

Minutes of the 7th State Broadband Committee (SBC) Meeting
Chaired by the Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya
Held on 25th September 2025 at 4:30 PM
At Main Secretariat Building, Shillong

The 7th SBC meeting was held on the 25th September 2025 and was chaired by Shri D. P. Wahlang, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya.

The objective of the meeting was to fast-track telecom penetration in the State and sort out issues related to the execution and rollout of telecom projects.

The Attendance sheet is placed at *Annexure – A*.

The following invitees also attended the meeting through Video Conference:

- 1) Deputy Commissioners of Districts and their Representatives
- 2) Representative from DIPA
- 3) Representative from COAI
- 4) Representative from Bharti Hexacom Ltd (Airtel) – USOF 4G project
- 5) Representative from RJIO

Presentation by DoT NE LSA

The ADG (Telecom), DoT NE LSA gave a keynote address and requested DDG (Rural) DoT NE LSA to make a presentation (*enclosed at Annexure-B*) covering the following:

- **National Broadband Mission 2.0**
- **Meghalaya: Telecom Profile at a Glance**
- **Composite Billing**
- **Load aggregation for LT users under Green Open Access**
- **Call Before you Dig (CBuD)**
- **Leveraging OPGW (Optical Ground Wire) of the power sector**
- **Addendum to Model Building Bye-Laws, 2016**
- **RoW related issues**
- **Telecom Equipment/Cable Theft Cases**
- **4G saturation Project**
- **EB Issues related to 4G Saturation Project and others.**
- **Amended BharatNet Program- Role of State Government**
- **Utilization of BharatNet**
- **Planning of Coverage of remaining Villages – Coordinates Required.**
- **GIS Mapping of Street Furniture**
- **Common ducts and Cable corridor**
- **Issues from DIPA/COAI/TSPs etc.**

Discussions and decisions made:

1. National Broadband Mission (NBM) 2.0:

The NBM 2.0 was launched on 17th January 2025 with the effective start date of 1st April 2025 to 2030. The approach is through a multi –initiative roll out strategy with State collaboration.

Key Objectives & Goals of NBM 2.0:

- a. Extending operational OFC connectivity to 2.70 lakh villages by 2030 with 95% uptime from ~50,000 as of now.
 - b. To provide broadband connectivity to 90% of anchor institutions like Schools, PHCs, Anganwadi Centre, Govt premises, etc by 2030.
 - c. Improve the Fixed broadband download Speeds- National Average from 63.55 Mbps in November 2024 to a minimum 100 Mbps by 2030.
 - d. For Ease of Doing Business - reduce the RoW application average disposal time from 60 days (now) to 30 days by 2030.
 - e. Increase the number of rural internet subscribers per 100 population from the current 45 to 60 by 2030.
 - f. Powering 30% of mobile towers with sustainable energy by 2030.
 - g. Enhancing the usage of the 'Call Before u Dig' (CBuD) mobile app to protect underground Telecom infrastructure and other utilities.
 - h. Collaboration with States, municipalities and other stakeholders to ensure the effective implementation of the New RoW Rules 2024.
 - i. Common/Shareable telecom ducts to improve the maintenance and cost efficiency of telecom networks and other utilities.
 - j. Leveraging assets like OPGW (Optical Ground Wire) of the power sector.
 - k. Facilitate rollout of the 5G network.
 - l. Mapping of Telecom Assets on PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (NMP) Platform.
2. **Key issues for the State of Meghalaya flagged by the Hon'ble MoC in his Letter dated 28th August 2025**
- a. Implementation of composite billing - DISCOMs need to be mandated to consolidate all site wise bills of a Telecom company and provide one bill per telecom company in the State, thus enabling single payment from the telecom company
 - b. Deployment of Smart Meters for the telecom towers on priority.
 - c. DISCOMs to provide 24x7 electricity supply to minimize reliance on diesel generators at telecom towers in the State.

The Chair requested the CMD of MeECL to resolve the above three issues at the earliest.

- d. CBuD: State's CBuD usage of excavation enquiries were only 14 from Aug'2022 till June'2025 and only 3 in month of July'2025. Steps may be taken to mandate the usage of CBuD in all excavations.

The Chair requested the Nodal Department (PWD) to expedite onboarding of Level 4 & Level 5 District & Block Level Users by all concerned Department & District Administration.

3. Leveraging Optical Ground Wire (OPGW) of Power Sector in Meghalaya

- i. The DDG(R), NE LSA reminded about DO Letter dated 10/6/2025 of Secretary, DoT, GoI requesting Govt. of Meghalaya to implement Central Electricity Authority's (CEA) directives to incorporate a minimum of 48F OPGW instead of 24F in future transmission schemes.

- ii. DDG (Rural) also reminded about the need to provide a min of 48 fiber cores within the Optical Ground Wire (OPGW) cables and allow the TSPs and the Amended BharatNet Program to leverage them on mutually acceptable Terms & Conditions.

The C&S Power Department cum CMD MeECL suggested the TSPs/IPs to have one on one meetings with MeECL, to address these issues faster.

The Chair requested BSNL to send their proposal to and discuss the matter with CMD MeECL to utilise the existing OPGW network in the state of Meghalaya.

4. Addendum to Model Building Bye-Laws, 2016

The Chair requested C&S, IT&C to convene the Working Committee Meeting under SBC to take up specific issues related to Urban Affairs Department.

5. RoW related issues -by DIPA

- Reference slide No. 19 of PPT
- The Chair informed DIPA, concerned TSPs, IPs along with concerned District Administration to have a meeting with concerned stakeholders including the village headman, local NGOs to resolve these issues raised by DIPA & other Telecom Industry Associations.

6. Dual Demands of RoW Charges from PWD & Forest Deptt for same route – Issue related to BSNL

- Reference slide No. 20 of PPT
- The Chair informed IT&C Department to convene a meeting of officials from PWD, Forest Department and BSNL to resolve this issue. **Representatives of Forest Department/ PWD shall also submit documentary evidence to ascertain date of construction of the road.**

7. Telecom Equipment/Cable Theft Cases

- Reference slide no. 21 of PPT

The Chair requested concerned Deputy Commissioners to take cognizance of the matter and to maintain law & order situation in their respective jurisdiction. The chair also directed the DC offices to maintain database of such installations with a request to the Police to conduct regular patrolling of these areas and also to fast-track chargesheet of pending FIR cases of TSPs/IPs.

8. 4G Saturation Project

The Chair suggested that NE LSA DoT and the TSPs/ IPs may explore the technical feasibility of extending mobile network coverage to the remote areas by leveraging the existing Transmission Towers of MeECL.

The Chair also requested the Deputy Commissioner West Khasi Hills to expedite resolving the pending issue at Nongkynjang Village for which the DC has also taken note of it.

9. 4G saturation Project-EB related Issues

The Commissioner Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Power Department cum CMD MeECL informed TSPs to meet him and discuss matters pertaining to high Demand Note and to provide details of all the EB connections pending for more than 60 days.

10. Other Electricity Related Issues- By DIPA/TSPs

- **Reference slide No. 27 of PPT**
 - o CMD-MeECL invited the Head of DIPA to meet him to resolve these issues.
 - o The Chair also requested C&S, IT&C to convene the Working Committee Meeting under SBC to take up power related issues of TSPs.

11. Amended BharatNet Program (ABP)

The Chair stressed on the need to ensure that there is no duplicity of the ongoing Last Mile Connectivity (LMC) project (initiated by the State), the MSWAN project and the upcoming Amended Bharatnet project. The Chair directed the IT&C Department to set targets & co-ordinate closely with the BSNL, NE LSA DoT-GoI and ensure that duplication is avoided and that the objectives of these projects are achieved in a timely manner.

12. GIS Mapping of Street Furniture

- The Chairman cum Managing Director, MeECL informed that all the data have been provided to the consulting Team of PM- Gati Shakti National Master Plan portal, Planning etc. department.
- The concerned Consultant from Planning IP&SD Dept informed that the data can be processed once the procurement of High End System is completed.
- The Chair directed to complete the mapping at earliest


13. FTTH Connections for to all Government Schools and PHCs in Rural Areas under the Bharat Net Project

The Chair directed that a separate Working Group meeting should be convened with Education Dept, Health & Family Affairs Dept and BSNL to take forward the implementation of this project.

14. Common Duct Policy to align with ROW Rules 2024: The Chair directed that the list of initiatives by PWD/ Urban Affairs Dept should to be shared with Working Group Committee.

15. The Chair also requested all the Deputy Commissioners to convene the DLDC meetings regularly on a quarterly basis to solve the pending issues.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks from the Chair.


(D. P Wahlang)
Chief Secretary
Government of Meghalaya

Enclosed:

ANNEXURE A: Attendance

ANNEXURE B: Copy of the Presentation made during the 7th SBC Meeting