

Presentation: Need for Intercity Bus Transport Regulator
in Madhya Pradesh
Feb 12, 2015

1) Presentation on Concept Note for 'State Public Transport Regulator'

Participants: Shree Anthony DeSa, Chief Secretary Madhya Pradesh, Malay Shrivastava (Principal Secretary Transport, MP), OP Shrivastava (Additional Secretary Transport, MP), Joint Secretary Urban Development MP, Sanjay Kumar Shukla, Commissioner – Urban Development, MP, MSD Kanodiya, Dy. Transport Commissioner – Indore, RR Tripathi, Advisor to the Transport Commissioner, Ajay Gupta, RTO – Bhopal, Priyesh Malviya, PeMT Consultant Transport, MP, Pradeep S Mehta, Shreya Kaushik and Honey Gupta (CUTS International)

It turned out to be long discussion of little more than one and a half hour. The Chief Secretary joined us later in the presentation as he had been called by the CM for an urgent meeting.

The highlights of the discussion are as follows:

- We were informed that a similar body for intercity routes in MP namely 'Madhya Pradesh Intercity Transport Authority' (MPITA) had been recently approved by MP's cabinet.
- The word 'regulatory' was dropped from MPITA.
- The authority would look at the development of the infrastructure for bus service like bus stands, bus stations etc. and would also look at route rationalisation, fare regulation et al.
- It was mentioned that the Concept Note submitted fell inline with the various functions that were being envisaged for MPITA.
- Finance was raised as the major area for concern as it was mentioned that most of the operations have to be subsidised.
- Later when the CS joined in the presentation, the issue of finance was raised again. He clearly mentioned that it is not necessary for bus transport operations to be subsidised.
- Also it was highlighted that there is a lack of data for the transport sector and therefore the routes being allocated does not follow a scientific method.
- In the end it was decided that a new regulator may not be needed with the new authority already being approved.
- The CS, however said that they are willing to get inputs on the functions and the structure of MPITA as it is in its nascent stage.

2) Meeting with Principal Secretary Transport, MP

Participants: Malay Shrivastav, PS and PSM & SHK from CUTS

- The PS too mentioned that they would like CUTS to provide inputs on the structure and functions of MPITA to help in its refinement.
- He further informed that the authority would be going in for registration soon and the process should be completed tentatively by Feb end.
- He therefore mentioned that it would be better if CUTS can provide its comments by this month or early March.
- PSM then raised the issue of funds for this exercise and mentioned that if its possible to give us a consultancy for this assignment. To this PS seemed reluctant as it would entail a process of bidding.
- PSM then proposed that it could be taken up as an accountable grant to CUTS and we can begin the work now. The PS mentioned that he would discuss this internally and get back to us.