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भारत सरकार / Government of India

मंत्रिमण्डल सचिवालय / Cabinet Secretariat

राष्ट्रपति भवन / Rashtrapati Bhavan

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New Delhi, dated 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2025

Subject: Meeting with Chief Secretaries regarding Task Force on Compliance Reduction & Deregulation.

Please find enclosed herewith, a copy of the Minutes of the Meeting of Task Force (Committee of Secretaries) held under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 through hybrid mode, on the above subject. Action taken on the recommendations may kindly be uploaded on e-Samiksha Portal.

Encl: Doc. No. (C.A.V): 13/2025

उद्योग निदेशालय

DIRECTORATE OF INDUSTRIES

R.D. No. 1387

Date 05.03.2025

Mailed to: .....

Reply to be sent by: .....

(Dr. Ayyaj Tamboli) 28/2/25  
Director

Tele No: 011-23015342

To

1. Secretary (Coord.), Cabinet Secretariat
2. CEO, NITI Aayog
3. Secretary, D/o Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances
4. Ms. Anshuli Arya, Secretary, D/o Official Language
5. Shri Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary, D/o Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
6. Secretary, D/o Land Resources
7. Secretary, M/o Housing & Urban Affairs
8. Ms. Meeta Rajivlochan, Secretary, D/o Youth Affairs
9. Secretary, M/o Panchayati Raj
10. Ms. Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary, M/o Textiles
11. Secretary, M/o Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
12. Secretary, D/f Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade
13. Shri Sandeep Poundrik, Secretary, M/o Steel
14. Ms. Seema Jain, Secretary to GOI, Member (Finance), Space Commission, D/o Space
15. Shri Vijay Kumar, Chairman, Inland Waterways Authority of India
16. Ms. Neerja Sekhar, Director General, National Productivity Council
17. Ms. Sukriti Likhi, Chairperson, National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC)
18. Chief Economic Adviser, D/o Economic Affairs
19. All Chief Secretaries/Administrators of States/UTs

Copy for kind information:

Principal Secretary to Prime Minister

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F. No. 082/2/1/2020-CA.V(Vol.III)

भारतसरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

मंत्रिमंडलसचिवालय / CABINET SECRETARIAT

राष्ट्रपतिभवन / RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN

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Doc. No. (C.A.V): 13/2025

Minutes of the Meeting

Venue : Committee Room, Cabinet Secretariat

Date of Meeting : 25.02.2025

Time of Meeting : 10:30 AM

**Subject: Meeting with Chief Secretaries regarding Task Force on Compliance Reduction & Deregulation.**

A meeting with Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs and Members of the Task Force (CoS) on Compliance Reduction & Deregulation was held on 25.02.2025 under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary, through Video Conferencing. The list of participants is at **Annexure-I**.

2. In his opening remarks, Cabinet Secretary welcomed all and briefed on the context of the meeting. He recalled that all Chief Secretaries have attended the 4<sup>th</sup> Conference of Chief Secretaries held in December 2024, wherein the Chief Economic Adviser made a presentation on Systematic Deregulation and the need for making India attractive for investments through compliance reduction was emphasised. Subsequently, requests were received from few Chief Secretaries for access to best practices and templates of GoI and other State governments on business-friendly ecosystems. On the same occasion, the Prime Minister had emphasised on the need to remove hindrances to businesses, emanating from excessive regulations and directed the Cabinet Secretariat to set up a Deregulation Cell to hand-hold and facilitate States on Ease of Doing Business. The Task Force on Deregulation and Compliance Burden has been constituted with this objective in mind. He affirmed that in the changing global scenario, it is a critical juncture for India to harness the opportunity to become an investor friendly nation.

3. Secretary, Coordination made a detailed presentation (**Annexure-II**) on the background of setting up of the Task Force, the critical steps towards Systemic Deregulation, the structure, scope of work and functions of the Task Force, Cost of Regulation study, priority areas identified for Compliance Reduction and Deregulation and list of States assigned to the Task Force members. The main points of the presentation and ensuing discussions are summed up below.

3.1 Under the first phase of EoDB, work has been done under Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP), Reducing Compliance Burden (RCB), Jan-Vishwas Act etc to reduce compliance burden and to streamline and digitise processes. There is a strong



need for Phase II deregulations in States to address the persisting pain points through (a) liberalising standards/ controls that distort the markets and adopt a 'minimum necessary, maximum feasible' approach (b) setting legal safeguards for enforcement by ensuring due process of law, and (c) use risk-based regulation by tailoring the legal norms as per risk profile and scale of businesses, and involving of third parties in enforcement.

3.2 It was informed that the Task Force has been constituted as Committee of Secretaries under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary with 9 ex-officio and 9 members by name, to facilitate States in reforming and simplifying regulations and procedures related to Ease of Doing Business and Ease of Living in the priority areas. A Deregulation Cell has also been constituted in the Cabinet Secretariat, anchored by Secretary Coordination, to support the Task Force. It was clarified that this Task Force is different from the High-Level Committee announced in Budget 2025-26 (Para 105) for review of all non-financial sector regulations, certifications, licenses, and permissions. The Task Force will primarily focus on regulatory mechanisms in States for ensuring EoDB and Ease of Living. On the other hand, the High-Level Committee will focus on the regulatory mechanisms of Central Government Ministries/Departments pertaining to EoDB. The Task Force would take up Central Government regulations that arise during the course of discussions with the States.

3.3 The Members of the Task Force are assigned a group of 2-3 States/UTs. The Members will visit the allotted States to hold meetings with the Chief Secretaries and senior officers, along with team of officers from own Ministry/Dept/Organisation, Deregulation Cell of Cabinet Secretariat and NITI/DPIIT officers/consultants. The members are expected to assess the current readiness of the concerned State and the pain-points that need to be addressed based on State specific dockets that are being prepared. The dockets will cover the present status, possible solutions, best practices/ examples of other States and international best practices, and way forward in the identified priority areas. For better coordination and regular follow up of the work of the Task Force, MIS based monitoring and documentation will be done for priority areas identified.

3.4 It was informed that the identification of priority areas for the Task Force has been done on the basis of study of several documents such as 5<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Economic Survey, the DPIIT reports on Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP), Reducing Compliance Burden, Time, Document & Steps (TDS) Document Harmonization study, and the Cost of Regulation (CoR) study; the report from MSME on Assessment of Compliance Burden; Studies/Reports by think-tanks/NGOs like The Convergence Foundation and Prosperiti; and inputs from Chief Secretaries. The presentation highlighted the priority areas identified and broadly classified into five buckets, namely i) Land Use (ii) Building & Construction (iii) Labour reforms (iv) Utilities/Permissions and (v) Overarching priorities.

4. Chief Secretary, Karnataka informed that they have launched AI and GIS based Single Window System for Industries and removed cumbersome clauses. Chief Secretary, UP suggested for a radical overhaul with investment threshold based



overarching regulations, to replace the existing regulations. Chief Secretary, Maharashtra expressed concern over the lack of human resource in the law department at State level to spearhead the reforms. Additional Chief Secretary, Madhya Pradesh informed that they have passed Jan Vishwas Act and identified the compliances to be reduced. The representative from Meghalaya highlighted their initiatives for compliance reduction and suggested for sharing of best practices among States. Chief Secretary, Kerala requested for sharing of experiences in Third party certification if any, in issuing of Fire NOCs, Consent to Establish, Consent to Operate etc. Chief Secretary, Rajasthan informed that they are working on developing a regulatory matrix to assess regulatory compliances, have already done it in several sectoral policies, and expressed that the Task Force will be a useful forum for cross learning amongst States. Telangana suggested for inclusion of Chief Secretaries of certain States in the Task Force to have a bilateral flow of ideas, organising regional level workshops and sharing of international best practices. Chief Secretary, Odisha suggested that the focus should be on ex post facto inspection rather than ex ante, and suggested for a consultative mechanism to be set up with the private sector. He also suggested constituting a joint team of CPCB with SPCB to work on reducing their common compliance requirements, and a transparent subsidy distribution mechanism.

5. Secretary MoHUA, offered that the National Institute for Urban Affairs (NIUA) could handhold the States in implementing reforms in the urban sector priority areas. Secretary DPIIT pointed out that the BRAP framework would be useful for States while pursuing the priority areas. Secretary, D/o Official Languages requested for State wise dockets to be shared at the earliest. Chairman, Inland Waterways mentioned that for Union Territories, central legislations are the primary source of compliances and should be focussed on. Secretary MSME suggested that a Nodal Cell may be constituted at the State level to work on the priority areas.

6. In his concluding remarks, the Cabinet Secretary observed that the world is entering a new economic era, wherein investors are looking to diversify their supply chains, and India is one of the primary destinations. With the demographic dividend, India has an advantage over many other rising economies. There is a window of about five years to grab the opportunity. However, the heavy regulatory and compliance burden is a big impediment, especially for MSMEs. Regulations/compliances may have a good intent but their cumulative effect is very costly for the economy. While large industries may have specialised teams to ensure compliances, the problem is acute for MSMEs and startups, which are the real job creators. Foreign investors are more particular on compliances by entities they invest in, and they go by de jure provisions in the rule book rather than the de facto level of enforcement. Hence it is crucial that we should provide a sound and efficient legal framework for businesses to operate. He cautioned that the reluctance to look closely and critically at existing regulations may lead to heavy costs to the economy. He further mentioned that while the canvas of deregulation is vast, there is a need to work on certain measurable and specific common minimum priority areas for the Task Force. The support team is preparing State specific Dockets based on available on each of the priority areas.



7. After detailed deliberations, the following action points were identified:

- i) The Priority areas identified in the first instance and shown in the presentation may be taken up by the States forthwith. States could of course work on making the reform agenda more ambitious based on the context, without diluting the focus on the Priority Areas identified by the Task Force.
- ii) The members of Task Force will start visiting the States from March 2025, after attending the orientation workshop to be conducted by DPIIT on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Chief Secretaries may identify the Nodal Officer(s) and the Nodal Department that will coordinate the meetings with the Task Force Member and will subsequently monitor the action taken on the priority areas.
- iii) During the visits of the Task Force Member, Chief Secretaries should organize a meeting with all the concerned departments that are needed for the first set of priority reforms that have been identified. They may also have one-to-one detailed discussions with the Task Force Member and facilitate the Member's meetings with all relevant State Government Departments/Agencies and industry associations and stakeholders such as CII, FICCI, ASSOCHAM etc.
- iv) Chief Secretaries may identify specific areas for the State to work on, under the overarching priorities mentioned in the presentation such as State Level Acts similar to Jan Vishwas Act, Third Party Inspections across Low & Medium risk businesses for all approvals, and integration of State level service delivery portals with the National Single Window System (NSWS)
- v) After the first round of State visits, review with the Task Force Members and the Chief Secretaries will be done by the Cabinet Secretary. Subsequent periodic reviews will be conducted on a regular basis.
- vi) The MIS being developed by NIC under the guidance of MeitY for the Task Force will be the repository of all data on action taken and progress made by the States.
- vii) States may also suggest reforms to be taken up at the Central level in pursuance of EoDB, and share their best practices through the Task Force members.
- viii) The State specific Dockets should be prepared within a week and be shared with the Task force members.
- ix) Chief Secretaries of States will be included in Task Force meetings on rotational basis for facilitating better exchange of ideas.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to all the participants.

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**PRESENT**

1. Dr. T.V. Somanathan, Cabinet Secretary
2. Ms. Vandana Gurnani, Secretary (Coord.), Cabinet Secretariat
3. Shri Katikithala Srinivas, Secretary, M/o Housing & Urban Affairs
4. Shri S.C.L. Das, Secretary, M/o Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
5. Shri Amardeep Singh Bhatia, Secretary, D/f Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade
6. Shri Puneet Kansal, Addl. Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat
7. Shri Rohit Kumar, Addl. Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat
8. Shri Rahul Sharma, Additional Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat
9. Shri Ishtiyaque Ahmed, Sr. Adviser, NITI Aayog
10. Shri Saurabh Kumar Tiwari, Joint Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat
11. Dr. Nila Mohanan, Joint Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat
12. Dr. Ayyaj Tamboli, Director, Cabinet Secretariat
13. Shri Niranjana CC, Director, Cabinet Secretariat
14. Ms. Sweta Mohanty, Director, Cabinet Secretariat
15. Ms. R Menaka, Director, Cabinet Secretariat

**Through Video Conference****Central Ministries / Departments**

1. Shri V. Srinivas, Secretary, D/o Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances
2. Ms. Anshuli Arya, Secretary, D/o Official Language
3. Shri Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary, D/o Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
4. Shri Manoj Joshi, Secretary, D/o Land Resources
5. Shri Vivek Bhardwaj, Secretary, M/o Panchayati Raj
6. Ms. Meeta Rajivlochan, Secretary, D/o Youth Affairs
7. Shri Sandeep Poundrik, Secretary, M/o Steel
8. Ms. Seema Jain, Secretary to GOI, Member (Finance), Space Commission, D/o Space
9. Shri Vijay Kumar, Chairman, Inland Waterways Authority of India
10. Ms. Neerja Sekhar, Director General, National Productivity Council
11. Ms. Sukriti Likhi, Chairperson, National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC)
12. Shri Rohit Kansal, Additional Secretary, M/o Textiles
13. Ms. D. Thara, Additional Secretary, M/o Housing & Urban Affairs
14. Dr. Anuradha Guru, Economic Adviser, D/o Economic Affairs



Through Video Conference (States & UTs)States

S. No.	Name & Designation	States
1.	Shri K Vijayanand, Chief Secretary	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Shri Manish Kumar Gupta, Chief Secretary	Arunachal Pradesh
3.	Ms. Bandana Preyashi, Secretary, Dept. of Industries, Govt. of Bihar	Bihar
4.	Shri Amitabh Jain, Chief Secretary	Chhattisgarh
5.	Shri Suneel Anchipaka, Secretary (Industries)	Goa
6.	Shri Asvin Chandru, Director (Industries)	
7.	Shri Pankaj Joshi, Chief Secretary	Gujarat
8.	Shri Anurag Rastogi, Chief Secretary	Haryana
9.	Shri Prabodh Saxena, Chief Secretary	Himachal Pradesh
10.	Shri R.D Nazeem, Addl. Chief Secretary	
11.	Shri Sushant Gaurav, Director (Industries)	Jharkhand
12.	Dr. Shalini Rajneesh, Chief Secretary	Karnataka
13.	Dr. S. Selvakumar, Principal Secretary (Industries)	
14.	Shri Ramandeep Chowdhary, Secretary (MSME)	
15.	Shri K L Ashok, Addl. Secretary	
16.	Ms. Sarada G Muraleedharan, Chief Secretary	Kerala
17.	Shri Rishi Garg, CEO, Rajya NITI Aayog	Madhya Pradesh
18.	Ms. Sujata Saunik, Chief Secretary	Maharashtra
19.	Shri Rajagopal Devara,	



	Addl. Chief Secretary	
20.	Shri Prashant Kumar Singh, Chief Secretary	Manipur
21.	Dr. Shakil P. Ahammed, Additional Chief Secretary	Meghalaya
22.	Shri T.L. Guite, Secretary, Law & Judicial Department	Mizoram
23.	Shri Ramakrishnan Additional Chief Secretary	Nagaland
24.	Shri Manoj Ahuja, Chief Secretary	Odisha
25.	Shri K.A. Prasad Sinha, Chief Secretary	Punjab
26.	Shri Sudhansh Pant, Chief Secretary	Rajasthan
27.	Shri Ravindra Telang, Chief Secretary	Sikkim
28.	Ms. Karma N. Bhutia, Secretary Commerce (Industries)	
29.	Shri Suraj Chettri, Secretary (law)	
30.	Shri R.C. Bhutia, Secretary (Planning)	
31.	Shri M.C. P. Pradhan, Secretary (Finance)	
32.	Shri N Muruganandam, Chief Secretary	Tamil Nadu
33.	Shri Arun Roy, Secretary (Industries)	
34.	Shri K. Rama Krishna Rao, Spl. Chief Secretary (AR)	Telangana
35.	Shri Jitendra Kumar Sinha, Chief Secretary	Tripura
36.	Shri Manoj Kumar Singh, Chief Secretary	Uttar Pradesh
37.	Ms. Radha Raturi, Chief Secretary	Uttarakhand
38.	Shri Manoj Pant, Chief Secretary	West Bengal



Union Territories:

S. No.	Name & Designation	Union Territories /Administration
1.	Shri A.S.P.S. Ravi Prakash Commissioner-Cum-Secretary (Industries)	Andaman & Nicobar Islands
2.	Shri Rajeev Verma, Chief Secretary	Chandigarh
3.	Shri Amit Singla Advisor to the Administrator	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu
4.	Shri Bipul Pathak, Addl. Chief Secretary (Industries)	Delhi
5.	Shri Rahul Singh, Secretary Lakshadweep Administration, for LPWD, Town Planning & UD	Lakshadweep
6.	Shri Ashish Madhaorao More Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Government	Pondicherry
7.	Dr. A. Muthamma, Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Government	
8.	Shri Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary	Jammu & Kashmir
9.	Shri Sanjeev Khirwar Principal Secretary (School Edu/HUD/Industries and Commerce)	Ladakh

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