

Association of Radio & Television Engineering Employees



Post Box no. 422, New Delhi-110001

Recognized by Govt. Of India and Prasar Bharati as per CCS(RSA) Rules 1993

Affiliated to Union Network International, Geneva

Affiliated to Confederation of Central Govt. Employees and Workers (CCGEW)

www.arteeindia.org

Ref :ARTEE/P/215/03/2014

Date 31.03.2014.....

Zonal
Offices

Hon'ble Sh. Sam Pitroda,
Chairman, Expert Committee on Prasar Bharati,
New Delhi

*Ashwin
Charya
11/04/2014*

Subject : Submission of view points of this Association on Report of Expert Committee.

East Zone
PO Box-2713
Kolkata
(W.B.)
700001

Respected Sir,

With warm regards, we introduce ourselves as largest employee welfare under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. As a responsible employee organization we are concerned about the Report of Expert committee on Prasar Bharati.

N.E.Zone
PO Box-83
Guwahati
(Assam)
781001

Our Members who are working in AIR and DD establishments since last 30 yrs. are accustomed with day to day functioning and problems of the organization. We have studied the report of expert committee and made some suggestions. We request your high office to consider these inputs which will contribute towards betterment of the organization and its employees.

We will also welcome any discussion at any appropriate forum with the expert committee.

North Zone
P.O.Box-331
New Delhi
110001

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully,

Umesh Chandra

Umesh Chandra, 31/3/14

President, ARTEE

umsharma01@yahoo.com

0-9871765714

South Zone
P.O.Box-176
Triplicane
Chennai
(TN)
600005

CC for information to :

- [1]. Hon'ble Secretary, I & B, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001
- [2]. Chief Executive Officer, Prasar Bharati, PTI Building, New Delhi-110001
- [3]. Director General, All India Radio, Sansad Marg, New Delhi-110001
- [4]. Director General, Doordarshan, Copernicus Marg, New Delhi-110001
- [5]. Engineer in Chief, All India Radio, Sansad Marg, New Delhi-110001
- [6]. Engineer in Chief, Doordarshan, Copernicus Marg, New Delhi-110001
- [7]. Office copy

प्राप्ति एवं निर्गम अनुभा
डाक प्राप्ति
31/3/14
7 APR 2014
प्रसार भारती सचिवालय

West Zone
PO Box
-11228
Mumbai
(Maharashtra)
400020

*Umesh
11/4/14*

O/C

**This Association's
submission on
Report of Expert
Committee on Prasar
Bharati**

Members of Committee

**Sh. Anil Kr. Singhal, Secy. (AE) & AE, DDK Delhi
Sh. R.K.Dwivedi, Editor (Filament), AE, DDK Lucknow
Sh. Joseph Martin CJ, Web Administrator & EA, AIR Ooty.**

**Umesh Chandra,
President,
Phone : 9871765714,
umsharma01@yahoo.com
Association of Radio and TV Engg. Employees,
P.O.Box - 422, New Delhi – 110001**

COMMENTS ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXPERT COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY

DOORDARSHAN

The recommendation of the Group on Technology to switch off analogue terrestrial transmission of DD, And to adopt DD Direct as primary mode of transmission is without considering the basic facts. And more over the Group on Technology completely missed the role of Doordarshan as the National Broadcaster of this democratic nation, and its strategic importance, while recommending switching off analogue terrestrial transmission of DD.

We are of the opinion that DD should continue with terrestrial transmission with latest technology, we suggest that DD should replace existing analog HPTs with DVB-T2 transmitters. the DTT has following advantages over DTH :

- i. Doordarshan being India's public service broadcaster, must have a reliable standby mode of broadcasting to maintain continuity in transmission for public. Necessity of terrestrial broadcasting has been debated at several national and international forums and it has been concluded that the terrestrial transmission is relevant. Satellites broadcasting may face **catastrophic failure or frequency jamming**, which may cause complete breakdown. This fact is of paramount importance during wartime or other disasters. The terrestrial Transmitter can continue uninterrupted transmission and as such **No country in the world has disbanded terrestrial broadcasting**. DVB-T/T2 has been adopted/deployed in 140 countries. It has highest data capacity and signal robustness. It is most suitable and **viable mode for narrowcasting and regional / local coverage**.
- ii. **DTT is highly efficient** in terms of spectrum utilisation, manpower and other resources as single DTT carries 10-12 SDTV or 4 HDTV or more than 50 Mobile TV or Radio Channels or mix of SDTV, HDTV, Mobile and Radio/billboard etc., in addition to Emergency services/messages. **Need of the hour is to muster DTTs capacity to full extent with proper planning of contents and commercial exploitation of spare capacity**.
- iii. Digital terrestrial transmission is all weather platform and does not suffer from rain attenuation like DTH.
- iv. The shortage of transponders on INSAT satellites of ISRO is another hurdle for satellite transmission.
- v. Installation of receiving antenna is far easier than PDA.
- vi. Mobile reception is possible only with DTT, besides facility of transmission for SDTV, HDTV and Radio Channels from same Transmitter.

ANNEXURE 1

Digitalization plan of DD , already proposed.

Doordarshan, enriched with the experience of operating DVB-T transmitter as pilot project, decided to adopt DVB-T2 for the complete digitalization of terrestrial network. DVB-T2 is the world's most advanced D.T.T. system offering higher efficiency, robustness and flexibility. DVB-T2 can offer a much higher data rate than DVB-T or a much more robust signal and hence most of the countries having DVB-T transmission have decided to migrate straightway from analog to DVB T2 mode as DVB-T2 alongwith MPEG-4 is decided to migrate to DVB-T2.

As migration from DVB-T to DVB-T2 was found difficult by most of the countries, Doordarshan expected to serve the broadcasters for a long time. 40 nos. of DVB-T2 Transmitters approved by Government are under the process of implementation which are to be installed at existing 40 Analog High Power Transmitter (HPT) locations. Till the Analog Switch Off (ASO) both Analog and Digital Services shall be available for the viewers so that viewers also get enough time to migrate from analog receivers to digital receivers or buy Set-top-Box (STB) for their existing TV sets like LCDs.

For proper reception of D.T.T. signal, viewers shall need Yagi Antenna and STB or TV set with DVB-T2 Tuner.

Doordarshan has proposed to install total 230 nos. of DVB-T2 HPTs and 400 LPTs Doordarshan, enriched with the experience of operating DVB-T transmitter as pilot project, decided to adopt DVB-T2 for the complete digitalization of terrestrial network. DVB-T2 is the world's most advanced D.T.T. system offering higher efficiency, robustness and flexibility. DVB-T2 can offer a much higher data rate than DVB-T or a much more robust signal and hence most of the countries having DVB-T transmission have decided to migrate straightway from analog to DVB T2 mode as DVB-T2 alongwith MPEG-4 is decided to migrate to DVB-T2 across the country. As per the results of planning tool, these transmitters shall cover the area of the country which is at present being covered with 1415 Analog Transmitters. 130 HPTs shall be installed at the existing Analog HPT locations where the existing infrastructure can be used. Transmitters shall be installed in the existing buildings with some minor modifications and the towers shall be strengthened to cater to the additional load of D.T.T. Antenna System and RF feeder Cable System.

ANNEXURE 2

- DD is national public service broadcaster and has to keep in pace with global trends, technologies and modes of broadcasting. About 140 countries have adopted/deployed DVB-T/T2 standard.
- The Terrestrial Transmission provides all-weather near-universal coverage for HDTV, SDTV, Mobile TV, EWS, Radio, Bill Boards from a single Terrestrial Transmitter. So it is of strategic importance to retain terrestrial mode of transmission.
- The narrowcasting can be effectively catered by terrestrial transmitters which is not economic with DTH.
- The terrestrial transmitters have been used as these are offering multiple choice of channels without any dependence on satellite transponders, which are expensive and scarce.
- Terrestrial signals are not affected by rains. DTH signals (Ku band signal) get attenuated due to rains. Round the clock TV coverage can't be ensured in all areas of the country through DTH.
- Dependability on Satellite/transponder availability has increased due to increase in the number of DTH operators.
- In case of war, natural calamity or catastrophic failure of satellite, the entire transmission can go off the air and whole country would go blank. In terrestrial failure, only a limited area is affected.
- ***No country in the World including all developed and developing countries from United States of America to Bangladesh has disbanded terrestrial broadcasting. Even in developed countries terrestrial transmitters are still in operation though other platforms like DTH, cable etc. are also available.***
- Direct access to audiences – no gate keeping as the transmission would be FTA and no middleware is involved. In addition, Reception method of terrestrial coverage with yagi antenna or indoor antenna is much simpler as compared with Ku Band Dish Antenna.

Advantage of Digital Terrestrial Transmission :

Digital systems provide numerous advantages such as :

- (i) Superior quality: Noise once introduced in Analog signal either in the transmitter or channel cannot be removed. However, it is possible to completely remove noise in digital format. So the picture quality at the TV receiver is far superior in digital mode than Analog signal. Digital transmission is immune to multipath propagation and hence Ghost and distortions are eliminated in reflective environment.

- (ii) **Spectrum Efficient:** A single digital transmitter can be used for transmission of 8-10 SD programmes in bandwidth of 8 MHz which is currently being used for telecasting single channel in Analog mode. Thus with digital terrestrial transmission, spectrum, which is scarce resource, will become free for new Broadcasting and telecommunication services.
- (iii) **Power efficiency:** **Carrier to Noise ratio of 32 dB is required in digital mode of transmission against 45 dB** required in Analog mode. Therefore, a digital transmitter with much lesser power can provide the same coverage. For example, 6kW digital transmitters are planned in Doordarshan network to achieve the same coverage as currently being provided by Analog transmitter.
- (iv) **Reception in Mobile environment:** This is USP of digital transmission. Analog transmission suffers from fading as a result of multipath propagation which renders its unsuitable for mobile reception. However, digital transmission is immune to frequency and location selective fading caused by multipath propagation and hence delivers good reception when viewer is on move.
- (v) **Flexibility:** With DVB T-2 transmitter, it is possible to give 255 digital data streams of different formats. Hence same transmitter can be used for providing reception to TV sets and also handheld devices like mobile phone. It also offers enhanced features such as closed captions, electronic program guides, and data services and even selected radio services.

Because of the inherent advantages offered by the digital terrestrial transmission, World-over broadcasters have gone digital / or are in the process of going digital.

ANNEXURE 3 : POINTS TO PONDER OVER DVB T-2

1. Doordarshan has adopted DVB T-2 standard for digital terrestrial transmission technology. DVB T-2 Standard is the most optimum standard today for terrestrial delivery of content to fixed and mobile receivers. DVBT-2 achieves bit rate in given bandwidth close to the theoretical limit (Shannon limit). Therefore, world may not see better standard i.e. DVB T-3 or so in foreseeable future. This means investment in DVB T-2 technology is a long term investment.
2. Now a days, viewers want the content “Any time anywhere basis”. Mobile telephones are serving as multimedia terminals. A single DVB T-2 Transmitters can cater to different platform like fixed TV, TV in mobile environment, laptop and mobile at the same time. Content through DTH platform cannot be delivered in mobile environment or to mobile, laptop etc.
3. 8-10 Standard definition television channels can be transmitted through single DVB T-2 transmitters. It thus offers the flexibility of providing education, entertainment, healthcare etc. simultaneously.
4. ***Doordarshan has proposed 630 transmitters for existing 1411 analog Transmitters to achieve current level of coverage. Number of Low Power TV Transmitters will be reduced from about 800 to 400. Total number of DMCs is expected to be reduced from 129 to about 50. Thus, this will reduce staff requirement and non-plan expenditure. But in any case we will oppose any retrenchment and downsizing.***
5. Terrestrial digital transmission does not suffer from weather condition like rains as is the case with DTH.
6. Some of the functions/objectives of Prasar Bharati as defined in clause 12 in Prasar Bharati Act are
 - I. Paying special attention to the fields of education and spread of literacy, agriculture, rural development, environment, health and family welfare and science and technology;

- II. Providing adequate coverage to the diverse cultures and languages of the various regions of the country by broadcasting appropriate programme.
- III. Providing appropriate programmes keeping in view the special needs of the youth;
- IV. Serving the rural and weaker sections of the people and those residing in border regions, backward or remote areas;

All the above objectives can be achieved by telecasting local programmes of a particular region in that region and this can be achieved only through terrestrial transmission and not through DTH. **It is pertinent to mention that all the above functions and objectives of Prasar Bharati are not subject to any revenue earning or commercial viability.**

7. All the digital transmitters are planned in UHF band. This will spare very valuable spectrum in Band I and Band III. Single frequency network can also be implemented in specific regions which will further limit spectrum usage.
8. Disaster Warning Management system can be more effectively implemented with digital terrestrial TV transmission. People in mobile environment (a fisherman in sea) can be delivered warnings through DTT. This is not feasible through DTH. This will help in saving lives and huge government expenditure.

2. FOR FM Expansion All India Radio :

While welcoming the suggestion as per para 5.2 “digitalise the present AM Radio system to a new digital radio transmission after due evaluation subject to cost and availability of DRM receivers. In the transition period, FM may be expanded as per demand; we want to point out that the demand for FM services exists from all parts of the country especially due to the availability of FM receivers in mobile phones. At present FM reaches to only to the 43% of the population. So we strongly demand that FM services of Prasar Bharati should be expanded to cover 100 percent of our Population and we further demand that that existing infrastructure of Doordarshan Transmitter towers all over the country should be utilized for FM expansion and the Government should declare 100 % FM COVERAGE AS A TARGET TO be achieved within a short time frame.

COMMENTS ON REPORT OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON FINANCE

Prasar Bharati was set up in 1997 by an Act of Parliament with a mandate to Organize and conduct Public Broadcasting Services to inform, educate and entertain the public. The intention was, that the proposed corporation should function as a genuinely autonomous body innovative, dynamic and flexible- with a high degree of credibility. But the fact is that, neither working of PB is autonomous, nor it is fulfilling its objective to “inform, educate and entertain the public. As a result number of private T.V. channels has emerged to fill the gap.

Formation of PB has made the procedures of taking decisions lengthy and time consuming due to following reasons.

1. No new DD entertainment channel has been launched; the erstwhile DD metro which was running successfully on TRP scale was also closed.
2. No financial independence, as PB is fully dependent on annual allocation of funds by the government.
3. Piling up of court cases related to anomalies in service matters , pending in different courts [CAT, HC ,SC, etc.] resulting in demoralized and unsatisfied employees.

4. A very few recruitment has been made [nearly 2000 , in place of 8000 + existing vacancies in different cadres], as a result the average age of employees is nearly 50 years , there is an urgent need to infuse new blood in the workforce.

Real autonomy is supported by financial independence, hence arrangements should be made for funding of Prasar Bharti , through funds or fees of regular nature rather than through annual allocation of funds . Following methods may be the viable options;

1. The money for fund/ corpus should be raised through cess or sale of TVs and media related equipments etc.

2. Proceeds of broadcaster license fees.

3. Share of funds from the sale of spectrum in the 700MHz band to be vacated by digitalizing DD terrestrial transmission network in a time bound manner.

4. Private Cable/ DTH operators can be asked to pay a fee of Rs. 10 only/ per consumer/per month to finance the national broadcaster.

Real autonomy is supported by financial independence, hence arrangements should be made for funding of Prasar Bharti , through funds or fees of regular nature rather than through annual allocation of funds . Following methods may be the viable options;

COMMENTS ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXPERT COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE

Present state of H.R.D. Matters

1. The formation of PB has adversely affected the employees of Akashvani and DD. Instead of getting deputation allowance, or incentives they are deprived of their regular and justified benefits such as central pay commission recommended ACP.
2. There is over all stagnation with either zero or a very few promotions after a very long waiting period of 15-20 years. Particularly in Sub Ordinate Engg. Cadres people in many cadres are retiring in the cadre they joined. For Example A Helper after 35 or more years of service is retiring as Helper. Even the ACP benefit is not being granted.
3. **No solution to employees grievances, this can be seen that around 956 court cases related to service matters are pending different courts.**
4. **Not implementation of court verdicts in favor of employees even after exhausting all legal channels up to the Supreme Court of India.**
5. No recruitments in many cadres and a very few recruitment in other cadres, resulting the over burdened staff.
6. The average age of present employees is nearly 50 years, most of them will retire in next 5-10 years, without the benefit of ACP, making them feel betrayed.
7. The lack of young and new talent in the organization is resulting in lack of imagination, creative ideas, risk taking capacity and adoption of latest technology.

Our View Point :

1. Immediate solutions of Cadre based anomalies of present central government employees' [appointed on or before 5th October 2007], problems related to ACP.
2. Fast promotion to existing employees, in a time bound manner and opening promotional channels where is in not through.
3. Efforts to resolve employees' problems, administratively and resolve the court cases through mutual understanding and out of court settlement as expressed by our Respected CEO.
4. Immediate and honest implementation of court verdicts, in favour of employees, like technicians v/s LA pay parity and one cadre one pay parity for EA and ACP benefit as per Patna CAT order.

5. New recruitments in all cadres.
6. Effective use of existing senior government employees to the benefit of the organization and for moulding and training fresh talent/employees in PB.
7. Reward/ incentives for creativity and outstanding performance.
8. Cadre Restructuring of sub Ordinate Engg. Cadres should be done keeping in view of the verdicts of Hon'ble Supreme Court about Tech vs LA, One Cadre One Pay and ACP Patna.
9. Efforts to make sure the inclusion in 7th Central Pay Commission.
10. Removal of anomalies before 7th Pay Commission as some of the anomalies like Pay Parity of Tech with Lighting Assistants are continuing since 3rd Pay Commission .

We understand that the issue of present central government employees, appointed on or before 5th October , has already been settled amicably by the honorable GOM and has already included in the PB amendment bill 2011. And will continue to receive pay allowances and benefits in accordance with the recommendations of central pay commissions. The status of these employees should be maintained and there should not be any effort of disturbing this.

At last we want to convey that in any bid of Management for the betterment of organization and its employees, we convey the support of this Association. We also convey that since we are staff welfare organization and protection of the interests of our Members is our prime responsibility.

--- | ---

**Association of Radio and TV Engg. Employees
(A.R.T.E.E.)**