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Government of India
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
A-Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi

Dated the 4th May, 2016

**SUB: MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE LCO SUB-GROUP FOR IMPLEMENTATION
OF CABLE TV DIGITISATION IN PHASES III & IV HELD ON 11.4.2016 -REG.**

Please find enclosed a copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the LCO sub-group for implementation of Cable TV Digitisation in Phase-III & IV held on 11.04.2016 under the chairpersonship of the Joint Secretary (B-I).


(Anil Kumar)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Tele: 23387774

Encl: As above

To

All Participants of the meeting of the LCO sub-group

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE LCO SUB-GROUP FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF CABLE TV DIGITISATION IN PHASES III & IV HELD ON 11.4.2016

A meeting of the LCO sub-group constituted for implementation of digital addressable system (DAS) in cable TV network in the country under phases III & IV was held on 11.4.2016 under the chairpersonship of the Joint Secretary (B-I). List of participants in the meeting is annexed.

2. The Chairperson welcomed the representatives of Local Cable Operator (LCO) associations in the meeting. She mentioned that two meetings of sub-group had been scheduled last year but the same could not be held for want of quorum. She said that the sub-group has been constituted so that the issues and concerns of LCOs in the country can be discussed in the meetings of this forum. Since the number of LCOs in the country is very large, Ministry had decided in year 2014 to request State/UT Governments to nominate one cable operator association from their State for the LCO sub-group. In this regard, nominations are still awaited from 16 States/UTs. She remarked that LCOs form an important constituent of the cable industry and digitisation of cable TV network cannot be completed without their involvement and active participation. She added that five cable TV operator associations nominated by State Government have been included in the Task Force constituted for implementation of phase III and phase IV of cable TV digitisation. She asked the members of associations to freely express their views and suggestions, if any to help in digitisation of the complete network.

3. Representative of cable operator association from Assam mentioned that the authorized officers for cable TV network in the State were not familiar with the cable rules. He added that LCOs feel threat to their business from MSOs, broadcasters and DTH operators. Chairperson mentioned that for familiarizing the State and district level nodal Officers with the provisions of the cable TV Act and rules, Ministry had conducted 12 regional workshops with them at various places during last year. Ministry is planning such more workshops in the coming months in which apart from State and district level nodal officers and MSOs, nominated cable operator associations may also be invited.

4. Representative of cable operator association from Gujarat mentioned that transparency in the network was visible after digitisation. He remarked that TRAI regulations dated 30.4.2012 are one sided and against LCOs. He suggested that fair share be given to LCOs. He alleged that there is no check on broadcasters. Chairperson mentioned that broadcasters are required to adhere to uplinking and downlinking guidelines. Also, broadcaster's content is being continuously monitored for any violations of programme and advertisement codes. She added that in a way cable digitisation has benefitted all LCOs.
5. Representative of cable operator association from Uttarakhand mentioned that STBs installed by some MSOs in the consumer's premises in the State were without CAS and SMS. Chairperson advised him to file a complaint in this regard so that the matter could be taken up with the authorized officer and State nodal officer and also with TRAI.
6. Representative of cable operators association from Rajasthan complained that MSOs were activating and deactivating STBs of subscribers without informing them. He mentioned that channels are being removed from the channel bouquets of subscribers by MSOs due to their interconnection issues with broadcasters. He also mentioned that broadcasters were not providing the content to an MSO formed by a group of LCOs. He added that LCOs in the State were facing problems in renewal of their registration from the Post Offices. In this regard, representative of association from Gujarat suggested that LCOs may be granted registration for 5 to 10 years. Advisor (DAS) informed that TRAI is working on a proposal for online LCO registration by Post Offices. As regards other issues, Chairperson advised them to refer the same to TRAI. She also stated that their views would be conveyed both to TRAI and the Department of Posts.
7. Representative from Mizoram mentioned that there is no cable operator association in the State. He said that he had no specific issue to raise in the meeting.
8. Representative of cable operator association from Uttar Pradesh mentioned that the publicity carried on the TV channels by broadcasters at the instance of Ministry helped in digitisation of cable which was otherwise under threat from DTH. He said that taxation on cable industry is a major issue. He added that in U.P State, Nagar Nigam has also

levied tax on cable TV connections. Chairperson mentioned that all taxation issues are likely to be resolved once GST comes into effect. Further, issues regarding State taxation were advised to be taken up with State local authorities.

9. On the point of generation of customer computer bill, it was clarified that this should form a part of interconnection agreement between MSOs and LCOs.

10. Advisor (DAS) informed the association representatives that in case they intend to become MSO, they should apply immediately for grant of registration. They were informed that a print advertisement has recently been published by Ministry in this regard and they have been advised to apply before 30.4.2016 to enable them to become digital ready.

11. Concluding the meeting Chairperson emphasized that they should spread the message that digitisation of cable network is irreversible. Already voluntary digitisation has been going on and they should use their reach to motivate people to switch over to digital cable. She mentioned that nominated LCO associations will also be invited in the regional workshops with State and district level nodal officers and MSOs which are being planned to be held at various places in the country in the coming months. Till then meeting of the sub-group will be held every month. It was also informed that some of the States have nominated more than one LCO association. So, one association would be called for the meeting from these States in alphabetical order. Further, monthly meetings of this sub-group would continue.

Meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair.

List of participants in meeting of LCO sub-group for phases III & IV
held on 11th April, 2016

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| 1. Ms. R.Jaya | Joint Secretary (B-1) (Chairperson) |
| 2. Mr. Yogendra Pal | Advisor (DAS) |
| 3. Mr Anil Kumar | Under Secretary (DAS) |
| 4. Mr. Surinder kumar | Section officer (DAS) |
| 5. Mr. Anil Kumar Poddar | Representative of Cable Operators from Assam |
| 6. Mr. Promod Pandya | Representative of Cable Operators from Gujarat |
| 7. Mr. L. Pachuau | Representative of Cable Operators from Mizoram |
| 8. Mr. Shashi Bhushan
Sharma | Representative of Cable Operators from
Uttarakhand |
| 9. Mr. Sunil Jolly | Representative of Cable Operators from U.P |
| 10. Mr. Avadesh Bhardwaj | Representative of Cable Operators from
Rajasthan |
| 11. Mr. Atul Joshi | Representative of Cable Operators from
Rajasthan |