DDPodhigaiofficial/">https://www.facebook.com/DDPodhigaiofficial/</a>	Page Likes: 16,252
		Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/DDPodhigaiTV">https://twitter.com/DDPodhigaiTV</a>	Followers: 5618
		Instagram	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/ddpodhigai/">https://www.instagram.com/ddpodhigai/</a>	Followers:
		Youtube	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5-zkjKabYd7tsLucKsriw">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5-zkjKabYd7tsLucKsriw</a>	Subscribers: 126,420
19	DD Malyalam			
		Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/DDMalayalam/">https://www.facebook.com/DDMalayalam/</a>	Page Likes: 53,265

		Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/DDMalayalam">https://twitter.com/DDMalayalam</a>	Followers: 2,654
		Instagram	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/ddmalayalamofficial/">https://www.instagram.com/ddmalayalamofficial/</a>	Followers: 1121
		Youtube	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4--pPs1CVZvs60uuhfjdwQ">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4--pPs1CVZvs60uuhfjdwQ</a>	Subscribers: 58.7K
20	DD Saptagiri			
		Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/ddsaptagiri/">https://www.facebook.com/ddsaptagiri/</a>	Page Likes: 2,037
		Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/DDSaptagirivja">https://twitter.com/DDSaptagirivja</a>	Followers: 1749
		Instagram	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/ddsaptagiri/">https://www.instagram.com/ddsaptagiri/</a>	Followers: 1283
		Youtube	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLVR4jsiTb9Ypj3Jf39bNVA">www.youtube.com/channel/UCLVR4jsiTb9Ypj3Jf39bNVA</a>	Subscribers: 2.14K
21	DD Chandana			
		Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/ddchandabng/">https://www.facebook.com/ddchandabng/</a>	Page Likes: 15,262
		Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/ddchandabng">https://twitter.com/ddchandabng</a>	Followers: 2,212
		Instagram	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/dd_chandana">instagram.com/dd_chandana</a>	Followers: 2508
		Youtube	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6V4nVa0CQkoLZUlg9drmZA">youtube.com/ddchandana_official</a>	Subscribers: 289K
22	DD Yadagiri			
		Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/ddyadagiri.tv/">https://www.facebook.com/ddyadagiri.tv/</a>	Page Likes: 9,688
		Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/ddyadagiri">https://twitter.com/ddyadagiri</a>	Followers: 2,815
		Instagram	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/ddyadagiri/">https://www.instagram.com/ddyadagiri/</a>	Followers: 423
		Youtube	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6V4nVa0CQkoLZUlg9drmZA">www.youtube.com/channel/UC6V4nVa0CQkoLZUlg9drmZA</a>	Subscribers: 34.2K
23	DD North East			
		Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/DDASSAMOFFICIAL/">https://www.facebook.com/DDASSAMOFFICIAL/</a>	Page Likes: 7,455
		Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/ddnortheast">https://twitter.com/ddnortheast</a>	Followers: 409
		Instagram	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/ddkguwahati/">https://www.instagram.com/ddkguwahati/</a>	Followers: 371
		Youtube	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOPD-952cc3r9yDQJUQAezQ">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOPD-952cc3r9yDQJUQAezQ</a>	Subscribers: 10.4K



24	DD Arunprabha			
		Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/DDArunPrabha/">https://www.facebook.com/DDArunPrabha/</a>	Page Likes: 2644
		Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/DDArunPrabha">https://twitter.com/DDArunPrabha</a>	Followers: 1082
		Instagram	NA	Followers:
		Youtube	NA	Subscribers:
25	DD Retro			
		Facebook	NA	NA
		Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/RetroDD">https://twitter.com/RetroDD</a>	Followers: 5785
		Instagram	NA	NA
		Youtube	<a href="https://youtu.be/QweONF2d4Wc">https://youtu.be/QweONF2d4Wc</a>	Subscribers: Pending

**MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (2020-21) HELD ON 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020**

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The Committee sat on Wednesday, the 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2020 from 1600 hours to 1812 hours in Committee Room „B“, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

**Dr. Shashi Tharoor – Chairperson**

**MEMBERS**

***Lok Sabha***

2. Shri Karti P. Chidambaram
3. Dr. Nishikant Dubey
4. Ms. Mahua Moitra
5. Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore
6. Shri Jayadev Galla
7. Shri Sanjay Seth
8. Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma

***Rajya Sabha***

9. Dr. Anil Agrawal
10. Shri Md. Nadimul Haque
11. Shri Syed Nasir Hussain

**SECRETARIAT**

1. Dr. Sagarika Dash - Additional Director
2. Smt. Geeta Parmar - Additional Director
3. 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 (2020-21) ).....xxxxx....xxxxx.....

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

- (i) Draft Action Taken Report on Demands for Grants (2020-21) of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting;
- (ii) ....xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....;
- (iii) ....xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....; and
- (iv) ....xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....

4. After due deliberations, the Committee adopted the Report with slight modifications. The Committee, then, authorized the Chairperson to finalize the Report and present the same to the House during the next session of Parliament.

5. ....xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....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....

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

9. ....xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....

10. ....xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....

11. ....xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....

*Verbatim proceedings of the sitting have been kept on record.*

**The Committee, then, adjourned.**

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

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

**(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

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

(i)	Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government		
	Rec. Sl. Nos.:- 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 20, 21, 22, 25 and 26		
		Total - 18	
		Percentage	69.23
(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.:- 15 and 18		
		Total - 02	
		Percentage	7.69
(iv)	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which the replies of the Government are of interim in nature		
	Rec. Sl. No.:- 2, 14, 17, 19, 23 and 24		
		Total - 06	
		Percentage	23.08