

No.1/7/1/2014-PMU(DAS)
Government of India
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Shastri Bhavan, Dr. R P Road, New Delhi 110001

Dated the 1st January, 2016.

Subject: Minutes of the 13th meeting of Task Force held on 30.12.2015

.....

Please find enclosed a copy of the minutes of 13th meeting held under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Information and Broadcasting on Implementation of Phase III & IV of TV Digitization held on 30.12.2015 for information and necessary action.



(Surender Kumar)
Section Officer (DAS)
Tele No.23381478

To

All Members of the Task Force including those present.

Copy to:

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

Copy also to: NBA/IBF/CEAMA

MINUTES OF 13TH TASK FORCE MEETING ON IMPLEMENTATION OF DIGITAL ADDRESSABLE SYSTEM IN CABLE TV NETWORK IN PHASE III & IV HELD ON 30.12.2015

The 13th meeting of the Task Force on implementation of phases III & IV of digital addressable system in cable TV network was held on 30 .12.2015 under the chairpersonship of the Secretary (I & B). List of the participants is annexed.

2. Opening the meeting, Special Secretary mentioned that the meeting of the Task Force has been called to apprise the members of the progress achieved so far and to take the final call on the issues that the members may like to raise in the meeting with regard to phase III.
3. Joint Secretary made a presentation on the status of digitisation in phase III areas highlighting inter-alia the following points;
 - i. Lists of urban areas have been updated for 27 States/UTs on the basis of comments/data received from State Governments. Comments on urban areas are still awaited from the States/UTs of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Lakshdweep and Dadra Nagar Haveli. Details received from West Bengal are under examination. Number of urban areas to be digitised in phase III after updation of 27 States/UTs is 6016.
 - ii. As per MIS, the percentage achievement so far is 76.45%.and if Tamil Nadu that has some legal and other issues is excluded, the percentage achievement is 86.25%. Seeding data received from DTH operators is based on PIN codes of places. DTH operators are requested to confirm their data as per the urban areas notified by the Ministry to confirm correct seeding status in phase III areas.
 - iii. There are 685 zero seeding areas till the last report in the country. 280 of these are in West Bengal which are to be deleted from phase III list as per the comments of the State Government. Out of 685 areas, 450 areas have less than 1000 TV households and 226 from 1000 to 5000 TV households.
 - iv. Out of 510 MSOs registered for phase III areas, only 190 MSOs are entering seeding data in MIS system. 135 MSOs have still not logged into MIS system. 185 MSOs have logged but have not reported any seeding.

- v. Regarding MSO registration, it was mentioned that Ministry has granted 567 registrations so far. 90 applications are under process and 35 applications are pending clarifications. Affidavits are awaited from 170 applicants. About 100 applications were received in Nov & Dec 2015.
- vi. Toll free facility is operational for last 2 months and on an average about 500 calls are being received every day in the last 10 days.
- vii. About 400 officers from AIR and Doordarshan have been nominated to inspect the headends of MSOs and in this regard inspection reports have already been received from 50 officers.
- viii. Shortage of STBs and their delivery and pending interconnect agreements with broadcasters as reported by some MSOs, were also mentioned.
- ix. It was informed that requests have been received from State Governments of Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra and some MSOs for extension in cut-off date for phase III of digitisation.

4. Representative of DTH mentioned that they have at present 16 million active set top boxes and another 2 million STBs which shall be activated soon after the 31st December timeline in phase III areas. He added that apart from this 4 million STBs are catered to by DD free dish and another 8 million by digital cable. He assured to send the seeding data for each notified phase III urban area very shortly. He stated that the data for seeding of 16 million STBs may be taken. It was decided that the seeding data as above may be accepted. Joint Secretary said that the data for 2 million STBs to be activated after the cut-off date shall however be included only after report of their activation is finally received.

5. Representative of Ortel Communications mentioned that due to component shortage with STB manufacturers, the delivery of set top boxes ordered by them is affected despite advance payment made by them. He added that they have seeded 30 % of STBs so far and have a stock of about 20 % of STBs.

6. Chairperson stated that the notification for the cut-off date for phase III was issued on 11.9.2014, which was more than a year ago. Further, several awareness campaigns, Task Force and MSO sub-group meetings and orientation workshops for the State and district Nodal officers have been held during this period. In addition concerned officials of the State Govts. including the Chief Secretaries have been sensitised from time to time on the importance of the

initiative. Hence there was no case whatsoever to consider any extension in the cut-off date of 31.12.2015.

7. Representative of IBF mentioned that about 700 MSOs have single headend for phase III and phase IV areas and these MSOs have not made any mechanism so far for taking dual feeds for feeding phase III and phase IV areas. He further mentioned that they have communicated to all MSOs that TV signals to them will be switched off if they are not registered and if they carry analogue signals in phase III areas after the cut-off date.

8. Joint Secretary mentioned that an advisory is being issued to all registered MSOs today informing them that in case they have a single control room for phase III and phase IV areas they must take separate IRDs from broadcasters for taking digital signals in phase III areas and analogue signal in phase IV areas and should ensure that only digital addressable signals are transmitted in phase III areas after the cut-off date of 31.12.2015. She also stated that no agreements with MSOs of Broadcasters in the analog mode should be operational after the cut-off date.

9. Representative of the Government of Maharashtra mentioned that difficulties have been reported from the field in implementing digitisation in the State within the timelines and asked for extension of cut-off for implantation of phase III in the State. Chairperson reiterated that the timelines have to be adhered to by all the stakeholders as the same were announced more than one year ago. He was hopeful that all concerned would rise to the occasion.

10. Representative of Savera, a Consumer organization, mentioned that consumers are facing difficulties in redressal of their complaints from the MSOs/LCOs and suggested to add Ministry of Consumer Affairs for redressal of the complaints. He also suggested that Ministry may hold workshops on cable TV digitisation in all districts for awareness of the consumers. He was told that 11 workshops were held by Ministry for implementation of phase III and similar workshops have been planned to be held in phase IV also. Besides, 5 advertisements on separate dates were issued in newspapers pan-India and both News and GEC channels have been carrying ads and scrolls accordingly for information of all.

11. Representative of MOCF, an association of cable operators from Maharashtra mentioned that about 60% areas in Maharashtra are not served by the national MSOs. He further mentioned that about 1 million STBs are to be seeded which is not possible in 2 days.

He added that 40 registrations are pending to be issued by Ministry. Joint Secretary mentioned that Ministry had fixed 21.12.2014 and then 6.2.2015 as cut-off date for applying for registration for phase III areas. In July 2015 MHA decided that no security clearance was deemed for issue of registration to MSOs. Since this would involve amendment in the rules, till that time, provisional registrations are being issued by the Ministry. Joint Secretary further mentioned that the applications are still being received and in some cases the registrations are pending for want of documents. She also mentioned that as informed in the PowerPoint presentation made at the meeting, the MSO dark areas in the country for phase-III were minimal. In fact, the data on urban areas received recently from Government of West Bengal was being examined which would further bring down this number by about 280. It was decided that deletions in areas, as per comments of the State Govts. may be made but no additions to be made in phase III at this stage as MSOs do not have time now for the same

12. Representative of TRAI mentioned that it was made clear in all meetings that analogue signals can not be transmitted in phase III areas after 31.12.2015. MSOs and broadcasters were as such required to make arrangements in advance for feeding phase III and phase IV areas. He added that as per the interconnect regulations analogue transmission is permitted in phase IV areas and the MSOs and broadcasters should find a technological solution to the problem of segregating the feeds from the same control room.

13. Representative of IBF apprehended that there may piracy problem in phase III areas. He was told that they must take action as per the law against those indulging in piracy. He was told that it is their responsibility to ensure that analogue signals are not transmitted in phase III areas without affecting transmission of analogue signals in phase IV areas. He was told that Ministry will write to all State/UT Govts. to take action against those violating the law. Joint Secretary remarked that broadcasters have to cancel the agreements entered by them for analogue signals in phase III areas.

14. The Task Force assessed the progress of digitisation as being very positive. It was noted that most of the notified urban areas have been seeded with STBs except only around 400 (that out of more than 6000) areas many of which were below 1000 population while the rest were of below 5000 population. Further, the seeding figures as shared in the meeting indicated a high level of seeding in the country, to the extent of more than 75%, excluding Tamil Nadu. This figure was expected to be higher when all the registered MSOs start providing final figures.

15. Concluding the meeting, Special Secretary mentioned that broadcasters have to ensure that no analogue signals are transmitted in phase III areas without affecting phase IV areas. He further mentioned that as decided in the meeting DTH operators must update the seeding data on the basis of data furnished in the meeting and agreed to by all stakeholders, in the MIS. He wished all members a happy New Year.

16. Meeting ended with thanks to the chair.

List of participants of 13th Task Force meeting held on 30.12.2015

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Mr. Sunil Arora | Secretary (I&B) (Chairperson) |
| 2. Mr. Jitendera Shankar
Mathur | Special Secretary |
| 3. Ms. R.Jaya | Joint Secretary (B-1) |
| 4. Mr. Yogendra Pal | Advisor (DAS) |
| 5. Dr. Sat Narain | Add. D.I.P.R, Govt. of Punjab |
| 6. Mr. Vadivazagan | All India Radio |
| 7. Mr. S. K Singhal | Advisor , TRAI |
| 8. Mr. Y. K Sharma | Representative of BECIL |
| 9. Mrs R Vimla | Dy. Commissioner, ED Maharashtra |
| 10. Mr. M.P Sood | Department of I & PR Himachal Pradesh |
| 11. Mr. Ranbir Singh | Government of Mizoram |
| 12. Mr. B Tewari | Government of Meghalaya |
| 13. Mr. Rajesh Meena | Representative of Doordarshan |
| 14. Mr. S.K Marwaha | Representative of Electronics and IT (Deity) |
| 15. Mr. G.S.Kesarwani | Representative of TRAI |
| 16. Mr. Mohit Verma | Representative of CEAMA |
| 17. Mr. S.K Singh | Representative of DTH Association |
| 18. Mr. Bibhu Prasad | Representative of Ortel Communication |
| 19. Mr. Rajesh Koul | Representative of Sony Pictures |
| 20. Mr. Shaji Mathews | Representative of independent MSOs,
GTPPL Ahmedabad |
| 21. Mr. Subhashish
Mazumdar | Representative of IMCL |
| 22. Mr. B.P Rath | Representative of Ortel Communications |
| 23. Mr. Pulak Bagchi | Representative of ASSOCHAM |
| 24. Ms. Annie Joseph | Representative of NBA |
| 25. Mr. T.S Panesar | Representative of Hathway Cable & Datacom |
| 26. Mr. Anil Malhotra | Representative of Siticable Networks |
| 27. Mr. C.N.Suresh Babu | Representative of independent MSO, |
| 28. Mr. Devesh Chandra | Representative of NSTPL |
| 29. Mr. Vishal Kaushik | Representative of IBF |
| 30. Mr. Harushikesh Joglekar | Representative of Amarnath Cable Network |
| 31. Mr. Sachin Kr. Verma | Representative of NSTPL |

32. Mr. Arvind Prabhoo	Representative of LCO Association (MCOF), Maharashtra
33. Mr. Radhvinder Singh	Representative of Zee Network
34. Mr. Vinod Ashish	Representative of SAVERA
35. Mr. Rakesh Sharma	Representative of ARTBI
36. Mr. Shaishwa Kumar	Representative of VIACOM 18
37. Mr. Mr. Ankit Singh	Representative of TV 18
38. Mr. V Rajkumar	Representative of Den
39. Mr. Ajay Singh	Representative of Hathway Cable
40. Mr. K.Aravamudhan	Representative of ASSOCHAM
41. Mr. Valsala Vijayan	Representative of Govt. of Goa