

Minutes of the Meeting

Meeting: eDistrict PRSG for UP and Assam (First)

Agenda: To consider extension of Pilot timelines for UP and Assam, as original timelines have expired. This will facilitate release of the balance project funds from DIT.

Chairperson: JS (Shankar Aggarwal)

Venue: PMU Conference Room

Date: 22- October- 2008

Time: 12 PM

Attendees: JS (SA), Radha Chauhan, Director (Finance) DIT, Special Secretary IT (UP), MD Amtron, Neeta Verma Sr.Tech Director NIC, Dr.Rajesh Narang, Ravindra Singh, Manish Chadha, Bhasker Subramanian, Koushlendra Singh

Regrets: Syedain Abbasi, Renu Budhiraja

- Mrs. Radha Chauhan welcomed the participants and initiated the meeting by asking Senior Consultant, PMU to present the current status of eDistrict in UP, Assam and other Pilot States.

Uttar Pradesh:

- Coordinator CeG gave the presentation and informed about the current Status of the Project. He updated that application testing was going on while Common database at the district level was completed.
- The Pilot project was started in Oct 2007; the state now wanted to extent the timelines of the project up to March 2009, which was approved by the PRSG.
- It was informed that the State government is seeking clarifications from the Department of Administrative Reforms on whether CSCs would be treated as third party in delivering the RTI service. JS mentioned that CSCs are only a channel like the Post Office, hence not a third party. DIT will send a letter to the State clarifying the same, which will help them obtain speedy approvals.
- Coordinator CeG mentioned that Electoral service development is pending as the Election Commission is looking at launching the package, which has been developed by a private vendor.

- Since UP was planning to run both the current manual system and the new eDistrict system in parallel for some time, DIT expressed the concern that if the manual system was not discontinued soon, it would lead to data digitization issues. Hence, State was advised to stop the manual system latest by the end of the Pilot i.e. 31 March 2009.
- Coordinator CeG informed that the last State-level review meeting headed by Chairman, Revenue Board will be held on 12 November 2008 at Lucknow.
- He also informed that since the State had engaged NICSI for procurement, they were facing a unique situation of paying centage charges twice to NICS – 5% during the fund disbursement to UP and another 5% for procurement. He requested JS to look into the issue.
- Dr.Narang requested Coordinator CeG to ask the Consultants to send the Application testing analysis report at the earliest.
- Coordinator CeG also raised the point that the state had budgeted Rs. 4 Crores per district, as per the guidelines. In response to which DIT informed that the sanctioned money was approved after the appraisal.

Assam:

- MD Amtron updated the meeting on the project's progress in the State. He informed that the vendor selection would be completed and the LoIs would be issued by 31 October 2008.
 - Since the project was much delayed, it was inquired if Assam would be able to complete the project by March 2009. The MD requested that the State be given 3 more months; hence the Pilot project duration was approved till June 2009.
 - State was advised to involve STQC, as the application certification partner and NIC, as the trusted advisor, right from the current stages. They were also asked to provide detailed scope of work to STQC, before engaging them.
- **PRSG approved as follows:**
 - Extension of Pilot duration for UP till March 2009 and release the 50% balance amount (Rs.945.92 lakhs) to NICS for further disbursement to CeG, UP immediately.
 - Extension of pilot duration for Assam till June 2009 and release of funds to State through NICS immediately.