

Meeting with Competition Commission of India

August 20, 2015, New Delhi

Brief report:

The purpose of this meeting was for CUTS to share the findings (competition distorting policies and practices) from the CREW project's (www.cuts-ccier.org/crew/) bus transport market in the two states of India (Gujarat & Madhya Pradesh) and explore CCI's interest in engaging with these issues at the State level.

CCI has already initiated a process of reaching out to selected States of India as part of its advocacy agenda. The purpose is to build the capacity of State level stakeholders on Competition Law, and its application in state level policy and practices.

In the first round CCI would be working with the State governments in 12-15 states. For this exercise CCI Chair, Shri Ashok Chawla has already sent letters to Chief Secretaries of these States. Each Member of CCI has been allocated a few States each to help monitor the work better.

CUTS was informed that Shri SL Bunker is responsible for overseeing CCI's advocacy agenda in both Gujarat and MP (the two States where CUTS is implementing the CREW project and has approached CCI to engage in the bus transport market).

It was agreed that the issues raised by CUTS in the advocacy phase of the CREW Project in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh could be used as an 'entry point' for CCI to do some of this work in both these States.

From the discussions with CUTS, CCI identified two areas of intervention:

- (i) highlight anticompetitive outcomes in the bus transport market
- (ii) build capacity of the State government actors for developing a procompetitive procurement of buses

Action Points:

- (i) CUTS would prepare two notes to make a 'case' for CCI to involve in these capacity building programmes. These notes should highlighting anticompetitive outcomes in Gujarat and MP drawn from the evidence in the CREW project;
- (ii) The note would also give an idea of the target stakeholders of this capacity building programme;
- (iii) CUTS would develop the agenda in each States of capacity building workshops, for which CCI would be happy to assign resource persons. If the 'case' is strong enough and if senior level state government officials are involved in this process (Chief Secretary and/or Principal Secretary) then even a Member of CCI can participate in these events;
- (iv) CUTS would coordinate with the States Government officials and come up with few proposed dates for these workshops.