


No. 1/7/1-2014-PMU (DAS)(Part) (I)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting  
A-Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi  
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Dated the 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2016

**Subject: Minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Task Force held on 16.02.2016-reg.**

Please find enclosed a copy of the Minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Task Force held on 16.02.2016 under the Chairmanship of Special Secretary, Ministry of Information Broadcasting on the implementation of Phase – III & IV of Cable TV Digitization for information and necessary action.

Encl: As above.

  
(Surender Kumar)  
Section Officer (DAS)  
☎ 2338 7774

To,

All Members of the Task Force including those present.

Copy to:

1. PPS to Spl. Secretary, MIB
2. PPS to Joint Secretary (B-I)/PPS to JS(B-II).
3. Advisor (DAS)
4. Dy. Secretary (DAS)/Under Secretary (DAS)

Copy also to: NBA/IBF/CEAMA

**MINUTES OF 14TH TASK FORCE MEETING ON IMPLEMENTATION OF DIGITAL ADDRESSABLE SYSTEM IN CABLE TV NETWORK IN PHASE III & IV HELD ON 16.2.2016**

The 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Task Force on implementation of phases III & IV of digital addressable system in cable TV network was held on 16 .2.2016 under the chairpersonship of the Special Secretary. List of the participants is annexed.

2. At the outset Special Secretary thanked the members of Task Force for their contribution in implementing phase III of cable TV digitisation in the country. He said that the progress achieved in phase III areas was very good in spite of several court cases filed in various courts for extension of the cut-off date.
3. Joint Secretary gave an overview of progress of cable TV digitisation in phase III & IV mentioning the following points;
  - i. As per MIS, the percentage achievement has increased from 76.45% as on 30.12.2015 to 90.44% as on 15.2.2016. Seeding by MSOs has also increased from 6.91 million to 12.43 million for the same period.
  - ii. So far 695 MSOs have been granted DAS registration. 164 applications are under process and 240 applications have been received with incomplete information.
  - iii. Regional Units (RUs) set up for implementing digitisation in phases III & IV are fully functional. All RUs are in regular correspondence with MSOs in their regions.
  - iv. About 300 to 500 calls are received daily on toll free help line for cable TV digitisation for phases III & IV.
  - v. 19 cases have been filed in various courts in the country for extension of cut-off date for phase III. Ministry is contesting all cases for immediate vacation of stay granted in these cases. Also, Ministry has filed a petition in the Apex court for transfer of these cases for immediate hearing in the Apex court.
  - vi. 340 MSOs head ends for phase III & IV have been inspected by Prasar Bharati so far. 109 MSOs head ends of these have been reported to be non-operational.
  - vii. Indian Conditional Access System (iCAS) has been developed by DeitY. As per DeitY, iCAS will be initially available to indigenous STB manufacturers for 3 years at nominal fee of 0.5 USD/STB. 12 MSOs are reported to have deployed it in their headends.

- viii. Ministry had requested State Governments to furnish a list of phase IV areas in their States. Except from Himachal Pradesh and J&K (which has furnished list of one division only), list is awaited from other States.
  - ix. In the last meeting problems of connectivity links were reported being faced by MSOs in some phase III areas. Matter was referred to DoT. In this regard, DoT has asked BSNL to provide required connectivity links to MSOs for taking TV signals in phase III and phase IV areas.
4. On the availability of set top boxes, Chairperson wanted an update from the representatives of State Governments and MSOs. Following points were made;
- i. Representative of J&K Govt. mentioned that some areas in phase III in the State still remain to be covered due to non-availability of STBs with MSOs. It was not known whether and when these MSOs have placed orders for STBs.
  - ii. Representative of Telengana Government, stated that only 30-35% phase III areas have been covered in the State so far and MSOs may require some time to complete their targets.
  - iii. Representative of Hathway (MSO) mentioned that they have sufficient stock of STBs but local cable operators are resisting taking STBs from them for installation due to extension granted by various courts.
  - iv. Representative of IMCL (MSO) mentioned that they too have sufficient stock of STBs. He further mentioned that in view of the extension granted by courts and analogue transmission still running in some phase III areas the broadcasters should charge them on analogue rates as per their earlier agreements.
  - v. Representative of Siticable (MSO) mentioned that they too have large stock of STBs and are facing a problem of stocking the set top boxes. He added that they have about 1 million STBs in stock. He remarked that MSOs were required to plan the procurement of STBs in advance which the newly registered MSOs appear to have not done.
  - vi. Representative of GTPL Hathway (MSO) mentioned that they have sufficient STBs in stock and also have some orders of STBs in transit.
  - vii. Representative of Andhra Pradesh Government mentioned that they have not come across any complaint of non-availability of STBs in the State.
  - viii. Representative of Uttarakhand mentioned that there have been reports of STB non-availability in some areas. He added that they are holding district level meetings to implement digitisation in the State

5. During discussions it emerged that some MSOs who have not even applied for registration had filed case for extension in the courts. Also cases have been filed by some MSOs who are not technically ready. Chairperson remarked that from the stay granted in some court cases it should not be construed that the digitisation is put on hold. He emphasized that digitisation is a reality now and cannot be stopped. He advised that broadcasters and MSOs should spread this message. He mentioned that as per MIS report the number of MSO dark areas have also decreased considerably. He directed to find out whether the MSOs who have been granted registration recently have placed orders for STBs.
6. Representative of TRAI mentioned that in one court case, LCOs have been directed by the court to send requests for STBs to MSOs. He suggested that State Governments should seek data from MSOs regarding availability of STBs. He informed that TRAI has recently written to the Chief Secretaries of State/ Governments on the benefits accruable from digitisation to State Governments.
7. Representative of LCOs from Maharashtra mentioned that recently some DAS phase IV areas getting feed from control room in phase III area were switched off by MSOs. He added that digitisation is not looking at consumer, whether he can afford to buy a set top box particularly in phase IV areas. Chairperson mentioned that the entire digitisation is in the interest of consumers and it has to take place as per the timelines. He advised that the stakeholders should encourage people to go for digital.
8. A point was made that MSOs should be given freedom to fix the rates of STBs. Representative of TRAI mentioned that TRAI has not fixed any price for STBs and emphasized that the conditions given in tariff orders issued by TRAI on supply and installation of STBs by MSOs to consumers have to be complied and there can be no compromise on the rights of the consumers.
9. Representative of CEAMA made the following points on indigenous manufacturing of STBs;
  - i. No. of companies manufacturing STBs has doubled in last one year.
  - ii. STB production has increased 100 % in last one year.
  - iii. One Chinese company is likely to start manufacturing STBs in India.

- iv. STB orders are being received by them from small MSOs. MSOs should place orders in time keeping into view that about 2 months time is required for integration of CAS in STBs
- v. CEAMA is a member of Indian Conditional Access System (iCAS) which has been developed by DeitY and is a reality now. 12 MSOs in the country have already got iCAS deployed in their head ends. Licence for iCAS is 0.5 dollars per STB.

Joint Secretary mentioned that CEAMA should reach out to MSOs to inform them about iCAS and STBs manufactured by them. Representative of CEAMA mentioned that they shall very soon have a meeting on iCAS in which they will also invite DeitY, iCAS developer and MSOs. Chairperson mentioned that indigenous manufacturing of STBs should be a priority keeping in view the Make in India programme of the Government.

10. Representative of IBF informed that IBF has filed an SLP in the Hon'ble Supreme court against the extension in the deadline for phase III of digitisation granted by some High Courts in the country in which MIB has also been made a respondent and the case is coming up for hearing on 19.2.2016. He mentioned that broadcasters are running scrolls on channels that Ministry has not extended deadline for phase III. Chairperson reiterated that Ministry has filed a case for transfer of all the cases to the Hon'ble Supreme Court pleading that extension granted by High Courts may be vacated.

11. Joint Secretary mentioned that Ministry has requested State Governments to furnish list of phase IV areas in the State so that progress of digitisation in these areas is monitored. It was mentioned that the information is available with State Governments at various levels viz. hamlets, panchayats and blocks. It was decided that the information at block level would suffice. She also impressed on stakeholders to start publicity campaign for phase IV areas to gain the momentum of digitisation in these areas. It was also noted that while phase IV covers the entire country not previously covered, yet a list of areas was required for knowing the progress of seeding as well as MSO dark areas.

12. Chairperson advised that MSOs and broadcasters should not wait for the cut-off date for phase IV and should start working out on interconnect agreements for phase IV areas. He mentioned that phase IV is not far away and preparations should go in full swing from now itself to achieve the targets. He mentioned that those who are yet to apply for MSO registration should apply now keeping into view that about 4 months are required for processing of applications. He asked the members to inform the MSOs to apply for DAS registration immediately. He added that

an advertisement in newspapers is also being issued for registration of MSOs for phase IV areas. In addition MSOs must also prepare themselves on the STB front. He also stressed upon the issue of MSOs continuing with their seeding activity as the Ministry has already moved the courts; for transfer of all petitions in State High Courts, for vacation of stays granted. It was imperative that the remaining areas of phase III be covered early.

13. Meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair.

List of participants of 14<sup>th</sup> Task force meeting on implementation of cable TV Digitization in Phase III & IV held on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2016

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|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. Mr. Jitendera Shankar Mathur | Special Secretary (Chairperson)             |
| 2. Ms. R.Jaya                   | Joint Secretary (B-1)                       |
| 3. Mr. Yogendra Pal             | Advisor (DAS)                               |
| 4. Mr. Shanker Lal              | Deputy Director (DAS)                       |
| 5. Mr. S. K Singhal             | Advisor (B&CS), TRAI                        |
| 6. Mr. Ajay Mishra              | State Nodal officer, Govt. of Telangana     |
| 7. Mr. J.C Sharma               | State Nodal officer Govt. of Andhra Pradesh |
| 8. Mr. Chandan Singh            | State Nodal officer Govt. Of Uttarakhand    |
| 9. Mr. Shaikh Hassan Khan       | Representative of Govt. of Kerala           |
| 10. Mr. Anoop .M                | Representative of Govt. of Kerala           |
| 11. Mr. Misha Bajpai            | Representative of DoT                       |
| 12. Dr. Sat Narain              | State Nodal Govt. Of Punjab                 |
| 13. Smt. Veedushi Kapoor        | Representative of Govt. of J&K              |
| 14. Mr. K.B Pandya              | Representative of Govt. of Rajasthan        |
| 15. Mr. S. Narayanappa          | Representative of Govt. of Karnataka        |
| 16. Mr. Rajesh Meena            | Representative of Doordarshan               |
| 17. Mr. K. K Sharma             | Representative of AIR                       |
| 18. Mr. S.K Arya                | Representative of Deptt of Telcom           |
| 19. Mr. Ankan Biswas            | Representative of CEAMA                     |
| 20. Mr. Indrijeet Sen           | Representative of LCO from West Bengal      |
| 21. Mr. Pulak Bagchi            | Representative of ASSOCHAM                  |
| 22. Mr. Anil Kumar Malhotra     | Representative of Siti Cable                |
| 23. Mr. S.K Singh               | Representative of Videocon                  |
| 24. Mr. Arvind Prabhu           | Representative of MCOF                      |
| 25. Mr. Gururaja Rao            | Representative of SONY                      |
| 26. Mr. Rakesh Sharma           | Representative of ARTBI                     |
| 27. Mr. C.N Sureshbabu          | Representative of MSO from Karnataka        |
| 28. Mr. Radhakrishna            | Representative of IBF                       |
| 29. Mr. V. Rajkumar             | Representative of DEN Network               |
| 30. Mr. Ajay Singh              | Representative of Hathway                   |
| 31. Mr. Subhashish Mazumdar     | Representative of ndusind Media Network     |
| 32. Mr. Shaji Mathews           | Representative of GTPL Hathway              |
| 33. Mr. Chandrakant Puhan       | Representative of Ortel Communications      |