

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

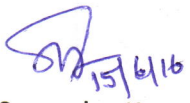
Dated the 15th June, 2016.

Subject: Minutes of the 15th meeting of Task Force held on 30.5.2016

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Please find enclosed a copy of the minutes of 15th meeting held on 30.5.2016 under the chairmanship of Secretary, Information and Broadcasting on Implementation of Phase III & IV of TV Digitization for information and necessary action.

Encl: As above


(Surender Kumar)
Section Officer (DAS)
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To

All Members of the Task Force including those present.

Copy to:

- 1 PPS to 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 15TH TASK FORCE MEETING ON IMPLEMENTATION OF DIGITAL ADDRESSABLE SYSTEM IN CABLE TV NETWORK IN PHASE III & IV HELD ON 30.5.2016

The 15th meeting of the Task Force on implementation of phases III & IV of digital addressable system in cable TV network was held on 30 .5.2016 under the chairpersonship of the Secretary (I&B). List of the participants is annexed.

2. Welcoming the members, Chairperson mentioned that the meeting of the Task Force could not be held since Feb 2016 due to various administrative reasons. He asked the members present in the meeting to give their perspectives on the ongoing digitisation in cable TV network in the country.
3. Joint Secretary gave an update on the progress of cable TV digitisation in phase III & IV since the last meeting of the Task Force mentioning the following points
 - i. Despite Phase III digitisation being embroiled in many court cases, seeding of about 4.1 crore STBs in phase III areas amounting to almost 100 percent achievement has been done. Of late seeding has slowed down due to court cases. She also stated that there could be some reporting of seeding in phase IV also included in these figures since DTH operators give seeding data based on postal pin code numbers.
 - ii. 42 court cases have been filed for extension in the deadline of phase III in various courts in the country. It started with grant of 2 months extension in the phase III deadline by the Hon'ble High Court of Telengana & Andhra Pradesh. In respect of the similar case for extension various other courts passed orders to the effect that the order passed by the Telengana bench of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh is also applicable on them. With regard to the multiple cases at various places, Ministry filed a petition in the Supreme court for transfer of all the cases to the apex court or High Court of Delhi with prayer for urgent hearing and quashing of the extension in deadline granted by the varies courts . Apex Court passed an order of transfer of all cases for extension in phase III deadline filed in various courts and any new cases on similar prayer to the Delhi High Court for adjudication. 17 cases have so far been transferred by various courts to the Delhi High Court out of which Delhi High Court has dismissed 3 cases and another 3 cases were

being heard that same day. A case filed by one HITS player on the same matter is also being heard in the Delhi High Court today.

- iii. Since last meeting more MSOs have been granted DAS registrations. So far 870 MSOs have been granted DAS registrations.

She mentioned that MSOs and broadcasters should now concentrate on phase IV areas and prioritize signing of interconnect agreements for these areas. She also mentioned that the stakeholders should plan and start launching of publicity awareness campaign for mandatory digitisation in phase IV areas which is to be completed by 31st Dec 2016

4. Chairperson asked the members if any of the stakeholders is adversely affected by the implementation of DAS. He mentioned that in his perspective it is a win-win situation for everybody. He expected all members to be candid and forthright in expressing their views. On this point, members expressed the following views;

- a) Representative of Consumer Forum mentioned that though digitisation has not adversely affected anybody, much that was expected from consumer point of view is still awaited.
- b) Representative of LCO from Maharashtra said that, before implementation of DAS, LCOs were entrepreneurs and after its implementation they have become employees of MSOs. He mentioned that since phase I of digitisation LCOs have been voicing their concern over TRAI regulations on revenue sharing between MSOs and LCOs but the issue is still unresolved. He added that MSOs are not entering into proper interconnect agreements with LCOs. He remarked that digitisation under phase IV may not be easy as all national MSOs may not be able to cover all areas.
- c) Representative of GTPL mentioned that MSO and LCOs are separate entities. They sign agreements with each other as principals. Each entity has its defined role in providing the service. He said that Government should consider giving some incentives for digitisation in phase IV areas. He added that TRAI had also recommended some incentives in its recommendations which were not accepted by the Government. Chairperson remarked that any incentives sought for by any group or sector should get passed on to the people.
- d) Representative of Hathway mentioned that LCOs can also become MSOs. He said that MSOs have no issues with regard to interconnect agreements with LCOs. He informed that on the directive of Hon'ble High Court of Bombay, TRAI has now prescribed a standard interconnect agreement form after due process of consultations. This form serves as a template for all such agreements. He expressed confidence to cover phase

IV areas without any major problem. He suggested that broadcasters should offer special rates for phase III and phase IV markets.

- e) Representative of Siticable remarked that digitisation has benefitted people as they get greater channel choice and better signal quality. He mentioned that extension of deadline granted by various courts for phase III of digitisation has badly affected the pace of digitisation. He further mentioned that they are losing out on huge inventory of set top boxes which they are not able to deploy in the field. With regard to phase IV of digitisation, he stated that the headends installed by them for phase III will cater to phase IV areas also.
- f) Representative of DTH mentioned that due to extension in deadline granted by various courts, they had to retrench some of their employees whom they had deployed in the field.
- g) Representative of LCO from Assam complained that one MSO in Assam had served a legal notice to LCOs for migrating to another MSO. Consumers had also been served with legal notice for return of set top box bought by them from MSO through outright purchase. He mentioned that the authorized officers in the State of Assam do not take action against MSOs who are violating the cable network rules and regulations.

5. Representative of TRAI mentioned that whereas regulations prescribe three modes of purchase for STBs viz. 1) Outright purchase 2) Hire purchase and 3) Rental mode, standard plans have been prescribed under rental mode only and no price for outright purchase has been prescribed by TRAI. He stated that such issues as raised by LCO representative from Assam would not arise if the interconnect agreements entered by MSOs with LCOs had been clear on every issue. He remarked that on the directions of the court, a standard interconnect agreement (SIA) form has been prescribed by TRAI after due process of consultations and there is no stay on the same. He informed that TRAI has recently started review of all regulations and consultation process on the same is on. He added that the Hon'ble TDSAT used to pass interim orders earlier but of late orders passed by them are final. Chairperson hoped that the review of the DAS regulations undertaken by TRAI is completed fast and the various grievances of the stakeholders regarding the extant regulations are addressed. Chairperson also remarked that there appeared to deficit of trust between MSOs and LCOs and TRAI should look at it.

6. Giving an update on the status of seeding, Advisor (DAS) mentioned that Ministry has asked all registered MSOs, DTH & HITS operators to enter the seeding data in the MIS system, developed by the Ministry for collection of data, for all the four phases instead of phase III which they had been previously doing and update it once in a week. He added that MIS system has

suitably been modified for this purpose and 35 operators have already entered seeding data for phase IV. He informed that for MSO registration about 1000 applications have been received till date in the Ministry against expected number of about 6000 applications. He requested the members to advise those MSOs who are yet to apply for DAS registration to do the same. He mentioned that Ministry has requested the broadcasters to check up with all MSOs, with whom they have interconnect agreements, if they have taken MSO registration for Phase IV areas and if not, advise them to do so immediately. Representative of DTH wanted to know area wise TV households under phase IV of digitisation. Task Force members were told that the TV household requirements as per the census 2011 data would be provided though this would be district wise and not rural area wise.

7. Chairperson asked that if no body is losing from digitisation, as it appeared from the discussion, then we should work together to move forward. He remarked that consumers deserve better quality reception and other benefits from digitisation. He hoped that all stakeholders would make concerted efforts to digitise the remaining areas under the 4th and last phase of digitisation. He informed members that Ministry has planned to hold fresh round of several regional workshops on digitisation at various places in the country in the coming months as was done for implementation of phase III of digitisation.

8. Representative of LCO from Maharashtra complained that in Maharashtra, the State Government Entertainment Officers are sealing the control rooms of MSOs for non-payment of Entertainment Tax. On this issue, he was told that only the authorized officers, as defined in the Cable TV Act and Rules framed thereunder, are authorized to take any action for violations of the various provisions of the Act. Advisor mentioned that one State Government has complained to Ministry that MSOs are not giving them access to their SMS system to verify the lists of subscribers. He said that MSOs should provide the SMS report to the State Government's as and when asked by them.

9. Representative of the Government of Orissa mentioned that the State Government has set up coordination committees at State and district level to implement cable TV digitisation in the State. He added that the nodal officers in the State are also checking the MIS data on regular basis. State Nodal Officer from the State of Telengana mentioned that 20 MSOs operating in the State have not so far entered data in MIS system. Joint Secretary said that it was heartening to know that State Governments are also monitoring the seeding of data by MSOs in their States. She mentioned that MIS system deployed by Ministry sends an alert to an MSO in case he does

not timely update his data. She added that the Regional Units set up by the Ministry for implementation of DAS also remain in touch with MSOs to ensure that MSOs under their jurisdiction update the data.

10. Representative of CEAMA mentioned that the local STB manufacturing has almost doubled since last meeting. He said that there is lull in the market and no orders have been received by them in the recent past. He informed that 7 indigenous STB manufacturers have taken iCAS license and 5 out of them are in the process of implementing iCAS in their STBs. He also informed that 22 MSOs have placed orders for iCAS based STBs with them. He added that DeitY is planning a meeting with the operators on 24th June 2016.

11. A point was raised that LCOs are asked by the Head Post Offices to obtain NOC certificate from the State Government for issue as well as renewal of their LCO registration. It was suggested that LCO registration be granted for 5 years instead of period of one year as per the existing rules. Chairperson informed that it would be considered.

12. Concluding the meeting the Chairperson emphasized that all the stakeholders must move forward and make concerted efforts to ensure completion of phase IV by the cut-off date which is 31.12.2016. He reiterated that cable digitisation is a win-win situation for all.

Meeting ended with thanks to the chair.

List of participants of 15th Task force meeting on implementation of cable TV Digitization in phase III & IV held on 30.5.2016

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| 1. Mr. Ajay Mittal | Secretary (Chairperson) |
| 2. Ms. R.Jaya | Joint Secretary (B-1) |
| 3. Mr. Yogendra Pal | Advisor (DAS) |
| 4. Mr. S. K Singal | Representative of TRAI |
| 5. Mr. Y K Sharma | Representative of BECIL |
| 6. Mr. H.N Shukla | Representative of Govt. of UP |
| 7. Mr. Y. Ajay | Representative of Govt. of UP |
| 8. Mr. Ajay Mishra | Representative of Govt. of Telangana |
| 9. Dr. Arja Srikanth | Representative of Govt. of Andhra Pradesh |
| 10. Mr. Chandan Singh | Representative of Govt. of Uttarakhand |
| 11. Mr. Sangram Mohaptra | Representative of Government of Odisha |
| 12. Dr. Saji Kumar | Representative of Govt. of Kerala |
| 13. Mr. B. Tiwari | Representative of Govt. of Meghalaya |
| 14. Mr. M.V Rangaiah | Representative of Govt of Andhra Pradesh |
| 15. Dr. Sat Narain | Representative of Govt. of Punjab |
| 16. Smt. Veedushi Kapoor | Representative of Govt. of J & K |
| 17. Mr. S. Narayanappa | Representative of Govt. of Karnataka |
| 18. Mr. Ram Swaroop Kaushal | Representative of Govt. of Himachal Pradesh |
| 19. Mr. Parha Sharma | Representative of Govt, Jharkhand |
| 20. Mr. A K Satyajeet | Representative of Govt. of Gujarat |
| 21. Mr. Vimal S Arora | Representative of Govt. of M. P |
| 22. Dr. Pranati Gogoi | Representative of Govt. of Assam |
| 23. Mr. S.K Singh | Representative of DTH operators Association |
| 24. Mr. Amit Tandon | Representative of DG Doordarshan |
| 25. Mr. Shyamal Dasgupta | Representative of DG Doordarshan |
| 26. Mr. Bipin Jambholkar | Representative of BIS |
| 27. Mrs. Annie Joseph | Representative of NBA |
| 28. Mr. Ankan Biswas | Representative of CEAMA |
| 29. Mr. Indrijeet Sen | Representative of LCOs from West Bengal |
| 30. Mr. Pulak Bagchi | Representative of ASSOCHAM |
| 31. Mr. Anil Kumar Malhotra | Representative of Siti Cable (MSO) |
| 32. Mr. Anil Khera | Representative of DTH operators Association |
| 33. Mr. Arvind Prabhu | Representative of LCOs from Maharashtra |

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| 34. Mr. Sandeep Panwar | Representative of IBF |
| 35. Mr. C.N Sureshbabu | Representative of independent MSOs from Karnataka |
| 36. Mr. Radhakrishna | Representative of IBF |
| 37. Mr. Ajay Singh | Representative of Hathway (MSO) |
| 38. Mr. Saji Mathews | Representative of GTPL Hathway |
| 39. Mr. Md Iquebal Ahmed | Representative of LCOs from Assam |
| 40. Mr. T.S Panesar | Representative of Hathway (MSO) |
| 41. Mr. Nasir Husain | Representative of Hathway (MSO) |
| 42. Mr. Madanjeet Kumar | Representative of MSOs from Bihar |
| 43. Mr. Subhadip Bhattacharya | Representative of IBF |
| 44. Mr. Hemant Upadhyay | Representative of Consumer Forum |