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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
COMMUNICATIONS AND  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(2021-22)**

**SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA**

**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

**[Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the  
Committee contained in their Twenty-fifth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on  
'Demands for Grants (2021-22)']**

**THIRTY-FIRST REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

*December, 2021/Agrahayana, 1943 (Saka)*

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'Demands for Grants (2021-22)']**

**Presented to Lok Sabha on 01.12.2021  
Laid in Rajya Sabha on 01.12.2021**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

*December, 2021/Agrahayana, 1943 (Saka)*

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\* Not appended with the cyclostyled copy.

**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY (2021-22)**

**Dr. Shashi Tharoor - Chairperson**

**Lok Sabha**

2. Smt. Sumalatha Ambareesh
3. Smt. Locket Chatterjee
4. Shri Karti P. Chidambaram
5. Dr. Nishikant Dubey
6. Smt. Sunita Duggal
7. Shri Jayadev Galla
8. Smt. Raksha Nikhil Khadse
9. Dr. Sukanta Majumdar
10. Shri Dhairyasheel Sambhajirao Mane
11. Ms. Mahua Moitra
12. Shri Santosh Pandey
13. Shri P. R. Natarajan
14. Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore
15. Dr. Gaddam Ranjith Reddy
16. Shri Sanjay Seth
17. Shri Ganesh Singh
18. Shri Parvesh Sahib Singh
19. Shri Tejasvi Surya
20. Dr. T. Sumathy (A) Thamizhachi Thangapandian
- 21. Vacant**

**Rajya Sabha**

22. Dr. Anil Agrawal
23. Shri John Brittas
24. Dr. Subhash Chandra
25. Shri Y. S. Chowdary
26. Shri Ranjan Gogoi
27. Shri Suresh Gopi
28. Shri Syed Nasir Hussain
29. Shri Syed Zafar Islam
30. Shri Jawhar Sircar
- 31. Vacant**

**Secretariat**

- |                        |   |                             |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Shri Y.M. Kandpal   | - | Joint Secretary             |
| 2. Shri H. Ram Prakash | - | Director                    |
| 3. Smt. Rinky Singh    | - | Assistant Executive Officer |

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Committee constituted w.e.f. 13 September, 2021 *vide* Para No.3184 of Bulletin Part-II dated 9 October, 2021.

## **INTRODUCTION**

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology (2021-22), having been authorised by the Committee, present this Thirty-first Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Twenty-fifth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2021-22)' of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

2. The Twenty-fifth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and also laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2021. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting furnished their Action Taken Notes on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Twenty-fifth Report on 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2021.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2021.

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 Twenty-fifth Report of the Committee is given at Annexure-II.

**New Delhi;  
29 November, 2021  
8 Agrahayana, 1943 (Saka)**

**DR. SHASHI THAROOR,  
Chairperson,  
Standing Committee on  
Communications and Information  
Technology.**

## CHAPTER I

### REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Twenty-fifth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2021-22)' relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

2. The Twenty-fifth Report was presented to Lok Sabha/laid in Rajya Sabha on 10 March, 2021. It contained 21 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.:- 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20 and 21                                      | Total -12<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.:- 4, 12 and 17 | Total - 03<br>Chapter-IV   |
| (iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are of interim in nature<br>Rec. Sl. No.:- 1, 5, 6, 10, 16 and 18                                | 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.

### **Performance under Central Sector Schemes during last three years**

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

5. The Committee had noted that for the Central Sector Schemes (CSS) the allocated amount of Rs. 632.05 crore for the year 2021-22 was less than the BE allocation of Rs. 740 crore. The overall performance of CSS during the year 2020-21 did not appear satisfactory as only Rs. 278.16 crore was spent up to January, 2021 which is 37.37% of BE and 79.76% of RE. The Committee had noted with concern that for one of the CSS, i.e. for Champion Services Sector Scheme, the BE and RE during 2020-21 was Rs. 30 crore and Rs. 3.80 core respectively however the actual expenditure remained 'Nil'. The Committee had also noted that for effective and better utilization of resources, the Ministry had undertaken rationalization and restructuring of the Plan Schemes in 2019-20 which has been implemented in 2020-21, however, the status of fund utilisation under Central Sector Schemes during the year 2020-21 did not reflect the same. Considering that the previous year's performance was improving, the Committee had recommended the Ministry to do periodic appraisal of all the Central Sector Schemes so that both the physical and financial targets are met as per schedule during the year 2021-22. The Committee had also noted that the Report of third party evaluation of CSS in 2020 through M/s. KPMG will be finalized shortly and therefore had desired to be apprised about the key findings and the status of implementation of the Report by M/s KPMG along with the Ministry's specific comments on these key recommendations.

6. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in their Action Taken Reply have stated that the report of M/s KPMG is finalized and has been accepted by the Ministry. The key recommendations of M/s KPMG have been incorporated by the concerned administrative heads of Central Sector Schemes of M/o Information and Broadcasting while preparing their respective EFCs.

7. On being informed that for improving implementation of the Central Sector Schemes (CSS), M/s KPMG had undertaken third party evaluation in 2020 and its draft Report was being finalized, the Committee, in their 25th Report on Demands for Grants (2021-22), had desired to be apprised about the key findings and the status of implementation of the Report alongwith the Ministry's specific comments on the key recommendations contained in the Report. The Ministry instead of providing all the said details have simply stated that the Report of M/s KPMG is finalized and has been accepted by the Ministry and their key recommendations have been incorporated by the concerned administrative heads of Central Sector Schemes while preparing their respective EFCs. While disapproving the silence of the Ministry on the details sought, the Committee reiterate that the Ministry may provide the key findings that have been incorporated by the concerned administrative heads of Central Sector Schemes alongwith the action taken thereon and the specific comments/observations of the Ministry on the key recommendations contained in the Report of M/s KPMG. They also desire the Ministry should ensure that both the physical and financial targets under Central Sector Schemes are met as per schedule during the year 2021-22.

### **Community Radio Stations (CR Stations)**

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

8. The Committee had noted that the budgetary analysis with respect to Community Radio (CR) Stations for the years 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 were very much under-utilised. The Committee were concerned to note that out of 317 operational Community Radio Stations aired in 27 languages in the country, few States and UTs like Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Uttrakhand, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Ladakh and Lakshadweep do not have any CRSs. The Committee had also noted that numerous popular languages and dialects of the country are yet to be covered by Community Radio Stations including some of the scheduled languages of the Constitution like Kashmiri, Bodo, Maithili, Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi and Urdu. While noting that one of the thrust areas of the Ministry for the year 2021-22 is to promote setting up of new CR stations with focus on coastal regions,



LWE/border areas/Aspirational districts and remote districts, the Committee had desired the Ministry should take extra effort for covering the States/UTs which do not have any CR station and had recommended that the target set for this should be met within the deadline. The Committee had also recommended to make this scheme financially more lucrative to attract more and more applicants for setting up of Community Radio Stations, including by lifting the cap on advertising tariff and would also like to be apprised of the pending requests for grant of licenses for community radio.

9. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in their Action Taken Reply have stated that they have taken several measures to utilize the budget allocated during the year 2020-21 and as on 26.03.2021, 87% of RE allocation has been utilized. Efforts are being made to bring awareness, amongst eligible organizations, regarding community Radios, so that more and more organizations come forward for setting up of Community Radio stations, especially in CR Dark areas, in the larger interests of the community. Further, to have more and more Community Radio Stations in Aspirational Districts, LWE districts and coastal areas, letters have been written to Chief Secretaries of States and UTs requesting them to encourage organizations and promote Community Radio Stations. Continuous follow up meetings are being organized to streamline the permission process of the Community Radio Stations. As part of ease of doing business and to expedite the permission process, policy guidelines for setting up of Community Radio Stations is also being contemplated for revision including increasing of advertisement duration cap from 7 minutes to 12 minutes per hour. They have also stated that appraisal of the scheme namely "Supporting Community Radio Movement in India" for the next five year duration (2021-2026) is under process with an estimated expenditure of Rs. 25 crore. The scheme has included various new activities i.e. grants for content creation, strengthening of Community Media Empowerment Centre at IIMC, Innovation grants and creation of a National Repository of contents of Community Radio Stations which are expected to strengthen the CR sector. Under the Scheme, it is proposed to enhance grants for purchase of equipment from Rs.7.50 lakhs to Rs.10 lakhs, and in North Eastern Areas, from Rs.7.50 lakhs to Rs.12 lakhs. For conducting various capacity building activities under the proposed scheme, a process of empanelment of agencies are under consideration."

10. **The Committee are pleased to learn that the Ministry have taken several**

measures to utilize the budget allocated for Community Radio (CR) Stations and efforts are being made to create awareness amongst eligible organizations, so that more and more organizations come forward for setting up of CRS, especially in CR Dark areas. For ease of doing business and to expedite the permission process, policy guidelines for setting up of Community Radio Stations are also being contemplated for revision including increasing of advertisement duration cap from 7 minutes to 12 minutes per hour. While noting that appraisal of the 'Supporting Community Radio Movement in India' for the next five year duration (2021-2026) is under process with an estimated expenditure of Rs. 25 crore including enhancing of grants for purchase of equipment from Rs.7.50 lakhs to Rs.10 lakhs, and in North Eastern Areas, from Rs.7.50 lakhs to Rs.12 lakhs, the Committee disapprove the silence of the Ministry on Committee's concern that few States and UTs like Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Uttrakhand, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Ladakh and Lakshadweep do not have any Community Radio stations. Besides, numerous popular languages and dialects of the country are yet to be covered by Community Radio Stations including some of the scheduled languages of the Constitution like Kashmiri, Bodo, Maithili, Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi and Urdu. The Committee, therefore, would like to be apprised of the proposed road map of the Ministry to address these concerns alongwith the status/concrete action taken on the ongoing appraisal of 'Supporting Community Radio Movement in India'. To strengthen the Community Radio Movement, the Committee desire special focus be given on local activities of the community and on local news dissemination.

### **Merger of film media units**

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

11. The Committee had noted that one of the thrust areas under Film Sector for the year 2021-22 was to merge four film media units i.e. Children's Films Society, India (CFSI), Films Division (FD), National Films Archive of India (NFAI) and Department of Film Festivals (DFF) with National Film Development Corporation (NFDC). The Cabinet had approved this merger on 23.12.2020 and according to the specific announcements made by the Ministry, the merger process will be accomplished in next two years.

Regarding the targets set under each media unit, the Committee were informed that the existing activities would not be impacted due to ongoing process of merger. The Cabinet had also approved the appointment of Transaction Advisor(s) and/or Legal Advisor to facilitate the transfer of assets and formation of an 'Implementation Committee' in the Ministry to overlook all aspects of operationalization of the proposal. While recognizing that the objective of this merger is to obviate the multiplicity of activities handled by different entities, the Committee had recommended the Ministry to take care of the interests of the employees of all the concerned Media Units and to ensure that no employee is retrenched. The Committee had also recommended that the surplus staff resulting from merger of these four media units may be put to gainful redeployment in various units/organisations of the Government as per their qualification/experiences as this would also address to some extent the grappling issue of shortage of staff in MIB. The Committee further hope that with placement of Film Media Units under one management, the promotion, production & preservation of filmic content will be swift and hassle free thereby bringing synergy amongst various activities leading to better utilization of existing infrastructure and manpower. The Committee also expected the Ministry to consider monetising the assets of the units to be merged and out of the proceeds a more modern, larger infrastructural facilities can be provided to NFDC.

12. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) in their Action Taken Reply have stated that they have as approved by the Cabinet, an Implementation Committee under the Chairmanship of the Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor of MIB and Broadcasting has been set up to oversee the implementation of merger of the four Film Media Units into NFDC. The Ministry has initiated the process of appointment of Transaction Advisor(s) and/or Legal Advisor to facilitate the transfer of assets. To ensure that no employee of the four Film Media Units to be merged is retrenched, the Ministry has prepared a database of all employees of the four Film Media Units along with the details of existing vacancies in various Media Units under the aegis of Ministry of I&B. It will ensure that the surplus staff resulting from merger of the four Film Media Units is put to gainful re-deployment as per their qualification/experience. All these efforts will ensure that the entire process of merger of four Film Media Units into NFDC is swift and hassle-free leading to better utilization of existing infrastructure and manpower. As desired, the Committee shall be kept apprised about the merger

process.

13. The Committee are happy to note that the Ministry have prepared a database of all employees of the four Film Media Units (CFSI, FD, NFAI and DFF), that are being merged with NFDC along with the details of existing vacancies in various Media Units under the aegis of Ministry of I&B. The Committee appreciate that the Ministry will ensure gainful re-deployment of the surplus staff (as per their qualification/experience) resulting from merger of the four Film Media Units and will also ensure swift and hassle-free process of merger leading to better utilization of existing infrastructure and manpower. However, the Ministry have not informed the Committee anything with respect to monetization of the assets/infrastructure for upgrading the facilities in NFDC. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their recommendation on this issue and desire the Ministry to provide their plan of action and concrete roadmap for monetizing the assets/infrastructure of the units being merged along with an updated status of the merger process.

#### **Co-production of Films with foreign countries**

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

14. During the year 2019-20, co-production agreements were signed with Russia and Portugal and MoU for production of Feature Film on the life and works of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was signed between National Film Development Corporation and Bangladesh Film Development Corporation. An Audio Visual Coproduction agreement was also signed between India and Portugal in February 2020. One of the specific announcements made by the Ministry for the year 2021-22 was 'Strengthening Bonds of Friendship with Bangladesh'. In this regard, the Committee were given to understand that the feature film titled 'Bangabandhu' would be directed by eminent filmmaker Shri Shyam Benegal. During the year 2020, pre-production activities of Indo Bangladesh Coproduction film 'Bangabandhu' were to be done whereas shooting of the film had to commence in January 2021 and it is expected to be ready for release by March, 2022. While appreciating the initiative for strengthening Bonds of Friendship with various countries, the Committee had urged the Ministry to stick to the deadline to release the film 'Bangabandhu' by March, 2022. The Committee, while acknowledging the constraints posed by COVID-19 pandemic, had recommended the Ministry to

complete this project on time and also see to it that the co-production agreements signed with Russia and Portugal are also taken up in right earnest.

15. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in their Action Taken Reply have stated that with a view to promote co-production of films between Indian film makers and film makers of different countries, they entered into Audio Visual Co-Production Agreement with various countries. The first and major schedule of the film 'Bangabandhu' was completed in Mumbai despite the extremely difficult situation of the COVID Pandemic. Around 75% to 80% of the film shooting has been completed. The second schedule is being planned for shooting in Dhaka, Chittagong and other parts of Bangladesh in the post Monsoon period i.e. after September, 2021. The second schedule would require active support from the Bangladesh Armed Forces as it includes battle scenes consisting of Infantry and Artillery action, air combats and bombing actions, sea battles, etc. The plan for shooting these action sequences will depend largely on the prevailing weather conditions. The balance part of the film will also be shot in Bangladesh for crowd scenes, election scenes, Tejgaon Airport, Chittagong Port, Dhaka University Campus, Dhaka Hospital, etc. After final editing, the film will go for Digital Intermediate (DI) with colour corrections and Visual Effects (VFX). This being a highly technical work with computer-generated images, it may take minimum 3 months to complete the entire post-production. It is planned that the film will be ready for release on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022 to mark 102<sup>nd</sup> Birth Anniversary of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the father of the nation of People's Republic of Bangladesh. However, the completion of the project depends upon various factors such as nature and present COVID situation. It is pertinent to mention that VFX and DI studios, editing suits could not commence work due to lockdown in Mumbai from 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2021. As on date, a total amount of Rs.22.26 crore has been released to NFDC towards production of the film.

16. **While acknowledging the constraints posed by COVID-19 pandemic on the initiatives for strengthening Bonds of Friendship with various countries, the Committee in their 25<sup>th</sup> Report had recommended the Ministry to ensure timely completion of the production of feature film on the life and works of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as well as to take up the co-production agreements signed with Russia and Portugal in right earnest. The Committee have been informed the film**

will be ready for release on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022 to mark 102<sup>nd</sup> Birth Anniversary of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. However, with respect to co-production agreements signed with Russia and Portugal, the Ministry have not provided any details and therefore the Committee would like to be apprised about the same. The Committee hope that the constraints posed by COVID pandemic would be addressed alongwith other factors and the film on the life and works of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman will be ready for release on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022. The Committee also desire that all necessary approvals, as may be required for the purpose from authorities in Bangladesh may be obtained in advance by using all diplomatic channels so that the sanctity of the release date could be honoured. They would also like to be apprised of progress made in this regard.

**Prasar Bharati (Budget allocation, IEBR and revenue generation)**

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

17. The Committee had noted that the projections of IEBR generation by Prasar Bharati for the year 2020-21 was Rs. 1410.00 crore, however, till November, 2020, the Net IEBR generated (including interest on term deposits) was Rs. 759.80 crore and Rs. 715.53 crore of IEBR was utilised upto December, 2020. The Committee were informed that one of the reasons for continuous decline in Net IEBR generation by Prasar Bharati, was that the Pro Bono campaigns worth Rs. 356 crore on DD and Rs. 130 crore on AIR during the year 2020-21 were executed. The Committee were also informed that there are four streams of revenue generation- the first is DD Free Dish and AIR towers, the second is advertising from Government Departments and Ministries, the third stream is the commercial advertising from the private sector, the fourth stream is digital and the archives. Accordingly, Prasar Bharati has monetized the programming of other DD channels on YouTube and other social media platforms and the live telecasts of events of National importance are also live-streamed on YouTube platform. The Committee had noted that the revenue earned by sale and media preview of archival material and through uploads of Archival materials on YouTube were not satisfactory. Regarding plans of DD and AIR for going on OTT platforms, the Committee were informed that Prasar Bharati has made its various AIR channels available on “NewsOnAir” application for “Android” and “iOS” mobile users. Prasar Bharati was also in discussion to place its channels on OTT platform to have larger

digital reach. The Committee, while appreciating all the initiatives taken by the Ministry for revenue generation had felt that lot more effort have to be made for monetisation of content available with the Ministry/Prasar Bharati which *inter-alia* can include placing of its popular programmes/channels on OTT platforms/YouTube, charging private channels for sharing feeds of coverages of national importance, reducing Pro Bono Campaign, monetising the old songs, records, speeches, old and precious exclusive footages of Prasar Bharati etc. The Committee had also felt that the Film division productions of the past would also have value on YouTube and had suggested to plan travelogue programmes covering pan-India on various issues. In addition, the Committee had also recommended the Ministry to make use of its vacant and idle properties for revenue generation.

18. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in their Action Taken Reply have stated that it is the constant endeavor of Prasar Bharati to take steps to increase revenue generation inspite of adverse impact of Covid-19 pandemic on the market, and low trend of spending on advertisement by corporate and government agencies. Prasar Bharati has made Sales operations unified for All India Radio and Doordarshan, so as to offer attractive packages to clients to have value for money for their advertisement on Radio and Television. In addition, various initiatives have been taken which inter-alia include (i) process for introduction of automated booking for advertisement is being initiated for ease of business, (ii) A new YouTube channel 'DD Cinema' has been introduced to showcase cinema & tele-films content, (iii) Akashvani Sangeet Sammelan and all classic music collection have been made available for "AIR Ragam" YouTube channel, (iv) Radio Autobiography of eminent persons are being uploaded on Archive channel, (v) A new policy for licensing/sale of footage content has been approved and implemented (vi) Archival Programmes are being re-packaged for telecast on various DD Channels, on various specific occasion of public interest so as to increase viewership of the channel, etc. The revenue generated from sale and media preview of archival content for the year 2020-21 was Rs. 54,08,612/-, and similarly, with respect to uploads of Archival Materials on YouTube, the revenue earned was Rs. 14,06,845/-for the year 2020-21. The revenue from digital operation on various social media platforms has increased from Rs. 0.48 crores in 2018-19 to Rs. 1.92 crores in 2020-21. Prasar Bharati has also placed more than 270 AIR channels on "NewsOnAir" app for "Android" and "iOS" platform for mobile users. This application is an interface with the user to

have access to the Prasar Bharati's Radio and TV content enabling enhancing revenue indirectly.

19. **The Committee appreciate the initiatives taken by the Ministry/Prasar Bharti to increase their revenue generation and hope that they would continue with their endeavour and take innovative steps for monetization of content available with them. However, the Ministry's reply is silent on the Committee's recommendation for utilising the vacant and idle properties for revenue generation. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their recommendation and desire the Ministry to apprise them about the action taken thereon. The Committee also desire an analysis of own earnings of Prasar Bharati for a period of 10 years from following three main streams of revenue i.e. (i) DD Free Dish and AIR towers, (ii) advertisement from Government Departments, Ministries and from digital archives and (iii) land, towers, etc.**

### **Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development (BIND)**

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

20. The Committee had noted that from the financial Year 2019-20, three of the Prasar Bharati's schemes were merged into a single line budget entry/scheme namely 'Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND)' and digitization has been completed at 25 places whereas at 54 places they are yet to be done. The shortfall in implementation of BIND scheme was attributed to pandemic situation. Considering the fact that most of the broadcast equipment & services are imported and so the procurement was delayed, the Committee had recommended the Ministry to have Inter-Ministerial coordination for producing them domestically and come out with concrete action plan in this regard. The Committee had also recommended the Ministry to fix timeline for digitisation of remaining 54 studios and for achieving the target set under BIND.

21. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in their Action Taken Reply have stated that digitisation of Studio project (Studio Automation Project) has been completed at 51 stations and 28 Stations are left. Work has been halted due to shut down due to second Wave of Pandemic Covid-19. Rest of the stations are likely to be completed by October 2021. The Ministry have again stated that most of the broadcast



equipment & services are not available in the country and are therefore imported, which delay the procurement process. Indian manufacturers are supplying only ancillary broadcast equipment such as equipment track, Uninterrupted Power Supply system, measuring equipment & other auxiliary equipment and integrating them for broadcast.

**22. The Committee appreciate that digitisation of Studio project has been completed at 51 stations and acknowledge that work was halted due to second Wave of Covid-19 Pandemic and therefore digitisation at 28 Stations were left. Nevertheless, the Committee are of the opinion that there is a need to keep up with the pace of rapid developments in the field of Electronics and Information Technology. The Committee have been repeatedly expressing their concern regarding broadcast equipment and services being imported in the country and are perturbed to note that the Ministry's reply is silent on the recommendation for having Inter-Ministerial coordination for producing broadcast equipment domestically as well as on the concrete action plan in this direction. While deploring the laxity of the Ministry in this regard, the Committee desire to be apprised about the action taken thereon. In this regard, the Committee wonder if the Ministry has ever taken on board the views/suggestions of BECIL which is a PSU under the Ministry and other such bodies who have the expertise in Broadcasting equipment/technology and have been effectively rendering their services to other Departments. They, therefore, desire that expertise of such PSUs like BECIL, Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) etc., may be used for the purpose by giving required financial and manpower support to them. The Committee also recommend the Ministry to fix a timeline for digitisation of remaining 28 Stations and achieve the set target on time.**

### **Human Resource in Prasar Bharati**

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

23. The Committee had noted with extreme concern that the vacancies under Doordarshan and Akashvani were 10247 and 12086 respectively. The Committee have been raising concern with respect to the huge vacancies existing in AIR and Doordarshan, however, it was noted that several Committees/Audits/Recruitment board were constituted in this regard without any fruitful outcome. The Committee had expressed concern over the fact that the recommendations of the Sam Pitroda

Committee, which was constituted in 2014, have not been implemented yet and even after 7 years of submission of its Report, the Ministry are yet to fully implement their recommendations which have been accepted. Further, with regard to Manpower Audit Report of M/s Ernst and Young LLP, it was noted that final acceptance of the Report was done on 29.09.2020 and its implementation is under process. The Committee while strongly disapproving the laxity on the part of the Ministry/Prasar Bharati for filling up the vacancies had recommended the Ministry to implement the recommendations of the Sam Pitroda Committee with regard to human resource at the earliest. Further, with respect to Manpower Audit Report of M/s Ernst and Young LLP, the Committee had desired to be updated about the Ministry's response to the recommendations contained in this Report alongwith the timeline for implementing them along with constraints, if any. The Committee had desired to be apprised about the status on backlog vacancies for differently-abled persons.

24. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in their Action Taken Reply have again stated that the recommendations of the Sam Pitroda Committee with regard to Human Resource have been examined and steps towards implementation have been taken on the recommendations accepted by the Ministry. Besides, Prasar Bharati had requested E&Y LLP to accomplish the deliverables specified under the heading "Implementation and change management" in the Schedule-A of the contract entered into between Prasar Bharati and M/s Ernst & Young LLP within 120 days from the date of acceptance of the Final Report, vide letter dated 13.10.2020. In response, the E&Y LLP had submitted a draft "Change Management" report on 18.03.2021 and a final version of "Change Management" report on 04.06.2021, which is under examination. Regarding status on backlog vacancies for differently-abled persons, in compliance of the Hon'ble Supreme Court Judgment dated 28.04.2015 in Contempt Petition No. 499/2014, 140 posts for differently-abled persons were identified to be filled. Out of which 47 posts were already filled in the examination held through SSC in 2013 and action was taken for filling up the remaining 93 posts through National Academy of Broadcasting and Multimedia (NABM) under the special recruitment drive in 2015 with the approval of the Prasar Bharati Board and MIB. Out of total 93 posts, 63 posts were filled in the first attempt and remaining 30 posts are to be filled. In pursuance of the Notification of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting dated 12.02.2020 [G.S.R.107(E)], Prasar Bharati has established a Recruitment Board by the name of 'Prasar Bharati Recruitment Board' (PBRB) for appointment of persons to the post

carrying scale of pay less than that of a Joint Secretary to the Government of India, vide Order No. A-10/23/2010-PPB/PBRB dated 01.07.2020. Prasar Bharati Recruitment Board has now become functional and the process of filling up of 30 unfilled posts of differently abled persons has already been initiated by the PBRB.

25. **The Committee have been informed that in pursuance of the Notification of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting dated 12.02.2020, Prasar Bharati has established a Recruitment Board by the name of 'Prasar Bharati Recruitment Board' (PBRB) for appointment of persons to the post carrying scale of pay less than that of a Joint Secretary to the Government of India, vide Order dated 01.07.2020. Prasar Bharati Recruitment Board has now become functional and the process of filling up of 30 unfilled posts of differently-abled persons has already been initiated by the PBRB. However, there is no information with respect to 10247 and 12086 vacancies under Doordarshan and Akashvani respectively. The Committee have been raising concern with respect to the huge vacancies existing in AIR and Doordarshan and deplore the fact that several Committees/ Audits/ Recruitment board have been constituted for this without any concrete and fruitful outcome. It is also disturbing to note that the Ministry are yet to fully implement the recommendations of the Sam Pitroda Committee Report even after 7 years and they are still in the process of examining the final version of "Change Management" Report of M/s Ernst and Young LLP although the final acceptance of Manpower Audit Report by M/s Ernst and Young LLP was done on 29.09.2020. The Committee strongly feel that the filling up of these vacancies in Ministry/Prasar Bharti is urgently required in order to meet their long pending demand and enable them to work with their full potential. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their recommendation to take immediate and concrete steps to fill all the vacancies in the Ministry/Prasar Bharati and apprise them about the same. Till such time, the Committee expect that the extra manpower resulting from the merger of Four film units with NFDC would address this problem to some extent and desire the Ministry to prepare a suitable action plan in this regard. Further, now that the 'Prasar Bharati Recruitment Board' has become functional, the Committee hope that the process of filling up of 30 unfilled posts of differently-abled persons would be done at the earliest. In the meanwhile, the Committee desire that the manpower audit report of M/s Ernst and Young LLP**

along with the status of implementation by the Ministry may be made available to them.

### **Digital Terrestrial Transmission (DTT)**

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

26. For implementation of the Digital Terrestrial Transmission (DTT) across the country, TRAI had furnished a roadmap in 2017 and had stated that DTT may be implemented in the country in three phases with complete migration and analog switch off by December 2023. The timelines included (i) Phase I (Metro cities) by 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019, (ii) Phase II (cities having more than 10 lakh population as per Census 2011) by 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021 and (iii) Phase-III (Rest of India) by 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2023. Currently, 23 DTTs (at 19 locations) are operational. Four Metro Cities viz. Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai have two DTT Transmitters. First Transmitter is relaying 5 DD channels in SD and 03 Radio channels whereas the second transmitter is relaying 03 DD Channels (02 DD Channels in SD & 01 DD National channel in HD). At other 15 cities, one DTT transmitter is operational which relays 5 DD channels in SD and 03 Radio channels. The Ministry had informed that in response to recommendations of TRAI, a Coordination Committee under the chairpersonship of DG, Doordarshan, was constituted on 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 to facilitate entry of private entities in Digital Terrestrial Broadcasting in India. Further, the Prasar Bharati had entered into an MoU with IIT Kanpur to develop a “Direct to Mobile” (DTM) roadmap for Digital Terrestrial Broadcasting consistent with emerging standards such as 5G Broadcast. Expansion of DTT would depend on availability/allocations of required UHF Spectrum and the funds allocations in coming years. The Committee were informed that there was a review a couple of years back in the Department of Expenditure wherein they told MIB not to do any further investment in digital terrestrial till the business case is made and it is viable. While noting that the DTT technologies enable efficient use of the TV spectrum, provide better quality of service, multiple broadcasting services within the same channel bandwidth through use of multiplexers, the Committee had felt that the induction of DTT technology would go a long way in ensuring efficient spectrum usage and quality of broadcasting services. The Committee, therefore had recommended that the Report of the Coordination Committee, constituted on 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2018, should be examined at the earliest and needful be done to

achieve the target of implementing DTT in the country.

27. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in their Action Taken Reply have stated that 23 Digital Terrestrial Transmission (DTTs) (at 19 locations) are currently operational in the country. For further expansion of DTT service of Doordarshan, Prasar Bharati has entered into an MoU with IIT Kanpur to develop a “Direct to Mobile” (DTM) roadmap for Digital Terrestrial Broadcasting consistent with emerging standards such as 5GB Broadcast. Further expansion would depend on availability/allocations of required UHF Spectrum and the funds allocations incoming years.

28. **The Action Taken Reply of the Ministry reflects that there has been no appreciable progress with respect to implementation of the Digital Terrestrial Transmission (DTT) in the country and there are currently 23 existing/operational DTTs (at 19 locations). The Committee, in their 25<sup>th</sup> Report on DFG (2021-22) had noted that a Coordination Committee under the Chairpersonship of DG, Doordarshan, was constituted on 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 to facilitate entry of private entities in Digital Terrestrial Broadcasting in India, and had recommended the Ministry to examine the same and do needful for achieving the target of DTT implementation in the country. However, the Ministry’s reply is silent in this regard. The Committee, therefore, deplore the laxity of the Ministry and recommend them to adhere to the set target for implementing DTT in the country and provide the updated status. The Committee also desire to be apprised about the outcome of the Coordination Committee, constituted in 2018 to facilitate entry of private entities in Digital Terrestrial Broadcasting in India.**

**Status of 'The Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2019'**

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

29. 'The Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2019' was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 12.02.2019 and subsequently referred to the Standing Committee on Information Technology on 22.02.2019 for examination. Thereafter, Ninth Report on 'The Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2019' was presented to the House on 16.03.2020. The Committee had expressed regret to note that, even after lapse of one year after the presentation of the said Report, the Ministry are still examining the recommendations/ observations for making necessary amendments to clauses in the said Bill. The

Committee, therefore, had recommended the Ministry to expedite procedural formalities so that the amended legislation could be brought at the earliest. The Committee, while reiterating their earlier recommendation, had also recommended to review the entire Cinematographic Act 1952 in the light of present day needs and changing and emerging technologies since the Act in its present form is woefully out of date.

30. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in their Action Taken Reply have stated that the recommendations/observations contained in the Ninth Report of the Standing Committee on Information Technology on 'The Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2019' were examined in the Ministry for making necessary amendments to clauses in the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2019. Simultaneously, a review of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 was undertaken in the Ministry to address the various issues concerning the certification process in a comprehensive manner, including the issue of film piracy which was originally proposed. Accordingly, they are planning to introduce the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2021 which proposes to make the process of sanctioning of films for exhibition more effective, in tune with the changed times and curb the menace of film piracy. The Draft Cabinet Note for introduction of the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2021 has been circulated to various Ministries/ Departments to comply with the practice of Inter-Ministerial Consultation and the necessary procedural formalities for introduction of the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2021 are being followed.

**31. The Committee have been informed that the Ministry are planning to introduce 'The Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2021' which proposes to make the process of sanctioning of films for exhibition more effective, in tune with the changed times and curb the menace of film piracy. It has been learnt that the draft 'Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2021' was notified by the Ministry on 18.06.2021 for seeking public Comments by 02.07.2021. Much as, the Committee would have appreciated, had the new Bill been placed before them for examination and seeking valuable inputs of the Committee thereon which would have given them ample opportunity to share the concern of potential of draft Bill to endanger the freedom of expression and democratic dissent. However, since the public comments thereon have now been sought, the Committee expect that the Ministry would carry out due diligence so that there is no arbitrariness and**

**concerns of all stakeholders are suitably addressed through Inter-Ministerial consultation. The Committee, however, expect that once public comments have been received the revised draft Bill be brought before them for consideration.**

## CHAPTER II

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

#### **OVERALL BUDGETARY ANALYSIS AND DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2021-22)**

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

The Committee note that Rs. 4071.23 crore has been allocated to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for the year 2021-22 which is approximately 6.95% lesser than the BE of the previous financial year (2020-21) which was Rs. 4375.21 crore. For the year 2020-21, the RE was Rs. 3650.25 crore and actual utilisation was Rs. 2785.36 crore (till 16.02.2021) which was 76.31% w.r.t RE and 63.66% w.r.t BE allocation. The Committee also note that for the year 2021-22, out of total allocation of Rs. 4071.23 crore to the Ministry, Rs. 563.77 crore, Rs.632.05 crore, and Rs. 2875.41 crore have been allocated under the Heads 'Establishment Expenditure of the Centre', 'Central Sector Schemes' and for 'other Central Expenditure respectively. However, the Committee note with concern that during the year 2020-21 the overall expenditure under each category w.r.t RE was 77.87%, 79.76% and 67.18% respectively (upto 14.01.2021). As for the reasons for under-utilisation, the Committee note that during first 6 months of 2020-21, the financial and physical performance was affected due to lockdown and other restrictions due to COVID-19. However, the situation is improving gradually and the Ministry have assured that they will be able to achieve its financial and physical targets set under various heads. The Committee are satisfied that the expenditure pattern for the years 2018-19 and 2019-20 w.r.t RE allocations had been 97.90% and 99.20% respectively, and hope the same trend would continue and remaining amount for 2020-21 would be utilised fully before the end of Financial Year. Now that the restriction imposed due to pandemic are being relaxed and there is no 5% cap on expenditure on MIB, the Committee recommend the Ministry to achieve both the physical and financial targets set for the year 2021-22 and take effective steps in time through streamlining of planning and approval of schemes, evaluation of ongoing schemes, periodic reviews and third party evaluation etc. The Committee may be apprised of the initiatives taken by the Ministry for optimum utilization of funds allocated to them during 2021-22.



## **Reply of the Government**

The overall allocation of Rs. 4071.23 crore for the year 2021-22 is likely to be sufficient to meet the mandate of the Ministry for the FY 2021-22. The physical and financial targets and utilization of allocations will be closely monitored regularly by the Joint Secretaries concerned and at the level of AS&FA (I&B) and Secretary (I&B).

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/17/2021-PC Cell dated  
07.07.2021]

### **ESTABLISHMENT EXPENDITURE OF THE CENTRE AND 'OTHER CENTRAL EXPENDITURE**

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

The Committee note that Expenditure of the Ministry is categorized under three categories viz. 'Establishment Expenditure of the Centre' (includes establishment expenditure of Main Secretariat and attached/sub-ordinate offices of the Ministry), 'Central Sector Schemes' and for 'other Central Expenditure [including those on Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and Autonomous Bodies]'. The Committee also note that for 'Establishment Expenditure of the Centre', an amount of Rs. 563.77 crore has been allocated for the year 2021-22. For the year 2020-21 the BE and RE amount for this category were Rs. 554.80 crore and Rs. 441.82 crore respectively whereas the actual expenditure till 14.01.2021 was Rs. 345.03 crore, which is 77.87% of RE allocation. The Committee further note that for 'Other Central Expenditures', an amount of Rs. 2875.41 crores has been allocated for the year 2021-22. During 2020-21 an amount of Rs. 3080.41 crore and Rs. 2861.70 crore were allocated at BE and RE stage respectively and the actual expenditure till 14.01.2021 is Rs. 1922.54 crores which is 67.18% of RE. However, the Committee are surprised to note that the BE for current year is almost same as RE of last year even though last year the RE allocation were low due to Covid-19. Therefore, the Committee would recommend the Ministry to take all necessary steps to effectively utilize the budget allocated for the current year under both the categories and approach at RE stage for additional funds, if required, so as to ensure that important schemes/ongoing projects do not suffer for want of funds.

## **Reply of the Government**

The overall allocation under the category Establishment Expenditure and Other Central Expenditure is Rs. 563.77 crore & Rs. 2875.41 crore respectively for the year 2021-22 which is likely to be sufficient and will not affect the performance of the Ministry. However, in the case of any additional requirement, Ministry will request for funds at Revised Estimates Stage under these categories. Depending upon expenditure there is recourse to seek additional funds from M/o Finance at the stage of Supplementary Demands for Grants or at the Revised Estimates Stage.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/17/2021-PC Cell dated  
07.07.2021]

### **India@75**

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

The Committee note India will be celebrating 75 years of its Independence in 2022. As part of the celebrations, Ministry is planning to undertake various cultural and patriotic programmes under India@75 during the 75 weeks preceding the Independence Day 2022 and then year-long celebration from Independence Day 2022 to 2023. The key attractions would include 75 episodes of Freedom struggle on Doordarshan, special TV and Radio series "India Then And Now" on Doordarshan and All India Radio and Mobile Rail exhibition throughout the country showcasing the major achievements of our nation in various sectors. Prasar Bharati has sought additional funds of Rs. 50 Crore for celebrating the event for making programme "Unsung Heroes" and they have planned production of 75 episodes of the serial on Unsung heroes/Battles/Movements of India's Independence all across the region of the Country. Besides, it has also planned 75 episodes on post-Independence achievements of India marking the major scientific, technological, economic, social and cultural milestones over the decades that have paved the way for the transformation of a New India. The Committee appreciate the initiative of the Ministry and desire that these serials should be of global standards and reflect the true spirit/achievements of the nation. The Committee desire that this historic event should be celebrated in a befitting manner by the Ministry and wide publicity may be given to this event. The Committee recommend the Ministry/Prasar Bharati to involve and take support and sponsorship from some of the Departments/Institutions/organizations who are likely to feature in the programme.

The Committee also note that an Organizing Committee consisting of representatives from concerned Ministries/Departments and eminent personalities/academicians etc., has been formed to celebrate this event. To enhance the grace of this historic occasion, the Committee feel that the Ministry may explore the possibility of associating surviving freedom fighters/Members of 1<sup>st</sup> Lok Sabha/Members of Constituent Assembly and Provisional Parliament with this event in an appropriate manner. The Committee would like to be kept apprised about the programme envisaged under India@75 alongwith the details of the funds utilized for each/programme or series made under 'India@75'.

### **Reply of the Government**

The comments and suggestions of the Committee are noted. Funds are being allocated by the Ministry to Prasar Bharati for producing programmes for celebrating 75 years of India's Independence. However, the production of 75 episodes of the programme on "Unsung Heroes/Battles/Movements" of India's free dom under Direct Assignment Process (DAP) Scheme has been approved by the Prasar Bharati Board in its 165th meeting. The agreement with the selected Production House in this regard is being finalized. For these cond project on "Post-independence achievement of India", the prospective production houses/creative directors have been short listed and further action in this regard is being taken up.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/17/2021-PC Cell dated  
07.07.2021.]

### **Fact Check Unit**

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

The Committee note that for addressing the challenge of fake news, a Fact Check Unit (FCU) was established in Press Information Bureau (PIB) in December, 2019. Such FCUs have also been set up in 17 Regional Offices of PIB. The Ministry have informed that one of the thrust areas under Information Sector for the year 2021-22 is to strengthen and expansion of Fact Check Unit for countering Fake news. The Committee are given to understand that as on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2021, there were 9103 cases, out of which 8263 were countered/replied and 323 'Fake News' were busted. Between 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2020 and 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021, the Fact Check Unit has received 49,625 queries on WhatsApp/e-mail and out of these the actionable cases of 16,992 have been replied. Further, PIB has countered 505 cases during this period. The

Committee note that FCU receives complaints from people through its WhatsApp, email and web portal and after that the team accesses all the data that is publicly available on the internet for a preliminary search for facts. Upon Technical verification, a response is either sent to the complainant or is put on social media accounts of Fact Check Unit. The Committee note that the system of FCU is still evolving and it takes time to cross check facts from various Ministries/Departments. Besides, news in vernacular languages remains a challenge. While appreciating the measures taken to counter misinformation on Government policies and schemes, the Committee recommend the Ministry to remain vigilant and expand/strengthen Fact Check Unit (FCU) with robust mechanism at both Central and Regional levels and also address the challenges faced with vernacular languages.

### **Reply of the Government**

Ministry has noted the recommendations of the Standing Committee to expand/strength Fact Check Unit (FCU) at Central/Regional Level. The Fact Check Unit in PIB remains vigilant in its efforts to counter fake news/misinformation. The regional units of PIB are currently being utilised to counter any fake-news/misinformation in regional language. Also, the Regional Units disseminate the fact checks done at headquarters in the regions.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/17/2021-PC Cell dated  
07.07.2021]

## **FILM SECTOR**

### **Merger of film media units**

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

The Committee note that one of the thrust areas under Film Sector for the year 2021-22 is to merge four film media units i.e. Children's Films Society,India (CFSI), Films Division (FD), National Films Archive of India (NFAI) and Department of Film Festivals (DFF) with National Film Development Corporation (NFDC). The Cabinet has approved this merger on 23.12.2020 and according to the specific announcements made by the Ministry, the merger process will be accomplished in next two years. Regarding the targets set under each media unit, the Committee note that the existing

activities would not be impacted due to ongoing process of merger. The Cabinet has also approved the appointment of Transaction Advisor(s) and/or Legal Advisor to facilitate the transfer of assets and formation of an 'Implementation Committee' in the Ministry to overlook all aspects of operationalization of the proposal. While recognizing that the objective of this merger is to obviate the multiplicity of activities handled by different entities, the Committee recommend the Ministry to take care of the interests of the employees of all the concerned Media Units and ensure that no employee is retrenched. The Committee also recommend that the surplus staff resulting from merger of these four media units may be put to gainful redeployment in various units/organisations of the Government as per their qualification/experiences as this would also address to some extent the grappling issue of shortage of staff in MIB. The Committee further hope that with placement of Film Media Units under one management, the promotion, production & preservation of filmic content will be swift and hassle free thereby bringing synergy amongst various activities leading to better utilization of existing infrastructure and manpower. The Committee would also expect the Ministry to consider monetising the assets of the units to be merged and out of the proceeds a more modern, larger infrastructural facilities can be provided to NFDC. The Committee desire to be kept apprised about the merger process.

### **Reply of the Government**

As approved by the Cabinet, an Implementation Committee under the Chairmanship of the Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has been set up to oversee the implementation of merger of the four Film Media Units into NFDC. The Ministry has initiated the process of appointment of Transaction Advisor(s) and/or Legal Advisor to facilitate the transfer of assets. To ensure that no employee of the four Film Media Units to be merged is retrenched, the Ministry has prepared a database of all employees of the four Film Media Units along with the details of existing vacancies in various Media Units under the aegis of Ministry of I&B. It will ensure that the surplus staff resulting from merger of the four Film Media Units is put to gainful re-deployment as per their qualification/experience. All these efforts will ensure that the entire process of merger of four Film Media Units into NFDC is swift and hassle-free leading to better utilization of existing infrastructure and

manpower. As desired, the Committee shall be kept apprised about the merger process.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/17/2021-PC Cell dated 07.07.2021]

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

**BROADCASTING SECTOR**

**Prasar Bharati (Budget allocation, IEER and revenue generation)**

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

The Committee note that the BE, RE and actual utilisation under Prasar Bharati for the year 2020-21 are Rs. 3259.36 crore, Rs. 2899.00 crore and Rs. 2175.34 crore (as on 16.02.2021) respectively. The Committee also note that the projections of IEER generation by Prasar Bharati for the year 2020-21 was Rs. 1410.00 crore. However, till November, 2020, the Net IEER generated (including interest on term deposits) was Rs. 759.80 crore and Rs. 715.53 crore of IEER was utilised upto December, 2020. As for the reasons for continuous decline in Net IEER generation by Prasar Bharati, the Committee note that one of the reasons is that the Pro Bono campaigns worth Rs. 356 crore on DD and Rs. 130 crore on AIR during the year 2020-21 were executed. The Committee have been informed that there are four streams of revenue generation- the first is DD Free Dish and AIR towers, the second is advertising from Government Departments and Ministries, the third stream is the commercial advertising from the private sector, the fourth stream is digital and the archives. Accordingly, Prasar Bharati has monetized the programming of other DD channels on YouTube and other social media platforms and the live telecasts of events of National importance are also live-streamed on YouTube platform. The Committee note that the revenue earned by sale and media preview of archival material for the year 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 were Rs. 15,13,022, Rs. 8,50,25,759 and Rs. 49,88,258 respectively. Similarly, with respect to uploads of Archival Materials on YouTube, the revenue earned for the year 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 are Rs. 51,051, Rs. 4,79,066 and Rs. 12,03,206 respectively which cannot be termed as satisfactory.

Regarding plans of DD and AIR for going on OTT platforms, the Committee have been informed that Prasar Bharati has made its various AIR channels available on “NewsOnAir” application for “Android” and “iOS” mobile users. Prasar Bharati is also in discussion to place its channels on OTT platform to have larger digital reach. In addition, various DD “YouTube” channels also have been created to reach out to the digital viewers. The Committee note that Doordarshan has the coverage rights to events of national importance but as far as monetization of events of national importance is concerned, at present most of the coverages are given for free of cost. The Committee, while appreciating all the initiatives taken by the Ministry for revenue generation, feel a lot more effort have to be made for monetisation of content available with the Ministry/Prasar Bharati which *inter-alia* can include placing of its popular programmes/channels on OTT platforms/YouTube, charging private channels for sharing feeds of coverages of national importance, reducing Pro Bono Campaign, monetising the old songs, records, speeches, old and precious exclusive footages of Prasar Bharati etc. The Committee also feel that the Film division productions of the past would also have value on YouTube. The Ministry can also plan travelogue programmes covering pan-India on various issues. The Committee also recommend the Ministry to make use of its vacant and idle properties for revenue generation. The Committee while wondering how Prasar Bharati would meet the burgeoning expenditure without generating IEPR would like be apprised about the innovative action taken by the Ministry/Prasar Bharati to generate IEPR during the year 2021-22 as well as about the efforts made to monetize the physical and archival/intellectual property assets of the Ministry.

### **Reply of the Government**

It is the constant endeavor of Prasar Bharati to take steps to increase revenue generation inspite of adverse impact of Covid-19 pandemic on the market, and low trend of spending on advertisement by corporate and government agencies. Prasar Bharati has made Sales operations unified for All India Radio and Doordarshan, so as to offer attractive packages to clients to have value for money for their advertisement on Radio and Television. In addition, process for introduction of automated booking for advertisement is being initiated for ease of business.

Earlier archival setups in AIR and Doordarshan have grown separately under respective verticals. These setups were combined and brought under a common umbrella as a separate vertical "Prasar Bharati Archives" in 2018. Prasar Bharati has thereafter focused for putting archival content on Digital Platform extensively so as to tap this revenue opportunity further. Prasar Bharati Archives YouTube Channel is having 5.63 lakh subscriber base which include 2.62 lakh subscribers added in last financial year 2020-21. The Archival Content is also being uploaded on other social media platform such as facebook, twitter for promotions. Prasar Bharati has also taken following important initiatives to make the presence of Archives more relevant and for the increase of the revenue generation thereof -

- The archival content has been broadly divided into categories of Historical, cultural, entertainment for DD. Accordingly, YouTube channels of Archives, DD Bharati, DD National. A new YouTube channel 'DD Cinema' has been introduced to showcase cinema & telefilms content. 74 cinema/telefilms have been made available in the channel till date, for monetization of the content digitally.
- Akashvani Sangeet Sammelan and all classic music collection have been made available for "AIR Ragam" YouTube channel.
- Radio Autobiography of eminent persons are being uploaded on Archive channel after editing as per guidelines. Prasar Bharati has also approved the policy of recording of Radio Autobiography to streamline the process to have enriched quality content.
- A new policy for licensing/sale of footage content has been approved and implemented, which is market friendly and at par with other similar organization like NFDC. It is expected that the implementation of this policy and rate card will further increase the footage sale of archival content in future.
- A content syndication policy is also in pipeline with the view to e- auction the archival content category wise. Web based cataloguing is also being planned, which will facilitate the positioning of content in public domain and have potential to generate revenue considerably.
- Archival Programmes are being re-packaged for telecast on various DD Channels, on various specific occasion of public interest so as to increase viewership of the channel



The revenue generated from sale and media preview of archival content for the year 2020-21 was Rs. 54,08,612/-, and similarly, with respect to uploads of Archival Materials on YouTube, the revenue earned was Rs. 14,06,845/-for the year 2020-21.

Prasar Bharati is having YouTube channels of its various DD and AIR channels. The revenue from digital operation on various social media platforms is increasing year by year, and the details of revenue in last three financial years are as under:

S. No.	Financial Year	Amount (in Rs. Crores)
1.	2018-19	0.48
2.	2019-20	1.02
3.	2020-21	1.92

Prasar Bharati has also placed more than 270 AIR channels on “NewsOnAir” app for “Android” and “iOS” platform for mobile users. Various DD YouTube channels are also being accessed through this mobile application by the users. This application is an interface with the user to have access to the PrasarBharati’s Radio and TV content enabling enhancing revenue indirectly.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/17/2021-PC Cell dated 07.07.2021]

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

**DOORDARSHAN (DD)**

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

The Committee note that for the last three years, the actual utilisation of funds in Doordarshan remained 55.40%, 88.53% and 58.29% with regard to RE allocation. The Committee also note that the Budget allocation for the year 2021-22 is Rs. 176 crore. The Committee observe that some of the projects during 2020-21 could not be completed and have spilled over to 2021-22 and the revised targets have been extended. The Committee note with concern that the targets set during 2020-21 under modernization for tower strengthening work at nine locations were to be undertaken.

However, as on 31.12.2020, only the strengthening work at one location has been completed and work in one location is in progress. Similarly, under the component 'Expansion of DTH' for which an amount of Rs. 41.19 crore had been sought, the actual expenditure till December, 2020 was mere 5.40 crore as the proposal to procure 120000 DTH sets for remote, tribal and LWE areas of the country was cancelled due to administrative reasons. In addition, some of the modernization and digitalization of Doordarshan studios could not be completed due to drastic reduction of funds at RE stage. The Committee, not happy with this lackadaisical performance of the Ministry on the modernization process of Doordarshan, recommend the Ministry to accord due priority to their modernization work within strict timelines with administrative and procedural reforms wherever necessary. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress made in this regard.

### **Reply of the Government**

An amount of Rs. 64.75 Cr has been utilised in FY(2020-21) against the RE(2020-21) of Rs. 61.93 Cr and FE (2020-21) of Rs. 65.87 Cr. under the Capital Component of Central Sector Scheme of Doordarshan. Therefore, utilization is 104.55% of allocated RE (2020-21), which is quite satisfactory.

Under the component "Expansion of DTH", the allocated BE (2020-21), RE (2020-21) & FE(2020-21) are Rs. 41.19 Cr, Rs. 15.67 Cr & Rs. 15.75 Cr. respectively, the expenditure incurred in FY (2020-21) under this component is Rs.15.75 cr, which is quite satisfactory w.r.t. allocation made at RE stage.

It is the constant endeavor of Doordarshan to complete the projects within the specified time frame. However, some of the projects targeted for 2020-21 could not be completed & spilled over to 2021-22 due to pandemic situation & other reasons considering the fact that most of the broadcast equipment are not available in the country and are therefore to be imported, thus procurement was delayed. Efforts are being made to complete these projects at the earliest by using digital platform, regular monitoring etc. of these projects.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/17/2021-PC Cell dated  
07.07.2021]

## **Regional Channels of DD**

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

The Committee note that out of the 36 DD channels, there are 28 DD regional language channels being telecast from the Capital Station of the respective States/UTs and one of the thrust areas under Broadcasting Sector for the year 2021-22 is to make all DD regional channels 24X7. The Committee note with concern that out of functional 28 DD regional channels, all the North-Eastern States are not covered and therefore recommend the Ministry to have separate Doordarshan Channel for each State in the North-Eastern region of the country so as to ensure that the North-Eastern region due to its specificity and importance is not deprived of this facility.

### **Reply of the Government**

Doordarshan has 36 Satellite TV Channels originating from different Kendras of the country. It has 7 National channels and 1 English News channel that is distributed internationally, 21 Regional Languages Satellite Service (RLSS) Channels round the clock. Out of 21, 3 Channels (DD Assam, DD Arunprabha & DD Tripura (started 24X7 operation in January, 2021 by utilizing internal resources) are operational in NE Region of the country. In addition, uplinking of 7 regional channels including 4 channels (DD Manipur, DD Mizoram, DD Meghalaya & DD Nagaland) in NE Region, is also being done round-the-clock(24x7), as an interim measure, by utilizing available limited resources. Technical facilities of the Kendras of these 7 regional channels & “DD Tripura” are to be upgraded to cater full-fledged 24x7 service. Upgradation of these eight DDKs to start 24x7 services has been proposed in next Action Plan (2021-26).

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/17/2021-PC Cell dated  
07.07.2021]

## **Doordarshan Kisan Channel**

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

The Committee note that the allocation of funds at BE and RE stage for DD Kisan Channel during the year 2020-21 was Rs. 43.45 crore and Rs. 18.94 crore respectively, whereas the actual expenditure was Rs. 5.27 crore only. As regards the

reasons for utilising only 27.82 % of RE, the Ministry have informed that some of the in-house programmes could not be produced due to lockdown and travel restrictions. The Committee note that several in-house and special programmes are produced under DD Kisan Channel, however, the Ministry have not conducted any impact study of the channel regarding viewership etc., and there is no feedback mechanism available for farmers to give their suggestions. Instead, the data from BARC is being used for estimating viewership and the feedback mechanism is primarily from toll free lines and social media response.

The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to have a feedback mechanism from farmers/citizens of the country for making the channel more beneficial for the farmers. The Committee also desire that DD may tie up with Ministries dealing with issues of farmers directly and indirectly for disseminating their information. A study with regard to the DD Kisan Channels' may also be done so as to gauge its impact and improve the quality and content of the programmes to make it relevant to the needs of the farmers. The Committee may be apprised about the action taken in this regard.

### **Reply of the Government**

#### Feedback mechanism of Kisan Channel

- i. Apart from feedback mechanism through BARC and social media, DD Kisan also gets feedback from farmers through Ministry of Agriculture & Family Welfare and through ICAR, IARI and extension divisions.
- ii. During the annual Kisan Mela at PUSA complex, DD Kisan has a counter where the farmers can fill feedback forms and moreover reactions are also recorded on camera from the farmers. Efforts will be made to participate in more Kisan Melas across the country to get primary feedback.
- iii. M/s KPMG was engaged by I & B Ministry to conduct market survey and feedback of key government schemes. It also included viewership survey of DD Kisan. Impact of the channel detailing relevance of programmes, topics covered, programme treatment etc. has been submitted.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/17/2021-PC Cell dated  
07.07.2021]

## **ESTABLISHMENT EXPENDITURE OF THE CENTRE**

### **Bureau of Outreach & Communication (BOC) [erstwhile DAVP, DFP & S&DD]**

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

The Committee note that the outstanding claims of Bureau of Outreach, against agencies which have placed advertisements with it for the year 2019-20 and 2020-21, is Rs. 103.95 crore. The Committee note with concern that several efforts have been made for recovering outstanding claims against the agencies which also include series of letters written by Secretary, I&B to his counter-parts for settling the outstanding dues by the respective client Ministries/Departments and despite that huge amount of outstanding is due against the agencies. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry/BoC to formulate guidelines for setting up a deadline for the agencies to recover the due amount and for releasing the fund. The Ministry should keep pursuing with the Heads of the Ministries/Departments/agencies for early release of the outstanding dues. The Committee feel that getting the outstanding funds on time would render BoC with sufficient resource enabling them to fulfill its mandate. The Committee would like to apprise about the steps taken to recover the outstanding claims of Bureau of Outreach, which is Rs. 103.95 crore for the period 2019-20 and 2020-21, alongwith the outcome of the same.

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

(i) The clearance of old pendencies has been taken up by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and Bureau of Outreach & Communication (earlier DAVP) on top priority in the last few years. The matter has been flagged by Secretary, Ministry of I&B, to his counterparts in other Ministries and written letters to them from time to time. This has further been followed up by the Principal Director General/Director General, BOC. As a result of these efforts, BOC has cleared Rs. 1304.64 crores against previous pendencies during the last three years, i.e. 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21, as per the following break-up -

Financial Year	Payments (Rs. in crore)
2018-19	620.43
2019-20	391.56
2020-21	292.65
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1304.64</b>

(ii) The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has also put in place the requisite policy mechanism to ensure that such pendencies could be avoided in future. To this effect, Print Media Advertisement Policy 2020 has incorporated a clause that all Ministries and Departments should place funds in advance, in absence of which BOC may not release the advertisement or undertake any campaign, except in the cases of exigency. Similar clauses have been incorporated in the policies related to campaign through Social Media etc. In a review in the Ministry of I&B, BOC has been directed not to undertake any fresh paid campaign of the Ministries/Departments unless they have cleared their old pendencies.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/17/2021-PC Cell dated 07.07.2021]

## **OTHER CENTRAL EXPENDITURE INCLUDING AUTONOMOUS BODIES & PSUS**

### **Upgradation of IIMC to International Standards scheme**

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

The Committee note that under the scheme 'upgradation of IIMC to International Standards', it was envisaged for upgrading facilities at IIMC, New Delhi by expansion of its infrastructure. However, this expansion could not take place due to certain objections relating to construction of building on environmental grounds. Recently, Hon'ble Supreme Court has allowed IIMC to construct new additional Institutional Buildings at IIMC, New Delhi subject to the conditions imposed by the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) in its Report No. 28 dated 22.10.2019. While recommending the proposed new construction CEC advised IIMC to reduce ground coverage. The Committee find it disturbing that after so many years, the plan has been revised again and IIMC is now required to seek fresh approval from various authorities which may

take some more time. The Committee also note that New Campus of IIMC at Jammu, which was expected to be completed by end of March 2021 but it got delayed due to Covid-19 pandemic, is to be completed by the end of October 2021. Besides, construction of Western Regional Campus of IIMC at Amravati is still being finalized in the Ministry. Further, construction of North East Regional Campus of IIMC at Aizawl, is expected be completed by middle of March 2021 and the Institute can be made operational from the new Academic session i.e. from April 2021. The Committee, while deploring the delay with respect to upgradation of IIMC to International Standards and delay in construction of campuses at Jammu, Aizawl and Amravati, recommend that all the projects/campuses of IIMC that have been delayed over last three years should be completed at the earliest and preferably during the year 2021-22. The Committee may be kept apprised about the progress in this regard.

### **Reply of the Government**

The action plans and other details were submitted to the Civic authority i.e. DDA during 2012, but the plans were not approved for want of clearance from the Forest Department of Govt., of NCR as IIMC New Delhi is located in Morphological Ridges. Only on 13.01.2021, the Hon'ble Supreme Court passed an order and allowed IIMC to construct an additional building at New Delhi Campus subject to the condition imposed by CEC. Further, Approval of building plans from MCD and other civic bodies are under progress. The work is delayed due to present Covid-19 pandemic situation.

IIMC was allotted around 15 acres of land at free of cost by the State Govt. of J&K during 2016. The construction work commenced with the Foundation Stone laid down by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 03.02.2019 and has been going on in full swing, since then.

The work, however, had to be held up due to imposition of Lockdown on account of Covid19 pandemic from 24th March, 2020 till 16h May, 2020. Later on, the work has been resumed; but it again got slowed down due to imposition of lockdown in mid of April, 2021 on account of the second wave of corona virus. Presently. more than 75 % of work is completed (as on 31.05.2021); though on account of such hindrances the expected date of completion of said project is now rescheduled/revised from 09th March, 2021 to 30th September, 2021. The work of construction of permanent campus has been entrusted to CCW-AIR, Min. of I&B as deposit work, with a Project cost of Rs. 25.20 Crore out of which Rs. 14.08095 Crore has been made available to CCW till date.

The Government of Maharashtra handed over approximately 15 acres of land at free of cost to IIMC at Badnera on the outskirts of Amravati, Maharashtra on 29.06.2016. IIMC carried out pre-investment activities such as topographical survey, jungle clearance, appointment of architect etc. At a later stage suggestions were made at various forums to consider Nagpur as the location for setting up of regional centre of IIMC at Maharashtra. Efforts were made by the M/o I&B and IIMC with the State Government for allocation of a suitable place for opening up of IIMC Campus in Maharashtra. However, the location could not be finalized.

Now, the Ministry of I&B vide letter No. 23/36/2010-IP&MC (Vol. II) dated 03rd March 2021 has decided that the permanent campus of the Western Regional Campus of IIMC will be setup at the land allotted at Badnera in Amravati. In this regard, the construction of Amravati campus has been allotted to CPWD as deposit work for which it will propose the estimates. Initially, the construction of boundary walls is to be done by CPWD.

IIMC was allotted around 08 acres of land at free of cost by the Govt. of Mizoram in the campus of Mizoram University in the year 2011. The construction work of permanent campus was entrusted to CPWD as Deposit work. The Regional Campus of IIMC at Aizawl comprises of Administrative cum Academic Block with a total covered area of 2326.00 sqm. and a Hostel Block with a total covered area of 795.00 sqm. and Staff Quarters.

The Construction/repair of approach road damaged up to IIMC campus has been completed during 2nd week of April, 2021 while construction of entrance gate is to be done by the CPWD for which Rs 29.00 Lakh has already been deposited. Landscaping and horticulture has been taken up by CPWD. Though, these works are in progress, the same got delayed due to recent Covid-19 lockdown imposed in Aizawl and shortage of labour in the North East Region. The new Campus can be made functional once the unlock process started and normalcy restored in the Aizawl region.

The Ministry of I&B has advised IIMC to make all efforts to complete the projects at the earliest and preferably during the year 2021-22.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/17/2021-PC Cell dated  
07.07.2021]



## **STATUS OF 'THE CINEMATOGRAPH (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2019'**

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

The Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 12.02.2019 and subsequently referred to the Standing Committee on Information Technology on 22.02.2019 for examination. Thereafter, Ninth Report on 'The Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2019' was presented to the House on 16.03.2020. The Committee regret to note that, even after lapse of one year after the presentation of the said Report, the Ministry are still examining the recommendations/observations for making necessary amendments to clauses in the said Bill. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should expedite procedural formalities so that the amended legislation may be brought at the earliest. The Committee, while reiterating their earlier recommendation, desire that the Ministry holistically review the entire Cinematographic Act 1952 in the light of present day needs and changing and emerging technologies since the Act in its present form is woefully out of date. The Committee may be apprised about the action taken on this issue.

### **Reply of the Government**

The recommendations/observations contained in the Ninth Report of the Standing Committee on Information Technology on 'The Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2019' were examined in the Ministry for making necessary amendments to clauses in the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2019 which was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 12.02.2019.

Simultaneously, a review of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 was undertaken in the Ministry to address the various issues concerning the certification process in a comprehensive manner, including the issue of film piracy which was originally proposed to be addressed by the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2019.

Accordingly, it is proposed to introduce the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2021 which proposes to make the process of sanctioning of films for exhibition more effective, in tune with the changed times and curb the menace of film piracy.

The Draft Cabinet Note for introduction of the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2021 has been circulated to various Ministries/ Departments to comply with the practice of Inter-Ministerial Consultation and the necessary procedural formalities for introduction of the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2021 are being followed.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/17/2021-PC Cell dated  
07.07.2021]

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

**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**

**PERFORMANCE UNDER CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEMES DURING LAST THREE YEARS**

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

The Committee note that for the Central Sector Schemes (CSS), the allocated amount for the year 2021-22 is Rs. 632.05 crore, which is less than the BE allocation of Rs. 740 crore made during the year 2020-21. The overall performance of Central Sector Schemes during the year 2020-21 does not appear satisfactory as the BE of Rs. 740 crore was reduced to Rs. 346.73 crore at RE stage and only Rs. 278.16 crore have been spent up to January, 2021 which is 37.37% of BE and 79.76% of RE. The Committee note with concern that for one of the Central Sector Schemes, i.e. for Champion Services Sector Scheme, the BE and RE during 2020-21 was Rs. 30 crore and Rs. 3.80 crore respectively however the actual expenditure remained 'Nil'. For effective and better utilization of resources, the Ministry had undertaken rationalization and restructuring of the Plan Schemes in 2019-20 which has been implemented in 2020-21. However, the status of fund utilisation under Central Sector Schemes during the year 2020-21 doesn't reflect the same. Considering that last year's performance under Central Sector Schemes which was impacted due to COVID-19 pandemic is improving, the Committee recommend the Ministry to do periodic appraisal of all the Central Sector Schemes so that both the physical and financial targets are met as per schedule during the year 2021-22.

The Committee also note that for improving implementation of the Schemes, the Ministry had undertaken third party evaluation of its Schemes in 2020 through M/s. KPMG. While being informed that the draft Report of M/s KPMG will be finalized shortly, the Committee desire to be apprised about the key findings and the status of implementation of the Report by M/s KPMG. The Committee would also appreciate specific comments of the Ministry on these key recommendations of M/s KPMG.

## **Reply of the Government**

The report of M/s KPMG is finalized and has been accepted by the Ministry. The key recommendations of M/s KPMG have been incorporated by the concerned administrative heads of Central Sector Schemes of M/o Information and Broadcasting while preparing their respective EFCs.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/17/2021-PC Cell dated  
07.07.2021]

### **Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development (BIND)**

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

The Committee note that from the financial Year 2019-20, three of the Prasar Bharati's schemes have been merged into a single line budget entry namely 'Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND)'. Currently, there is only one scheme 'BIND' under Prasar Bharati. The actual utilisation under this scheme during 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 have been 85.91%, 100% and 90.06% w.r.t. RE respectively. Analysing the Information regarding physical achievement under BIND scheme during 2020-21 it is found that at 25 places digitization has been completed but at 54 places they are yet to be done. The Ministry have informed that there is overall shortfall in implementation of BIND scheme due to pandemic situation which adversely affected the movement of man and material across the globe. Considering the fact that most of the broadcast equipment & services are not available in the country and are therefore imported, the procurement was delayed. The Committee note with concern that this had an adverse effect on the financial and physical progress of undergoing projects and is cause of underutilization of funds allocated in BE 2020-21. The Committee aresurprisedby the fact that most of the broadcast equipment & services are not available in the country and therefore recommend the Ministry of I&B to have inter-ministerial coordination for producing them domestically and come out with concrete action plan in this regard. The Committee also desire the Ministry to fix timeline for digitisation of remaining 54 studios and for achieving the target set under BIND and be kept apprised about the same.

## **Reply of the Government**

Digitisation of Studio project (Studio Automation Project) has been completed at 51 stations and 28 Stations are left. Work has been halted due to shut down due to second Wave of Pandemic Covid-19. Rest of the stations are likely to be completed by October 2021.

It is also worthwhile to mention that most of the broadcast equipment & services are not available in the country and are therefore imported, which delay the procurement process. Indian manufacturers are supplying only ancillary broadcast equipment such as equipment track, Uninterrupted Power Supply system, measuring equipment & other auxiliary equipment and integrating them for broadcast.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/17/2021-PC Cell dated  
07.07.2021]

### **Human Resource in Prasar Bharati**

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

The Committee note with extreme concern that the current vacancies under Doordarshan and Akashvani are 10247 and 12086 respectively. The Committee have been raising concern with respect to the huge vacancies existing in AIR and Doordarshan, however, it has been noted that several Committees/Audits/Recruitment board have been constituted in this regard without any fruitful outcome. The Committee express concern over the fact that the recommendations of the Sam Pitroda Committee which was constituted in 2014 have not been implemented yet. The Committee deplore the fact that till date only the recommendations of the Committee have been examined and steps towards implementation have not been taken and even after 7 years of submission of the Report, the Ministry are yet to fully implement their recommendations which have been accepted. Further, with regard to Manpower Audit Report of M/s Ernst and Young LLP, it has been noted that final acceptance of the Report was done on 29.09.2020 and the implementation of the Report is under process. It is a matter of concern that even for this Report no timeline has been fixed for implementing the recommendations. The Committee while strongly disapproving the laxity on the part of the Ministry/Prasar Bharati for filling up the vacancies, recommend the Ministry to implement the recommendations of the Sam Pitroda Committee with regard to human

resource at the earliest. With respect to Manpower Audit Report of M/s Ernst and Young LLP, the Committee desire to be updated about the Ministry's response to the recommendations contained in this Report alongwith the timeline for implementing them along with constraints, if any. The Committee would also like to be apprised about the status on backlog vacancies for differently-abled persons.

### **Reply of the Government**

The recommendations of the Sam Pitroda Committee with regard to Human Resource have been examined and steps towards implementation have been taken on the recommendations accepted by the Ministry.

2. Prasar Bharati requested E&Y LLP to accomplish the deliverables specified under the heading "Implementation and change management" in the Schedule-A of the contract entered into between Prasar Bharati and M/s Ernst & Young LLP within 120 days from the date of acceptance of the Final Report, vide letter dated 13.10.2020. In response, the E&Y LLP had submitted a draft "Change Management" report on 18.03.2021 and a final version of "Change Management" report on 04.06.2021, which is under examination.

3. Regarding status on backlog vacancies for differently-abled persons, in compliance of the Hon'ble Supreme Court Judgment dated 28.04.2015 in Contempt Petition No. 499/2014, 140 posts for differently-abled persons were identified to be filled. Out of which 47 posts were already filled in the examination held through SSC in 2013 and action was taken for filling up the remaining 93 posts through National Academy of Broadcasting and Multimedia (NABM) under the special recruitment drive in 2015 with the approval of the Prasar Bharati Board and MIB. Out of total 93 posts, 63 posts were filled in the first attempt and remaining 30 posts are to be filled as per details given below.

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Post Approved by MIB</b>	<b>Number of posts filled</b>	<b>No. of Post unfilled</b>
1.	60	37	23
	(Prog. & Engg. Post)		
2.	33	26	7
	(MTS)		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>30</b>

In pursuance of the Notification of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting dated 12.02.2020 [G.S.R.107(E)], Prasar Bharati has established a Recruitment Board by the name of 'Prasar Bharati Recruitment Board' (PBRB) for appointment of persons to the post carrying scale of pay less than that of a Joint Secretary to the Government of India, vide Order No.A-10/23/2010-PPB/PBRB dated 01.07.2020. Prasar Bharati Recruitment Board has now become functional and the process of filling up of 30 unfilled posts of differently abled persons has already been initiated by the PBRB.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/17/2021-PC Cell dated  
07.07.2021]



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

**NEW MANDATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (MIB)**  
**(Recommendation Sl. No. 1)**

The Committee note that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) through mass communication media and traditional modes of communications play an effective role in helping the masses to access the flow of information. The Committee further note that the Central Government vide their notification dated 9.11.2020 has amended the Allocation of Business Rules 1961 relating to MIB and inserted “digital/online media” in their work allocation. With this amendment, the mandate of MIB has expanded over “Films and audio visual programmes made available by online content providers” and “News and current affairs content online platforms”. The Committee are also aware of the recent Notification by the Government regarding “Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines of Digital Media Ethics Code), Rules 2021” under Section 87(2) of IT Act, 2000 and in supersession of earlier IT (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules, 2011. The Committee have been informed that before bringing these Rules, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have held consultations and have studied the regulatory models in other countries wherein it has been found that most of the countries either have an institutional mechanism to regulate digital content or are in process of setting up one.

The Ministry have informed that IT (Intermediary Guidelines of Digital Media Ethics Code), Rules 2021 would establish a soft touch progressive institutional mechanism with a level playing field featuring a Code of Ethics and a three tier Grievance Redressal framework for news publishers and OTT platforms on the digital media. While acknowledging that the new Rules under the IT Act, 2000 would bring an institutional mechanism for level playing field for all other media categories, the Committee are of the considered view that initiatives like updation of mandate, framing rules for OTT/content on online platform etc., should have been concurrent with the emergence and convergence of technology so that valid and genuine concerns are addressed at the nascent stage itself.

Nevertheless, while appreciating this initiative of the Government which was long overdue, the Committee look forward to discussing the proposed rules with a view to developing a harmonious and proper oversight mechanism in relation to social media platforms and digital media and OTT platforms, following which the Committee hope that the Ministry would take all necessary steps to implement these rules with due regard to the importance of promoting creativity and protecting freedom of expression while maintaining a robust oversight mechanism. The Committee also expect the Ministry to launch an awareness campaign with regard to these Rules so as to empower the citizens to make informed choices about content, get their grievances redressed in definite time frame and protect children/youth from obnoxious content as well as help to fight the menace of fake news on online/digital media. The Committee look forward to a thorough discussion with the Ministry on these Rules.

### **Reply of the Government**

The Ministry acknowledges the observations and comments of the Committee with regard to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines of Digital Media Ethics Code), Rules 2021. As further observed by the Committee, the Ministry is taking all necessary steps to implement the rules and for creating awareness regarding the rules. Towards this end, following steps have already been taken: -

#### **A. Awareness Creation**

- i. An information booklet on IT Rules, 2021 explaining various aspects in simple language has been prepared and uploaded on the website of the Ministry.
- ii. Comprehensive FAQs on various aspects of IT Rules, 2021 has also been prepared and made available on the website of the Ministry.
- iii. For the benefit of citizens, the FAQs have been translated in various Indian languages, including Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Khasi, Gujarati, Punjabi, Assamese, Marathi, Bangala and Manipuri have been uploaded on the Ministry's website.
- iv. Advertisement in various newspapers was carried out on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 across the country for the benefit of the citizens, informing them about the new rules.
- v. The Ministry has already conducted five Webinars on dated 08.04.2021, 07.06.2021, 15.06.2021, 26.06.2021 and 30.06.2021 at national and regional

levels and more Webinars at the regional levels have been planned for awareness creation amongst various stakeholders.

**B. Implementation**

- i. On 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 the Ministry uploaded on its website formats for furnishing information by the publishers under rule 18 of the Rules. These formats were also e-mailed to around 1100 publishers. More than 1500 publishers have already furnished information in the requisite format.
- ii. The Ministry has also received proposals for constitution of the self-regulating bodies, being the Level II of the Grievance Redressal Mechanism.
- iii. Grievances received by the Ministry are being forwarded to the publishers for their redressal under the Rules.
- iv. The Ministry has notified the Authorizing Officer under the Rules.
- v. Action has been initiated for constitution of the Inter Departmental Committee (IDC) under the Rules.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/17/2021-PC Cell dated  
07.07.2021]

**Champion Services Sector Scheme**

**(Recommendation SI. No. 5)**

The Committee note that for one of the Central Sector Schemes (CSS), i.e Champion Service Sector Scheme (CSSS), the BE and RE during the year 2020-21 were Rs. 30 crore and Rs. 3.80 crore respectively and the actual expenditure was 'Nil'. For the year 2021-22, the allocation made at BE stage is just Rs.1.59 crore. Providing reasons for 'Nil' utilization of fund during 2020-21, the Ministry have informed that the Department of Expenditure (DoE) did not initially support the draft Standing Finance Committee (SFC) proposal of the Ministry stating that "No new proposal for a scheme/sub-scheme, whether under delegated powers to Administrative Ministry including SFC proposal should be initiated this year (FY 2020-21)". The Committee are given to understand that the Scheme received in-principle approval from DoE on 20.11.2020 and the note is to be placed before SFC for their concurrence and approval of the Scheme. Due to this reason implementation could not be taken up during 2020-21 and will be taken up during 2021-22. Further, the Committee have been informed

that the components of Champion Services Sector Schemes include (i) Incentive for audio visual co-production with foreign countries, (ii) Promotion of shooting of foreign films in India, (iii) Creating awareness and increasing theatre density and (iv) Organizing of Global Media & Entertainment Summit and due to lesser allocation, during the year 2021-22, the components at serial number i, ii & iv will be affected. The Ministry have also informed that during the year 2021-22, the fund of Rs. 1 crore would be utilised towards creating awareness and increasing theatre density and for conducting workshops among entrepreneurs willing to set up the theatres.

The Committee deplore the way in which an important scheme, which amalgamates four important components, has been ignored. They feel that the procedural delays in getting the approval for the Scheme which aims to make India a preferred shooting destination for Film and to have single window clearance for ease of shooting Films could have been avoided or minimized. Now that the in-principle approval for the scheme has been received on 20.11.2020 from DoE, the Committee recommend the Ministry to try to seek early clearance from SFC and finalize their future roadmap for this Scheme and seek additional funds at RE stage, if required.

### **Reply of the Government**

The Ministry of I&B's proposal on Audio-visual Services under the Champion Services Sector Scheme has been supported by NITI Aayog and has been in-principle approved by the Department of Expenditure. The Ministry is working with various Central Ministries and State Governments for giving shooting permissions at heritage places in India.

As the objectives of the Champion Services Sector Scheme (CSSS) for Audio Visual Services are closely related with the Development Communication and Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC) scheme of the Ministry, it is proposed to merge CSSS with DCDFC scheme as the consolidation of resources will provide flexibility in use, leading to better utilization of funds.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/17/2021-PC Cell dated  
07.07.2021]

## **Community Radio Stations (CR Stations)**

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

The Committee note that the budgetary analysis with respect to Community Radio (CR) Stations for the years 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 show that they have been very much under utilised so much so that during the year 2018-19, it was 48.4% of RE and during 2020-21, it was 64.15% of RE allocation. The Committee also note that at present, there are 317 operational Community Radio Stations in the country and they are aired in 27 languages. The Committee are concerned to note that few States and UTs like Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Utrakhand, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Ladakh and Lakshadweep do not have any Community Radio stations. Needless to say numerous popular languages and dialects of the country are yet to be covered by Community Radio Stations including some of the scheduled languages of the Constitution like Kashmiri, Bodo, Maithili, Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi and Urdu. While noting that one of the thrust areas of the Ministry for the year 2021-22 is to promote setting up of new CR stations with focus on coastal regions, LWE/border areas/Aspirational districts and remote districts, the Committee desire the Ministry should take extra effort for covering the States/UTs which do not have any CR station and recommend that the target set for this should be met within the deadline and accordingly the Committee may be apprised about the same. The Committee also recommend the Ministry to make this scheme financially more lucrative to attract more and more applicants for setting up of community radio stations, including by lifting the cap on advertising tariff and would also like to be apprised of the pending requests for grant of licenses for community radio.

### **Reply of the Government**

1. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has taken several measures to utilize the budget allocated during the current FY (2020-21). As on 26.03.2021, 87% of RE allocation has been utilized.
2. Efforts are being made to bring awareness, amongst eligible organizations, regarding community Radios, so that more and more organizations come forward for setting up of Community Radio stations, especially in CR Dark areas, in the larger interests of the community. Further, to have more and more Community Radio Stations in Aspirational Districts, LWE districts and coastal areas, letters have been written to

Chief Secretaries of States and UTs requesting them to encourage organizations and promote community Radio stations.

3. Continuous follow up meetings are being organized to streamline the permission process of the Community Radio Stations. As part of ease of doing business and to expedite the permission process, policy guidelines for setting up of Community Radio Stations is also being contemplated for revision including increasing of advertisement duration cap from 7 minutes to 12 minutes per hour.

4. Appraisal of the scheme namely “Supporting Community Radio Movement in India” for the next five year duration (2021-2026) is under process with an estimated expenditure of Rs. 25 crore. The scheme has included various new activities i.e. grants for content creation, strengthening of Community Media Empowerment Centre at IIMC, Innovation grants and creation of a National Repository of contents of Community Radio Stations which are expected to strengthen the CR sector. Under the Scheme, it is proposed to enhance grants for purchase of equipment from Rs.7.50 lakhs to Rs.10 lakhs, and in North Eastern Areas, from Rs.7.50 lakhs to Rs.12 lakhs. For conducting various capacity building activities under the proposed scheme, a process of empanelment of agencies are under consideration.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/17/2021-PC Cell dated  
07.07.2021]

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

**Co-production of Films with foreign countries**

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

The Committee note that during the year 2019-20, co-production agreements were signed with Russia and Bangladesh and MoU for production of Feature Film on the life and works of Bangabandhu Sheikh MujiburRahman was signed between National Film Development Corporation and Bangladesh Film Development Corporation. An Audio Visual Coproduction agreement was also signed between India and Portugal in February 2020. One of the specific announcements made by the Ministry for the year 2021-22 is ‘Strengthening Bonds of Friendship with Bangladesh’. In

this regard, the Committee are given to understand that the feature film titled 'Bangabandhu' (biographical feature film on Sheikh Mujibur Rehman) is to be directed by eminent filmmaker Shri Shyam Benegal and during the year 2020, pre-production activities of Indo Bangladesh Coproduction film 'Bangabandhu' were done and shooting of the film commenced in January 2021 which is expected to be ready for release by March, 2022. The Committee feel that since Indian Film Industry has good market in the neighbouring Countries and also in cities/nations where the Indian diaspora is in good numbers and such agreements for co-production of films can be used as a soft power for showcasing Indian capabilities and to build up the image of the country. While appreciating the initiative for strengthening Bonds of Friendship with various countries, the Committee would urge the Ministry should see to it that they stick to the deadline to release the film 'Bangabandhu' by March, 2022. The Committee, while acknowledging the constraints posed by COVID-19 pandemic, recommend that the Ministry complete this project on time and also see to it that the co-production agreements signed with Russia and Portugal are also taken up in right earnest. The Committee would like to be kept apprised about the development in this regard.

### **Reply of the Government**

With a view to promote co-production of films between Indian film makers and film makers of different countries, the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting enters into Audio Visual Co-Production Agreement with various countries.

The first and major schedule of the film 'Bangabandhu' was completed in Mumbai despite the extremely difficult situation of the COVID Pandemic. Around 75% to 80% of the film shooting has been completed. The second schedule is being planned for shooting in Dhaka, Chittagong and other parts of Bangladesh in the post Monsoon period i.e. after September, 2021. The second schedule would require active support from the Bangladesh Armed Forces as it includes battle scenes consisting of Infantry and Artillery action, air combats and bombing actions, sea battles, etc. The plan for shooting these action sequences will depend largely on the prevailing weather conditions. The balance part of the film will also be shot in Bangladesh for crowd scenes, election scenes, Tejgaon Airport, Chittagong Port, Dhaka University Campus, Dhaka Hospital, etc.

After final editing, the film will go for Digital Intermediate (DI) with colour corrections and Visual Effects (VFX). This being a highly technical work with computer-

generated images, it may take minimum 3 months to complete the entire post-production.

It is planned that the film will be ready for release on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022 to mark 102<sup>nd</sup> Birth Anniversary of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the father of the nation of People's Republic of Bangladesh. However, the completion of the project depends upon various factors such as nature and present COVID situation. It is pertinent to mention that VFX and DI studios, editing suits could not commence work due to lockdown in Mumbai from 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2021.

As on date, a total amount of Rs. 22.26 crore has been released to NFDC towards production of the film.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/17/2021-PC Cell dated 07.07.2021]

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

**ALL INDIA RADIO (AIR) AND FM**

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

The Committee note that there are 506 FM Transmitters and 129 Medium Wave (MW) AIR transmitters broadcasting various AIR Channels from 485 AIR centres across the country. The channels include Primary Channels, Local Radio Stations (LRS), FM rainbow, FM Gold and VividhBharati channels. The Committee appreciate that AIR broadcasts in 22 languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule and in English apart from broadcasting in 181 dialects of the country. The Committee note digitalisation of AIR network had been approved in XIth Plan which was further extended to the XIIth Plan. AIR has started digital transmission from its 35 high power Digitized Medium Wave Transmitters and it is available to 70 % of the population of the country. AIR has also been radiating digital signal from SW transmitters which can be received through digital receiver. The Committee also note that AIR is further proposing digitization of its Network in SW and FM mode in the future plan and it has also proposed enhancing of capability of 6 digital ready MW transmitters to operate in digital mode. The Committee are, however, concerned to note that out of 485 AIR centres only 127 studios are digital. The Committee also express concern that the digital transmission from 35 high power digitised Medium Wave Transmitters are available only to 70% of the population of the



country. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to ensure that the reach of this digitized Medium Wave Transmitters is expanded throughout the country and that all the AIR studios should be made digital at the earliest. The Committee would like to be apprised about the action taken in this regard.

### **Reply of the Government**

Presently, there are 512 FM Transmitters and 128 Medium Wave (MW) AIR transmitters broadcasting various AIR Channels from 490 AIR centres across the country.

As per approved schemes under 11th plan, AIR replaced 35 outlived MW transmitters by modern state of the art Medium wave (MW) Digital transmitters which are capable to broadcast programme in 3 mode, one is Analogue Mode second is Digital Mode and third is Simulcast Mode(Analogue+Digital).Presently, these transmitters are providing coverage to 70 % of the populationofthecountry.Presently,5transmittersarerunninginDigitalModeandrestof the 30 transmitters are running on Simulcast Mode. In addition to this, 3 out lived SW transmitters have also been replaced by modern state of the art Shortwave(SW)Digital transmitters.

For expansion of FM Services in the country including border, LWE affected and aspirational districts, proposals for setting up of good nos. of FM transmitters have been included in the Future plan with a special focus to Border, aspirational districts & LWE districts. AIR has 230 Studios in its network. Rest of stations are Relay stations having Transmitting facility only. Digitisation of 127 Stations have been approved and out of which, 70 stations are partially digitised. They have Digital recording & Playback facility but rest of the equipment is Analog. Rest of the studios were setup in last 15 years and they were born Digital. Studio digitalization of the remaining old studios have also been included in the Future plan. Implementation of these proposals will depend upon the approval of the competent authority and availability of funds.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/17/2021-PC Cell dated  
07.07.2021]

## **DIGITAL TERRESTRIAL TRANSMISSION (DTT)**

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

The Committee note that for implementation of the Digital Terrestrial Transmission (DTT) across the country, TRAI had furnished a roadmap in 2017 and had stated that DTT may be implemented in the country in three phases with complete migration and analog switch off by December 2023. The timelines include (i) Phase I (Metro cities) by 31st December, 2019, (ii) Phase II (cities having more than 10 lakh population as per Census 2011) by 31st December, 2021 and (iii) Phase-III (Rest of India) by 31st December, 2023. Currently, 23 DTTs (at 19 locations) are operational. Four Metro Cities viz. Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai have two DTT Transmitters. First Transmitter is relaying 5 DD channels in SD and 03 Radio channels whereas the second transmitter is relaying 03 DD Channels (02 DD Channels in SD & 01 DD National channel in HD). At other 15 cities, one DTT transmitter is operational which relays 5 DD channels in SD and 03 Radio channels. The Ministry have informed that in response to recommendations of TRAI, a Coordination Committee under the chairpersonship of DG, Doordarshan, was constituted on 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 to facilitate entry of private entities in Digital Terrestrial Broadcasting in India. Further, the Committee are given to understand that Prasar Bharati has entered into an MoU with IIT Kanpur to develop a “Direct to Mobile” (DTM) roadmap for Digital Terrestrial Broadcasting consistent with emerging standards such as 5G Broadcast. The Committee also note that further expansion of DTT would depend on availability/allocations of required UHF Spectrum and the funds allocations in coming years. Adding on the issue of mandate of MIB regarding DTT, the Secretary MIB, during evidence had informed that there was a review a couple of years back in the Department of Expenditure wherein they told MIB not to do any further investment in digital terrestrial till the business case is made and it is viable.

While noting that the DTT technologies enable efficient use of the TV spectrum, provide better quality of service, multiple broadcasting services within the same channel bandwidth through use of multiplexers, the Committee feel that the induction of DTT technology would go a long way in ensuring efficient spectrum usage and quality of broadcasting services. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Report of the Coordination Committee, constituted on 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2018, should be examined at the

earliest and needful be done to achieve the target of implementing DTT in the country. The Committee, while observing that the target for implementation of DTT throughout the country is December, 2023, would like to be apprised about the updated status of the targets achieved for phase-wise DTT migration and analog switch off along with the outcome of the examination of the Report of Coordination Committee.

### **Reply of the Government**

As regards Prasar Bharati, the implementation of the Digital Terrestrial Transmission(DTT) is being followed as:

1. 23 DTTs (at 19 locations)are currently operational in the country.
2. For further expansion of DTT service of Doordarshan, Prasar Bharati has entered into an MoU with IIT Kanpur to develop a “Direct to Mobile” (DTM) roadmap for Digital Terrestrial Broadcasting consistent with emerging standards such as 5G Broadcast.
3. Further expansion would depend on availability/allocations of required UHF Spectrum and the funds allocations in coming years.

[Ministry of Information and Broadcasting O.M. No. W-11/17/2021-PC Cell dated  
07.07.2021]

**New Delhi;  
29 November, 2021  
8 Agrahayana, 1943 (Saka)**

**DR. SHASHI THAROOR,  
Chairperson,  
Standing Committee on  
Communications and Information  
Technology.**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY (2021-22)**

**MINUTES OF THE THIRD SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE**

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The Committee sat on Wednesday, the 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 from 1100 hours to 1305 hours in Main Committee Room, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

**Dr. Shashi Tharoor- Chairperson**

**MEMBERS**

**Lok Sabha**

2. Shri Karti P. Chidambaram
3. Smt. Sunita Duggal
4. Dr. Sukanta Majumdar
5. Ms. Mahua Moitra
6. Shri Santosh Pandey
7. Shri Sanjay Seth
8. Smt. Sumalatha Ambareesh

**Rajya Sabha**

9. Dr. Anil Agrawal
10. Shri John Brittas
11. Shri Suresh Gopi
12. Shri Jawhar Sircar

**Secretariat**

- |    |                       |   |                     |
|----|-----------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Shri Y. M. Kandpal    | - | Joint Secretary     |
| 2. | Dr. Sagarika Dash     | - | 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 (2021-22) relating to the Ministries/Departments under their jurisdiction and to take evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on the

subject 'Review of functioning of Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)' with special emphasis on Mukul Mudgal and Shyam Benegal Committee Reports.

3. The Committee, then, took up the following draft Action Taken Report for consideration and adoption.

- (i) .....xxxxx..... .....xxxxx..... .....xxxxx..... .....xxxxx..... .....xxxxx..... .....xxxxx..... .....xxxxx.....;
- (ii) .....xxxxx..... .....xxxxx..... .....xxxxx..... .....xxxxx..... .....xxxxx..... .....xxxxx..... .....xxxxx.....;
- (iii) .....xxxxx..... .....xxxxx..... .....xxxxx..... .....xxxxx..... .....xxxxx..... .....xxxxx..... .....xxxxx.....; and
- (iv) Draft Action Taken Report on Demands for Grants (2021-22) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting .

4. After due deliberations, the Committee adopted the draft Action Taken Reports at Sl. Nos. (ii) and (iii) without any modifications and draft Action Taken Reports at Sl. No. (i) and (iv) with slight modifications. The Committee authorized the Chairperson to finalize the draft Action Taken Reports and present the Reports 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.....
- 9. ....xxxxx..... .....xxxxx..... .....xxxxx..... .....xxxxx..... .....xxxxx..... .....xxxxx..... .....xxxxx.....
- 10. ....xxxxx..... .....xxxxx..... .....xxxxx..... .....xxxxx..... .....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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\*Matters not related to the Report.

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

**(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

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

(i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government Rec. Sl. Nos.: 2, 3, 7,8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20 and 21	Total      12 Percentage    57.14
(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.: 4, 12 and 17	Total      03 Percentage    14.28
(iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which the replies of the Government are of interim in nature Rec. Sl. No.: 1, 5, 6, 10, 16 and 18	Total      06 Percentage    28.57