

F. No. 9/141/2013-BP&L-Part
Government of India
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
(DAS Section)

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated the 13th December, 2016

Subject: Minutes of 19th Task Force Meeting on implementation of Digital Addressable System in Cable TV Network in Phase III & IV held on 29.11.2016

Please find enclosed a copy of the Minutes of the 19th meeting of the Task Force, constituted for the implementation of Phase III & IV of Cable TV Digitisation, held on 29.11.2016 for information and necessary action.



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To

All Task Force Members

Copy to:

- I. PPS to Secretary (I&B)
- II. PPS to Additional Secretary
- III. PPS to Joint Secretary (B-1)
- IV. Advisor (DAS)
- V. DS (DAS)

MINUTES OF 19TH TASK FORCE MEETING ON IMPLEMENTATION OF DIGITAL ADDRESSABLE SYSTEM IN CABLE TV NETWORK IN PHASE III & IV HELD ON 29.11.2016

The 19th meeting of the Task Force on implementation of phases III & IV of Digital Addressable System (DAS) in cable TV network was held on 29.11.2016 under the chairpersonship of the Additional Secretary. List of the participants is annexed.

2. Welcoming the members, Chairperson asked Advisor (DAS) to give an update of the status of court cases on phase III of cable TV digitisation. Advisor (DAS) informed;
 - i. 61 cases were filed in various High Courts on the issue of DAS implementation and cut-off dates for phase III and phase IV of cable TV digitisation. Out of these, 3 cases were withdrawn by the petitioners and 13 cases were disposed off by the respective High Courts.
 - ii. On transfer petition filed by the Ministry, Hon'ble Supreme Court ordered transfer of all pending cases, and similar cases which may be filed in the matter in future, to the Delhi High Court for adjudication.
 - iii. All the 45 cases have been received on transfer in Hon'ble Delhi High Court. Out of these, 44 cases have been heard and one case is yet to be listed for hearing.
 - iv. Out of 44 cases, 6 cases have been subsequently withdrawn by the petitioners and 3 cases have been returned to the respective High Court as these matters did not relate to cut-off date of digitisation. Further, Hon'ble Delhi High Court has further disposed off 16 cases during hearings on 9/5, 26/9, 3/11, 8/11 and 9/11/2016.
 - v. Out of remaining 19 cases, 2 cases are listed for hearing on **30.11.2016** in court No. 16 of Delhi High Court and 17 cases have been listed for hearing in the court of the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court on **01.12.2016**.
 - vi. One fresh case has been filed in the Karnataka State requesting for some more time for implementation of phase IV. The case has, however, not been admitted so far. Ministry has requested the Govt. counsel to apprise the Hon'ble court to transfer this case to Delhi High Court as per the orders of the Apex Court.

A representative of Broadcasters suggested that the case filed by ARASU in the High Court in Chennai should also be transferred to Delhi High Court for adjudication. He mentioned that broadcasters have been informed that pending court decision in the matter, switching off analogue signal by them in the State of Tamil Nadu would tantamount to contempt of court. He was informed that this case relates to MSO registration and as such is not covered under the orders issued by the Apex Court. However, it would be checked.

Chairperson mentioned that, till the court cases are disposed off, MSOs should adopt ways and means to promote voluntary digitisation. She added that, during her recent field visit to Rajasthan, she found that analogue TV signals had been switched off in number of places by MSOs and cable TV was already digital there.

3. Chairperson mentioned that as per MIS, the seeding progress in phase IV of digitisation in some of the States/UTs is not satisfactory. She asked for comments of the State Nodal Officers, MSOs and other members on the low seeding progress in some States in phase IV. From the discussion, the following points emerged;

- a. State Nodal Officer from Telengana mentioned that MIS system was showing zero seeding in 3 districts in the State under phase IV of digitisation which is improbable. The seeding figures in other districts also appeared to be not realistic. He added that it appears that MSOs are not entering full seeding data. He was of the opinion that is the joint responsibility of the State Government and stakeholders to ensure speedy digitisation.
- b. Representative of LCO from West Bengal mentioned that seeding percentage in West Bengal appears to be low because MSOs and other operators there were not entering the actual seeding data in the MIS system
- c. Representative of Hathway mentioned that seeding progress was not taking place due to court cases.
- d. Representatives of the States of Tripura and Mizoram mentioned that they would request the concerned officials to get the actual data entered in MIS system and also look into the issue of poor seeding in their States.
- e. Representative of GTPL mentioned that, because of reluctance on the part of cable operators to seed boxes, seeding in some States is poor.
- f. Representative of IMCL mentioned that seeding by HITS operators has been affected due to pending issue of dual billing on content by broadcasters for HITS services.

Advisor (DAS) mentioned that Ministry has also observed that MSOs are not regularly updating the data due to which the MIS system is not showing the actual seeding. Chairperson directed that State Nodal Officers should hold regular meetings with the MSOs, DTH/HITS operators in the State to ensure that the data is regularly updated and maximum number of STBs are seeded in all the areas before the cut-off date for phase IV which is 31.12.2016.

4. Regarding implementation of DAS in phase IV areas by the notified cut-off date of 31.12.2016, the members were of the following views;

- a) Representative of IBF and NBA voiced that there should not be any extension in the cut-off date.
- b) Representatives of national MSOs and DTH operators stated that the date should not be extended; however, one MSO opined that 3 to 6 months time may be given.
- c) Representative of CEAMA stated that, at present, MSOs have problems of funds in buying STBs and as such seeing the ground position, date should be extended by 3 to 6 months.
- d) Representative of Govt. of Telengana stated that seeing the number of STBs, which are yet to be seeded, cut-off date for phase IV should be extended till June 2017.
- e) Representative of the Govts. of J & K and Punjab stated that the notified cut-off date should not be changed.

Advisor (DAS) informed that, in this matter, one request for extension in the cut-off date for phase IV has been received in the Ministry from Andhra Pradesh State MSOs welfare Association wherein it has been requested to extend cut-off date to 31.3.2017 due to de-monetization as villagers are un-able to spare money to buy STBs.

Concluding the meeting, Chairperson directed that all stakeholders should play an active part to ensure that the cable TV digitisation is achieved by the notified cut-off date of 31.12.2016.

Meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair

List of participants of 19th Task force meeting on implementation of cable TV Digitization in
Phase III & IV (29.11, 2016)

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|----------------------------|--|
| 1. Ms. Jayashree Mukherjee | Additional Secretary, MIB |
| 2. Mr. Yogendra Pal | Advisor (DAS), MIB |
| 3. Mr. Shanker Lal | Deputy Director (DAS), MIB |
| 4. Mr. G.S Kesarwani | Representative of TRAI |
| 5. Mr. Vinod Kumar | Representative of Govt. Of UP |
| 6. Mr. Yadevendra Ajay | Representative of Govt. Of UP |
| 7. Mr. Ajay Mishra | State Nodal officer Govt. of Telangana |
| 8. Mr. Shailendra Singh | Representative of Govt. of Tripura |
| 9. Mr. Satya Singh Bisht | Representative of Govt. of Uttarakhand |
| 10. Mr. Surender Malik | Representative of Govt. Of Punjab |
| 11. Smt. Veedushi Kapoor | Representative of Govt. Of J& K |
| 12. Mr. R.K Sharma | Representative of Govt. Of Bihar |
| 13. Mr. B.K Singh | Representative of Govt Of Bihar |
| 14. Mr. Kumar | Representative of Govt. of Maharashtra |
| 15. Mr. Sandeep Bhatnagar | Representative of Govt of Madhya Pradesh |
| 16. Mr. Vimal S Arora | Representative of Govt of Madhya Pradesh |
| 17. Mr. Vinay Pratap Singh | Representative of Govt. of Haryana |
| 18. Ms. Rina Mahapatra | Representative of Govt. Of Odisha |
| 19. Mr. Prasanjit Das | Representative of Govt. of West Bengal |
| 20. Mr. D.N Loying | Representative of Govt. of Assam |
| 21. Ms. Sangchhin Chinzah | Representative of Govt. of Mizoram |
| 22. Mr. S.K Arya | Representative of DOT |
| 23. Mr. Bharat Arora | Representative of Ministry of Electronics & IT |
| 24. Mr. Partha Sharma | Representative of DietY |
| 25. Mr. Amit Tandon | Representative Doordarshan |
| 26. Mr. K.K Sharma | Representative AIR |
| 27. Mr. Saharsh Damani | Representative AIDCF |
| 28. Mr. Sushil Gupta | Representative of NSTPL |
| 29. Mr. Umar Ahmad | Representative of NSTPL |
| 30. Mr. Amit Kharbanda | Representative of CEAMA |
| 31. Mr. S.K Singh | Representative of DTH/CEAMA |
| 32. Mr. S.S Jha | Representative of CEAMA |
| 33. Mr. Ankit Singh | Representative of IBF |
| 34. Mr. Pulak Bagchi | Representative of ASSOCHAM |
| 35. Mrs. Annie Joseph | Representative NBA |
| 36. Mr. Radha Krishnan | Representative of IBF |
| 37. Mr. Sandeep Panwar | Representative of IBF |
| 38. Mr. Gururaja Rao | Representative of IBF |

39. Mr. Raghvinder Singh
40. Mr. Girish Srivastava
41. Mr Binod Ashish
42. Mr. Shaji Mathwews
43. Mr. Ajay Singh
44. Mr. N.P.Singh
45. Mr. K.Aravamudhan
46. Mr. Inderjit Sen

Representative IBF
Representative IBF
President, SAVERA (Consumer Forum)
Representative of GTPL
Representative of Hathway Data & Cable
Representative of IMCL
Representative of IBF
Representative of LCO Association from
West Bengal