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NoPDP.24/2016/6

Dispur the 3rd July, 2017

To:

The Chairman, Committee of Secretaries (GIS/RS) and
Addl. Chief Secretary, Government of Assam
Block D, Janata Bhavan, Dispur Guwahati 781006

Sub: Subcommittee Report on Action Plan to take forward GIS/RS initiative in the state.

Ref: No.PDP.11/2015/27 dated 23-02-2017

Sir,

Government of Assam constituted a Committee of Secretaries on GIS/RS initiatives in the state on July 4, 2016 to look into the issues relating to GIS and RS applications in planning, management and monitoring of development activities in the state and suggest ways for framing of a suitable policy on the same. The Committee of Secretaries met several times and it came to the notice of the Committee that scattered efforts at different state government departments/agencies to map their existing MIS data and other infrastructure using GIS for consumption in their respective departments were made over the years. These were available in bits and pieces and lied with departments in different formats. These data and maps, however, do not conform to any mapping standards and also there is no such policy pursued in the state, which defines the standard procedures of mapping and their maintenance. The Committee of Secretaries also found that National Data Sharing & Accessibility Policy (NDSAP) 2012 was adopted in the state in 2013 but the NDSAP was not implemented which could have streamlined the data sharing process among the government departments and agencies paving way for convergence of the same on a common platform. During the deliberations/interactions with all concerned it was felt that a data sharing policy (both spatial and non spatial) was essential to start the ball rolling.

In view of this the Committee of Secretaries constituted a subcommittee on 23-02-2017 with representations from ARSAC (S&T), AMTRON (IT) AND NIC (Gol) under the chairmanship of the Secretary, T&D to work on the following points and submit its report on an action plan by March 15, 2017.

1. Chalk out an action plan to suggest a way forward for storing the GIS data as available with different departments in the server/portal available with NIC, ASTEC and how it can be made accessible for use of all the departments.

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2. Suggest ways to collaborate with NESAC for sharing of data as per the mechanism suggested by NESAC.
3. Suggest capacity building measures for the officers/staff of line departments and necessary steps required.
4. Suggest agencies like UNICEF and UNDP can associate themselves in the plan of action.

The subcommittee held two meetings to discuss the points. Subcommittee also required some additional time for submission of its report as the necessary inputs /feedback and suggestions from all the stakeholders were received over a period of time. Also, the Secretary, T&D and the SRO T&D(both members of Subcommittee) were assigned to attend a workshop on GIS/RS activities for planning management and monitoring organized by NITI AAYOG in association with UNDP in Ahmedabad, Gujarat on 9th June, 2016. In finalizing the action plan for the state it was expected that the ideas/experiences gained by participating in the workshop would help in chalking out a more realistic approach to the action plan for Assam.

The T&D Department is also working on developing Assam GIS portal in collaboration of NIC as envisaged in T&D's One Year Agenda. The portal will serve as the common platform of Assam GIS initiative.

The action points/views as suggested by the Sub Committee to take forward the GIS/RS initiative in the state are summarized with tentative timeline/date. The Report includes other important observations of the subcommittee for successful implementation of A-GIS.

Yours faithfully,



(M S Manivannan)

Encl: Report of the Subcommittee

No.PDP.24/2016/6-A

Dispur the 3rd July, 2017

Copy to:

1. Commissioner & Secretary, Finance, Dispur. / Member,
2. Commissioner & Secretary IT, Dispur. / Committee of Secretaries
3. Commissioner & Secretary S&T, Dispur.
4. SO to Chief Secretary for kind information of Chief Secretary Assam, Dispur



(M S Manivannan)