Ref.No.MAIT/PY/2295   August 12, 2023

Shri Sanjay Kumar Agrawal
Dy. Director General (DM)
Department of Telecommunications

Subject: Request for Text to Speech Auto read-out requirement for the implementation of Cell Broadcast in two languages only

Respected Sir,

Greetings from MAIT!

This has reference to the subject and the meeting held on 10th August 2023 at DoT HQ chaired by the Member-Technology and attended by representatives from MeitY, NDMA and the industry.

We would like to thank you for arranging this much needed meeting for the industry to share their views and concerns. Kindly also refer to our previous written submissions (attached):

1. MAIT Representation No MAIT/PY/2276 dated 17 July 2023
2. MAIT Representation No. MAIT/PY/2252 dated 05 June 2023
3. MAIT Representation No. MAIT/PY/2732 dated 10 May 2023
4. MAIT Representation No. MAIT/PY/2728 dated 08 May 2023
5. MAIT Representation No. MAIT/PY/2685 dated 13 April 2023

Through this representation, we highlight the difficulties in implementing the Auto read-out feature asked in the 22 languages once again for your consideration:

- The development of a "Text to speech" voice synthesizer that is capable of reading out the CBS/CMAS messages in all 22 Indian vernacular languages' is a highly technical feature. Developing such a requirement would need humongous efforts and would involve multi-billion-dollar investment and also requires multiple years for each of the languages. Implementing all the 22 languages text to auto-read out of messages is techno-commercially not feasible.
- The development of such a feature will be highly cost-intensive and will end up increasing the cost of the final product (Phone) to the detriment of the Indian citizens.
- The efforts would require language experts in each of the 22 languages to train the "Text to speech" software modules.
- The Auto-readout feature is a separate and gigantic project in itself and cannot be clubbed with the CB functionality as defined in the globally defined, accepted and deployed mobile 3GPP standards.

- There is no such precedent for the Auto-read feature anywhere in the globe for so many languages.
- The mobile OS systems and phones are developed keeping in mind global markets. Any country-specific customization involving multiple languages for Auto read of Text to Speech is not feasible and would be impractical

We would urge once again that the auto readout feature be allowed to be implemented in mobile phones in two languages only i.e. English & Hindi and accordingly amend the gazette notification by deleting Clause No 3 (3) of the G.S.R. 278(E).

Thanking you for your consideration.

Warm regards,

Col Suhail Zaidi (Retd)
Director General

CC:
1. Shri Apurva Chandra, IAS, Chairman DCC & Secretary (T), DoT
2. Shri Alkesh Kumar Sharma, IAS, Secretary, MeitY
3. Shri V. L. Kantha Rao, IAS, Addl. Secretary, DoT
4. Shri Bhuvnesh Kumar, IAS, Addl. Secretary, MeitY
5. Dr Rajkumar Upadhyay, ITS, Executive Director, C-DoT
6. Smt. Gunjan Dave, Member (T), DCC, DoT
7. Shri Kamal Kishore, Member Secretary, NDMA
8. Smt. Asha Nangia, Scientist G and Group Coordinator, MeitY
9. Shri Ravinder Kumar Meena, Scientist D, MeitY