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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(2019-20)**

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2019-20)**

SECOND REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December, 2019/ Agrahayana, 1941 (Saka)

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(2019-20)**

*Presented to Lok Sabha on 10.12.2019
Laid in Rajya Sabha on 10.12.2019*



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NEW DELHI**

December, 2019/ Agrahayana, 1941 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(2019-20)

Dr. Shashi Tharoor - Chairperson

Lok Sabha

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

Rajya Sabha

22. Dr. Anil Agrawal
23. Dr. Subhash Chandra
24. Shri Y. S. Chowdary
25. Shri Suresh Gopi
26. Shri Md. Nadimul Haque
27. Shri Syed Nasir Hussain
28. Dr. Narendra Jadhav
29. Shri D. Kupendra Reddy
30. Shri Ronald Sapa Tlau
31. Shri Beni Prasad Verma

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Ganapati Bhat - Additional Secretary
2. Shri Y.M. Kandpal - Director
3. Smt. Geeta Parmar - Additional Director

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Information Technology (2019-20), having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Second Report on 'Demands for Grants (2019-20)' of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

2. The Standing Committee on Information Technology (2019-20) was constituted on 13th September, 2019. 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 concerned Ministry/Department 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 2019-20 which were laid on the Table of the House on 12th July, 2019. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on 25th October, 2019.

4. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 27th November, 2019.

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 Subject.

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, the observations/recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the Part-II of the Report.

New Delhi;

06 December, 2019

15 Agrahayana, 1941 (Saka)

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

REPORT

PART-I

Introductory

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, through the mass communication media comprising radio, television, films, press and print publications, advertising and traditional modes of communication such as dance and drama, plays an effective role in helping the masses to have access to free flow of information. The Ministry is involved in catering to the entertainment needs of various age groups and focusing attention of the people on issues of national integrity, environmental protection, health care and family welfare, eradication of illiteracy and issues relating to women, children, minority and other disadvantaged sections of the society. The Ministry is divided into five wings i.e., the Information Wing, the Broadcasting Wing, the Films Wing, the Integrated Finance Wing and the Economic Wing. The Ministry functions through its 21 Media Units/ attached & subordinate offices, autonomous bodies and PSUs.

II. Implementation status of recommendations of the Committee contained in the 45th Report on Demands for Grants (2018-19)

2. The Standing Committee on Information Technology presented to Lok Sabha their Forty-Fifth Report on the 'Demands for Grants' (2018-19) relating to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting on 13 March, 2018. The Fifty-First Report on Action Taken Notes by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in Forty-Fifth Report on DFG(2018-19) was presented to Lok Sabha on 7 August, 2018. Out of the 23 recommendations contained in the said Report, 16 recommendations were accepted by the Government. The Committee had reiterated on 06 recommendations. The final Action Taken Statement on the recommendations contained in the Fifty-First Report was laid on the table of Parliament on 2 January, 2019.

III. Demands for Grants for 2019-20

3. It has been informed that Demand No. 59 covers the expenditure of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and its attached/sub-ordinate offices and autonomous/grantee bodies, including Prasar Bharati. With the merger of Plan and Non-Plan from the Financial Year 2017-18 onwards, expenditure of the Ministry is now categorized under following categories :-

- (A) **Establishment Expenditure of the Centre** (It includes establishment expenditure of Main Secretariat and attached/sub-ordinate offices of the Ministry)
- (B) **Central Sector Schemes;** and
- (C) **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 of 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.

4. The budgetary allocations for the year 2019-20, under different categories, are as under:

(in crore)								
	RE 2018-19		Actual 2018-19		BE 2019- 20		Actual (up to 31st July, 2019)	
	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital
Category I Establish- ment Expenditu- re of the Centre	478.29	0.00	455.00	0.00	495.45	0.00	169.07	0.00

Category II. Central Sector Schemes	701.05	11.61	647.50	9.28	886.46	13.54	111.50	0.20
(a)Normal	578.84	11.61	647.50	9.28	723.81	13.54	111.50	0.20
(b)NER	122.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	162.65	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	735.05		656.78		900.00		111.70	
Category III. Other Central Expenditure (Autonomous Bodies)	2898.03	0.00	2891.49	0.00	2979.76	0.00	965.01	0.00
Total (Cat. I+ Cat.II + Cat. III)	4077.37	11.61	3993.99	9.28	4361.67	13.54	1245.58	0.20
	4088.98		4003.27		4375.21		1245.78	

It may be seen from above that during 2018-19, against Rs. 4088.98 crore allocated for the Ministry of I & B, the actual expenditure was Rs. 4003.27 crore (97.90 percent). However, for Central Sector Schemes, against BE and RE of Rs. 735.05 crore and Rs. 712.66 crore, respectively, the actual expenditure was Rs. 656.78 crore (92.16 percent).

5. When asked about the reasons for reducing BE of Rs.735.05 crore to Rs. 712.66 crore at RE stage, it has been stated that the Ministry of Finance reduced the allocation during FY 2018-19 without elaborating the reasons for the same. However, it is stated to be generally done on the basis of pace of expenditure and needs of the Ministry.

6. The annual budget of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is spread across three sectors, viz, Film Sector, Information Sector and

Broadcasting Sector (including Prasar Bharati). The thrust areas in each of the sectors of the Ministry during the year 2019-20 are given as under:

Broadcast Sector: (Prasar Bharti)

- Digitalization of Prasar Bharati (AIR & Doordarshan)
- Accelerated investment on Content Development of Prasar Bharati to strengthen public service broadcasting

Broadcast Sector (other than Prasar Bharti):

- Expanding Community Radio stations in the country

Information Sector:

- Integrated approach to media campaign for better impact of Government messaging and its visibility on the field
- Strengthening, upgradation and modernization of infrastructure in the Information and Film sectors;

Film Sector:

- Preservation, upgradation and propagation of India's filmic content by undertaking special projects like National Film Heritage Mission.
- Setting up of Film and Television Institute, Arunachal Pradesh.
- Golden Jubilee Edition of the International Film Festival of India to be organized from 20-28 November, 2019 at Panjim, Goa.
- Production of feature film "Bangabandhu" on the life of Sheikh Mujibur Rehman in co-production agreement with Bangladesh.
- 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.
- Implementation of National Film Heritage Mission

- Organization of National / International Film Festivals viz. Mumbai International Documentary Film Festival, International Children's Film Festival of India.

7. The Committee asked about the financial outlay proposed by the Ministry of I & B and actual allocation made by the Ministry of Finance during 2019-20 for the Central Sector Schemes (CSS). It has been informed that the Ministry had proposed an outlay of Rs. 1068.05 crore for CSS for the year 2019-20, however, the Ministry of Finance has fixed Rs. 900.00 crore for CSS for 2019-20.

8. The Committee then desired to know whether the funds allocated during the current fiscal are found to be sufficient to carry out execution of the various schemes/programmes/projects under the different sectors of the MIB. In reply, it has been stated that the funds allocated are likely to be sufficient to carry out execution of the various schemes/programmes/projects of the different sectors of the MIB during the year.

9. The details with regard to budgetary allocation made for the Central Sector Schemes(erstwhile Plan Schemes), under the three sectors of the Ministry of I & B during 2019-20 and utilization of funds upto July, 2019, are as under:

	(Rs. in crore)		
	BE	Actual Expenditure	%age of utilisation over BE
Film Sector	165.00	16.79 (upto July, 2019)	10.17% over BE
Information Sector	238.00	61.99 (upto July, 2019)	26.04% over BE
Broadcasting Sector(Other than Prasar Bharati)	24.00	6.09 (upto July, 2019)	25.37% over BE
Prasar Bharati	473.00	26.83 (upto July, 2019)	5.6%

IV. Review of The Past Performance

A. Prasar Bharati:

10. The details with regard to the allocation of funds vis-à-vis utilization during the last three years in respect of Prasar Bharati is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure	%age of utilisation over RE
2016-17	450.00	450.00	425.00	94.44%
2017-18	430.00	282.00	201.57	71.47%
2018-19	315.70	326.74	222.58	68.12%

11. It may be seen from the above that during 2017-18, the funds allocated to Prasar Bharati at BE were reduced drastically at RE stage and only 71.47 percent of the reduced funds could be utilized during the year. Similarly, in 2018-19, utilization of funds allocated at RE stage was 68.12 percent.

(i) Doordarshan Kisan channel

12. The Committee have further observed that during 2017-18, BE of Rs. 63 crore was allocated as Grants-in-aid to Doordarshan for Kisan channel contents, however, the same was reduced to Rs.46.58 crore at RE stage. Moreover, the actual expenditure was Rs. 34.47 crore only (74 percent). When asked about the reasons for under-utilisation of funds, the Ministry/Prasar Bharat has replied as under :-

- i. It was decided that DD Kisan would make the programmes through in-house production and hence the commissioning of programmes through Self Financing Commissioning (SFC) mode were put on hold.

- ii. DD Kisan does not have adequate manpower resources to make in-house programmes. Many of the travelogue based programs could not be produced and the reality show was deferred for the next financial year.
- iii. Reality show “MahilaKisan Awards” could not be finalized due to logistic reasons resulting in saving.
- iv. The payment under SFC head is made to producers for the number of episodes of SFC programmes telecast on DD Kisan Channel. Under this category of programmes, the producer produces the programme at his own risk and cost and on the selection of the programme by Doordarshan, the latter markets, telecast the same and pay the producer for his services. An adhoc 10% deduction from all SFC programs was made on account of non-achievement of benchmark Television Rating Point (TRP) as per condition made in the agreement. However, the final decision in this regard could not be made resulting in saving.
- v. Many of the Kendras are facing shortage of staff in programme wing. In the absence of manpower to supervise/ oversee the production, these Kendra were unable to produce any programmes for DD Kisan and hence funds remained unutilised.
- vi. Due to bad climatic and road condition and Public Finance Management System (PFMS) failure during the payment, some Kendras could not make payment in time.
- vii. Few Kendras stated that the prescribed fee structure for Artists, Producer, Casuals, Resource Person, etc. who are to be engaged for production of any programme for DD Kisan is insufficient to

engage good talent. Hence, they could not produce any programme as a result the funds remained unutilised.

13. Similarly, during 2018-19, BE of Rs. 45.15 crore as Grants-in-aid to Doordarshan for Kisan Channel content was reduced to Rs. 34.51 crore at RE stage and the actual expenditure was Rs. 19.35 crore only (56 percent). Ministry of I & B/Prasar Bharati has stated the reason for the shortfall as under :-

- i. As the recordings for some programmes continued till the end of March, 2019 some payment could not be made.
- ii. Funds allocated to all the states for producing fiction/ non-fiction programmes, Mahila Kisan Awards, Profile Films and Travelogue Series Season-2. Some of the programmes could not be produced.
- iii. An issue had a reason regarding payment of the royalty for repeat telecast of Hindi Feature Films. A Committee was constituted to finalized the issue as the committee could submit its report only towards the end of FY the bills could not be processed for payment.
- iv. Fresh SFC programmes could not scheduled for telecast. An ad-hoc 10% reduction for 18 SFC programmes was withheld till the finalisation of benchmark TRP as per agreement though the provision for same was kept in Budget.
- v. Travelogue Season-2 of YehHaiMera India could not be produced by some of the Kendras as they were busy for MahilaKisan Award.
- vi. Provision was made in Advertisement & Publicity of Mahila Kisan Award. As the program were telecast till the end of the year all the bills were not submitted in time by the Agency, hence, complete payment could not be made.

14. The Committee have also observed that BE of Rs. 29.72 crore is fixed during the year 2019-20, which is on a lower side as compared to last year.

15. With regard to the content development in respect of the Doordarshan programmes, the Secretary, MIB stated as under:

“ One major problem which hon. Members may have observed because we are getting complaints from the hon. Members is that for the last four or five years, there has been no funding for content. They actually show the old serials and the old programmes which create fatigue among the viewers. A viewer may not like to see the same programme on Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh again and again.

In the EFC that was approved last year, we again made a provision for content funding of Doordarshan so that we can have good quality, up to date content and that will attract the viewers. It will also be more informative. ”

(ii) Grants for creation of Capital Assets (incl. Kisan Channel)

16. During the financial year 2017-18, a provision of Rs.213 crore was made at BE stage for Grants for creation of capital Assets (incl. Kisan Channel), which was, however reduced to Rs.118.34 crore at RE stage and out of the same, only Rs.52.02 crore (44 percent) could be utilized.

17. On being enquired about the reasons for the poor financial performance during the year, the Ministry of I & B/Prasar Bharati has informed that with the introduction of GST, it was found that vendors were not participating in the higher value tenders, resulting in repeated extension of tender opening dates and delays. A meeting was organized with all potential bidders to resolve the issue. It was informed by the bidders that due to lack of understanding on their part regarding some input tax credit issues, they were not in a position to firm up their bids. They were strongly advised to participate in the bids. Later on, tender document was to be revised and approved by Prasar Bharati with reference to the taxation

clauses and commercial bid templates & bid submission dates were extended. In respect of number of tenders, the Bids submitted by the firms were pre-GST. While placing the order after implementation of GST the firms were asked to pass on tax credit benefit to Doordarshan as per anti-profiteering clause under GST Act. The vendors took a long time in passing on the tax credit benefits and certifying compliance to anti profiteering clause, as required by the finance wing.

18. It has further been informed that only 44 percent of the allocated funds were utilized as there were delays in processing of sanctions due to GST related issues & delay in obtaining WPC clearance in respect of following projects:

- i. Modernization of Earth Stations at various locations.
- ii. New DSNG terminals at 9 locations.
- iii. Earth station at CPC, Delhi.

19. Similarly, during 2018-19, for Grants for creation of Capital Assets (incl. Kisan Channel), a provision of Rs. 141.50 crore was made at BE stage, which was reduced to Rs. 112.17 crore at RE, however, only Rs. 80.08 crore (71 percent) could be utilised. When asked about the reasons, Ministry/Prasar Bharati has stated as under :-

- i. For the project Single Channel Automation with Video Server Storage etc., it took some time in extensively re-visiting the technical specifications keeping in view the recent technological developments like change in hardware design architecture from an OEM specific to generic IT hardware for cost effective solution and simultaneously minimizing the maintenance cost. There was some administrative delay due to introduction of GeM etc. also.
- ii. The Earth Station projects given below got delayed on account of tender opening date's extension nine times, fourteen times and

fourteen times respectively due to non-receipt of sufficient bids/ bidders quarries/ clarification/ amendment etc.

(a) SITC of Upgradation of earth station at DDK Raipur & Ranchi.

(b) SITC of Upgradation of earth station at DDK Mumbai

(c) SITC of compression system, monitoring system for Earth station at Gorakhpur, Dehradun & Srinagar

iii. Firms delayed the supply of equipment for the projects given below. For DTH Receive Units, initially tender opening date was extended due to non-participation of bidders. Under the Earth Station projects equipment installed and testing could not be completed by 31st March, 2019. Penalty has been imposed on the Firms for delay.

(a) DTH Receive units- 30000 nos.

(b) SITC of replacement of compression, IF & RF system for C-Band Earth Station at DDK Delhi.

(c) SITC of replacement of compression, IF & RF system for C-band Earth station at CPC, Delhi.

iv. Miscellaneous Items & works :The provisioned amount could not be incurred on account of ordered cost less than estimated cost due to competitive bidding for some equipments and miscellaneous departmental works viz. strengthening of towers due to non-submission of tower analysis report by Structural Engineering Research Centre (SERC), CSIR and less expenditure on account of penalty imposed due to LD for item etc.

(iii) Doordarshan Arun Prabha Channel

20. The Committee have further observed that for Arun Prabha Channel content creation, BE. 2018-19 of Rs. 4 crore was increased substantially to Rs. 60 crore at RE, 2018-19, however, the actual expenditure remained Rs. 15.06 crore(25% funds utilization). In this regard, Prasar Bharati has informed that 111 Production Houses were selected for production of

programmes for Arun Prabha Channel on commissioned basis and provision of Rs.60 crore for payment of 50% advance to them was kept in RE 2018-19. As launch of DD-Arun Prabha Channel happened during the last quarter of 2018-19 and the commissioning process for creation of content started in the last month of FY 2018-19 i.e. March 2019 and also due to the heavy rush on PFMS portal only Rs. 15.06 crore could be utilized in FY 2018-19.

21. The Ministry has further added that a higher target of Rs. 97.28 core for Arun Prabha channel has been fixed during 2019-20 as there are 111 projects which are active for commissioning programme for DD-Arun Prabha during the current financial year. The total requirement of funds for this project is Rs.117.46 crore, out of which Rs. 97.28 crore has been allocated in BE, 2019-20.

22. In the context of Arun Prabha Channel, the CEO, Prasar Bharati during the course of evidence submitted as under:

“Sir, to add to what the Secretary has already shared, on Doordarshan, especially, on the North East side after the Arun Prabha channel was launched earlier this year, we have accelerated the process of commissioning content for Arun Prabha. There are about 111 active projects.....and we have changed the policy because earlier content policy was such that the payments would happen after the delivery of the content happened. Now, we are giving the producers in advance, so that they can invest and do a good job. This process is on. In the last few weeks, in fact, I have cleared quite a few of the sanction orders for these various 111 projects. So, we will be on track this year with Arun Prabha.

On Kisan channel as well there was a backlog, and we had to setup a committee to clear that backlog of about 50 odd proposals. So, that has also been done. Recently, the Board has also approved changes to the policy so that the contracts are much more producer-friendly, and there is an incentive and penalty for viewership performance of these serials that will be sourced for DD Kisan. So, both these will get on track this year.”

23. As regards the measures taken to ensure that allocations made are not reduced at RE stage and the funds are optimally utilized, it has been stated to be a constant endeavor of Doordarshan to complete the projects within the specified time frame. Monitoring mechanism has been strengthened considerably. Procurement procedures have been streamlined. Project review meetings are held regularly at Zonal level & HQ level and various activities involved in procurement of capital equipment and execution of works are critically assessed & targets are fixed. The frequency of monitoring meetings have been increased at all levels of Directorate & Prasar Bharati Secretariat.

24. It is further added that the action for procurement has been initiated in such a manner that the funds allocated in BE 2019-20 is expected to be utilized fully and enhanced requirement is proposed at RE 2019-20 stage. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has also been reviewing the expenditure of Prasar Bharati periodically and Prasar Bharati has been advised to regularly review the projects through an annual action plan to be undertaken and monitored also on a monthly basis both from physical and financial progress point of view. Further, Prasar Bharati was also advised to submit a monthly expenditure plan for the rest of the FY 2019-20 (from October 2019 onwards) with their physical and financial outcomes and outlays.

(iv) All India Radio(AIR)

25. It may be seen from the brief on Demands for Grants furnished to the Committee that during 2019-20, BE of 5 crore has been kept under the Budget Head 'Other Channels/Stations and Rs. 187.40 crore for creation of Capital Assets in AIR which is again much higher than RE of Rs. 119.98 crore allocated during 2018-19. The reason for the higher allocation for creation of AIR Capital Assets is stated to be that the extension of Schemes 'Broadcasting Infrastructure & Network Development' for 3 years (2017-20)

was approved in the middle of FY 2018-19 which resulted in utilization of Rs. 108.01 crore (90%) during 2018-19. However, enhanced funds to the tune of Rs 187.40 crore during the year 2019-20 includes provision for the projects not completed in FY 2018-19. The projects proposed to be executed during FY 2019-20 are as under:

- i. Mast strengthening works of high power MW Transmitters.
- ii. SITC of Servers and Radio Studio Automation.
- iii. Procurement of digital audio consoles.
- iv. Procurement of 05 nos. of TV Transmitters.
- v. Erection of 100 M Self Supporting Towers.
- vi. Construction of buildings for FM transmitter along Indo-Nepal Border (5 Nos.).
- vii. VPN Connectivity at 47 Stations.
- viii. Renovation of Auditorium at BH, Delhi.
- ix. Creation of Archival facility at Guwahati.

26. As regards the measures taken to ensure that allocations made are not reduced at RE stage and the funds are optimally utilized, it has been stated that for AIR, all measures were taken to utilize the entire funds allocated during the FY 2019-20 through periodical Project review meetings and Budget meetings so that funds allocation made are not reduced at RE stage and optimum funds are utilized proportionately.

27. During the course of evidence before the Committee, the Secretary, MIB submitted with regard to AIR and Doordarshan as under:

“ Sir, One of the thrust areas is the physical coverage in terms of FM Radio and TV. As on date, All India Radio has 495 FM transmitters. I am very glad to submit before the Committee that we have drawn all the locations on the maps, that is, which areas are covered and which areas are not covered. Our overall plan is, from Kutch to Arunachal Pradesh, all the land borders should be covered with appropriate FM stations, particularly in view of the fact that the neighbouring countries may be having FM stations which are much stronger and which may be indulging in activities which are not conducive to

us.....the other area is improving the medium waive and the transmitters of the All India Radio....”

B. FILM SECTOR

28. The details with regard to the allocation of funds vis-à-vis utilization during the last three years in respect of Film Sector is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure	%age of utilisation over RE
2016-17	141.48	134.39	118.80	88.39%
2017-18	207.00	111.13	73.78	66.39%
2018-19	165.84	111.96	93.52	83.52%
2019-20	165.00	--	16.79 (upto July) 2019	10.17% over BE

29. It may be seen from above that during the last three years there had been under-utilisation of funds in respect of the allocation of funds for the Film Wing under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The major areas of shortfalls are stated to be the schemes viz. National Film Heritage Mission(NFHM) and National Centre for Excellence for Animation, Visual effects, Gaming and Comics(NCOE) which could not be implemented during these years.

(i) National Film Heritage Mission(NFHM)

30. The aims and objectives of the scheme is given as under:

- (i)** Condition assessment of NFAIs film reel collection in order to ascertain their remaining life. Preventive Conservation of film reels.
- (ii)** 2K/4K picture and sound restoration of 1086 landmark feature films and 1152 short films pertaining to Indian Cinema and the recording of new picture and sound inter negative of each film.
- (iii)** Construction of state of the art archival and preservation facilities for resotred material.

- (iv)** Digitization of 1160 feature films and 1660 short films.
- (v)** Preparation and execution of training workshops and courses pertaining to film conservation, preservation and archiving in association with expert international agencies.
- (vi)** In house capacity building through web-based end to end IT solution.

31. The Committee have observed that during 2016-17, BE of Rs. 30 crore was kept for the scheme, which was reduced to Rs. 16 crore at RE, and Rs. 10.84 crore were actually spent. During 2017-18, BE of Rs. 50.00 crore was kept, however the same was reduced at RE to Rs. 6.02 crore, which was fully spent. During 2018-19, BE of Rs. 57.78 crore was kept for the scheme, which was reduced to 15.00 crore. The actual expenditure was Rs. 10.51 crore.

32. When asked about the reasons for downsizing the budget allocations at RE stage for the scheme and also underutilization of funds at RE during the year 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 under the scheme, it has been replied that the entire scheme was put under review in 2017 and all tender processes under NFHM were put on hold until the review. Post the review, the pending RFPs, viz. digitization and restoration of filmic material, creation of IT infrastructure at NFAI are being floated in time bound manner and the budget allocation has been proposed post tendering process.

33. The Committee desired to know that how would it be ensured that the funds of Rs. 22.48 crore allocated at BE for the scheme during 2019-20 would not reduced at RE and are fully spent. In response, the Ministry has stated that it is being ensured to speed up the various tender processes for appointment of executing agencies as per extant procedure for effective implementation of the NFHM Scheme and proper utilization of allotted funds.

34. It has later been informed that the Ministry has proposed to reduce allocation at RE to Rs. 5.00 crore for 2019-20.

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

35. It is learnt that the project for setting up a National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming & Comics was part of Budget Announcement made during the Budget Speech of 2014-15. NCoE is a 12th plan scheme for which in-principle approval of Planning Commission is available. The project is based on Public Private Partnership (PPP) model. The basic idea was to rope in private players to partner with Government to run the project. There were series of discussions with Ministry of Finance (Economic Affairs /Expenditure) and Planning Commission about the way forward and model to be adopted.

36. The Committee have been informed that the objective of the project NCoE is to be build a Centre for excellence at the national level to impart world class talent pool in India to cater to the requirements of the Indian industry and global players. The administrative approval for NCoE had been issued with a total outlay of Rs. 167.70 crore, to be implemented in a four year period from 2016-17 to 2019-20, as per the appraisal and recommendation of Standing Finance Committee. Consequent to discussions with stake holders and trade bodies like Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and other stake holders, Media & Entertainment Skills Council (MESCC) which is working towards addressing the skill gap requirement in entertainment and media industry and FICCI to assist the Government towards realizing the project.

37. As regards underutilization of funds for the scheme for NCOE, it has been stated that the activities of NCOE were placed on hold on account of review in the Ministry. After the review was complete, operating partner could not be finalized for the Institute. Bids were invited for academic partner for the institute, but no bids were received for the proposal. Accordingly, the physical and financial targets for the scheme were missed. Indian Institute of Mass Communication (Executing partner) released RFP on

03.02.2017 for selection of Operating Partner for NCoE but in response, only four bids were received. Issue is being taken up to select the operating partner. The selection of International Academic Partner has also not been finalized. RFP for selection of International Academic Partner was also released by IIMC. But no bids were received for selection of academic partner.

38. It has been observed that during 2017-18, Rs. 60 crore was allocated and there was NIL expenditure during the year. Again during 2018-19, only Rs. 1.63 was allocated and spent. During 2019-20, Rs. 20.50 crore has been allocated and the expenditure upto July, 2019 is NIL.

39. The Committee wanted to know the precautionary measures taken by the Ministry to optimally expend the allocation of Rs. 20.50 crore allocated during 2019-20. In reply, it has been stated that Ministry is in the process of identifying the operating and academic partner for the institute.

(iii) Upgradation, Modernisation and Expansion of CBFC

40. The main objectives of the scheme Upgradation, Modernisation and Expansion of CBFC are as follows:

- i. Upgradation of infrastructure of the offices of CBFC which includes civil and electrical works of office premises, provision of digital projection systems and digital theatre.
- ii. Computerization of functioning of CBFC including online certification, networking of various Regional Offices and creation of database.

41. It has been observed that during the year 2016-17, for the scheme under the capital section BE of Rs. 4.00 crore was reduced to Rs. 3.51 crore at RE, however, Rs. 3.09 crore was utilised. During 2017-18, BE of Rs. 3.50 crore was reduced to Rs. 2.50 crore at RE. The utilisation of funds was remained to the tune of Rs. 1.49 crore. Similarly, during the year 2018-19, BE Rs. 2.50 crore was reduced to Rs. 1.30 crore at RE was kept for the

scheme. The utilisation of funds remained to the tune of Rs. 0.94 crore. During 2019-20, BE of Rs. 2.50 crore has been kept.

42. The Committee asked about the reasons for the shortfall in financial targets for the scheme during the last three years. In reply, it has been stated that there was shortage of space in CBFC office due to which CBFC could not procure/ install Digital Projection System and Digital Theatres as planned. Therefore, the funds allocated for the said purposes could not be utilized which led to shortfall in financial targets.

43. The Committee further wanted to know that how the Ministry has planned to ensure that the allocation at BE, 2019-20 is not reduced like in previous years and is fully utilized. The Ministry has informed that keeping in view the likely expenditure the RE has been proposed at Rs. 1.30 crore. Continuous follow-up of the activities is being taken up with CBFC to complete the activities as per schedule. The necessary approvals are also being taken up on priority basis to ensure the optimal utilization of allocated funds.

44. The physical targets envisaged for the year 2019-20 under the scheme are as follows:

- i. Operation and maintenance of website cbfcindia.gov.in & www.e-Cinepramaan.com.
- ii. In-house projection of digital films to generate more revenue and save time of travelling.
- iii. Upgradation of IT infrastructure at Regional Offices of CBFC
- iv. Construction of Digital theatre at CBFC Mumbai
- v. 3rd Phase of computerization i.e. automation of administrative works at CBFC.

(iv) Production of films and documentaries in various Indian Languages

45. The scheme “Production of Films and Documentaries in various Indian Languages” is a sub-scheme of the main scheme “Development, Communication and Dissemination of Filmic Content”. The aim of the

scheme is to encourage production of good quality movies in various Indian languages which are socially relevant to the Indian Society. This mandate of the scheme includes production of documentaries, children's films, short films, animation films and news magazines. The scheme supports production of films with cinematic, thematic and aesthetic excellence. The intended outcome of this scheme is commissioning of good quality and socially relevant films in various Indian languages. This scheme also caters to cinema theatres all across the country for supplying public service awareness films for screening before main feature films.

46. It has been observed that during 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19, RE of Rs. 15.79 crore, Rs. 16.00 crore, Rs. 14.00 crore were allocated for the scheme, out of which Rs. 14.79 crore, 09.41 crore and Rs. 09.91 crore, respectively could be utilised. For NER, out of allocation of Rs. 1.00 crore each year, the expenditure was NIL.

47. As regards the reasons for shortfall in financial targets for the scheme during these years, it has been stated that during the 2016-17, a review of financial arrangement between NFDC & Ministry of I&B was under process & a MoU as per advice of Ministry of Finance for the implementation of the plan scheme was signed in the month of August, 2016 on 01.08.2016. So, there was a shortfall in achieving the financial targets. In the financial year 2017-18, no funds were released to NFDC as a clause was inserted in the guidelines of implementation of the scheme "Development, Communication and Dissemination of Filmic Content" which is the main scheme of the sub-scheme "Production of Films and Documentaries in various Indian Languages" that NFDC will not be considered as an implementing agency under the scheme. So, no funds could be released to NFDC at that stage which led to under-achievement of financial and physical targets. In the FY 2018-19, funds were earmarked for production of film 'Bangabandhu' in Audio-Visual Co-production agreement with Bangladesh. The film is at

research and scripting stage under the direction of eminent filmmaker Sh. Shyam Benegal.

48. In this context, to further queries, it has been informed that the clause has been inserted as at that time a Draft Cabinet note on closure/merger of media units which includes NFDC was under submission. Accordingly a small note was inserted in the guidelines dated 16.04.2018 to the effect that NFDC will not be considered as an eligible agency under the scheme. It has been added that the said clause has been removed from the guidelines & new guidelines in this regard have been issued vide note dated 19.12.2018.

49. The physical targets during 2019-20 under the sub-scheme are stated to be as under:-

- Production of 3 feature films, 2 short films, dubbing of 12 films, subtitling of 10 films, purchasing of 2 films and making of prints of 30 films
- Production of 30 films through outside film makers and production/ assignment of 10 films, committed liabilities of previous year and production of films through NGOs.
- Commissioning of 6 films in regional languages
- Production of 125 Documentary films.

50. When asked about the strategy of the Ministry to fully achieve the financial and physical targets during 2019-20, it has been stated that the proposal for allocation of funds as received from respective Media Units, for implementation of the Central Sector Schemes, at RE stage during 2019-20 have been examined and funds have been proposed with a view to ensure full utilisation of funds. All Media Units shall be monitored for optimal utilization of funds. In the F.Y. 2019-20, NFDC has submitted 5 films to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for its approval. These 5 films have been approved by the Board of Directors of NFDC. Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has already given Rs. 3 crore to NFDC for production of these films. Further funds will be released as per MoU signed between M/o I&B & NFDC for production of films. M/o Information & Broadcasting and NFDC

will put its best efforts to complete the films as per the proposed schedule submitted by the Director of the film

C. INFORMATION SECTOR:

(i) Up-gradation of IIMC to International Standards

51. There is stated to be a major short-fall both physical and financial in respect of 'Up-gradation of IIMC to International Standards (IIMC)' Scheme. Construction of Guest House, Hostel Building and Academic Block of IIMC 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.

52. It has been added that due to constant efforts at the highest level, positive developments have taken place during 2019-20. IIMC is already in possession of the Environment Clearance issued by the State Level Expert Appraisal Committee (SLEAC) and height clearance from the Airport Authority of India. The clearance from the Ridge Management Board has now been referred to the Supreme Court appointed Central Empowered Committee (CEC) headed by Shri P.V. Jayakrishnan. On 24.09.2019, IIMC made a detailed presentation before the Three Member CEC. On 15.10.2019, the CEC visited IIMC for site inspection. With these positive developments, IIMC is hopeful of getting required clearance and permission from the DDA to begin construction during 2019-20.

53. The Committee, however have observed that during 2016-17 BE of Rs.6 crore was kept for the scheme, which was reduced to Rs. 1.85 crore at RE stage and it was fully spent. During 2017-18, BE of Rs. 4 crore was allocated for the scheme, which was reduced to Rs. 2.00 crore at RE stage

and it was fully spent. During 2018-19, BE of Rs. 3 crore was allocated for the scheme, which was reduced to Rs. 0.20 crore at RE stage and the actual expenditure was NIL. During 2019-20 BE of Rs. 1.50 crore has been kept for the scheme however, nothing was spent upto July, 2019.

D. BROADCASTING SECTOR(OTHER THAN PRASAR BHARATI)

54. The details with regard to the allocation of funds vis-à-vis utilization during the last three years in respect of the Broadcasting sector is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure	%age of utilisation over RE
2016-17	25.50	19.23	13.35	69.42%
2017-18	23.00	13.00	7.20	55.38%
2018-19	25.00	23.61	22.81	96.61%

55. It may be seen from above that during the years 2017-18 and 2018-19, there was major under-utilisation of funds under the Broadcasting Sector(Other than Prasar Bharati). The utilisation of funds during these years remained at 69.42 % and 55.38 %, respectively of the budgetary allocations.

56. When asked the major areas of shortfall both physical and financial in respect of various projects/schemes/sub-schemes/programmes of the Broadcasting Sector (other than Prasar Bharati). In reply, it has been stated that there was major under-utilization of funds in respect of the scheme 'Supporting Community Radio Movement in India'.

(i) Supporting Community Radio Movement in India

57. The aim and objectives of the scheme is as follows:

- To strengthen new and existing CR Stations with resources, capacity and technology so that they could provide access and voice to marginalized communities.

- To promote growth of CRS, especially in remote and rural areas, so that people living in these areas could have access to a meaningful medium of broadcast.
- To promote socio-economic and cultural development of communities as CRS is a powerful medium for social mobilization.

58. The Committee have observed that during 2016-17, BE and RE of Rs. 4 crore and Rs. 3.63 crore, respectively for the scheme, however only Rs.1.36 crore was utilised. During 2017-18, BE of Rs. 4 crore was reduced to Rs. 1 crore at RE stage and out of the same only Rs. 0.34 crore was utilised. Further, during 2018-19, against BE of Rs. 4 crore and Rs. 2.60 crore, respectively, Rs. 1.26 crore has been utilised.

59. Asked about the reasons for under-utilisation of funds, it has been stated that during 2016-17, 8 workshops were held for capacity-building and raising awareness for Community Radio. During 2017-18, scheme was under appraisal stage for the Fourteenth Finance Commission cycle, and third party evaluation was going-on. The scheme was appraised in July 2018 and therefore, only two awareness workshops were conducted. During 2018-19, six awareness workshops were conducted. The other activities planned such as National and Regional Sammelans could not be held and the allocation remained unutilized. Now, BE, 2019-20 of Rs. 3.80 crore has been kept.

E. Implementation of Central Sector Schemes in North Eastern Region

60. It has been observed that during 2017-18, for CSS in NER, BE of Rs. 84.20 crore) was reduced to Rs. 60.63 crore at RE stage. However, there was NIL expenditure during the year. Also during 2018-19, though the allocation for schemes under NER at RE 2018-19 was enhanced to Rs.122.21 crore from Rs.74.34 crore at BE 2018-19, the actual expenditure was again NIL.

61. When asked about the reason for NIL expenditures on schemes in NER during 2017-18 and 2018-19, it has been clarified that during 2017-18, against RE of Rs. 60.63 crore, the Ministry has spent Rs. 52.02 crore. Similarly, against RE of Rs. 122.21 crore in 2018-19, the Ministry could utilise Rs. 52.02 crore only. It has simultaneously been stated that expenditure on account NER is not reflected directly as accounting heads of NER are non-functional in nature. Therefore, re-appropriation of funds from non-functional heads to their respective functional heads is done leading to clubbing of expenditure incurred under Normal and NER component. Matter is under active consideration of DONER for an appropriate mechanism.

PART-II
OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Budget Proposals and Thrust Areas

The Committee note that the thrust areas of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for the current fiscal year 2019-20 are Digitalization of Prasar Bharati (AIR &Doordarshan), Accelerated investment on Content Development of Prasar Bharati, Expanding Community Radio Stations in the country, Integrated approach to media campaign for better impact of Government messaging and its visibility on the field, Implementation of National Film Heritage Mission and Organization of National / International Film Festivals, Setting up of Film and Television Institute, Arunachal Pradesh, Golden Jubilee Edition of the International Film Festival of India, Production of feature film “Bangabandhu” on the life of Sheikh Mujibur Rehman, Promotion of Film Sector in India and making India a preferred shooting destination for Film and Television producers around the world under the umbrella of Champion Sector Scheme. To achieve these objectives, the Ministry had proposed an outlay of Rs. 1068.05 crore for their Central Sector Schemes for the year 2019-20, however, it was downsized by the Ministry of Finance to Rs. 900.00 crore. Further, out of the same, a major chunk of Rs. 473 crore has been allocated to Prasar Bharati, Rs. 238 crore to Film Sector and Rs.

165 crore to Information Sector and Rs. 24 crore to Broadcasting Sector(Other than Prasar Bharati).

The Committee find that the financial performance of the Ministry during the current fiscal year so far does not augur well. The utilisation of funds in respect of the schemes under Prasar Bharati and Film Sector is far below the targets. In case of Prasar Bharti, out of an allocation of Rs. 473.00 crore, Rs. 26.83 crore(5.6 percent) could be spent up to July, 2019. Same is the case with Film Sector, where out of an allocation of Rs. 156 crore, only Rs. 16.79 crore (10.17 percent) have been spent.

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

Review of the Past Performance

2. The Committee note with concern that during 2017-18 and 2018-19, BE of Rs. 840 crore and Rs. 735.05 crore, respectively kept for the Central Sector Schemes of the Ministry of I & B, was reduced to Rs. 597.77 crore and Rs. 712.66 crore, respectively, at RE stage. Obviously, the reduced allocations would have resulted in downsizing of all the major schemes undertaken during these years. The Ministry of I & B

has submitted that the Ministry of Finance do not elaborate the reasons for reduction of funds, though generally it is related to pace of expenditure. Hence, reduction of allocations at RE stage certainly reflects the inability of the Ministry to implement their schemes in a timely manner. The Committee, therefore strongly feel that reduction in the allocations puts the priorities of the Ministry out of gear and results in under-achievement of targets. Hence, this must be avoided.

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

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

PRASAR BHARATI/ DD KISAN CHANNEL

4. The Committee are displeased to note the lagging performance of Prasar Bharati during the last two years. Prasar Bharati was allocated Budget outlay of Rs. 430 crore during 2017-18 for All India Radio and Doordarshan. However, the allocation was drastically reduced at RE stage to Rs. 282 crore. Even the reduced allocation was not optimally utilised and the actual expenditure was Rs. 201.57 crore (71.47%). Similarly, during 2018-19, out of an allocation of Rs. 326.74 crore which was on a even less as compared to the previous year, only Rs. 280.70 crore (85.90 percent) could be utilised.

The shortfall was attributed to less expenditure during the years in respect of DD Kisan channel, where during 2017-18 and 2018-19, BE of Rs. 63 crore and 45.16 crore, respectively allocated as Grants-in-aid to DD Kisan channel contents, was reduced at RE stage to Rs.46.58 crore and Rs. 34.51 crore, respectively. These substantial reductions in the allocations, which was assessed as necessary by the Prasar Bharati for DD Kisan Channel content development, have resulted in delays in execution of the schemes proposed during these years. The Committee find it unfortunate that even the reduced allocations were not utilized and the actual expenditure was far below the targets and was Rs. 34.47 crore only (74 percent) and Rs. 19.35 crore only (56 percent), respectively. The funds remained under-utilized as a decision was taken

that DD Kisan would make the programmes through in-house production, thus putting on hold the commissioning of programmes through Self Financing Commissioning (SFC) mode. As DD Kisan does not have adequate manpower resources to make in-house programmes, many of the travelogue based programs could not be produced and the reality show was deferred for the next financial year.

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

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

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

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

Capital Assets (incl. Kisan Channel)

6. The Committee further observe that during the financial year 2017-18 and 2018-19, a provision of Rs. 213 crore and Rs. 141.50 crore, respectively was made at BE stage in respect of Grants for creation of Capital Assets (incl. Kissan channel), which was, however reduced to Rs.118.34 crore and Rs. 112.17 crore, respectively at RE stage and out of the same, only Rs.52.02 crore (44 percent) and Rs.

80.08 crore (71 percent), respectively could be utilized. The Committee take a serious note of the manner in which the budgetary allocations each year are being reduced at RE stage and the actual expenditure is even lesser.

The Committee are not convinced by the oft repeated excuses given by the Ministry/Prasar Bharati for non-execution of their projects like GST related issues while processing of sanctions, delays in obtaining WPC clearance in some projects, delays in some Earth station projects on account of tender opening date's extension due to non-receipt of sufficient bids/bidders queries, and delays in supply of equipment by firms for certain projects, etc. The Committee view that these infrastructural projects are instrumental in ensuring the performance of the public electronic media and fulfilling its obligation to the nation. They therefore desire that the Ministry should give serious consideration to their implementation by taking timely corrective measures for anticipated delays.

7. A budgetary provision of Rs. 97.28 crore has been made during 2019-20 for Arun Prabha Channel as there are 111 projects which are for commissioning programme for DD Arun Prabha during the year. CEO, Prasar Bharati have submitted that with the Prasar Bharati recently changed content policy, payment to the producers would be made in advance enabling them to invest and do a good job. The

Committee are hopeful that all the projects in respect of Arun Prabha Channel, proposed during the current year would be executed well within the timelines and the allocations thus made would be optimally utilized.

ALL INDIA RADIO(AIR)

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

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

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

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

FILM SECTOR:

National Film Heritage Mission(NFHM)

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

12. Further, a budgetary provision of Rs. 22.48 crore has been made under NFHM scheme during 2019-20. As earlier informed, it was being ensured by the Ministry of I & B to speed up various tender processes for appointment of executing agencies as per extant procedure for effective implementation of the NFHM scheme. However, the Committee note to their dismay that the Ministry of I & B has failed in

their efforts to utilize allocated funds for NFHM scheme during 2019-20 and has proposed to the Ministry of Finance to reduce allocation to Rs. 5 crore, at RE stage. This is a poor commentary on the functioning of the Ministry of I & B. The Committee, however, feel that adequate attention has not been given to the scheme and the Ministry have either not acted timely or prudently.

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

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

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

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

The Committee express their concern over the delays in implementation of NCoE project during all these years. It is a matter of serious concern that no dedicated officer has been appointed by the Ministry of I & B to oversee this project. The Committee, therefore, recommend to the Ministry to take immediate corrective action in this regard. The Committee are of the considered opinion that when the animation sector is growing fast in the country and in the changing scenario, Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comic are the new emerging technologies in media, the Ministry should make concerted efforts to find and finalise the operating and academic partner for the NCoE project to fulfil its objective to be a Centre for excellence at the national level to impart world class talent pool in India to cater to the needs of the Indian industry and global players. The Committee expect that the Ministry would soon make sincere efforts to find the operating

and academic partners for the project and the funds of Rs. 20.50 crore earmarked for the NCoE project are not left unutilized.

Upgradation, Modernisation and Expansion of CBFC

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

The Committee regret to further note that keeping in view the likely expenditure, Ministry has now proposed to reduce BE, 2019-20 of Rs. 2.50 crore kept for the activity to Rs. 1.30 crore at RE stage. Obviously, the Ministry is not able to find an amicable solution to such a trivial issue of shortage of space in CBFC office in the fourth consecutive year so that CBFC could procure and install Digital Projection System and Digital Theatres as planned. The Committee deprecate such a casual approach of the Ministry in implementation of their scheme and call upon the Ministry of I & B to take necessary steps in this regard urgently. The Committee also desire that the

recommendations of the Benegal Committee on the broader issue of film certification be reviewed and acted upon without further delay.

Production of films and documentaries in various Indian Languages

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

Committee would like the Ministry to ascertain the factual position and inform them accordingly.

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

INFORMATION SECTOR:

Up-gradation of IIMC to International Standards

17. The Committee are informed that there had been major short-fall in respect of 'Up-gradation of IIMC to International Standards' scheme. However, the Committee are distressed to note that a provision of Rs. 3 crore was made at BE, 2018-19 merely on the presumption that approval from Ridge Management Board and other Civic authorities of Delhi Government would be obtained for construction of guest house, hostel building and academic block of IIMC at New Delhi. The Committee note that till date IIMC is not in a position to start construction activities. Though, IIMC is now in possession of the Environment Clearance issued by the State Level Expert Appraisal

Committee (SLEAC) and height clearance from the Airport Authority of India, the clearance from the Ridge Management Board has been referred to the Supreme Court appointed Central Empowered Committee (CEC). On 24.09.2019, IIMC made a detailed presentation before the Three Member CEC. On 15.10.2019, the CEC visited IIMC for site inspection and with these developments, IIMC is hopeful of getting required clearance and permission from the DDA to begin construction during 2019-20.

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

Supporting Community Radio Movement in India

18. The Committee regret to note the underutilization of funds for the scheme “Supporting Community Radio Movement in India” during the last three years. During 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19, against reduced allocation at RE stage of Rs. 3.63 crore, Rs. 1 crore and Rs. 2.60 crore, respectively, only Rs.1.36 crore, Rs. 0.34 crore and Rs. 1.26 crore had been utilised.

The Committee are not happy with the casual reply of the Ministry for under-utilisation of funds under the scheme like only 8 workshops were held for capacity-building and raising awareness for

Community Radio in 2016-17, and during 2018-19, six awareness workshops were conducted, the other activities planned such as National and Regional Sammelans could not be held and the allocation remained unutilized. The Committee are inclined to believe that the physical and financial targets under the scheme are not taken seriously by the Ministry.

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

Implementation of Central Sector Schemes in North Eastern Region

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

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

Performance of National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)

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

**New Delhi;
06 December, 2019
15 Agrahayana, 1941 (Saka)**

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

**MINUTES OF THE SIXTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (2019-20)**

The Committee sat on Friday, the 25 October, 2019 from 1430 hours to 1545 hours in Committee Room No. 2, First Floor, Extension to Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Dr. Shashi Tharoor - Chairperson

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Smt. Locket Chatterjee
3. Shri Karti P. Chidambaram
4. Dr. Nishikant Dubey
5. Ms. Mahua Moitra
6. Shri P. R. Natarajan
7. Shri Santosh Pandey
8. Shri Nisith Pramanik
9. Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore
10. Shri M V V Satyanarayana
11. Shri L.S. Tejasvi Surya

Rajya Sabha

12. Dr. Anil Agrawal
13. Shri Md. Nadimul Haque
14. Shri Syed Nasir Hussain
15. Dr. Narendra Jadhav
16. Shri D. Kupendra Reddy
17. Shri Ronald Sapa Tlau

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. | Shri Ganapati Bhat | - | Additional Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Y.M. Kandpal | - | Director |
| 3. | Dr. Sagarika Dash | - | Additional Director |
| 4. | Smt. Geeta Parmar | - | Additional Director |
| 5. | Shri Shangreiso Zimik | - | Deputy Secretary |

LIST OF WITNESSES

Sl. No.	Names (Mr./Ms.)	Designation
<u>MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING</u>		
1.	Amit Khare	Secretary
2.	Atul Kumar Tiwari	Additional Secretary
3.	Ali R. Rizvi	AS&FA
4.	Anju Nigam	JS(B-II)
5.	T.C.A. Kalyani	JS(EW&B-I) & MD:NFDC
6.	Ashok Kumar R Parmar	JS(Films)
7.	Vikram Sahay	JS(P&A)
<u>PRASAR BHARATI</u>		
8.	Shashi Shekhar Vempati	CEO:Prasar Bharti

MEDIA UNITS

9.	K.S. Dhatwalia	Pr. DG:PIB & IIMC
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2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) to the sitting of the Committee convened to examine Demands for Grants (2019-20). In his address, the Chairperson raised concern over the under-utilisation of funds allocated to the Ministry during the last two years and also non-utilisation of funds allocated for execution of Ministry's schemes in the North-Eastern Region. Then, the Secretary, MIB made a Power Point presentation inter-alia highlighting the financial performance of the Ministry during the previous years in respects of its three Sectors viz. Film Sector, Information Sector and Broadcasting Sector (including Prasar Bharati), their thrust areas and allocation of funds during 2019-20. He also mentioned about the hurdles in respect of their FTII campus project in Arunachal Pradesh, their plans to increase the physical coverage in terms of FM radio and TV from Kutch to Arunachal Pradesh, provision for content funding of Doordarshan for good quality programmes to attract the viewers, issues in setting up of centre for animation in Mumbai, etc.

3. Thereafter, the Committee sought clarifications from the representatives of the Ministry on various issues like under-utilisation of funds earmarked for Arun Prabha Channel, Kisan channel, anomalies with regard to Satyajit Ray Film Institute, need to use local languages for display advertisements in non-Hindi States and non-implementation of the recommendations of Shyam Benegal committee related to film certification, challenges before

Film Industry, Over-the-top(OTT) media service and monetisation of radio, television and film division archival materials, need to synergise the organisations like the Film Division, National Film Development Corporation, the Children's Film Society and the Directorate of Films Festivals for their better coordination and functioning, etc.

4. The representatives of the Ministry replied to the queries of the Members and assured the Committee to send the written replies to the queries which remained unanswered.

5. A verbatim record of the sitting has been kept.

The witnesses, then, withdrew.

The Committee, then, adjourned.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(2019-20)**

MINUTES OF THE NINTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee sat on Wednesday, the 27 November, 2019 from 1500 hours to 1620 hours in Committee Room '62', First Floor, Parliament House, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Dr. Shashi Tharoor -Chairperson

MEMBERS

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. Ms. Mahua Moitra
8. Shri P. R. Natarajan
9. Shri Nisith Pramanik
10. Col . Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore
11. Dr. Gaddam Ranjith Reddy
12. Shri L.S. Tejasvi Surya
13. Dr. T. Sumathy (A) Thamizhachi Thangapandian
14. Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma

Rajya Sabha

15. Shri Y. S. Chowdary
16. Shri Suresh Gopi
17. Shri Md. Nadimul Haque
18. Shri Syed Nasir Hussain
19. Shri Ronald Sapa Tlau

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. | Shri Ganapati Bhat | - | Additional Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Y.M. Kandpal | - | Director |
| 3. | Dr. Sagarika Dash | - | Additional Director |
| 4. | Smt. Geeta Parmar | - | Additional Director |
| 5. | 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 (2019-20) relating to the Ministries/Departments under their jurisdiction.

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

(i)XXXX....XXXX...XXXX...XXXX.....XXXX....XXXX...XXXX...XXXX.....

(ii) Draft Report on Demands for Grants (2019-20) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

(iii)XXXX....XXXX...XXXX...XXXX.....XXXX....XXXX...XXXX...XXXX.....

4. The Committee, thereafter, adopted the above Report with some 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.