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

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2021-22)**

TWENTY-FIFTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

March, 2021/ Phalguna, 1942 (Saka)

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Presented to Lok Sabha on 10.03.2021

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 10.03.2021



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

March, 2021/ Phalguna, 1942 (Saka)

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

Dr. Shashi Tharoor - Chairperson

Lok Sabha

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

Rajya Sabha

22. Dr. Anil Agrawal
23. Dr. Subhash Chandra
24. Shri Y. S. Chowdary
25. Shri Shaktisinh Gohil
26. Shri Suresh Gopi
27. Shri Md. Nadimul Haque
28. Shri Syed Nasir Hussain
29. Shri Syed Zafar Islam
30. Dr. Narendra Jadhav
31. Shri Nabam Rebia

Secretariat

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

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

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

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Information Technology (2020-21), having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Twenty-fifth Report on Demands for Grants (2021-22) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

2. The Standing Committee on Information Technology (2020-21) was constituted on 13 September, 2020. One of the functions of the Standing Committee, as laid down in Rule 331E of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, is to consider the Demands for Grants of the Ministry concerned and make a Report on the same to the Houses.

3. The Committee considered the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for the year 2021-22 which were laid on the Table of the House on 10th February, 2021. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on 11th February, 2021.

4. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 8th March, 2021.

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

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

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

**New Delhi;
8 March, 2021**
17 Phalguna, 1942(Saka)

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

REPORT

PART - I

I. INTRODUCTORY

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) is functionally organized into three Wings viz., Information Wing, Broadcasting Wing and Films Wing. The Ministry functions through its 18 Media Units/ Attached & Subordinate Offices, Autonomous Bodies and PSUs. The Ministry, through its various media units, acts as a window for communicating programmes and policies of the Government to the people. MIB is also the nodal agency for policy matters related to Media & Entertainment sector. It acts as a catalyst for creating a conducive environment for Broadcasting and Film sector in the country, simultaneously helping strengthen the role of Public Service Broadcaster. The Ministry strives to adapt itself to the changing technological paradigm in order to foster the growth of Media and Entertainment industry. This is achieved by bringing timely policy changes to meet both current as well as future requirements. Central Government vide its Notification dated 09.11.2020 has amended the Allocation of Business Rules, 1961 relating to Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the following items have been inserted in the work allocation of this Ministry:-

“VA. Digital/Online Media

22A. Films and Audio- Visual programmes available by online content providers.

22B. News and current affairs content on online platforms.”

II. IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE CONTAINED IN THE EIGHTH REPORT ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2020-21)

2. The Eighth Report of the Standing Committee on Information Technology on the 'Demands for Grants' (2020-21) relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting) was presented to the Lok Sabha/laid in the Rajya Sabha on 13th March, 2020. The Seventeenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Eighth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 8th February, 2021. Out of the 26 recommendations contained in the said Report, 18 recommendations were accepted by the Government. The Committee had reiterated on 02 recommendations. Six of the replies were interim in nature. The final Action Taken Statement on the recommendations contained in the Seventeenth Report is awaited.

III. OVERALL BUDGETARY ANALYSIS AND DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR 2021-22

3. Demand No. 60 covers the expenditure of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) and its attached/sub-ordinate offices and autonomous/grantee bodies, including Prasar Bharati. The Budgetary allocation and utilization for MIB for the last four years viz. 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 & 2021-22 are as under:-

(Rs. in Crore)					
Year	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. BE	% w.r.t. RE
2018-19	4088.98	4088.98	4003.28	97.90	97.90
2019-20	4375.21	4064.76	4032.36	92.16	99.20
2020-21	4375.21	3650.25	2545.73 (*)	58.19	69.74
2021-22	4071.23	-	-	-	-

(*) Actual Expenditure up to 14.01.2021

4. It has been observed from the table above that for the year 2021-22, an amount of Rs. 4071.23 crore has been fixed for the Ministry at the BE stage, which is approximately 6.95% lesser than the BE of the previous financial year (2020-21) which was Rs. 4375.21 crore. The RE for the year 2020-21 was Rs. 3650.25 crore and actual utilisation was Rs. 2545.73 crore (till Jan,2021) which was 69.74% w.r.t RE and 58.19% w.r.t BE allocation. In view of under-utilisation during 2020-21, the Committee desired to know whether the RE would be utilised before the end of the current financial year. To this, the Ministry have stated that out of the Revised Estimate, Rs. 2785.36 crore i.e. 76.31% has been utilized as on 16.02.2021 and they will be able to fully utilize the entire RE before the end of the current financial year.”

5. The Ministry have also stated 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. The situation is improving gradually and Ministry is fully assured that it will be able to achieve its financial and physical targets set under various heads.

6. On being asked details of the Schemes that had minimum progress during 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21, the Ministry submitted the following:-

Year	SCHEME WITH MINIMUM PROGRESS	% utilization of scheme with minimum progress (w.r.t RE)
2018-19	1. Up-gradation of IIMC to International Standards (IIMC)	0%
	2. Anti-Piracy initiatives (Main Sectt.)	0%

2019-20	Development Communication and Dissemination of Filmic Content	88.08%
2020-21 (as on 14.01.2021)	Development Communication and Dissemination of Filmic Content	53.61%
	Champion Services Sector Scheme	0%

7. As regards the reasons for minimum progress of the schemes specially that with zero percent utilisation, the Ministry stated as under:-

“In the scheme “Anti-Piracy initiatives (Main Sectt.)” no expenditure has been incurred from 2017-18 to 2018-19, as none of the proposals were finalized under the scheme. This scheme has been merged in the ‘Development Communication & Dissemination of Filmic Content’.

With regard to ‘Up-gradation of IIMC to International Standards (IIMC)’ Construction of Guest House, Hostel Building and Academic Block at New Delhi could not be started for want of approval from Ridge Management Board and other Civic authorities of Delhi Government in spite of regular follow up and efforts. It was presumed that approval could be received during the financial year 2018-19. Accordingly, provision of Rs. 3 crore was made at BE stage which was further reduced to Rs. 20 lakh at RE stage and at Final Grant stage, all the funds were surrendered.

The Government of India approved the proposal of Department of Commerce on 28.02.2018 to develop Audio Visual Services and Media and Entertainment Sector as Champion Services Sector Scheme (CSSS). The draft SFC proposal for Champion Services Sector Scheme (CSSS) was circulated by this Ministry on 17.09.2020, seeking the comments of NITI Aayog and D/o Expenditure. NITI Aayog supported the SFC proposal of this Ministry. However, D/o Expenditure did not initially support the SFC proposal 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 scheme received in-principle approval from Department of Expenditure on 20.11.2020. The note is to be placed before Standing Finance Committee for their concurrence and approval of the Scheme. Due to this reason implementation could not be taken up during 2020-21. However, it will be taken up during 2021-22.”

8. In light of the Government's directive of putting 5% cap on expenditure per month, the Committee desired to know its impact on the performance of the Ministry. To this, the Ministry have stated that in view of the situation arising out of COVID-19 and the consequential lockdown, Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs, had issued guidelines for expenditure control vide their O.M.No.12(13)/B(W&M)/2020 dated 08th April, 2020. Under these guidelines, Ministries were placed in A, B & C category to regulate expenditure and fix quarterly expenditure ceiling. This Ministry of Information

and Broadcasting was placed in category 'C' allowing expenditure ceiling of 15% of BE 2020-21 in Quarter-I (April to June, 2020) with monthly expenditure of 5%. These guidelines were subsequently continued for 2nd and 3rd quarter as well. As the 5% cap was not sufficient, on request of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the ceilings were relaxed by M/o Finance for 1st and 2nd quarter. In the third and fourth quarter, the expenditure ceiling was relaxed by MoF to the extent of expenditure ceiling finalized for RE 2020-21 as per the pre-budget discussion."

IV. BUDGET ANALYSIS UNDER THREE CATEGORIES

9. Expenditure of the Ministry is categorized under following categories:-
- Establishment Expenditure of the Centre (It includes establishment expenditure of Main Secretariat and attached/sub-ordinate offices of the Ministry)
 - Central Sector Schemes; and
 - Other Central Expenditure, including those on Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and Autonomous Bodies (It includes Grants-in-Aid to six Autonomous Bodies of this Ministry, viz., Children's Film Society, India (CFSI); Film and Television Institute of India (FTII); Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI); Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC); Press Council of India (PCI) and Prasar Bharati.
10. The detailed statement for Budget Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE) and Actual Expenditure (AE) related to three categories viz. Establishment Expenditure of the Centre, Central Sector Schemes and Other Central Expenditure [including those on Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and Autonomous Bodies] for the years viz. 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 & 2021-22 are as under:-

Year	Establishment Expenditure of the Centre				Central Sector Schemes				Other Central Expenditure, including those on Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and Autonomous Bodies				Total			
	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. RE	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. RE	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. RE	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. RE
2018-19	454.90	478.29	455.00	95.13	735.05	712.66	656.78	92.16	2899.03	2898.03	2891.50	99.77	4088.98	4088.98	4003.28	97.90
2019-20	495.45	460.64	449.73	97.63	900.00	625.39	607.43	97.13	2979.76	2978.73	2975.20	99.88	4375.21	4064.76	4032.36	99.20
2020-21 (*)	554.80	441.82	345.03	77.87	740.00	346.73	278.16	79.76	3080.41	2861.70	1922.54	67.18	4375.21	3650.25	2545.73	69.74
2021-22	563.77	--	--	--	632.05	--	--	--	2875.41	--	--	--	4071.23	--	--	--

(*) Expenditure for FY 2020-21 is up to 14.01.2021

11. It can be seen from the above table that for the year 2021-22, an amount of Rs. 4071.23 crore has been fixed for the Ministry at the BE stage, out of which Rs. 563.77 crore is for the 'Establishment Expenditure of the Centre', Rs. 632.05 crore is for the 'Central Sector Schemes' and Rs. 2875.41 crore is for 'other Central Expenditure (Autonomous Bodies)'. Further, it can also be seen that during the year 2020-21 the overall expenditure under each category was below 80%. The BE and RE under "Establishment Expenditure of the Centre" were Rs. 554.80 and Rs. 441.82 crore respectively, where as the actual expenditure was Rs. 345.03 crore which was 77.87% of RE. The BE and RE under "Central Sector Schemes" were Rs. 740.00 crore and Rs. 346.73 crore respectively, where as the actual expenditure was Rs. 278.15 crore which was 79.76% of RE. The BE and RE under "Other Central Expenditure [including those on Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and Autonomous Bodies]" were Rs. 3080.41 crore and Rs. 2861.70 crore respectively, where as the actual expenditure was Rs. 1922.54 crore which was 67.18% of RE.

V. PERFORMANCE UNDER CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEMES DURING LAST THREE YEARS

12. The Ministry undertook a rationalization of its Central Sector Schemes effective from Financial Year 2020-21 as per the direction of Ministry of Finance in accordance with Standard Operating Procedure circulated by them. As a result, the 14 schemes and 13 sub-schemes had been reduced to 5 schemes from the financial year 2020-21. The schemes having purely administrative and regular activities have been moved to the category of "Establishment Expenditure" while schemes meant for running the establishment activity of autonomous bodies have been shifted to "Other Central Expenditure". Details of the schemes that cease to operate at Central Sector Schemes from Financial year 2020-21 are given at Annexure-I.

13. The overall of Budgetary allocation and utilisation (BE, RE and AE) with respect to Central Sector Schemes for the year 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 and BE for the year 2021-22 are as under:-

Central Sector Schemes (Rs. in crore)					
Year	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. BE	% w.r.t. RE
2018-19	735.05	712.66	656.78	89.35	92.16
2019-20	900.00	625.39	607.43	67.49	97.13
2020-21	740.00	346.73	278.16 (*)	37.37	79.76
2021-22	632.05	-	-	-	-

(*) Actual Expenditure up to 14.01.2021.

14. For the Central Sector Schemes (CSS), it can be seen that the actual expenditure up to January, 2021 is 37.37% of BE and 79.76% of RE. It can also be seen that the allocated amount for the year 2021-22, is Rs. 632.05 crore, which is around Rs. 108 crore less than the previous year's BE. When asked for details of the projects/schemes under CSS that would be affected due to lesser allocation during 2021-22, the Ministry replied that lesser allocation is not likely to affect the physical performance of the schemes. Besides, depending upon expenditure, there is recourse to seek additional funds from M/o Finance at the stage of Supplementary Grants or at Revised Estimates (RE) stage.

15. The budgetary allocation and utilization of the five component/sector under Central Sector Schemes, for the year 2020-21 are as under:-

Central Sector Schemes (Rs. in crore)					
Sl. No.	Component/ Sector	Scheme	BE 2020-21	RE 2020-21	AE 2020-21 (*)
1.	(i) Information Sector	(i) Development Communication & Information Dissemination (DCID)	220.00	103.40	86.22
2.	(ii) Film Sector	(ii) Development Communication & Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC)	115.50	63.51	34.05
		(iii) Champion Service Sector	30.00	3.80	0.00
3.	(iii) Broadcasting Sector	iv) Broadcasting Infrastructure Development (Prasar Bharati)	370.00	173.90	156.62
		(v) Supporting Community Radio	4.50	2.12	1.27

(*) Actual Expenditure up to 14.01.2021.

16. The detailed statements of BE, RE and AE in respect of all the five Central Sector Schemes for the years 2019-20, 2020-21 and BE for the year 2021-22 are as under:-

Development Communication & Information Dissemination(DCID)					
Year	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. BE	% w.r.t. RE
2019-20	200.00	187.63	184.20	92.10	98.17
2020-21*	220.00	103.40	86.22	39.19	83.38
2021-22	188.00	-	-	-	-

* AE figures for the FY 2020-21 are as on 14.01.2021

Development Communication & Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC)					
Year	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. BE	% w.r.t. RE
2019-20	53.87	63.39	56.46	104.80	89.07
2020-21*	115.50	63.51	34.05	29.48	53.61
2021-22	122.62	-	-	-	-

Champion Service Sector					
Year	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. BE	% w.r.t. RE
2019-20	0.00	0.50	0.00	-	0.00
2020-21*	30.00	3.80	0.00	0.00	0.00
2021-22	1.59	-	-	-	-

Broadcasting Infrastructure Development (Prasar Bharati)					
Year	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. BE	% w.r.t. RE
2019-20	473.00	235.40	235.40	49.77	100.00
2020-21*	370.00	173.90	156.62	42.33	90.06
2021-22	316.00	-	-	-	-

Supporting Community Radio					
Year	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. BE	% w.r.t. RE
2019-20	3.80	3.80	3.29	86.58	86.58
2020-21*	4.50	2.12	1.27	28.22	59.91
2021-22	3.84	-	-	-	-

17. The reason for underutilization under each of the five Central Sector Schemes are given below:-

i) Development, Communication & Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC) Scheme- Production of Films related activities were impacted due to COVID-19 pandemic. Pace of expenditure is dependent on timeline of various film festivals. This year, all major film festivals like Cannes Film Festival, Toronto International Film Festival etc, were held in virtual/hybrid format due to outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic. Also, the 51st International Film Festival of India was organized in hybrid format in the second half of the January, 2021 at Goa. Shooting of feature film “*Bangabandhu*” had to be postponed and has commenced from January, 2021. All these led to lower expenditure as there were no physical events worldwide this year. In National Films Heritage Mission, the approvals were given for digitization of films and filmic content and construction of vaults. These works are under progress.

ii) Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND): There was a some shortfall in implementation of BIND scheme during first 6 months of 2020-21 due to pandemic situation. Considering the fact that most of the broadcast equipment & services are not available in the country and are therefore to be imported, the procurement was delayed. This has an effect on the financial and physical progress of the undergoing projects. The situation has gradually improved during the course of the year.

iii) **Development Communication & Information Dissemination (DCID):** The implementation of DCID scheme(Information) is on track. It has achieved 83% fund utilization by January 2021 and is expected to utilize the entire funds by the end of financial year.

iv) **Supporting Community Radio Movement in India:** Due to restrictions imposed on account of COVID-19 Pandemic most activities could not be organized physically. Only meetings of Screening Committee and Inter-Ministerial Committee meetings could be conducted through virtual means. Funds allocated for physical activities such as workshops and national sammelans could not be utilized due to COVID-19 restrictions. Various planned activities such as Awareness Workshops, Regional Sammelans and National Sammelan for Community Radio Stations could not be conducted during the major part of the year.

v) **Champion Service Sector Scheme (CSSS):** The components of the CSSS scheme were approved by NITI Aayog on 01.08.2020. The draft SFC note was circulated to the Ministry of Finance and NITI Aayog. NITI Aayog conveyed their support to the SFC proposal. The Ministry of Finance conveyed in-principle approval on 20.11.2020 for the scheme. The note is to be placed before Standing Finance Committee for their concurrence for approval of the scheme.

18. When asked for the steps taken/proposed to be taken for improvement in the implementation of the Schemes, the Ministry stated that various measures are taken by them including periodic review, mid-term appraisal of all major schemes and regular monitoring of expenditure and implementation. For effective and better utilization of resources, a comprehensive rationalization and restructuring of the Plan Schemes had been carried out by the Ministry in 2019-20 which have been implemented in 2020-21. This step has ensured better and effective monitoring of Schemes at various implementation stages. The measures also include closely monitoring fund utilization pattern, timely release of funds, increase in number of activities, timely completion of activities, short listing of agencies to conduct activities and adoption of digital platforms like e-office, GEM, e-tendering etc. They have also undertaken third party evaluation of its schemes in 2020 through M/s. KPMG and the Report is under finalization. Keeping in view its recommendations, all EFC /SFCs are being prepared. When asked for the status of the action taken on the key recommendations contained in the Report of M/s. KPMG, the Ministry have stated that the draft report of M/s KPMG will be finalized in a very short period of time and the status of Action taken on the Report is being prepared.

19. Adding on the Report of M/s. KPMG, the Secretary MIB during evidence had submitted as under:-

“Broadly, the KPMG has said that the schemes, which are being undertaken, need to be continued. We will seek 15 days’ time to send you their specific suggestions and comments of the Ministry or we can send the report now and we can submit the action taken report within 15 days.”

i. Champion Services Sector Scheme

20. Champion Services Sector Schemes (CSSS) is a new scheme introduced in Financial Year 2019-20. This scheme is entrusted with Audio-visual Services for promoting media and entertainment sector in India. For one of the Central Sector Scheme (CSS), i.e Champion Services Sector Schemes (CSSS), the allocation during the year 2021-22 is just Rs. 1.59 crore whereas the BE during 2020-21 was Rs. 30 crore and RE was Rs. 3.80 core. While noting that the actual expenditure was ‘Nil’, the Committee desired to know about the details of the projects/schemes under Central Sector Scheme (CSS) that would be affected due to lesser allocation during 2021-22. To this, the Ministry stated that the Union Cabinet approved the Cabinet Note on Action Plan for Champion Services Sector Scheme and this scheme has the following components and those at Serial number 1, 2 & 4 will be affected due to lesser allocation during 2021-22.

Sl. No.	COMPONENT
1.	Incentive for audio visual co-production with foreign countries
2.	Promotion of shooting of foreign films in India
3.	Creating awareness and increasing theatre density
4.	Organizing of Global Media & Entertainment Summit

21. When asked about the projects/schemes that will be implemented during 2021-22 with Rs. 1.59 crore, the Ministry stated that the Film Industry in India is seriously hampered due to scarcity of Cinema screens in the country. Therefore, to ensure the growth of the film industry the density of number of screens need to be increased in Tier-II & Tier-III towns of India. A fund of Rs. 1 Crore would be utilised towards the component “Creating awareness and increasing theatre density” for conducting workshops among entrepreneurs willing to set up the theatres.

ii. **Supporting Community Radio**

22. The budgetary details with respect to Supporting Community Radio for the years 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 are as under:-

Community Radio Stations					(Rs. In crore)	
Year	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. BE	% w.r.t. RE	
2018-19	4.00	2.60	1.26	31.50	48.46	
2019-20	3.80	3.80	3.29	86.58	86.58	
2020-21	4.50	2.12	1.36	30.22	64.15	
2021-22	3.60	-	-	-	-	

(upto 16.02.2021)

23. At present, there are 317 operational Community Radio Stations in the country. Analysing the details of 317 CR Stations, provided by the Ministry, following have been found with regard to the languages in which they are broadcast:

Community Radio Stations as on 22.02.2021			
S. No.	States/UTs	Languages	Number of channels
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Telugu	7
2.	Telangana	Telugu	11
3.	Assam	Kamrupi	4
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nishi	1
5.	Bihar	Bhojpuri/Hindi	9
6.	Chandigarh	Punjabi/Hindi	4
7.	Punjab	Punjabi/Hindi	6
8.	Chattisgarh	Chattisgarhi	7
9.	Delhi	Hindi	6
10.	Gujarat	Gujarati	10
11.	Haryana	Hindi/Haryanvi	20
12.	Himachal Pradesh	Kangri/Mahasui	4
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	Dogri	2
14.	Jharkhand	Bhojpuri/Hindi	3
15.	Karnataka	Kannada	22
16.	Kerala	Malayalam	12
17.	Odisha	Oriya	19
18.	Puducherry	Tamil	3
19.	Tamil Nadu	Tamil	38
20.	Maharashtra	Marathi	30
21.	Manipur	Manipuri	4
22.	Madhya Pradesh	Hindi	24
23.	Rajasthan	Mewari	15
24.	Sikkim	Nepali	1

25.	Tripura	Kokborok	1
26.	Uttar Pradesh	Hindi	48
27.	West Bengal	Bengali	6
Total	27	27	317

24. While noting that one of the thrust areas for 2021-22 is promotion of setting up of new Community Radio stations with focus on coastal regions, remote districts and disaster prone areas, the Committee asked about the plan of the Ministry for expanding the Community Radio Stations. Responding to this, the Ministry have stated that Community Radio Awareness workshops are being held by identifying media dark areas. Various meetings were held with NITI Aayog to expand CR Stations in all Aspirational Districts. Letters were written to District Collectors of Aspirational Districts to identify potential organizations to establish CR Stations. For coastal areas and disaster-prone areas, letters were written to Chief Secretaries of States/UTs to promote the growth of CR Stations. Meetings are being held with Ministry of Home Affairs to expand the number of CR Stations in LWE and Border areas. Besides this, special emphasis such as stakeholders' engagement by raising awareness etc., will be given for these areas to increase the number of CR Stations.

VI. MAJOR THRUST AREAS FOR THE YEAR 2021-22 UNDER EACH SECTOR

25. The Ministry's budget is spread across three sectors, viz, Film Sector, Information Sector and Broadcasting Sector (including Prasar Bharati). Details of each sector are given at Annexure-II. Major thrust areas of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting for the year 2021-22, Sector-wise are given below :

Thrust areas for Information Sector

- India@75 –Celebrating 75 year of India's Independence in 2021 to 2022 focusing on 75 weeks preceding the Independence Day 2022
- Integrated Media Plans for dissemination of Government policies and programmes
- Broad- basing of Communication through Print media, TV/Radio and Social Media Platforms
- Increased use of Digital/Social Media
- Strengthening and expansion of Fact Check Unit for countering Fake news
- Automation of office of Registrar of News Paper in India

- Feedback mechanism from Media /Citizens
- Strengthening training programmes for IIS Officers

Thrust areas for Film Sector

- Promotion of Film Sector in India and making India a preferred shooting destination for Film and Television producers around the world under the umbrella of Champion Sector Scheme.
- Single window clearance for ease of shooting Films
- Implementation of Government decision to merge four film media units of Children Films Society of India, Films Division, National Films Archive of India and Department of Films Festival with Nation Films Development Corporation
- Organize Global Media and Entertainment Summit in 2021-22
- Participation and setting up of India Pavilion in International Film Festivals viz. Cannes, Berlin, Toronto etc
- Organising Film festivals abroad in close association with Indian Missions abroad
- Completion of construction work at Film Institute at Itanagar, Arunachal
- Digitisation of Filmic content through National Films Heritage Mission.
- Completion and release of Indo Bangladesh Coproduction 'Bangabandhu'.
- Celebrate the birth centenary of renowned filmmaker Satyajit Ray

Thrust areas for Broadcasting Sector

a) Prasar Bharati

- FM Expansion
 - Increasing FM Radio coverage across the country with special focus in LWE and border areas
- DTH Expansion –
 - Increasing reach of Doordarshan channels in strategic locations like J&K region while increasing channel capacity of DD Freedish
 - Free distribution of DD Freedish set up boxes in border and coastal areas
- Digital Growth –
 - Increasing digital presence of Prasar Bharati to ensure its availability on all medias. Curating and digitizing the archival footages from pre-independence to contemporary content of both cultural and national importance and making it available for public
- Automation & Modernization-
 - Automating broadcast facilities and modernization of technical facilities along with use of state-of-the-art I.T. systems for improvement in quality and for enhancing the monetization opportunities.
 - Modernization, Augmentation and Replacement of Satellite Broadcast equipment
 - All DD regional channels to be made 24x7
 - Digitalization of network of AIR

- Enhancing Global Outreach through DD India and All India Radio
- b) Community Radios**
- Promotion of setting up of new Community Radio stations with focus on coastal regions, remote districts and disaster prone areas.

A. INFORMATION SECTOR

i. India@75

26. One of the thrust areas under Information Sector is “India@75”. In this regard, the Ministry have made specific announcements for the year 2021-22 wherein it has been stated that 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 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, Mobile Rail exhibition throughout the country showcasing the major achievements of our nation in various sectors.

27. Prasar Bharati has sought additional funds of Rs.50 Crore for celebrating the event for making programme “Unsung Heroes”. When asked for details of the plan under “India@75”, the Ministry stated that Prasar Bharati has planned production of 75 episodes of the serial on Unsung heroes/Battles/Movements of India’s Independence all across the region of the Country. The idea here is to reproduce an audio-visual history of India’s search for ‘Swaraj’. The repertoire of photographs, films, oral histories, personal memoirs, autobiographies, biographies, multi-lingual regional literature lie mostly unexplored and totally absent from the public consciousness. Audio-visual representations of such issues, icons, events, organizations will be produced in this larger comprehensive framework of ‘search for swaraj’. On screen historical narrative framed in the larger discourse of search and establishment of ‘Swaraj’ in India will help the national and international audiences to understand the spirit of the country with a fresh, new perspective. Besides the above 75 episodes, Prasar Bharati 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.”

ii. **Fact Check Unit**

28. In order to address 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 is to strengthen and expansion of Fact Check Unit (FCU) for countering Fake news. When asked for the details of the budgetary allocation under this unit, the Ministry have stated that there is no separate allocation made for Fact Check unit (FCU). The expenses towards the hiring of executives working in the FCU are met from the overall Office Expenses of the PIB HQ.

29. The Ministry, during evidence on 11.02.2021, have submitted that, as on 8th February, 2021, there were 9103 cases, out of which 8263 were countered/replied and 323 'Fake News' were busted. Between 26th April, 2020 and 18th 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. The Press Information Bureau (PIB) has countered 505 cases during this period.

30. As regards methodology used in countering 'Fake News', the Ministry have submitted that Fact Check Unit receives complaints from people through its WhatsApp, email and web portal. Upon receiving a relevant complaint, the team accesses all the data that is publicly available on the internet for a preliminary search for facts. The search area includes websites of Ministries, Press Information Bureau (PIB) press releases, social media accounts of Ministries/Ministers. Additionally, PIB Officers attached to Ministries are consulted wherever required, facts are got checked from the concerned Ministries. Technical verification includes reverse image search, video search etc, wherein efforts are made to locate the source of a fake image or a video. Upon verification, based upon the merit of the case, a response is either sent to the complainant or is put on social media accounts of Fact Check Unit.

31. When asked about the hindrances faced in taking action against Fake news, the Ministry stated that since the Fact Check Unit has been recently established, the system is still evolving. Further, it takes time to cross check facts from various Ministries/Departments before the facts can be verified. News in vernacular languages remains a challenge which is being addressed. Regarding the plans for strengthening and expanding Fact Check Unit (FCU), the Ministry stated that it is being done at the regional levels.

B. FILM SECTOR

(i) Ease of Filming - Film Facilitation Office

32. One of the thrust areas under Film Sector, for the year 2021-22, is to promote Film Sector in India and making India a preferred shooting destination for Film and Television producers around the world under the umbrella of Champion Sector Scheme as well as to have single window clearance for ease of shooting Films. Film Facilitation office website was launched in 2018 for making online applications for requisite permission for shooting to foreign film makers extended to domestic Film makers from April, 2019. MIB is working with the various Central Government Ministries and State Governments to achieve single window mechanism for ease of filming in India. With regard to the incentives existing for foreign film makers for shooting in India, the Ministry stated that at present, no such incentives exist in India. However, the Ministry is in the process to incentivize the foreign film makers for shooting in India and for co-production of films with foreign countries.

33. The Ministry have informed that till date 39 international projects (Feature Films, TV/Web shows and series & Reality TV/Web shows and series) have applied online for permission to film in India, since January 2019, when online facilitation started. Further, 56 domestic applications (Feature Films, TV shows and series & Reality TV shows and series) have been facilitated since April 2019, when the single window ecosystem started accepting online applications from Indian producers.

34. Integration has been made with key Central Government Agencies/ Departments and State Governments viz. Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Archaeological Survey of India, Ministry of Railways, and Animal Welfare Board

of India and following are the initiatives undertaken by the Ministry through Film Facilitation Office (FFO) with the various Central Government Ministries & State Governments towards easing filming in the country:-

- a) Creation of a filming ecosystem through Nodal Officers
- b) Launch of the FFO portal and Easing the Application Process
- c) Creation of Dedicated State Pages on the FFO web portal
- d) Showcase and promote State's locations through Film Offices at Film Bazaar 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 –
- e) Engagement towards Formation of Film Cells and Film Policy through one on one meetings and conducting the Most Film Friendly State (MFFS) Award under the Ministry of I&B
- f) Formulation of SoPs for filming during COVID

(ii) Merger of film media units

35. Another thrust areas under Film Sector for the year 2021-22 is to merge four film media units i.e. Children Films Society of India (CFSI), Films Division (FD), National Films Archive of India (NFAI) and Department of Films Festival (DFF) with Nation Films Development Corporation (NFDC) and this merger is expected to ensure synergy & efficiency in fulfilling the mandate of promotion, production and preservation of filmic content. The Cabinet has approved merger of these four film media units on 23.12.2020 and under the specific announcements proposed by the Ministry for the year 2021-22, it has been stated that the merger process will be accomplished in next two years.

36. When asked for the plans for merger of these units and the Ministry's preparedness to address legal hurdles, they have stated that the Union Cabinet on 23.12.2020 has given its approval to the merger of the four Film Media Units, FD, DFF, NFAI and CFSI with NFDC by expanding the Memorandum of Articles of Association (MoAA) of NFDC, which will then carry out all the activities hitherto performed by them. Further, 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 of Information and Broadcasting. The Implementation Committee will overlook all aspects of operationalization of the proposal.

37. As regards to the targets set under each media unit, the Ministry have stated that all the existing activities shall be performed without any impact of ongoing process of merger.

(iii) Co-production of Films with foreign countries

38. 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 Mujibur Rahman was signed between National Film Development Corporation and Bangladesh Film Development Corporation. During the year 2020, pre-production activities of Indo Bangladesh Coproduction film Bangabandhu were done and shooting of the film commenced in January 2021. An Audio Visual Coproduction agreement was also signed between India and Portuguese in February, 2020.

39. One of the specific announcements made by the Ministry for the year 2021-22 is 'Strengthening Bonds of Friendship with Bangladesh'. In this regard, they have informed that the shooting of a film on the life and works of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rehman will commence soon and is expected to be ready by December 2021." NFDC and Film Development Corporation, Bangladesh has been appointed as Executive Producers by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting for feature film titled Bangabandhu (biographical feature film on Sheikh Mujibur Rehman) to be directed by eminent filmmaker Shri Shyam Benegal under Audio-Visual Co-Production Agreement between the Republic of India and the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

40. In light of the delay in making and screening the film, the Committee desired to know its relevance. To this, the Secretary, MIB, during evidence submitted as under:-

"The relevance still continues, Sir, because the celebration could not take place even in Bangladesh. The Bangladesh PM and the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India had a video conference in December 2020. During the discussion it was pointed out that they will be having a full-scale celebration sometime later when the COVID is not there. Hopefully, by that time we will be bringing out that film."

C. BROADCASTING SECTOR

Prasar Bharati

41. The statement for BE, RE and AE under Prasar Bharati is as under:-

Broadcasting Sector – Prasar Bharati						(Rs. in crore)					
Year	BE	RE	AE	AE % w.r.t BE	AE % w.r.t RE						
2018-19	3136.26	3147.30	3101.26	98.88	98.54						
2019-20	3362.36	3124.76	3124.76	92.93	100.00						
2020-21	3259.36	2899.00	2175.34*	60.85	68.41						
2021-22	2956.11	-	-	-	-						

* Actual Expenditure 2020-21 is up to 16.02.2021.

(i) IEBR generated and utilised by Prasar Bharati

42. The details of utilization of Net Revenue projections along with Net IEBR generated and utilised by Prasar Bharati during last three years are as under:-

Rs. In crore)			
FY	Net Revenue projections	Net IEBR Generated by Prasar Bharati (Including interest on term deposits)	Utilization of IEBR (Net)
2018-19	1596.00	1581.53	1401.83
2019-20	1649.06	1364.53	1318.04
2020-21	1410.00	759.80*	715.53#
2021-22 (proposed)	--	1480.00 (Target)	1311.47

*IEBR upto Nov. 2020, # utilization of IEBR upto Dec. 2020

43. On being asked for the reason for continuous decline in Net IEBR generated by Prasar Bharati since 2018-19, the Ministry replied as under:

- Sharp decline in Government spending impacting Revenue of DD & AIR severely.
- Revenue from 27 Ministries during 2018-19 has reduced to 10 Ministries during FY 2020-21.
- Media budget from Ministries active with PB has been reduced by 70% since FY 2018-19.
- Government media spending shifted from Conventional Media to Social Media during COVID-19.
- On request Pro Bono campaigns executed worth Rs.356 crore on DD and Rs. 130 crore on AIR (FY2020-21).

44. Regarding the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on advertising revenues in Doordarshan and AIR, the Ministry have stated that there has been a decline in the revenue due to substantial decrease in spending on advertising on DD and AIR by Government Departments and Ministries, and also by the corporate clients in the current Covid-19 pandemic. The impact is felt in the following areas:-

- i) Media Budget of Government and corporate clients drastically cut the expenditure in-turn impacting revenue generation of Prasar Bharati.
- ii) Fresh content could not be produced for a few months across the Prasar Bharati network which also adversely impacted the advertising revenue.
- iii) There was a marked shift from conventional linear viewing to non-linear viewing through OTT Platforms which also impacted revenue generation.

45. The Ministry's plan for reducing the aforesaid impact is to have innovative content programming on DD and AIR to attract youth audience which caters to 65% of the population universe.

46. When asked about the plan for generating IEBR of Rs. 1480 crore during the year 2021-22, the Ministry stated that the major steps to augment these resources would include Increasing Innovative Content Programming, (b) Limiting Pro Bono Campaigns, (c) Hiring of Contractual Middle Management Sales Staff for pitching in new clients, (d) Enhancement of Channel Capacity of DD FreeDish and (e) Increasing revenues from Digital/Archives.

47. The measures taken to improve IEBR and to optimally utilize the IEBR include rationalizing operations and establishments. As a result of this rationalization, the expenditure under the sub-heads OE (payment to casuals) booking of casuals, security management, power supply etc., have been declining over the last few years, the Ministry have also stated that all efforts are being made to avoid wasteful expenditure.

48. Regarding the action taken with the unutilized IEBR, generated by Prasar Bharati, the Ministry stated that the unutilized IEBR is being invested in term deposits as per the Investment of Money's Rules, 2007 of Prasar Bharati for meeting unforeseen expenditure including future liabilities and contingencies.

49. On the question of revenue generation for Prasar Bharati, the Secretary MIB during evidence stated as under:-

"Broadly there are four streams of revenue as of now. The first is on platforms which is DD Free Dish and our AIR towers. So, this revenue stream is growing. DD Free Dish will be almost Rs. 600 crore in terms of revenue this year. That stream is steadily growing. The second source of revenue is advertising from Government departments and ministries. This has seen a very sharp decline in the last two-three years. Earlier, we were getting almost Rs. 300 crore. The third stream is the commercial advertising from the private sector. That has been about Rs. 100 crore annually. That will grow with new content projects that we are kicking off. The fourth stream is digital and the archives. Currently, digital is growing at about 100 per cent year on year. But it is only a few crores in revenue at this point. We are hopeful that it will grow further in the next few years. So, these are broadly the revenue streams as of now."

(ii) Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development (BIND)

50. From the financial Year 2019-20, three of the Prasar Bharati's scheme have been merged and a single line budget entry namely 'Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND)' has been made. Prior to 2019-20, Grants-in-aid were used to be given separately for Prasar Bharati, Kissan Channel and ArunPrabha Channel. Currently, there is only one scheme Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development (BIND) under Prasar Bharati with following components:

1. Modernization (including Digitization), Augmentation & Replacement of Transmitters
2. Modernization , Augmentation & Replacement of Satellite Broadcast Equipment
3. Modernization & Digitalization of Studios
4. FM Expansion/ Replacement
5. Expansion of DTH platform of Doordarshan
6. Strengthening of coverage in sensitive areas
7. High Definition TV (HDTV)
8. Expansion of TV Channels
9. Broadcasting on Alternate platform
10. Augmentation of Civil Infrastructure including Staff Quarters and other Misc. Works
11. E-governance
12. Content Development including *Swachhta Action Plan*(SAP)

51. The physical and financial targets under BIND, for the year 2020-21, along with the details of the achievement of target are placed at Annexure-III.

52. The Ministry's plan for the year 2021-22 for spending the amount of Rs. 316 crore under this Scheme, is given at Annexure-IV.

53. The information regarding BE, RE and AE in respect of Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND) under Prasar Bharati for the years 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 is as under:-

Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development <i>(Rs. in crore)</i>					
year	BE	RE	AE	AE % w.r.t BE	AE % w.r.t RE
2018-19	315.70	326.74	280.70	88.91	85.91
2019-20	473.00	235.40	235.40	49.77	100.00
2020-21	370.00	173.90	156.62*	42.33	90.06
2021-22	316.00	-	-	-	-
<i>* Actual Expenditure 2020-21 is up to 16.02.2021.</i>					

54. 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 & 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. 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. They have also stated that there is no underutilization of fund with respect to RE allocation and additional funds have been sought to discharge the committed liabilities. When asked to provide details of the projects under Prasar Bharati that would be affected due to lesser allocation this year, the Ministry stated that no significant impact on implementation of the scheme due to lesser allocation. The ongoing spill over projects will be completed in 2021-22.

55. When asked about the impact on the physical and financial progress of the projects due to non-availability of equipment and services, the Ministry stated that due to pandemic, procurement process was delayed. The vendors were not able to participate in tenders. Inspections etc were delayed in case where orders had been placed. Some installations were delayed as OEM persons were not able to visit India due to travel restrictions. On-line installations/inspections were resorted to overcome the onsite inspections.

56. On being asked about the Broadcast equipment & services that are not available in the country, the Ministry stated that most of the major broadcast equipments i.e SW Transmitters, FM transmitters, Diplexer, Antenna RF cable, measuring equipment, programme production software, Digital transmitters, Camcorder, NLE, Production Switcher, Routing Switcher, DFS, PDA, Measuring equipment, HPA, Encoder, IRD, Upconverter& Downconverter, Modulator etc. are not available in Indian market. They need to be imported from the foreign vendors. Manufacture of equipment depends upon the requirement in Indian market. Private broadcaster has entered in the operation in recent years but growth has not surged. Moreover, Indian firms are not competitive with foreign firms on account of pricing and quality. Indian manufacturers are supplying audio broadcast equipments such as programme equipment rack, measuring equipment and other auxiliary equipment.

57. Regarding the steps taken by the Ministry to produce indigenous broadcast equipment & services that are not available in the country, the Ministry stated that Government has taken many policy decisions to promote make in India equipment and many changes have been made in the tender document to promote Indian manufacturing. It will help make in India production in years to come and make country *Atamnirbhar* in broadcast equipment manufacturing.

(iii) **DOORDARSHAN**

58. The Budgetary details under Doordarshan, for the last three years, are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)					
Year	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. BE	% w.r.t. RE
2018-19	190.70	206.72	114.53	60.05	55.40
2019-20	280.56	211.58	187.33	66.77	88.53
2020-21	238.00	149.91	87.39*	36.71*	58.29*
2021-22	176.00	-	-	-	-

* Including unspent amount for the previous year*Expenditure upto Jan. 2021

59. The Ministry have informed that at present there are 36 Satellite channels of Doordarshan operational. These channels are also available on Doordarshan's DTH Platform "DD Free Dish". In addition, as on 31.01.2021, there are 909 private Satellite TV channels in the country. When asked for the data related to the subscriber base of

DD, the Ministry have stated that as per the data obtained from Management Information System (MIS), maintained by Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL), the total Cable TV subscribers through Multi System Operators (MSOs) as on 25/02/2021 are 72,022,244. Further, as per the data obtained from Management Information System (MIS), maintained by Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL), Direct to Home (DTH) subscribers in the country are reported as 98,457,526 as on 25.02.2021. Besides, as per FIICI & EY India March, 2020 Report, there are estimated~38 million DD FreeDish subscribers across the country.

60. The physical and financial target set under Doordarshan for the year 2021-22, is given at Annexure-V.

61. When asked for the revised physical and financial targets set under Doordarshan The Ministry have stated that the allocation at RE (2020-21) is Rs. 61.93 crore and expenditure incurred upto January, 2021 is Rs. 37.66 crore. The allocated RE is likely to be utilised fully. They have also stated that DD has made all efforts to complete the projects within the specified time frame. However, some of the projects targeted for 2020-21 could not be completed and spilled over to 2021-22, due to pandemic situation and other reasons. Efforts are being made to complete these projects at the earliest by using digital platform, regular monitoring etc., of these projects. The revised targets of these spilled over projects are as under:

Components	Projects to be spilled over to 2021-22	Revised Target
Modernization (including Digitization), Augmentation & Replacement of Transmitters	Tower strengthening work at 1 location	September, 2021
Modernization, Augmentation & Replacement of Satellite Broadcast equipment	Replacement of Uplink PDA at 7 locations	March, 2022
Expansion of DTH	Procurement of 1,20,000 DTH sets for remote, tribal & LWE areas of the country	March, 2022

	Expansion of DTH Platform to 120 TV Channels	June, 2021
High Definition TV (HDTV)	Procurement of balance equipment for HD upgradation of existing Studios of DD News & CPC Delhi.	June, 2021
	Automated Playout facilities for DD-Bharati & DD-India Channels	December, 2021
Expansion of TV Channels	Post-production facilities at Raipur, Ranchi & Dehradun	September, 2021
Augmentation of Civil Infrastructure including Staff Quarters and other misc. works	Balance work for completion of tower at Amritsar, shifting of Transmitters & other associated work	August, 2021
Strengthening of Coverage in sensitive areas.	Setting up HPTs in Border areas of J&K and Ladakh UTs at Patnitop, Green Ridge, Himbotingla&Rajouri (2 nos)	June, 2021

62. With regard to modernisation of Doordarshan, the Ministry have stated that it is a continuous process and schemes in this regard are formulated and implemented from time to time. Modernization plan covers a broad spectrum, which, *inter-alia*, includes digitalization; adoption of new technologies at par with International standards; replacement of old/ outlived equipment and upgradation etc. As part of extension of the Scheme of Prasar Bharati “Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development” for 3 Years (2017-20), which was further extended to 2020-21, the projects regarding modernization of Kisan Channel, undertaken & completed include Multichannel Automated Playback facility, Multi Camera Studio Production facility in HDTV format (HDTV Studio), collaborative Non-Linear Post Production facility in HDTV format and setting up new Earth station at CPC, Delhi. Augmentation of technical facilities at 18 Regional Kendras and CPC, Delhi, by providing HD Camcorder & HD Recorder/ Deck, Light Weight Camera Support System, Back-Pack, Digital Production Switcher, HD NLE, HDTV Zoom Lens and Monitor. All 36 Doordarshan channels are transmitting 24X7 on their respective satellite slots including 8 channels which are relaying content as an interim measure till their local capacity is augmented for 24x7 playout.

(a) Regional Channels of DD

63. One of the thrust areas under Broadcasting Sector for the year 2021-22 is to make all DD regional channels to be made 24x7. Out of the 36 DD channels, there are 28 DD regional language channels being telecast from the Capital Station of the respective States for meeting the regional aspirations of the people of all States and UTs. Details of regional language channels are given at Annexure-VI.

64. When asked about the plans for having more channels in regional languages like Chhattisgarhi, Ho, Santhali, etc., the Secretary, MIB during evidence submitted as under:

“Regarding local language of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand which the Hon'ble Members have mentioned, the policy of the Government is to promote local language. We do not know how many audience will be there butxxx.....xxx....., at least, the All India Radio broadcast can start Chhattisgarhi and Santhali and we can have the same thing as a bulletin in the TV.”

65. Asked about the plans of the Prasar Bharati for promoting local artists in various fields and for revising remuneration upwards for its graded artists when they perform programme, the Ministry replied that there is no immediate plan to revise remuneration upwards for its graded artists, however, the Prasar Bharati is continuously promoting local programming to produce local content in line with linguistic, socio-cultural and demographic diversity furthering its mission of AIR to nurture local talent and to give voice to local and regional aspirations. The local talent also gets national/sub-continental visibility through availability of various AIR channels on “NewsOnAir” mobile app on “Android” and “iOS” platforms. During last year in 2020, the NewsOnAir App with the most popular Live Radio streaming, featuring over 200 streams added more than 2.5 million users with the platform registering over 300 million views being feature. In addition, Channels of Doordarshan Network produce and telecast programmes related to various facets of Art, Culture, Heritage, History. Regional Channels engage local artists for production of programmes to give local touch to Music, Dance, Handicrafts and various other dimensions of the Art and Culture of the Land. Prasar Bharati is in the process of developing on-line grading system and has also rolled out an online booking system.

66. As regards the strategy of Prasar Bharati/DD to attract more viewers and subscribers for DD Channels, the Ministry have stated as under:

(a) Doordarshan is in the process of revamping the content of its channels according to need and taste of audience.

(b) With the advent of new technology, Doordarshan is taking several steps:

- i. Channels of Doordarshan Network are being converted into high definition from standard definition.
- ii. Channels of Doordarshan Network in the recent times have made their presence felt on YouTube and other Social Media Platforms. Numbers of subscribers of Doordarshan channels on YouTube platform have significantly increased.
- iii. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter pages of channels of Doordarshan Network have been introduced.
- iv. Video walls in the studios have been introduced to improve the presentation.
- v. During the last year, DD Retro, DD ArunPrabha and eleven 24x7 state specific channels of Doordarshan on DTH platform were launched. With this, footprint of Doordarshan Network has considerably expanded.
- vi. New programmes have been introduced. The details are given below:

- (i) Ramayan on DD National became the highest viewed entertainment programme in the world with 77 Million impressions on a single day. i.e., 16th April, 9 PM.
- (ii) DD National with a gross of 2733 Million impressions in Mid-April 2020(Week 15'20) became the No. 1 channel during the first week of the Re-telecast of Ramayan and other classic shows.
- (iii) In the first four weeks of the Re-telecast of Ramayan and other classic shows, DD National covered 63% of the Hindi General Entertainment channels total viewership.
- (iv) Mahabharat telecast on DD Bharati increased the viewership of the channel to 146 Million in March- April 2020 (Week 13'20).
- (v) DD News, DD India and 31 Regional News Units of Doordarshan focused on providing authentic information to its viewers on Covid-19 during the pandemic period. Interactive live phone-in programmes were introduced so that audience could ask direct questions to the panel of doctors. Dissemination of Good News stories from the field, impact of welfare schemes and their impact on people's lives, countering fake news were other focus areas. With DD News now becoming primarily a Hindi news channel and DD India an English news channel, Doordarshan's reach is expected to considerably increase among the viewers watching news.

(c) The quality of the programmes telecast by Doordarshan are regularly reviewed by Doordarshan programme officials and programmes produced and scheduled to be telecast are modified according to the feedback.

- (d) Doordarshan regularly receives feedback from audiences through letters, emails and social media. It also subscribes to weekly BARC data which gives a clear picture about the audience outreach. Feedback received helps for producing programmes according to the changing needs and tastes of different audiences.
- (e) The channels of Doordarshan Network now have social media handles like YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Response of the viewers through these social media handles and data received from BARC is considered as a feedback regarding the popularity of Doordarshan programmes amongst masses and helps Doordarshan to formulate strategies about content creation.
- (f) Programmes and advertisements on Doordarshan channels are telecast as per the Doordarshan broadcast code/ commercial code for advertisement and in conformity of programme and advertising codes prescribed under the Cable Television Network Rules 1994 enshrined under the Cable Television Network Act. All the programmes and advertisements telecast on any channel of Doordarshan Network are previewed by Doordarshan officials to ensure that they adhere to the programme and commercial code of Doordarshan respectively.
- (g) Programme and News Officers at various Doordarshan Kendras regularly interact with renowned personalities and local artists and gather feedback regarding programme production.

67. For avoiding repetition of content in different channels of Doordarshan, the Ministry have stated that Prasar Bharati is making all possible efforts to acquire fresh content for its various DD channels. A dedicated Content Sourcing Section has been created in Prasar Bharati for acquiring the content. Prasar Bharati has also notified "Policy Guidelines for Commissioning of Programmes under DAP (Direct Assignment Process)" and has revised its policies for acquisition of off the shelf content. The infusion of new content through these various modes will help in avoiding dependency on repetition of programmes.

68. On the question of repetition of content between DD National and DD Retro, the Secretary, MIB during evidence submitted as under:-

"Currently on weekdays we have older content airing on DD National from the archives. On weekend, we are premiering new content. Once this new project kicks off, it will go on DD National while DD Retro will exclusively focus on the archival content."

(b) Doordarshan Kisan Channel

69. The budgetary detail with respect to DD Kisan Channel for the year 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 along with the reasons for underutilization of fund, are as under:-

DD Kisan Channel						(Rs. in Crore)
Year	BE	RE	AE	% exp. w.r.t. BE	% exp. w.r.t. RE	Reasons for underutilization
2018-19	45.20	25.86	19.31	42.72%	74.67%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some of the payments for the programme “MahilaKisan” could not be materialized as programmes continued till the end of financial year.• Royalty payments for the films could not be made due to issues arising out of the interpretation of Film Policy.• Some of the SFC payments could not be made due to TRP related issues
2019-20	29.72	17.55	16.43	55.28%	93.62%	Delay in outcomes of arbitration/ court cases for which budget provision was made.
2020-21	43.45	18.94	5.27	12.13%	27.82%	
2021-22	47.80					

70. Details of the in-house programme, special programme produced and initiatives taken under DD Kisan Channel during 2020-21 are given at Annexure-VII.

71. When asked for reasons for non-achievement of target set under DD Kisan Channel for the year 2020-21, the Ministry submitted that physical targets set for 2020-21 have been achieved to a great extent. From the month of April to May 2021, some of the In-house programmes could not be produced due to lockdown and travel restrictions. However, number of additional new programmes on farmer issues were

produced subsequently. Fresh SFC programmes which were planned for telecast from March, 2020 were deferred to August, 2020 due to COVID restrictions.

72. When asked as to whether any study was conducted to know about the number farmers who watch the Kisan Channel or if there is any feedback mechanism available for farmers to give suggestions, the Ministry have stated that no separate study has been conducted. The data from BARC is being used for estimating viewing. The feedback mechanism is primarily from toll free lines and social media response.

(iv) All India Radio (AIR) and FM

73. 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 Vividh Bharati channels. AIR broadcasts in 22 languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule and in English apart from broadcasting in 181 dialects of the country.

74. The detail with respect to AIR for the years 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 are as under:

(Rs.in crore)					
Year	BE	RE	AE	% w.r.t. BE	% w.r.t. RE
2018-19	125.00	120.02	108.05	86.44%	90.03%
2019-20	192.44	105.78	101.69	52.84%	96.13%
2020-21	132.00	52.33	48.11	36.45%	91.94%
2021-22	140.00				
* Including unspent amount for the previous year*Expenditure upto Jan. 2021					

75. Noting that the actual utilisation was Rs. 48.11 crore, which was 36.45% with respect to BE allocation of Rs. 132.00 crore for the year 2020-21, the Committee desired to know the reasons for under utilisation. Responding to this, the Ministry have stated that there is no under utilisation of financial target with respect to RE 2020-21. However, there has been financial and physical shortfall with respect to BE 2020-21. The reasons for underutilization of funds with respect to allocated BE are mainly owed to COVID-19 pandemic.

76. The target set under AIR, for the year 2021-22, is given at Annexure-VIII.

77. On being asked about the plans for expanding AIR telecast in many major languages in the country the Ministry stated that AIR broadcasts in all languages mentioned in the eighth schedule and in English apart from broadcasting in 181 dialects. Presently, there is no approved plan to expand DD/AIR telecast in many major languages in the country.

78. When asked to furnish a note on the status of digitization of network of AIR along with the action taken for speedy implementation, the Ministry submitted as under:

“Digitalisation of AIR network has been approved in XIth Plan which further extended to the XIIth Plan. AIR has started digital Transmission from its digitized 35 high power Digitized Medium Wave Transmitters .It is available to 70 % of the population of the country. AIR has also radiating digital signal from SW transmitters which can be received through digital receiver. AIR is further proposing digitization of its Network in SW and FM mode in the future plan. It has also proposed enhancing of capability of 6 digital ready MW transmitters to operate in digital mode. AIR has made its 127 studios digital. All the connectivity equipment (Uplinking, downlinking and studio transmitter) links have been made digital.”

79. When asked as to how different channels of AIR FM organized and positioned in the cities to avoid programme repetition and overlapping, the Ministry submitted as under:-

“Prasar Bharati is constantly reviewing the Fixed Point Chart (FPC) of the different channels of All India Radio to avoid duplicating the programming and to optimally utilize its resources to cater the need of target Audience. The channel programming is altered, as and when required.

Services at various AIR transmitters are chosen so that there should not be any duplication of services to the listeners in the coverage area. Further, Prasar Bharati is expanding its FM Network under AIR. It is a constant endeavour of Prasar Bahrati to put out content on other new media platforms as well.

The Primary Channels of AIR carrying Public Service Broadcasting are available mainly through Medium Wave covering 91% area of the country. There is FM support at various locations to these Medium Wave Services for better listening experience. In addition, Prasar Bharati is having vast network of AIR FM transmitters across the country; and is also in the process of expending further to cover the uncovered and border areas.

AIR channels are categorised in various segments, each having a distinct content and flavour and having programming based on separate Fixed Point Charts (FPCs) to suit the target audience. These are broadly (i) Primary Channels (mainly on MW) – focused on Public Service broadcasting content (ii) Local Radio Stations(in FM) –have a mix of public service broadcasting and commercial entertainment with a special emphasis on local culture, languages/dialects and local talent. (iii) Vividh Bharati Service (VBS) (in FM) - catering to commercial entertainment based on film music and related sub-genres of content (iv) FM Rainbow channels have a mix of public service broadcasting and infotainment with a city specific focus. In addition to above, in cities where AIR operates multiple FM frequencies or is operating Digital Radio DRM services the third FM frequency/Digital-service has been dedicated to specialized content such as News and Current Affairs, Live Sports, Classical Music etc."

80. Adding on the related issue, the CEO, Prasar Bharati, during evidence stated as under:-

"They have Vividh Bharti, which is already airing the same Hindi film songs and we have FM Gold airing the same Hindi film songs. One of the challenges that the AIR news team had was, they had no FM channel where the news programming would be heard locally. Hence, we told them to differentiate the three frequencies. Vividh Bharti focuses on the Hindi film entertainment, FM Rainbow focuses on local programming which is city specific, and FM Gold has a combination of news and current affairs and other live programmes."

(v) Human Resource in Prasar Bharati

81. Group-wise vacancy details in respect of Akashvani is as under:

Group	Sanctioned Posts	Employees in position	Vacancies
A	2002	800	1202
B	12056	7128	4928
C	12071	6115	5956
Total	26129	14043	12086

82. Group-wise vacancy details in respect of Doordarshan is as under:

Group	Sanctioned Posts	Employees in position	Vacancies
A	1116	494	622
B	4183	2112	2071
C	16401	8847	7554
Total	21700*	11453	10247*

*2038 posts abolished from Annual Direct Recruitment Plan (ADRP) 2002 to Annual Direct Recruitment Plan (ADRP) 2008-09 by MIB.

83. When asked for the steps taken to fill the vacancy in AIR, DD etc., the Ministry have informed that for filling up of Direct Recruitment vacancies, Prasar Bharati Recruitment Board has been constituted on 01.07.2020 in accordance with Ministry of I & B Notification dated 12.02.2020. The process of recruitment to fill up the backlog vacancies for physically impaired persons is already initiated by the Board and it is likely to be completed by the end of 2021. As regards vacancies pertaining to promotion are concerned, continuous efforts are being made to convene the DPCs on regular basis as per extant instructions of DOPT. Prasar Bharati has got conducted a Manpower Audit by an external agency. Further, recruitment will be undertaken after the Report of the Manpower Audit is accepted by Prasar Bharati.

84. When asked to furnish a note on the status of the implementation of the Manpower Audit Report of M/s Ernst and Young LLP along with the action taken, the Ministry stated that the final report on Manpower Audit dated 29.09.2020 has been accepted by CEO, Prasar Bharati. Acceptance of the Report has been conveyed to E&Y *vide* letter dated 13.10.2020. Further, the implementation of Manpower Audit Report is under process. When asked as to whether any timeline has been fixed for implementing the recommendation of the Report of M/s Ernst and Young LLP, the Ministry stated that since the implementation of recommendations is under process and dynamic in nature, no timeline has been fixed.

85. Clarifying about the time of submission and the status of the Report by Ernst & Young, the CEO, Prasar Bharati submitted as under:-

“It was submitted in August-September, 2020.XXX.....They submitted a version which the Board examined. Then, we found certain gaps. Then, the Board authorised the CEO to ensure that the report is fully complete in terms of all the analysis. That took some more weeks. Then, finally the report was finalised. We have submitted that report to the Board...xxx....xxx...xxx.... There are about 50 to 60 actionable recommendations. We have already started some of them because they are operational decisions. Some recommendations will require changes to the rules and changes to the Act. Those would be done in consultation with the Ministry. We will give a comprehensive analysis of which ones we are moving ahead operationally and which ones we need to take up.”

86. The Expert Committee under the chairmanship of Shri Sam Pitroda had submitted its report on 24.01.2014. The Committee gave 26 recommendations on 8

different subjects which inter-alia include (i) Governance and Organisation, (ii) Funding, (iii) Human Resources, (iv) Content, (v) Technology, (vi) Archiving, (vii) Social Media and (viii) Global Outreach. As regards status of the recommendations of the Sam Pitroda Committee, the Ministry have stated that they have been examined, and steps towards implementation have been taken on the recommendations accepted by the Ministry.

(vi) Monetization of Content and other Resources for revenue generation by Prasar Bharati

87. On being asked about the action taken by the Ministry/Prasar Bharati for revenue generation by way of monetizing the archives of programmes, the Ministry have stated that the Prasar Bharati has monetized the programming of other DD channels on YouTube and other social media platforms. The live telecasts of events of National importance are also live-streamed on YouTube platform. Prasar Bharati has also earned the revenue through e-commerce and monetization through social media as well. The revenue earned by sale and media preview of archival material in last two years and current financial year is as follows:-

S. No.	Details	2018-2019 (In Rs.)	2019-2020 (In Rs.)	2020-2021 (In Rs.) (till date)
i.	Online Sale	5,62,188	5,11,150	2,79,880
ii.	Offline Sale	4,66,416	2,55,021	46,938
iii.	Media Preview(A/V Footage)	2,68,167	30,042,189	34,49,974
iv.	Media Preview(Sound Recording)	1,65,200	53,738,333	8,260
v.	Social Media (YouTube)	51,051	4,79,066	12,03,206
	Total	1513022	85025759	4988258

88. Apart from utilising the Archival content in various programmes for DD and AIR channels, Prasar Bharati is also monetizing these contents digitally by placing on platforms such as YouTube showcasing this enrich treasure available to its viewers. The details of uploads of Archival Materials on YouTube and the revenue earned are as follows:-

PB Archive Digital Channel (You Tube)					
F.Y	No. of Videos	No of Subscriber (Progressive)	Watch Time (Hrs)	Views (in Lakhs)	Revenue (In Rs.)
2018-19	609	49700	821400	8.2	51,051
2019-20	1406	232200	2,00,000	22.5	4,79,066
2020-21 (Till date)	2082	486000	350000	35	12,03,206

89. Regarding plans of DD and AIR for going on OTT platforms, the Ministry have stated that Prasar Bharati has made its various AIR channels available on “NewsOnAir” application for “Android” and “iOS” mobile users. In addition, various DD “YouTube” channels also have been created to reach out to the digital viewers. Prasar Bharati is also in discussion to place its channels on OTT platform to have larger digital reach.

90. On being asked about the action taken with regard to vacant/idle/surplus infrastructure, the Ministry have stated that the vacant/idle/surplus infrastructure is being provided to various entities such as Telecom Service providers for using the DD towers and other infrastructure on rental basis. This includes sharing of AIR towers with private FM Radios. The revenue earned by Prasar Bharati to extend such resources is as under:-

S. No.	Financial Year	Revenue Earned (in Rs. Crores)
1.	2016-17	44.87
2.	2017-18	81.44
3.	2018-19	85.21
4.	2019-20	71.94
5.	2020-21	65.57 (upto December, 2020)

91. When asked for the plans of making travelogue to be telecasted in DD, the Ministry have stated that there is no specific plan for making travelogue programmes for DD from the Grants extended by the Ministry of I&B.

92. When asked as to whether the Doordarshan has coverage rights for national events like Republic Day, Independence Day in monetizing these feeds and details of the revenue earned, the Ministry have submitted following:-

- a) Yes, Doordarshan has the coverage rights to events of national importance.
- b) As far as monetization of such events of national importance is concerned, under the public service broadcaster's mandate, Doordarshan provides uninterrupted telecast without commercials for the sake of unmatched viewers's experience.
- c) Commercials, if any, are placed before and after the events and the monetization is usually insignificant in relation to overall revenue.

93. Adding on the issue of live coverage and monetizing the same, the CEO, Prasar Bharati during evidence submitted as under:-

"So, live is one area where we have specialized. Second is digital growth. We are almost growing at 100 per cent on digital viewership and revenue. So, there is a lot of scope for growth there. So, combination of this is what will differentiate us...xxx....xxxx.... Events such as the cultural events, we can definitely look at generating revenue there. In terms of commercial entertainment, it will always be a challenge because we will never be able to invest in the kind of content that the private broadcasters invest. So, news and current affairs will be the area where we can differentiate ourselves. We have seen that the general feedback is that the news on DD is sober, very serious and substantial as compared to the manner in which the private industry is doing news"...xxx....xxxx....Right now, most of the coverages of national importance we give it for free of cost. We are not charging them. For the other events, like the cultural events, etc. we can look at charging them.

94. Adding on the issue monetizing physical and intellectual properties, the Secretary MIB during evidence submitted as under:-

"In 2019 also, this suggestion was made and you mentioned Sam Pitroda Committee. Sam Pitroda had also suggested that for Prasar Bharati totally, I mean AIR plus Doordarshan, the properties both in terms of physical properties and in terms of intellectual properties, the old songs and records, they could be monetized. So, this is important and definitely we will take care of this."

(vii) Digital Terrestrial Transmission (DTT)

95. As per the Report of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), about 55 countries around the world have already introduced Digital Terrestrial Transmission (DTT) services and many others are in the process of digitization as per the roadmaps laid down by them. Digital Terrestrial Transmission (DTT) is a technology in which land-based terrestrial television stations broadcast television content by radio signals in a digital format. DTT technologies enable efficient use of the TV spectrum and provide better quality of service. A DTT transmitter can provide multiple broadcasting services such as TV channels, Mobile TV, Radio and other value added services within the same

channel bandwidth through use of multiplexers. (TRAI) had issued recommendations on “Issues related to Digital Terrestrial Broadcasting in India” on 31.01.2017.

96. Details of the recommendation of TRAI given on DTT to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is annexed at Annexure–IX.

97. As regards the action taken by MIB on the recommendation of TRAI given on DTT, the Ministry have stated that they have examined the TRAI recommendations in a meeting held on 23.07.2018 under the chairmanship of Secretary (I&B). In pursuance of the decision taken in the meeting a Coordination Committee under the chairpersonship of DG: Doordarshan was constituted on 8th October, 2018 to facilitate entry of private entities in Digital Terrestrial Broadcasting in India. The Coordination Committee submitted its Report to the Ministry and the TRAI recommendations are under examination in the Ministry and BECIL has been requested to have a consultation with the potential private players.

98. With regard to the implementation of the Digital Terrestrial Transmission (DTT) across the country, TRAI had furnished the following roadmap and has stated that DIT may be implemented in the country in three phases with complete migration and analog switch off by December 2023 as per the timelines prescribed below:

Phases	Time frame
Phase I (Metro cities)	31 st December, 2019
Phase II (cities having more than 10 lakh population as per Census 2011)	31 st December, 2021
Phase-III (Rest of India)	31 st December, 2023

99. TRAI has also stated that a minimum overlap of three month must be provided as simulcast period for migration from Analog to digital platform before analog switch off and a Coordination Committee may be set up by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to steer implementation of DTT as a mission mode project to ensure creation of a facilitating environment and timely completion

100. Currently, 23 DTTs (at 19 locations) are operational. The 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 above DD channels are simulcast in both satellite and DTT mode. BARC India measurement is limited to satellite viewership only. There is no audience measurement for viewership on DTT by BARC India at this time.

101. The expenditure of implementation of DTT services is sanctioned by Government under Central Sector Schemes under Capital Plans namely “Broadcasting Infrastructure & Network Development (BIND) Scheme” The approved cost of DTTs related projects under the Doordarshan Scheme–Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND) for 3 years (2017-20) is Rs. 22.02 crore. The expenditure incurred against it up to January, 2021 is Rs. 18.03 crore.

102. As regards the advantages of DTT services over Analog Terrestrial Broadcasting, the Ministry have submitted following:-

- i. Better quality TV reception - with enhanced quality of picture and sound.
- ii. Efficient use of frequency – one DTT transmitter can broadcast multiple TV channels (by using latest compression technologies).
- iii. Improved quality of reception of TV channels in moving environment such as in moving vehicles.
- iv. TV channels can also be received on Fixed TV sets, mobile phones and handheld devices with help of plug in dongles or integrated tuner chipset.
- v. One single channel bandwidth (7 or 8 MHz) provides flexibility to broadcast SD, HDTV, UHTV, mobile TV, radio services etc.

103. Regarding hurdles witnessed in implementing DTT and action taken to address them, the Ministry have stated that in line with Ministry’s directive for further expansion after a review, 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 Demo is scheduled shortly. However, WPC licences for the test/trial transmission is awaited. Subsequently, the PoC is likely to be completed in a year. As per outcome of PoC, the roadmap for DTM could further become basis for mandatory provisions for Direct to Mobile Public Broadcasting. Further

expansion would depend on availability/allocations of required UHF Spectrum and the funds allocations in coming years.”

104. Adding on the issue of mandate of MIB regarding DTT, the Secretary MIB, during evidence submitted as under:-

“There was a review a couple of years back in the Department of Expenditure wherein they told us not to do any further investment in digital terrestrial till the business case is made and it is viable...xxx...xxxx...Since then, technology has evolved. There is an emerging standard around 5G broadcasting where you can directly broadcast to mobile phones. We have signed an MoU with IIT-Kanpur to do a test around that. Once the field trial and testing are done, based on that we will develop a business case. If it is viable, then only we will have the approval to invest in digital terrestrial. As such, there is no mandate as of now.”

VII. ESTABLISHMENT EXPENDITURE OF THE CENTRE

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

105. Bureau of Outreach and Communication (BOC) was set up on 8th December, 2017 by integration of erstwhile Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP), Directorate of Field Publicity (DFP) and Song & Drama Division (S&DD). The Bureau aims at providing a 360 degrees communication solution to the Ministries/Departments/ Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)/autonomous bodies. It acts as an advisory body to Government on media strategy. With 23 Regional Outreach Bureaus (ROBs) and 148 Field Outreach Bureaus (FOBs), BOC is engaged in educating people, both rural and urban, about the Government’s policies and programmes to evoke their participation in developmental activities. This is ensured by the Bureau using different vehicles of communication viz. Print Media advertising, Audio Visual Campaigns, dissemination through Exhibitions, Outdoor Campaigns and New Media etc. Branding of the Government as prime facilitator of people’s empowerment and positioning of messages through Print, Audio-Visual, Outdoor, Digital Media to realize the same, is BOC’s mandate. The Policy guidelines have been adapted in sync with emerging media scenario in order to maximize the reach of information dissemination. Advertising and Visual communication Division (erstwhile DAVP) of BOC is the nodal division of BOC for dissemination of information about various schemes and policies of different Ministries

and Departments of Government of India, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and autonomous body.

106. The Ministry have stated that integration of erstwhile DAVP, DFP and S&DD, programmes are increasingly organized in integrated manner with special outreach and folk components together. The Integrated Communication and Outreach Programmes (ICOP) aim at leaving a greater impact ensuring behavioural change and creating stakes in developmental process. The detailed establishment expenditure of Bureau of Outreach and Communication (Erstwhile DAVP, DFP & S&DD) for the years 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 & 2021-22 are as under:-

Bureau of Outreach& Communication (BOC)					(Rs. in Crore)		
Year	BE	RE	FG	AE	%w.r.t. BE	%w.r.t. RE	% w.r.t. FG*
2018-19	174.29	174.29	167.50	159.64	91.60	91.60	95.31
2019-20	181.74	161.64	160.90	158.82	87.39	98.26	98.71
2020-21	186.47	155.50	-----	138.29	74.16	88.93	-----
2021-22	188.53	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

107. With regard to fund utilisation, the Ministry have stated that during the FY 2018-19 and 2019-20, fund utilized were 95.31% and 98.71% respectively. During the FY 2020-21 also fund utilization is marginally low at present but the fund will be fully utilized by 31.03.2021.

108. When asked as to whether Bureau of Outreach has outstanding claims against agencies which have placed advertisements with it for the year 2019-20 and 2020-21, the Ministry submitted following:-

(Rs. in crore)	
Outstanding for 2019-20	Outstanding for 2020-21
36.37	67.22

109. Regarding the efforts made for recovering outstanding claims against the agencies BOC, the Ministry have stated that they follow up with the client Ministries/Departments for early release of pending funds and BOC writes regularly to them for release of funds to clear their outstandings. The matter of pending payments is also taken up regularly by the DG, BOC with the heads of the concerned client

Ministries/Departments and bill clearance is monitored on a daily basis. Secretary, M/o I&B also has written series of letters to his counter-parts for settling the outstanding dues by the respective client Ministries/Departments.

VIII. OTHER CENTRAL EXPENDITURE INCLUDING AUTONOMOUS BODIES & PSUS

i. Upgradation of IIMC to International Standards scheme

110. The statements for Budget Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE) & Actual Expenditure (AE) in respect of this scheme is as under:-

IIMC						(Rs. in crore)	
year	BE	RE	(AE)	AE % w.r.t BE	AE % w.r.t RE		
2018-19	20.39	18.89	15.01	73.61	79.45		
2019-20	26.49	25.69	24.33	91.85	94.71		
2020-21	61.30	41.41	16.95	27.65	40.93		
2021-22	65.00	-	-	-	-		

111. When asked for the reason for reduced utilization of the fund under IIMC the Ministry have just stated that an amount of Rs.23.56 crore has been utilized up to 31st January 2021 against the released grant of Rs. 28.19 crore. The utilization of funds against RE is to the tune of 56%. However, regarding the problems encountered under IIMC, the Ministry stated that there was shortage of work force due to COVID-19 and it affected construction work in Regional Campus of Jammu, as well as the Aizawl campus of IIMC in during first 6 months of financial year 2020-21; now the work has gained momentum.

112. On being asked about the status of the scheme 'upgradation of IIMC to International Standards', the Ministry have stated that this scheme envisaged 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. Accordingly, the plan has been revised and since the plan submitted earlier is revised, IIMC is now required to seek fresh approval from various authorities which may take some more time.

113. The list of projects/campuses of IIMC that have been delayed over last three years are as under:-

1. Construction of Southern Regional Campus of IIMC at Kottayam – Project completed in 2019 by CPWD and it is operational.
2. Construction of North East Regional Campus of IIMC at Aizawl – Main building was completed during May 2019 but could not be made operational for not reconstructing the damaged approach road by MZU. Now the work has been taken up by the CPWD (delayed due to Covid-19 pandemic) and expected to be completed by middle of March 2021 and the Institute can be made operational from the new Academic session viz. from April 2021.
3. Construction of Northern Regional Campus of IIMC at Jammu – New Campus of IIMC at Jammu was expected to be completed by end of March 2021 but delayed to Covid-19 pandemic and is to be completed by the end of October 2021.
4. Construction of Western Regional Campus of IIMC at Amravati – this matter is being finalized in the Ministry.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS

i. Status of 'The Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2019'

114. The Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 12.02.2019. The Bill was subsequently referred by the Rajya Sabha to the Standing Committee on Information Technology, Lok Sabha on 22.02.2019 for examination. Subsequently, 9th Report on 'The Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2019' was presented to the House on 16.03.2020. Regarding the status of the Bill, the Ministry have stated that some of the major recommendations/observations of the Committee are for prescribing a minimum period of imprisonment and a minimum fine, enhancing the maximum limit for fine, defining the term "knowingly", and inclusion of 'Fair Use' provision. The recommendations/ observations contained in the Report of the Standing Committee on Information Technology are being examined in the Ministry for making necessary amendment to clauses in the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2019 introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 12.02.2019. After decision in the matter, the Ministry will expedite completion of the necessary procedural formalities in respect of the

Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2019 so that the amended legislation may be provided for consideration and passing in the Parliament.

115. Adding on the status of the aforesaid Bill, the Secretary, MIB, during evidence submitted as under:-

“At this stage, I can only mention that the suggestion and recommendation that the Hon'ble Committee had given that the amendment to Cinematograph Act should not be limited to piracy, we have taken that recommendation seriously.”

ii. **Development after revised mandate of MIB**

116. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on 25.02.2021 apprised the Committee about the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code), Rules, 2021 and stated that with the advancement of science, new technologies have provided an opportunity for exponential expansion of print media as well as digital media. In this OTT platforms and digital news portals are now established and are working well. However, the problem was that for these new sectors there was no institutional mechanism. The Ministry also stated that the Press has the PCI and TV has its own self regulation and films have CBFC, these new platforms had no such arrangement. There was demand from all sectors including these two platforms that there must be some arrangement by which a level playing field can be provided to all the media categories. Thus, under the Information Technology Act, 2000 certain rules are being formulated to provide this institutional mechanism for level playing field.

117. The Ministry have stated that there was a demand for bringing such parity and mechanism by people at large as well as experts and media, filmmakers, industry experts, trade organizations/bodies, etc. These apart, there have been serious grievance from parents and guardians over the adult, violent and such other content which is harmful to children. There is also a need to empower the citizens for their grievance redressal. Due to absence of an institutional set up, citizens do not know where to send their grievances or file complaints or suggestions relating to content on OTT or on digital news. There have been several cases in the Supreme Court and various High Courts on this subject, and in a recent PIL hearing, the Supreme Court has observed that the Government should decide the matter urgently.

118. The Ministry of I&B have held wide ranging consultations. They held consultations with OTT players on 10-11th October, 2019 in Mumbai, on 11th November, 2019 in Chennai and at Delhi on 2nd March, 2020 which was convened by the Hon'ble Minister of Information and Broadcasting. The Government have also studied the regulatory models in other countries, including Singapore, Australia, EU and UK, and have gathered that most of them either have an institutional mechanism to regulate digital content or are in the process of setting one.

119. With regard to the main features of the Rules, the Ministry have informed that the rules 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. The OTT platforms would self-classify the content into five age based categories- U (Universal), U/A 7+, U/A 13+, U/A 16+, and A (Adult) and the platforms would be required to implement parental locks for content classified as U/A 13+ or higher, and reliable age verification mechanisms for content classified as "A". Publishers of news on digital media would be required to observe 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct' of the Press Council of India and the 'Programme Code under the Cable Television Networks Regulation) Act' thereby providing a level playing field between the offline (Print, TV) and digital media.

120. Regarding the Grievance redressal mechanism, they have informed that a three-level grievance redressal mechanism has been established under the rules with two levels of self-regulation- Level I being the publisher and Level II being the Self Regulatory Body, and the third level being the Oversight Mechanism under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. The rules provide for an effective grievance redressal mechanism for receiving, processing, and time-bound disposal of public grievances related to the Code of Ethics. The self regulatory body would be headed by a retired judge of the Supreme Court or of a High Court, or by a person of eminence from the relevant field, and can issue advisories to the publisher. According to the Ministry, the mechanism is based on the principles of minimum Government intervention, however, platforms should develop a robust grievance redressal mechanism on their own.

121. Highlighting the benefits of the Rules they have stated that the institutional mechanism would (i) encourage growth in the Champion Audio-Visual Services Sector; (ii) empower citizens to make informed choices about content, get their grievances redressed in definite time frames, and protect children; and (iii) help to fight fake news on digital media through a mechanism of accountability of the publishers.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PART-II

NEW MANDATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (MIB)

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.

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

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.

ESTABLISHMENT EXPENDITURE OF THE CENTRE AND 'OTHER CENTRAL EXPENDITURE

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.

PERFORMANCE UNDER CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEMES DURING LAST THREE YEARS

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.

Champion Services Sector Scheme

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.

Community Radio Stations (CR Stations)

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, Uttrakhand, 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.

INFORMATION SECTOR

India@75

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 1st 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 along with the details of the funds utilized for each/programme or series made under ‘India@75’.

Fact Check Unit

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 8th February, 2021, there were 9103 cases, out of which 8263 were countered/replied and 323 'Fake News' were busted. Between 26th April, 2020 and 18th 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.

FILM SECTOR

Merger of film media units

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.

Co-production of Films with foreign countries

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 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 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.

BROADCASTING SECTOR

Prasar Bharati (Budget allocation, IEBR and revenue generation)

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 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. As for the reasons for continuous decline in Net IEBR 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 to 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.

Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development (BIND)

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 are surprised by 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.

DOORDARSHAN (DD)

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.

Regional Channels of DD

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.

Doordarshan Kisan Channel

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.

ALL INDIA RADIO (AIR) AND FM

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 Vividh Bharati 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.

Human Resource in Prasar Bharati

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 along with 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.

DIGITAL TERRESTRIAL TRANSMISSION (DTT)

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 8th 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 8th 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.

ESTABLISHMENT EXPENDITURE OF THE CENTRE

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

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 apprised 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.

OTHER CENTRAL EXPENDITURE INCLUDING AUTONOMOUS BODIES & PSUS

Upgradation of IIMC to International Standards scheme

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.

STATUS OF 'THE CINEMATOGRAFH (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2019'

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.

**New Delhi;
8 March, 2021
17 Phalguna, 1942(Saka)**

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

(Vide Para No. 12)

DETAILS OF THE SCHEMES THAT CEASE TO OPERATE AT CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEMES FROM FINANCIAL YEAR 2020-21

Impact of Rationalization on allocation under Establishment and OCE for BE 2020-21

1. Following schemes cease to operate as Central Sector Schemes and their activities are now part of regular Establishment Expenditure from FY 2020-21:-
 - (a) Media Infrastructure Development Programme (MIDP);
 - (b) HRD Scheme
 - (c) Infrastructure Development Programme relating to Film Sector
 - (d) Strengthening of Electronic Media Monitoring Centre;
 - (e) Mission Digitization;&
 - (f) Automation of Broadcasting Wing

2. The schemes cease to operate as Central Sector Schemes and their activities are now part of Other Central Expenditure from FY 2020-21:-
 - (a) Up-gradation of IIMC;
 - (b) Opening of new regional centres of IIMC:
 - (c) HRD for Films Media in respect of FTII & SRFTI;
 - (d) Infrastructure Development Programme relating to Film Sector
 - (e) Setting up a National centre of Excellence for Animation, Gaming and VFX

3. From the FY 2020-21 the scheme NFHM is merged with Development Communication & Dissemination of Filmic Content.

(Vide Para No. 25)

DETAILS OF THE THREE SECTORS OF MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING VIZ, FILM SECTOR, INFORMATION SECTOR AND BROADCASTING SECTOR (INCLUDING PRASAR BHARATI)

FILM SECTOR:	INFORMATION SECTOR:	BROADCASTING SECTOR (Other than Prasar Bharati)
<p>(a) The provisions under this Sector cover Establishment Expenditure of the following Media Units of Films Wing of the Ministry:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC); Film Certification Appellate Tribunal (FCAT); Films Division (FD); National Film Archive of India (NFAI); Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF); Payment of Annual Membership Subscription to Association of Moving Images (AMIA); and Contribution to membership of International Archive Organizations by NFAI. <p>(b) As a result of rationalization, Film Wing's following Central Sector Schemes are also included in the Establishment Expenditure and Other Central Expenditure of the respective Media Units/Autonomous Bodies effective FY 2020-21:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure Development Programme relating to Film Sector [CBFC, Films Division, NFAI, DFF, FTII & SRFTI]:- Allocations of this scheme have been shifted to "Establishment Expenditure" of CBFC, Films Division, NFAI and DFF and "Other Central Expenditure" of FTII & SRFTI; Setting up of National Centre of Excellence for Animation, Gaming and Special Effects(Main Sect.): -this scheme has been shifted to "Other central Expenditure" of IIMC, being the implementing agency of the scheme; <p>(c) The Central Sector Schemes covered under this provision for Films Wing are as under:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Development, Communication and Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC). The Scheme National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM) has also been merged with DCDFC Scheme from FY 2020-21. Champion Services Sector Schemes (CSSS):- This is a new scheme introduced in Financial Year 2019-20. This new scheme is entrusted with Audio-visual Services for promoting media and entertainment sector in India <p>(d) Other Central Expenditure of Autonomous Bodies under Films Wing covered in these provisions is as under:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Children's Film Society, India (CFSI); Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune; and Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute (SRFTI), Kolkata. 	<p>(a) The provision under this Sector covers Establishment Expenditure of Main Secretariat of the Ministry and Media Units of Information Wing of the Ministry, viz.:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Secretariat Expenditure; New Media Wing (NMW); Press Information Bureau (PIB); Bureau of Outreach and Communication (BOC); Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI); Publications Division (DPD); Employment News; and Contribution to International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC). <p>(b) As a result of rationalization, Information Wing's following Central Sector Schemes are also included in the Establishment Expenditure and Other Central Expenditure of the respective Media Units/Autonomous Bodies effective FY 2020-21:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Up gradation of IIMC to International Standards:- this scheme has been shifted to "Other Central Expenditure" of IIMC ; Media Infrastructure Development Programme (MIDP) [BOC, IIMC, PIB, DPD and RNI]:-allocation of this scheme has been shifted to "Establishment Expenditure" of BOC, PIB, Publications Division and RNI and "Other Central Expenditure" of IIMC. Human Resource Development [Training for HRD, International Media Programme, Policy Related Studies, Seminars, Evaluation etc., HRD for Films Media (CBFC, FTII & SRFTI) and Payment for Professional Services]:- this scheme has been shifted to "Establishment Expenditure" of Main Secretariat excluding the component 'HRD for Films Media'. HRD for Films Media have been shifted to "Establishment Expenditure" of CBFC and "Other Central Expenditure of FTII & SRFTI". <p>(c) Under Central Sector Schemes the provisions cover the scheme 'Development Communication and Information Dissemination'.</p> <p>(d) Other Central Expenditure of Autonomous Bodies under Information Wing covered under this provisions are as under:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC); and Press Council of India (PCI). 	<p>(a) The provision under this Sector covers Establishment Expenditure of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC); Private FM Radio Station; and Payment of Annual Membership Subscription to Asia Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD). <p>(b) As a result of rationalization, Broadcasting Wing's following Central Sector Schemes are also included in the Establishment Expenditure of the respective Media Units effective from FY 2020-21:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening of Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC):- this scheme has been shifted to "Establishment Expenditure" of EMMC; Mission Digitization:- this scheme has been shifted to "Establishment Expenditure of Main Secretariat"; and Automation of Broadcasting Wing:- this scheme has been shifted to "Establishment Expenditure of Main Secretariat". Under Central Sector Schemes the provisions cover the scheme 'Supporting Community Radio Movement in India'. <p><u>PRASAR BHARATI:-</u></p> <p>(a) The provisions under this Sector cover expenditure on Central Sector Scheme namely, Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND).</p> <p>(b) It also includes Other Central Expenditure of Prasar Bharati (Salary and Salary related expenditure of Prasar Bharati).</p>

(Vide Para No. 51)

A. THE PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL TARGETS UNDER BROADCASTING INFRASTRUCTURE And NETWORK DEVELOPMENT (BIND), FOR THE YEAR 2020-21

Physical and Financial Targets (Rs. in crore)				
Scheme: Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development under CSS				
Sl. No.	Name of the Components	BE 2020-21	Expenditure 2020-21 Upto Dec-2020	Targets
1	Modernization (incl. Digitalization) Augmentation and Replacement of Transmitters	9.25	2.58	Pending mast strengthening works and pending payments for completed projects. Implement of 50 kW SW Transmitter at Kurseong.
2	Modernization, Augmentation & Replacement of Broadcast equipment	1.46	0.42	Pending works will be completed in all respect.
3	Modernization and Digitalization of Studios/ New Studios	29.66	13.90	1. Partial payment of SITC of Servers & radio studio automation (Order placed). 2. Procurement of digital audio consoles at 29 places. 3. Refurbishing of studio at Kokrajhar. 4. Completion of Auditorium in Srinagar.
4	FM Expansion/ Replacement	56.79	9.99	1. Erection of tower for FM transmitters at 19 places. 2. Procurement of 100 Watt FM Transmitters (100 nos.) 3. Procurement of 10 kW FM Transmitter (8 nos.) 4. Construction of building for FM Transmitters at new places. 5. Completion of project & pending payments.

5	Strengthening of Coverage in Sensitive Areas	28.50	12.22	Installation of FM Transmitters along Indo-Nepal Border at Maharajanj including erection of Towers works at 6 places and installation of 10 kW TV transmitters at 3 places & 2x5 kW TV transmitter at Rajauri along J&K Border will be completed.
6	Broadcasting on alternate platforms	0.99	0.95	Procurement of Codecs for enhancing the quality of live streaming of most of channel of AIR.
7	Augmentation of Civil Infrastructure including Staff Quarters	4.80	0.29	Pending works will be completed in all respect except reconstruction of Studio building at Rohtak and hostel accommodation at Srinagar which will go to next year
8	E-Governance	0.50	0.07	Procurement of equipment for enhancing the e-Governance in Parsar Bharati offices.
	Total	131.95	40.41	

(Vide Para No. 51)

B. PHYSICAL ACHIEVEMENT UNDER BIND SCHEME DURING 2020-21

S. No.	Physical Achievements																											
1	FM Transmitter Project Commissioned: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 10 kW FM transmitter at Bundi commissioned on full power. 2. 10 kW FM transmitter at Hambotingla& Uri Commissioned on 11.11.2020. 3. 10 kW FM transmitter at Bathnaha commissioned on interim setup. 4. 100W FM transmitter commissioned at Kevedia Colony on 25.01.2021. 																											
2	FM projects Technically ready for commissioning on interim setup : <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 10 kW FM transmitter are technical ready for commissioning at Gadania, Nanpara, Narkatiaganj ,Etawah and Ratlam. 2. 100W FM transmitter at Godda (Jharkhand) is technically ready for commissioning. 																											
3	Studio Project commissioned : Digitalization of Studio completed and commissioned at 25 places. Stations <table border="1" data-bbox="310 961 1268 1310"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Mathura</td> <td>Chattarpur</td> <td>NABH Bhubaneswar</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Agra</td> <td>Jabalpur</td> <td>Sambalpur</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kanpur</td> <td>Jalgaon</td> <td>Kochi</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chandigarh</td> <td>Raipur</td> <td>Coimbatore</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Najibabad</td> <td>Ambikapur</td> <td>Mangalore</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rampur</td> <td>Bhagalpur</td> <td>Thrissur</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Udaipur</td> <td>Bhawanipatna</td> <td>Tirunelveli</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jaisalmer</td> <td>Jamshedpur</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gwalior</td> <td>Jeypore</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> Work of the digitalization of studio at 54 places is under progress	Mathura	Chattarpur	NABH Bhubaneswar	Agra	Jabalpur	Sambalpur	Kanpur	Jalgaon	Kochi	Chandigarh	Raipur	Coimbatore	Najibabad	Ambikapur	Mangalore	Rampur	Bhagalpur	Thrissur	Udaipur	Bhawanipatna	Tirunelveli	Jaisalmer	Jamshedpur		Gwalior	Jeypore	
Mathura	Chattarpur	NABH Bhubaneswar																										
Agra	Jabalpur	Sambalpur																										
Kanpur	Jalgaon	Kochi																										
Chandigarh	Raipur	Coimbatore																										
Najibabad	Ambikapur	Mangalore																										
Rampur	Bhagalpur	Thrissur																										
Udaipur	Bhawanipatna	Tirunelveli																										
Jaisalmer	Jamshedpur																											
Gwalior	Jeypore																											
4	AT placed for 10 kW (1+1) FM transmitter for Haldwani, Kotputli, Guwahati and Kokrajhar.																											
5	AT placed for 100 W (1+1) FM transmitters for 100 locations.																											
6	AT placed for FM Combiner for Jaipur and Rajamundry.																											
7	AT placed for 6-Bay FM antenna for Indo- Nepal Border FM projects and Rampur, Dahod, Jaspur, Kupwara&Gurej and Kokrajhar.																											
8	Technical Evaluation completed for 10 kW (1+1) liquid cooled FM Transmitter for Rampur, Dahod, Jaspur, Kupwara and Gurej.																											
9	Technical Evaluation completed for 20 kW FM Transmitter at Rameshwaram																											
10	Tower strengthening work completed at 1 location & in progress at 1 location (Gangtok).																											
11	Balance tower works of Auto mode LPTs under progress at 1 location (Construction of 100M tower for AIR FM under progress).																											
12	Purchase order has been placed for replacement of Uplink PDA at 7 locations.																											

13	EFP Vans have been ordered and is likely to be delivered shortly.
14	SITC of (3+1) RF chain – The equipment commissioned & taken in circuit. Equipment supplied & under installation for Upgradation of existing 2 Compression chains.
15	Teleprompter with Laptop, Digital SPG & HD Waveform Monitor have been supplied. Purchase order placed for Digital Audio Mixer. Technical evaluation completed for Studio Intercom System.
16	Mobile News Gathering Unit (Back pack) supplied.
17	Specifications finalized for Automated Playout facilities for DD- Bharati & DD-India Channels. NIT issued. Tenders received & under technical evaluation.
18	Digital Production Switcher supplied to DDKs Raipur, Ranchi & Dehradun. For HD NLE, tender invited earlier had to be cancelled due to administrative reasons. Fresh NIT issued.
19	Construction of Guest House at Chandigarh completed.
20	Balance work for completion of tower at Amritsar, shifting of Transmitters & other associated work is under progress.
21	HPTs received for Setting up (DD National & DD News) at Rajouri. Installation is under progress.
22	Content of approximately 2456 hrs has been produced/procured

(Vide Para No.52)

PROPOSAL OF PRASAR BHARATI DURING 2021-22 UNDER BIND SCHEME**AIR**

Sr.No.	Component	Target
1	Modernization (including digitalization) Augmentation and Replacement of Transmitters	1. Procurement of SW transmitter at Kurseong 2. Completion of NVIS study on SW Transmitter at Delhi 3. Mast Strengthening works at Lucknow
2	Modernization, Augmentation & Replacement of Broadcast equipment	1. Supply of Digital Consoles at NABM Delhi & Bhubneshwar 2. Telemetry System for AIR network 3. e-learning facilities at NABM
3	Modernization and Digitalization of Studios/ New Studios	1. Refurbishing of Auditorium at Srinagar 2. Supply and commissioning of Digital Consoles at 29 places 3. Refurbishing of Studio Rewa 4. Refurbishing of Studio Kokrajhar
4	FM Expansion/ Replacement	1. Commissioning of 1KW FM transmitter at Namsai 2. Commissioning of 100 W FM transmitters at 100 places 3. Acquisition of site at Jaspurand Dahod. Completion of the Building work and procurement of major equipment 4. SITC of Towers at Haldawani, Sultanpur, Ludhiana, Etawa, Allapuzzha, Ooty, Bardhaman, Dhanbad & Keonjhar 5. Civil work at various projects
5	Strengthening of Coverage in Sensitive Areas	1. Towers at 06 sites for Indo-Nepal FM Tr. 2. Transmitters and antenna at Kupwara & Gurej 3. Antenna at 06 sites for Indo-Nepal FM Tr. 4. DW & Zonal Equipments of Border areas of J&K Transmitters
6	Broadcasting on alternate platforms	SITC of audio encoding system.
7	Augmentation of Civil Infrastructure including Staff Quarters	1. Completion of Hostel accommodation at Srinagar 2. Completion of new studio building at Rohtak 3. Completion of Auditorium BH Delhi
8	E- Governance	Funds requirement to complete the approved projects.

Doordarshan

1	Modernization (including Digitization), Augmentation & Replacement of Transmitters	Tower strengthening at 1 location
2	Modernization, Augmentation & Replacement of Satellite Broadcast equipment	Modernization of Earth station at 12 locations Replacement of Uplink PDA at Chandigarh

3	Modernization & Digitalization of Studios	Procurement of balance equipment viz Digital Production Switcher, Peripherals, HD Graphics & CG system
		Pilot project for End to End File based Workflow facility at DDK Hyderabad
4	Expansion of DTH	Procurement of DTH receive units – 1,20,000
		Upgradation of DTH Platform to 120 TV channels
		Upgradation of C-Band DTH Earth Station at Pitampura
5	High Definition TV (HDTV)	HD upgradation of existing Studios of DD News &CPC
		Creation of separate PCR of Presentation Studio for DD News
		Automated Playout facilities for DD-India
		Automated Playout facilities for DD-Bharati
6	Expansion of TV Channels	Procurement of equipment for post-production facilities at Raipur, Ranchi & Dehradun and EFP Van for Dehradun
7	Augmentation of Civil Infrastructure including Staff Quarters and other misc. works	Balance work for completion of tower at Amritsar, shifting of Transmitters & other associated work
8	Strengthening of Coverage in sensitive areas (AIR Scheme)	Setting up HPTs in Border areas of J&K and Ladakh UTs at Patnitop, Green Ridge, Himbotingla&Rajouri (2 nos)
9	Content Development	To infuse fresh programming for Prasar Bharati network of AIR and Doordarshan

(Vide Para No. 60)

THE PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL TARGET SET UNDER DOORDARSHAN FOR THE YEAR 2020-21

Physical and Financial Targets for 2020-21 under Doordarshan					
Sl. No.	Components	BE 2020-21 (Rs in Crore)	Actual Expenditure upto Dec 2020 (Rs in Crore)	Targets	Present status (as on 31-12-2020)
1.	Modernization (including Digitization), Augmentation & Replacement of Transmitters	0.79	1.76	Tower strengthening work at 9 locations	Completed at 1 locations & in progress at 1 location.
				Purchase of RF Network Planning & optimisation Software system	Supplied & under commissioning.
2	Modernization, Augmentation & Replacement of Satellite Broadcast equipment	26.22	9.31	Replacement of Uplink PDA at 7 locations and UPS at 11 locations. Purchase of HPA & Up converter and Down converter	Purchase order has been placed
3.	Modernization & Digitalization of Studios	17.26	9.35	Procurement of EFP Van for modernization of Studio centres at 2 locations	EFP Vans have been ordered.
4.	Expansion of DTH	41.19	5.40	Procurement of 1,20,000 DTH sets for remote, tribal & LWE areas of the country	Tender cancelled due to administrative reasons. Review of tender document is under process for initiating re-tendering.
				Leasing of Call Centre	Call centre with limited facilities established & helpline started by DTH Todapur.
				Expansion of DTH Platform	SITC of (3+1) RF chain – The equipment commissioned & taken in circuit. Purchase order placed for Upgradation of existing 2 Compression chain.
5.	High Definition TV (HDTV)	14.46	7.12	Procurement of balance equipment for HD upgradation of existing Studios of DD News &	Teleprompter with Laptop, Digital SPG & HD Waveform Monitor have been supplied. Purchase

				CPC Delhi.	order placed for Digital Audio Mixer. Tenders under technical evaluation for Studio Intercom System.
				Procurement of balance equipment for News applications	Mobile News Gathering Unit (Back pack) supplied.
				Automated Playout facilities for DD- Bharati & DD-India Channels	Specifications finalized. NIT issued.
6.	Expansion of TV Channels	8.05	3.38	Procurement of balance equipment for ENG facilities, post-production facilities, News Production facilities etc. for 24 hours channels	Digital Production Switcher supplied to DDKs Raipur, Ranchi & Dehradun. For HD NLE, tender invited earlier had to be cancelled due to administrative reasons. Fresh NIT issued.
7	Augmentation of Civil Infrastructure including Staff Quarters and other misc. works	7.08	0.10	Guest House at Chandigarh	Construction of Guest House at Chandigarh completed.
				Balance work for completion of tower at Amritsar, shifting of Transmitters & other associated work	The work is under progress.
	Total	115.05	36.42		

(Vide Para No. 63)

DETAILS OF DOORDARSHAN CHANNELS ALONG INCLUDING REGIONAL CHANNELS

Channels of Doordarshan Network		Nos.
Satellite Channels 24x7		
National/International		08
Regional Language Satellite Services Channels (RLSSs)/State Network Channels		28
Total No. of Channels		36

Doordarshan Satellite channels

All India Channels (7)	DD National *	DD News*	DD Sports
	DD Bharati	DD Urdu	DD Kisan
	DD Retro		
Regional Channels/ State Network Channels (24x7) (28)	DD Malyalam	DD Chandana	DD Yadagiri
	DD Podhigai	DD Sahyadri	DD Girnar
	DD Odia	DD Kashir	DD North East
	DD Bangla	DD Punjabi	DD Rajasthan
	DD Bihar	DD Uttar Pradesh	DD Madhya Pradesh
	DD Saptagiri	DD Arunprabha	DD Uttarakhand
	DD Jharkhand	DD Chhattisgarh	
	DD Himacha Pradesh	DD Meghalaya	Goa
	DD Haryana	DD Nagaland	Tripura
	DD Mizoram	DD Manipur	
International Channel (1)	DD India*		

* DD National, DD India & DD News Channels are also available in HD.

Sr No	Name of channels	Details
1	Doordarshan/DD National	From an experimental service at Delhi in September 1959, Doordarshan over the years has grown tremendously to become one of the leading TV organizations of the world.
2	DD News	DD-News channel was launched on 3 rd

		November 2003 by converting DD-Metro into a 24-hour news channel.
3	DD Bharati	DD Bharati Channel was launched in January 2002 as a niche channel for culture, health and children, to preserve Indian culture with authenticity and to present it to the wider public.
4	DD Urdu	DD Urdu came into existence on 15 th August, 2006 and became a 24X7 channel w.e.f 14 th November 2007.
5	DD India	Doordarshan opened its windows to the world by launching its international channel on 14 th March, 1995. The Channel, initially known as DD-World was renamed DD-India on 2002. It is now being converted into a 24x7 English news channel with focus on its international distribution.
6	DD Sports	Sports channel of Doordarshan was launched on 18 th March 1999.
7	DD Kisan	DD Kisan was launched on 26 th May, 2015 from CPC: Doordarshan. This is the first channel dedicated to India's agriculture and its farmers.
8	DD Sahyadri	Sahyadri Channel started beaming Marathi programmes by the name DD-10 throughout India via Satellite from 15 th August 1994. Its transmission was extended to round the clock from 5 th April, 2000.
9	DD Girnar	The Satellite Regional Language channel DD-11 in Gujarati was started during 1993-1994. 24 Hours Transmission on Regional Satellite language Service started from 01.05.2000 and DD-Girnar became its Brand Identity from 02.10.2007.
10	DD Podhigai	Regional Language "Tamil Satellite Channel – Podhigai started functioning on the Pongal day i.e., 15.1.2001 with round the clock transmission.
11	DD Yadagiri	After bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh into two states , the DD Channel beamed from DDK Hyderabad was renamed as DD Yadagiri to cater to Telangana state.
12	DD Saptagiri	Launched on 10 th October, 1993 DD Saptagiri is the Telugu language satellite channel with 24x7 transmission since 1 st January 2000. On

		27.09.2014DD Saptagiri channel was dedicated to Andhra Pradesh.
13	DD Bangla	Launched on 20 th August, 1992 DD Bangla became 24 hours channel from 1 st January, 2000.
14	DD Punjabi	Launched on 06.08.1998, DD Punjabi became a 24 hour channel from 05.08.2000.
15	DD Kashir	The “DD Kashir” channel was launched on 28.08.2000. This was later converted into a 24 hour channel from 15 th August 2003.
16	DD-Odia	DD Odia was started on 02.10.1993 which later on made a 24-hour channel on 01.04.2001 (On the occasion of Utkal Divas, the Statehood Day of Odisha State).
17	DD Malayalam	DD Malayalam from its inception in 1985 has made its presence felt across the length and breadth of the state of Kerala.
18	DD Chandana	DD Chandana is the Kannada language Satellite Channel launched on 15 th August, 1994 supported by Doordarshan studios in Bengaluru and Gulbarga. It became round the clock satellite channel in 2000.
19	DD Assam	DD North –East was commissioned on 01.11.1990 and finally launched on 15 th August, 1994. It became 24 hour channel from 27 th December, 2000. Hon`ble Information & Broadcasting Minister formally launched DD-Assam, a 24X7 channel for state of Assam on 4th August 2020
20	DD Rajasthan	DD Rajasthan, a 24X7 Hindi Regional Channel came into existence on 1 st August, 2013 and formally started telecasting programmes from 15 th August, 2013.
21	DD Bihar	DD Patna came into existence on 13 th October, 1990 and was converted into 24X7 Hindi Regional Channel DD Bihar on 1 st May, 2013.
22	DD Uttar Pradesh	DD Uttar Pradesh, a 24X7 Hindi Regional Channel came into existence on 16 th August, 2013.
23	DD Madhya Pradesh	DDK Bhopal launched 24 hr telecast service through satellite and was renamed DD: Madhya Pradesh on 25 th June 2013.

24	DD Arunprabha	February 2019
25	DD Uttarakhand	Started 24x7 satellite operation 1 April 2020
26	DD Jharkhand	
27	DD Chhattisgarh	
28	DD Himachal Pradesh	Started 24x7 satellite transmission in April 2020 with combination of local and relay content.
29	DD Meghalaya	
30	DD Goa	
31	DD Haryana	
32	DD Nagaland	
33	DD Tripura	
34	DD Mizoram	
35	DD Manipur	
36	DD Retro	April 2020

(Vide Para No. 70)

DETAILS OF THE IN-HOUSE PROGRAMME, SPECIAL PROGRAMME PRODUCED AND INITIATIVES TAKEN UNDER DD KISAN CHANNEL DURING 2020-21

Programmes in KISAN Channel

Kisan Channel

- (i) A full-fledged television channel (DD Kisan Channel) for the farmers was launched on 26th May 2015 by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi as a new initiative for the inclusive growth of the farmers. A majority of the programmes are produced in-house and some are outsourced. Some major in-house programmes are as under:-
- (a) Chaupal Charcha
 - (b) Kisan Samachar
 - (c) Gaon Kisan
 - (d) Mandi Khabar
 - (e) Mausam Khabar Live (Dur-30 Minutes 3 times daily)
 - (f) Hello Kisan Live (One hour phone-in live)
 - (g) Vichar Vimarsh (One hour panel discussion)
 - (h) Chhhat Par Bagvani
 - (i) Kaisehain Aap
 - (j) Guldasta- Uttar Poorvi Rajyon Se
 - (k) Swastha Kisan (One hour phone-in live, panel discussion)
 - (l) Pehli Kiran (North East showcase)
 - (m) Krishi Darshan (Core agriculture)
 - (n) Krishi Parikrama

(ii) Special Programmes produced during 2020-21

There has been a constant endeavour to keep up with the changing times and new initiatives have been taken to enhance core agriculture based content. The quality of existing programmes has been benchmarked with the best in the industry and recently new programmes have been introduced to focus on farmers and rural population. The following special programmes and events were telecast during 2020-21:

- (a) Union Budget 2020: An extensive LIVE coverage of Union Budget 2020 from the perspective of farmers and Rural India was undertaken with eminent guest/experts and invited farmers.
- (b) A special programme "Mahila Swavlamban Ki Nayi Phal" in which Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development interacted LIVE through Satellite conference with women of Self Help Group from six Doordarshan Kendras. The Hon'ble Minister interacted with 120 women who had achieved major milestones.

- (c) A special programme series on “Atmanirbhar Bharat” was produced showcasing achievements of individuals and institutions.
- (d) A series of programmes and spots were produced to inform & educate the farmers on the COVID 19 pandemic.
- (e) A special week series on “SewaKe 6 Varsh” was produced to highlight achievements of Key Government schemes for the farmers and rural populace.
- (f) A special series was produced to inform and educate the farmers on the new Agriculture Legislation. Panel discussions, interactive field based programmes and short films were produced to inform the farmers and clear any misconceptions.

(iii) Initiative during 2020-21

- (a) Fresh programmes under Self Finance Scheme (SFC) in genres such as Non Fiction, Fiction & Reality shows are being telecast.
- (b) A special programme on Agriculture Technology & innovation is being produced in collaboration with Principal Scientific Advisor and IFFCO.
- (c) A special research based programme series on Sustainable Organic Farming is being produced by IIT Kanpur.
- (d) A programme series on Medicinal Plants is being produced. It will be a first of its kind series on the advantages and commercial viability of medicinal plants.

Apart from the special programmes, the technical infrastructure is being upgraded to make it future ready. Value additions in terms of Look & feel and packaging in being incorporated in all in-house programmes.

(Vide Para No. 76)

PROJECTS TARGETED FOR THE YEAR 2021-22 FOR AIR

Sr. No.	Component	Target
1	Modernization (including digitalization) Augmentation and Replacement of Transmitters	1. SW transmitter at Kurseong 2. SW Transmitter at Delhi 3. Shifting of 20 kW Tx Mall Road to HPT Nangali 4. Mast Strengthening works MW Transmitters pending payments
2	Modernization, Augmentation & Replacement of Broadcast equipment	1. Supply of Digital Consoles at NABM Delhi & Bhubneshwar 2. For Strengthening of R & D 3. e-learning facilities at NABM
3	Modernization and Digitalization of Studios/ New Studios	1. Refurbishing of Auditorium at Srinagar 2. Supply of Digital Consoles 3. Refurbishing of Studio Rewa Civil work 4. Refurbishing of Studio Kokrajhar DW & Equipments
4	FM Expansion/ Replacement	1. Namsai DW, equipment & Civil work 2. 100 Nos of 100 W FM transmitters and Cable etc. 3. Misc works at Jaspur, Rampur, Dahod & Rameshwaram 4. SITC of Towers at Haldawani, Sultanpur, Ludhiana, Etawa, Allapuzzha, Ooty, Bardhaman, Dhanbad & Keonjhar 5. Civil work at various projects
5	Strengthening of Coverage in Sensitive Areas	1. Towers at 06 sites for Indo-Nepal FM Tr. 2. Transmitters and antenna at Kupwara & Gurej 3. Antenna at 06 sites for Indo-Nepal FM Tr. 4. DW & Zonal Equipments of of Border areas of J&K Transmitters
6	Broadcasting on alternate platforms	SITC of audio encoding system.
7	Augmentation of Civil Infrastructure including Staff Quarters	1. Civil work Hostel accommodation Srinagar 2. Building works at Rohtak 3. Auditorium BH Delhi
8	E- Governance	Funds requirement to complete the approved projects.

(Vide Para No. 96)

DETAILS OF THE RECOMMENDATION OF TRAI GIVEN ON DTT TO THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had issued recommendations on “Issues related to Digital Terrestrial Broadcasting in India” dated 31.01.2017. The recommendations’ brief are as under:

- (i) The Authority recommends introduction of DTT services throughout the country in a time bound manner
- (ii) Private players should be permitted to provide DTT services along with the public service broadcaster.
- (iii) The eligibility conditions of private DTT operators, licensing conditions and other modalities for entry of private players would be worked out by the Authority after the Government has taken a policy decision in this regard.
- (iv) Implementation of DTT services in the country in Hybrid mode having main transmitter in MFN and gap fillers in SFN. This will facilitate provision of local content as well as rich bouquet of services
- (v) Public broadcaster may be permitted to operate maximum three transmitters (8 MHz X 3) at a given location out of which one (8 MHz) may be exclusively used for provision of mobile TV services.
- (vi) Private broadcasters may be permitted to operate maximum four transmitters (8 MHz X 4) at a given location subject to availability of spectrum
- (vii) Maximum number of DTT providers may be capped at five (one public broadcaster and four private broadcasters) as per availability of spectrum.
- (viii) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in consultation of WPC of DoT and other technical agency such as BECIL may carry out comprehensive frequency planning for roll out of DTT services in time bound manner such exercise should be completed within a period of six months to ensure that the roadmap for digitization of terrestrial network and introduction of DTT services as suggested by the Authority could be planned and implemented
- (ix) The term and condition regarding allocation of spectrum to DTT operators, frequency slots for auctions, Reserve price etc. will be given by the Authority once these recommendations are accepted by the government
- (x) Allocation of spectrum should be done in time bound manner so that spare and unutilized spectrum in band IV and band V can be put to effective use.
- (xi) Transmission Network Model is an appropriate model for implementing DTT service in the country.

- (xii) The Authority will come out with the detailed guidelines for sharing of infrastructure, and other implementation modalities once a policy decision is taken by the Government in this regard.
- (xiii) Digital Terrestrial transmission may be implemented in the country in three phases with complete migration and analog switch off by December 2023.
- (xiv) Phase wise DTT migration and analog switch-off may be done as per the timelines prescribed below:

Phases	Time frame
Phase I (Metro cities)	31 st December, 2019
Phase II (cities having more than 10 lakh population as per Census 2011)	31 st December, 2021
Phase-III (Rest of India)	31 st December, 2023

- (xv) A minimum overlap of three month must be provided as simulcast period for migration from Analog to digital platform before analog switch off.
- (xvi) In order to create a supportive eco-system, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting along with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology may devise policy framework to make available DTT complaint devices.
- (xvii) A Coordination Committee may be set up by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to steer implementation of DTT as a mission mode project to ensure creation of a facilitating environment and timely completion.

**MINUTES OF THE EIGHTEENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (2020-21)**

The Committee sat on Thursday, the 11 February, 2021 from 1400 hours to 1550 hours in Committee Room B, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Dr. Shashi Tharoor - Chairperson

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Karti P. Chidambaram
3. Smt. Raksha Nikhil Khadse
4. Ms. Mahua Moitra
5. Shri Santosh Pandey
6. Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore
7. Dr. Gaddam Ranjith Reddy
8. Shri Sanjay Seth
9. Dr. T. Sumathy (A) Thamizhachi Thangapandian
10. Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma

Rajya Sabha

11. Shri Y. S. Chowdary
12. Shri Syed Nasir Hussain
13. Shri Syed Zafar Islam

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Y.M. Kandpal - Joint Secretary
2. Shri H. Ram Prakash - Director
3. Dr. Sagarika Dash - Additional Director

LIST OF WITNESSES

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

Sl. No.	Names	Designation
1.	Shri Amit Khare	Secretary
2.	Ms. Neerja Sekhar	Additional Secretary
3.	Ms. Anju Nigam	JS(EW & Films)
4.	Shri Vikram Sahay	JS (P&A)
5.	Shri P.K. Abdul Kareem	Economic Advisor
6.	Shri Bhupal Nanda	CCA
7.	Ms. Dhanpreet Kaur	Director (Films)

MEDIA UNITS

8.	Shri Shashi Shekhar Vempati	CEO: Prasar Bharati
9.	Shri Rajeev Singh	Member Finance, PB
10.	Shri K.S. Dhatwalia	Pr. DG: PIB & IIMC
11.	Shri Mayank Agarwal	DG, Doordarshan
12.	Shri Jaideep Bhatnagar	DG, AIR
13.	Shri Satyendra Prakash	DG, BOC
14.	Ms. Monideepa Mukherjee	DG, Publication Division & RNI
15.	Shri Chaitanya Prasad	ADG, Directorate of Film Festivals

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee convened to examine Demands for Grants (2020-21) related to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB).

(The witnesses were then called in)

3. After welcoming the representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) to the sitting of the Committee, the Chairperson drew their attention to the reduced allocation under BE 2021-22 in comparison to the BE of previous year and actual utilization being just 69 per cent of RE in 2020-21 and asked the Ministry to account for this discrepancy. Drawing further attention of the Ministry to the rationalization of their 'Central Sector Schemes' (CSS) in 2020-21, he asked them to throw some light on the impact of rationalisation on the achievement of the physical targets set under the Schemes as well as about their plan to have effective utilization of the budgetary allocation during the year 2021-22. He then enquired from the Ministry about the status of the Report of M/s KPMG which had undertaken the third party

evaluation of CSS during 2020-21. With regard to Prasar Bharati, the Chairperson, desired to know the measures envisaged for generation of IEBR during 2021-21, which was almost double than the Net IEBR generated during the year 2020-21, along with the plans for optimal utilisation of the same. He thereafter sought comments of the Ministry on various other important issues e.g. status of implementation of recommendations of Sam Pitroda Committee, Manpower audit done by Ernst & Young, current vacancy position in Doordarshan and AIR, major thrust areas for the year 2021-22 along with their plan to mitigate the adverse impact of COVID-19 pandemic and other hindrances and role of the Ministry consequent upon their amended mandate after inclusion of OTT platforms/online news & current affairs content, etc.

4. Thereafter, the Secretary, MIB made a Power Point presentation highlighting the 'Policy Initiatives' of MIB during (2020-21) which *inter-alia* included Cabinet decision on merger of Film Units, revision of Print Media Advertisement Policy, signing of MoU between Prasar Bharati & BISAG for telecast of 51 educational channels on PB platforms, transfer of mandate w.r.t. OTT content and online news & current affairs to MIB, launch of DD Assam, etc. The achievements and activities of MIB during the year 2020-21 including countering Fake News through Fact Check Units, publication of New India Samachar in 13 languages, single window clearance for Film Facilitation, promotion of Community Radio Stations, construction work of IIMC campuses, three regional DD Channels being made 24x7, modernisation of AIR studios/Earth stations for DD, AIR FM transmitter projects commissioned at Bundi, Himbotingla, Uri, Bathnaha and Kevadia, "Startup Champions" launched on 16th January, 2021, etc. The power-point presentation also included the Ministry's key priority areas for the year 2021-22 which *inter-alia* included merger of Film units, strengthening bonds of friendship with Bangladesh, projecting India abroad, celebrating India@75, making all Regional DD Channels 24x7, expanding AIR FM with focus on Border /LWE/ NE/ Aspirational districts, promotion of setting up CRS stations in coastal /remote districts with focus on disaster prone areas, etc.

5. The Members of the Committee then sought clarification on various issues such as status of the film 'Bangabandhu', Digital Terrestrial Transmission (DTT), digitisation in CBFC, upgradation of IIMC campuses, vacancies in Doordarshan and AIR, status of implementation of recommendations on 'The Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2019', plans for enhancing Global Outreach through DD India and AIR, constraints witnessed in CBFC, issues related to Television Rating Points (TRPs), etc. The Members of the Committee also deliberated on issues like monetization of film archives and other resources of MIB, measures taken for making India a preferred shooting destination for Film, initiatives being taken by Prasar Bharati for promoting local artists in various fields performing in AIR/DD and their wage revision, criteria for selection of historical personalities for commemoration, issues associated with AIR/FM channels/DD Kisan Channel, reach and expansion of regional channels specially in tribal languages

preparing travelogue on India's rich cultural heritage and tourism destinations, monetising footages (both audio and video) of rare and unique archival material.

6. The representatives of the MIB replied to the queries of the Members and assured the Committee to send the written replies to the queries for which replies were not readily available.

7. The Chairperson, then, thanked the representatives of M/o I&B for deposing before the Committee. The Committee also placed on record their deep appreciation for extraordinary efforts made by Secretary, MIB to come and testify before the Committee despite being unwell.

The witnesses then withdrew.

A copy of verbatim record of the proceedings was kept on record.

The Committee, then, adjourned.

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

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-FIRST SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee sat on Monday, the 8th March, 2021 from 1400 hours to 1530 hours in Committee Room no. 3, Extension to Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Dr. Shashi Tharoor -Chairperson

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Santosh Pandey
3. Ms. Mahua Moitra
4. Shri P. R. Natarajan
5. Col . Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore
6. Shri Sanjay Seth
7. Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma

Rajya Sabha

8. Shri Y. S. Chowdary
9. Shri Shaktisinh Gohil
10. Shri Syed Nasir Hussain
11. Shri Syed Zafar Islam

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 Draft Reports on Demands for Grants (2021-22) relating to the Ministries/Departments under their jurisdiction.

3. The Committee, then, took up the following draft 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 Report on Demands for Grants (2021-22) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

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

5. The Committee authorized the Chairperson to finalize the draft Report arising out of factual verification, if any, and present the Report to the House during the current Session of Parliament.

6.xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx....xxxxx.....xxxxx...

The Committee, then, adjourned.