

Government of India Ministry of Communications Department of Telecommunications O/o The Senior Dy. Director General Ground Floor, Sanchar Bhawan, Jhalana Institutional Area, LSA, Rajasthan Jaipur – 302004



No. RJ/DDG-R/SBC Meeting/2020/ 94

Dated: - 31.08.21

#### **Minutes of Meeting**

The II<sup>nd</sup> State Broadband Committee Meeting to review the implementation of "National Broadband Mission" held on **Tuesday**, 24 August 2021 at 12 PM through VC under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, GoR.

1. The meeting was attended by the following officers through video conferencing :

- i. Smt. Aparna Arora, Principal Secretary, RD&PR
- ii. Smt. Sreya Guha, Principal Secretary, Forest
- iii. Sh. Anand Kumar, Principal Secretary, Revenue
- iv. Sh. Kunji Lal Meena, Principal Secretary, UDH
- v. Sh. Alok Gupta, Principal Secretary, IT&C
- vi. Sh. Dinesh Kumar, Principal Secretary, Energy
- vii. Sh. Bhawani Singh Detha, Secretary, LSG
- viii. Sh. Chinn Hari Meena, Secretary, PWD
- ix. Sh. Sidharth Pokharna , Sr. DDG, DoT , Rajasthan Member Convener
- x. Sh. V.K.Surendra , DDG Rural ,DoT ,Rajasthan
- xi. Sh. Sunil Kumar Singhal, Director Rural, DoT, Rajasthan
- xii. Sh. Sandeep Govil, CGM, BSNL, Rajasthan
- xiii. Sh. Rajesh Kumar Panwar, CGM, BBNL, Rajasthan
- xiv. Sh. T.R. Dua, Director General, TAIPA & team
- xv. Sh. K. Kapoor, CoAl & Team
- xvi. Sh. Umesh Bhandari, Mentor, Reliance Industries Limited
- xvii. Sh. R C Jain, Consultant, Reliance Jio
- 2. At the outset PS, IT&C welcomed Hon'ble Chief Secretary, GoR along with other members of SBC. He then briefed the meeting by highlighting the issues as raised by Telecom Service/ Infrastructure providers in the 1<sup>st</sup> SBC meeting held on 24.12.2020 & subsequent meeting held on 19.5.2021 on issue and challenges faced by TIPs under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Secretary, GoR.

# (a) Formation of District Level Telecom Committees:

As per provisions laid down in Rajasthan RoW Policy 2017 issued by GoR and as per direction issued in last meeting, the DLTCs has been formed in 22 districts to deal with the issues relating to public grievances for installation of towers, timely disposal of applications for permission etc.

For remaining 11 districts, CS asked to PS, IT&C to remind the same in the meeting of collectors scheduled on the 24.8.2021(A/N) and also directed PS, UDH to develop mechanism for monitoring timely and quarterly conduction of DLTCs in each districts with the result /outcome of the issues being dealt in these meetings.

## (b) Issues pertaining to Forest RoW :

PS, IT&C apprised that 9 RoW cases were pending in last meeting and as on date only 6 RoW approvals are pending with Forest, for which PS (Forest) informed that one case has been sent to National board for due approval, two are pending for seeking approval of hon'ble minister and remaining RoW cases are lying with user agency for further compliance.

PS, IT&C suggested to have Fortnightly/Monthly review of disposal of applications of OFC permissions may be undertaken at appropriate level. Short comings, if any, may be rectified by the applicants in these Fortnightly/Monthly reviews. as Forest RoW cases clearance takes 8 to 10 months from forest deptt as per feedback of user agencies.

CS asked PS, IT&C to coordinate as a nodal for resolution of all such cases for OFC laying permission.

Representative from M/s RJIL requested that Forest Right Act (FRA),2006 Certificate should be dispensed with in proposals of laying underground OFC within RoW of existing roads. The Government of Telangana vide order No.6711/2015/FCA-1/TS dated 25/08/2015 has decided to dispense with such requirement. CS asked PS (Forest) to examine such orders in view of GOI guidelines.

# (c) Pending EB Connections for mobile towers:

PS, IT& C apprised that there is good progress in releasing power connection after 1st SBC and as on date only 35 EB connections are pending for which the details reason of pendency was informed by PS (Energy) in the meeting. 05 more connections has been released and 03 cases are in WIP, 11 applications are stuck due to ongoing court cases on the same, 6 applications has pending VCR, 4 locations could not be found and remaining 6 applications were declined due to some reasons.

Representative of M/s RJIL informed that apart from these above EB connections there are 378 pending connections, out of these for 261 connections final demand note has been paid. PS (Energy) informed that substantial number of connections has been released during last eight year and agreed to look into for further pendency.

Representative of M/s RJIL also requested to issue single demand note for bulk connections required for 5G roll out.

## (d) Development of on line RoW Portal :

PS, IT& C informed that earlier online portal was to be developed by the DoT on PAN India basis as informed by DoT officials , but now informed that as some states have developed their own portal and this activity is held up in DoT.

Secretary LSG informed that ROW portal in LSG, GoR is already in place so same may be explored to process the RoW applications for all deptt. TAIPA representative agreed to provide their dedicated resources for development of this portal in state.

CS directed to PS, IT&C to coordinate in this matter for development of RoW online portal.

# (e) Pendency of Tower NOC (Regularisation of Existing Towers):

PS, IT&C informed that there is no progress in tower NOC cases both in Revenue and LSG departments due to policy issues. There are around 7900 cases with Revenue and 3500 cases with LSG are pending for tower NOC.

It was apprised to CS by Rajasthan LSA that Rajasthan RoW Policy 2017 issued by GoR are not being followed in letter and spirit. Instead LSG order dated 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018 & UDH order dated 20<sup>th</sup> February 2019 has been issued to regularise the existing towers as per 2012 policy provisions by superseding the notified RoW Policy 2017. Detailed discussion was held with UDH/LSG/Revenue departments.

CS directed to LSG/Revenue department to take necessary actions on pending approval on priority.

#### (f) Exorbitant Annual user charges:

For installation of over ground and underground structure, the annual user charges are being levied by different local bodies very exorbitantly that is not in line with RoW Policy 2017 issued by GoR.

e.g. JDA is Charging rental for Manholes/ Chambers @ Rs 26000 /KM instead of prescribed 10% of DLC and as per actual numbers and size of Manholes/Chambers.

Jaipur Vidyut Vitaran Nigam Ltd is charging per Pole Rent @2000/- with 10% escalation every year wef 2017. The rent per pole has grown now more than 3000/ per poles.

Other local bodies like in Udaipur, Kota also demanding huge amount for tower permissions as per their own polices.

CS directed PS, UDH and PS, IT&C for resolution in the matter relating to annual user charges and pending tower NOC.

PS (UDH) proposed for meeting on 02.09.2021 at 11 AM to review these orders in consultation with all stakeholders in coordination with PS IT so that by next meeting all such issues are resolved.

(g) RF coverage portal for coverage of telecom towers & mobile signals:

It was emphasized regarding necessity for development of tool so to analyze the existing mobile coverage and identifying the dark zones having poor or no connectivity in remote areas of Rajasthan.

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On the issue, it was stated that DoT is already in process and development of preparing RF coverage portal of mobile connectivity on PAN India basis. In order to have a graphical visualization of mobile signal coverage for entire Rajasthan state, the updated village boundary layer of the state has already been shared with DoT concerned office to incorporate them in RF coverage portal.

Sr. DDG DOT informed that once, portal is made operational, DoT will intimate state government.

#### (h) Radiation related public concern/issues :

Rajasthan LSA has informed that Radiation related public concern/issues as per RoW policies notified and advisory issued by Central Govt. are being dealt by DoT so stay / delay by local authorities for installation of towers/ Withdrawal of NOC/ Rejection of applications due to Public complaints (EMF) should not be happened. The major activities is already being carried out by DoT for EMF Awareness like -

- Random Field Audit of Mobile Towers/BTS
- Audit of EMF Radiation self-certificate of all mobile towers/BTS
- Educating the general public regarding harmlessness of mobile tower radiation through awareness programme
- Measurement of Mobile Tower Radiation level on public request.

CS advised to also make public aware on this issue by releasing full page advertisement in leading newspapers so that people in the villages too are made aware.

#### (i) CSR activities by TSPs/TIPs:

PS, IT&C requested to all TSPs/TIPs to come forward for carrying out CSR activities. M/s RJIL informed that many CSR activities are being carried out by them like for support to Wall city surveillance system, Abhay Command Centre etc. CS requested other operators through COAI /TAIPA to come forward for such social cause. COAI agreed to prepare to list out such activities for other TSPs also.

#### Concluding Remarks of CS Rajasthan:

Hon'ble Chief Secretary in his closing remarks appreciated to have such important meeting relating to connectivity of villages. He wished that all the pending issues of TIPs/TSPs to be sorted out with resolution by PS, IT&C & PS, UDH by sitting together along with all stakeholders prior to the next SBC meeting proposed in October 2021 (between 20- 25 Oct).

The meeting ended with vote of thanks by Sr. DDG, Rajasthan LSA, Jaipur.

The Minutes are being issued with the approval of Chairman of SBC.

(V.K. Surendra) DDG (Rural), DOT Rajasthan LSA, Jaipur (Raj.)

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Conv to the following for information & necessary action: -

- 1. PS to Chief Secretary, GoR
- 2. PS to Principal Secretary, RD&PR
- 3. PS to Principal Secretary, Forest
- 4. PS to Principal Secretary, Revenue Department
- 5. PS to Principal Secretary, UDH
- 6. PS to Principal Secretary, IT&C
- 7. PS to Principal Secretary, PWD
- 8. PS to Principal Secretary, Energy
- 9. PS to Secretary, LSG
- 10. PS to Commissioner, IT&C
- 11. Sr. DDG, DoT, Rajasthan
- 12. CGM, BSNL/ BBNL, Rajasthan
- 13. Representative from TAIPA/ CoAI/ Reliance Jio

(V.K. Surendra) DDG (Rural), DOT Rajasthan LSA, Jaipur (Raj.)