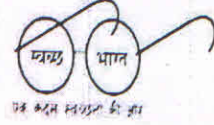




Government of India
Ministry of Communications
Department of Telecommunications
O/o The Senior Dy. Director General
Ground Floor, Sanchar Bhawan, Jhalana
Institutional Area, LSA, Rajasthan Jaipur - 302004



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

Dated: - 17th Feb 21

Minutes of Meeting

The 1st State Broadband Committee Meeting to review the implementation of "National Broadband Mission" held on **Thursday, 24 December 2020 at 11 AM** through VC under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, GoR.

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

- i. Sh. Ajitabh Sharma, Principal Secretary, DoIT& C - Member
- ii. Sh. Dinesh Kumar, Principal Secretary, Energy - Special Invitee
- iii. Sh. Rajesh Kumar Yadav, Principal Secretary, PWD - Member
- iv. Sh. Bhawani Singh Detha, Secretary, LSG - Member
- v. Sh. B. Praveen, Secretary, Forest
- vi. Sh. Virendra Singh, SS & Commissioner, IT&C - Member
- vii. Sh. Manish Goyal, Joint Secretary, UDH
- viii. Sh. Ballabh Sharma, Dy. Secretary, RD&PR
- ix. **Sh. B.K.Gupta, 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 - Special Invitee
- xiii. Sh. Rajesh Panwar, CGM, BBNL, Rajasthan - Special Invitee
- xiv. Sh. T.R.Dua, DG TAIPA- Special Invitee
- xv. Sh. J.Jena, CoAI- Special Invitee

2. The meeting started with welcome of Hon'ble Chief Secretary, GoR by Commissioner IT with brief address highlighting the background of constitution of state Broadband Committee under chairmanship of Chief Secretary for implementation and review the progress of "National Broadband Mission" to meet the objectives of National Communication Digital Policy 2018 with the provision for "Broadband for All."

The creation of the digital communication infrastructure requires coordination and alignment of the work of multiple stakeholders and agencies incl. state govt. and various central ministries and departments. Accordingly **State Broadband Committee** has been constituted with due notification issued with the order of Hon'ble Governor of Rajasthan on dated 14.12.2020 comprising members as mentioned in the order (attached at annexure-1).

[Signature]

3. Sr. DDG, DOT, Rajasthan LSA, Jaipur & Member (Convenor) of SBC discussed the agenda points as circulated along with meeting notice.

(i) Role of state :-

In order to bring uniformity, clarity and simplification of process for permission to be given to licensee for installation of telecom infrastructure in urban and Rural areas, Rajasthan RoW Policy 2017 order issued vide No. F.10 (147)UDH/3/2008 Part III dated: 6th Feb 2017 with cabinet approval by superseding all connected orders which was aligned to Govt. of India Indian Telegraph RoW Rules, 2016 .

But following some orders which have been issued by various Departments of GoR are contrary to the provision of Rajasthan RoW Policy 2017 as under and disrupted the growth of telecom infrastructure in the state and creating hindrance in achieving the target of Mission.

(a) Deptt. of UDH , GoR Order F10(147)UDH/3/2008 Part-III Dated 10.12.20 :

As per this order, if any objections are received against the applications from public for installation of GBM and lying of OFC, the permission regarding installation of the tower shall not be granted creating **Stay / delay by local authorities** for installation of towers/ Withdrawal of NOC/ Rejection of Applications due to Public complaints (EMF).

This order is in contradiction of clause 8 (2)(b) of Rajasthan RoW Policy 2017 which says that application can only be refused if it is found to be against the provisions in the rules of said policy and shall not be refused on extraneous ground.

Sr. DDG DOT LSA stated that Department of Telecommunications have prescribed stricter precautionary norms for exposure limit for the Radio Frequency Field (Base Station Emissions) which is 1/10th of the existing limits prescribed by ICNIRP and recommended by WHO. Further, Government of India has taken adequate steps to ensure that Telecommunications Service Providers strictly adhere to these prescribed norms. So **stay/delay by local authorities for installation of towers/withdrawal of NOC /Rejection of application due to public complaint (EMF) to be discouraged.**

Hon'ble Chief Secretary post discussion with Joint Secretary, UDH (GoR) instructed him to review the said order as same is affecting the telecom rollouts in the State and is not in line with the Rajasthan RoW Policy 2017 which was passed by the cabinet. He also asked DOT and concern stakeholders to campaign for public awareness for making them fearless about such radiations through print and electronic media.

Chief Secretary was apprised that already DOT and concern stakeholders are taking such measures in Rajasthan. Various EMF awareness Programs/ functions has been conducted even in the presence of Hon'ble State Minister of Telecom and through TV channels/Radios and sending SMS to Mobile users.

(b) LSG order dated 28th March 2018 & UDHD order dated 20th February 2019 :

It was brought to the notice of Chief Secretary by Sr.DDG DOT that post Rajasthan 2017 policy, various departments have issued multiple adverse orders regarding regularization of existing telecom towers which were asked to be regularised as per provision contained in Rajasthan Old Policy Bylaws of 2012 which had **much more charges & stiff conditions**. These orders are again contrary to provisions made in clause 12 of Rajasthan 2017 policy.

As 2017 Rajasthan Policy supersedes all previous telecom policies being followed across the State, these various adverse orders for following 2012 bye laws for regularization of telecom towers has halted the NOC for the towers across the State.

Shri T.R. Dua, DG-TAIPA also informed that as per provisions laid under Rajasthan 2017 Policy regarding regularization of old existing telecom towers industry has already submitted the relevant applications along with prescribed charges but no permissions being issued by the authorities till date. It's almost more than 2 years of submitting such applications by the industry and around 8000 telecom towers permissions are on hold due to such adverse orders being issued by various authorities.


Post detail deliberation Hon'ble CS has asked LSG & UDH department to review these orders on priority and withdraw the same. Further, he also asked UDH to issue all such pending permissions on priority.

(c) Conversion of Land use order by Revenue Department dated 6th November 2017 :

Sr. DDG DOT stated that post notification of Rajasthan RoW Policy 2017, Revenue Department's issued a Circular No. Pa. 9 (28) Raj-6/17/14 dated 06.11.2017 by passing the provisions mentioned in Clause 3(x) of the Telecom Policy and referred 23rd August 2012 order to be followed which says that *"use of land for setting up of towers by the telecommunication companies falls in the category of commercial purpose and the conversion charges and the penalty for use of land without conversion are to be charged"*.

Above orders are **contrary to clause 3(x) of Feb 2017 State RoW policy** which says that *" Mobile tower/posts being a temporary structure and essential service in nature can be installed on any type of land/building regardless of its specified land use and will not require change of land use under any law. "*

Hence **Conversion of Land use** proceedings across the State should be dropped for the existing Mobile Towers installed on the agricultural land and for new telecom towers and the provision of Rajasthan Telecom Policy dated 6th Feb 2017 is requested to be implemented across the State and Revenue Department's Circular No. Pa. 9 (28)Raj-6/17/14 dated 06.11.2017 to be withdrawn.



Principal Secretary IT and Commissioner IT was in view that no such orders should be issued by any department without taking into the cognizance the view of nodal department entrusted with the responsibility of telecom & IT growth in the state.

Post detail deliberation with Hon'ble CS agreed to review these orders on priority and withdraw the same.

(d) Rationalisation of Annual user charges :

It was informed that Rajasthan Telecom 2017 Policy levies Annual charges for installation of telecom towers on private land & buildings apart from one time nominal administrative fee while same are not in line with the Govt. of India Indian Telegraph RoW Rules 2016 and Annual Charges on private land & buildings be removed.

Rajasthan Telecom Policy, 2017 not being adopted down the line and authorities like Nagar Nigam Jaipur, REECO Industrial areas Alwar etc are demanding huge amount ranging from Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 1 Lakh for tower permissions as per their own policies.

Sr. DDG DOT stated that presently in urban areas, as the problem is being faced by TSPs in laying of underground cable due to congestion on the roads /traffic disturbances/ risk of damaging of other existing underground infrastructure and the practises of laying over ground cable is being adopted on LT poles/street pole , hence Rationalisation of the annual user charges (Rs. 1500/pole) is also required to boost the telecom growth which shall be beneficial to state in longer term along with unauthorized usage in non standardized way.

Chief Secretary was agreed with this fact and asked DoT to collect the rates from different state on the subject and then the matter shall be reviewed by the State Government.

(e) ROW online Portal: -

Sr. DDG DOT intimated that centralised DoT portal is under development and once it is made operational shall be integrated with state portal.

UDH Department intimated that they have been developing one portal to process the RoW cases, but CS was in view that requisite conditions /charges in this portal should be at par with provisions made in Rajasthan Telecom Policy, 2017 and portal must be modified accordingly with uniformity.

Sr. DDG, DOT pointed out that time-line of 60 days for granting permission as per provisions in Rajasthan Telecom Policy, 2017 not being followed and uniform documentation is available for applying RoW. CS Rajasthan was requested to issue specific directions to all concern departments to follow the guidelines as per Rajasthan Telecom Policy, 2017 in letter and spirit.

Sub

CS Rajasthan asked to provide the list of current pendency of such cases. Commissioner IT was also in view to appoint the dispute Resolution officer to avoid such delay.

Sr. DDG DOT informed that Dispute Resolution Officer to be nominated by GoR and same has to be designate by notification with jurisdiction for purpose of referring disputes under subRule (1) of GOI Policy.

Post detail deliberation, Hon'ble CS has asked LSG department to appoint the dispute Resolution officer to avoid such delays.

(ii) Tower fiberization in Rajasthan –

Sr.DDG, DOT informed that Rajasthan has 31.51% of telecom tower installed in Rajasthan are fiberized as of now, **70% Tower** are to be fiberised under NBM implementation Plan by 2022. The said matter is under discussion with relevant TSP/IP and detail plan of achieving the set targets has been sought by LSA, DoT.

(iii) Long Pending Tower & EB permissions of IPs in Rajasthan-

It was highlighted by TAIPA that more than 8000 telecom tower permissions and 32 Electricity connections are pending for IPs across Rajasthan for more than 6 months. Same is requested to be cleared on priority to avoid further delay in creating robust telecom infra in Rajasthan. TAIPA also requested that no coercive action against telecom towers be initiated by authorities as same affects the quality of service and connectivity in the respective areas.

Sr. DDG DOT informed that the NBM envisages the increase of existing tower density from **0.42 tower per thousand population** to **1.0 tower per thousand population** with setting up of additional approx. 46000 towers across the state.

CS has asked UDH & Energy department to take necessary actions on priority and clear the said permissions.

(iv) Connectivity to Villages & Preparation of Master Village data base: -

Sr. DDG DOT informed that NBM mission focuses on providing broadband connectivity to each and every household. As per present census 2011 data, there are 930 villages which are still uncovered.

DoT need to have the complete list of Villages /hamlets/habitations to achieve the said objective. DOT Rajasthan LSA has requested Rajasthan Government for sharing said details along with lat/long.



Sr. DDG DOT requested for sharing of Village Directory with details of Gram Sevaks / Sarpanch / Village executives, ration shops, anganwadis, PHCs, VLEs etc., for mapping their details with the Census Villages.

Sr. DDG DOT also requested for passing instructions for getting verification of mobile connectivity/signal coverage status of all habitations through BDOs/Gram Panchayats to have real ground status with DOT about coverage.

Commissioner IT was also in view that census 2011 data has changed quite a lot and Principal Secretary IT assured that the list of updated villages along with all the requisite information shall be shared with DOT after collecting the same from concern departments.

(v) Utilisation of BharatNET Network and issues faced in roll out :-

CGM BBNL, Rajasthan LSA updated the present status of BharatNET project for Broadband connectivity in Gram Panchayat in Rajasthan .

CGM BBNL also requested to provide the list of additional Gram Panchayats created so as to cover in the project.

CGM BBNL highlighted that forest RoW clearances takes more than 8 months which delays their work and 07 cases are pending with Forest Deptt.

(vi) Broadband Readiness Index (BRI): - Sr. DDG, Rajasthan, DoT informed that the feedback on BRI information which was shared by Rajasthan State Government has been submitted to the DoT and the first report of BRI will be issued shortly.

(vii) TAIPA/COAI issues: With the permission of chair TAIPA & COAI who are the main stakeholders for meeting objective of this Mission also raised some key issues hindering the rollouts of telecom infrastructure in Rajasthan as under:-

- State DISCOM, through a central agreement, to allow Telcos to use their LT Poles for aerial OFC and mounting low power 4G/5G BTS.
- Permissions for laying last-mile aerial OFC/Co-axial Cables in a standardised aesthetic way.
- Rationalisation of Restoration / Access Charges across the State/UT.
- Penalty clause on fiber cut as a standard contract clause and proceeds be used for swift restoration.
- Municipal and state authorities to facilitate construction of common ducts for UG electrical cable and OFC during new/widening road construction.
- No permission charges be levied against the installation of Telecom Infrastructure in remote villages not covered under USOF funds.

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 such meeting could have been held earlier. As Rajasthan is the one of the biggest state having lot of diversity so for telecom infrastructure growth in state. He assured DOT and TAIPA/COAI to look into all the issues raised in meeting with different department of GoR and asked IT department to organise such meetings frequently.

He also assured that the issues which didn't took place today will be discussed in second SBC meeting with the outcomes of issues raised today. CS Rajasthan assured all necessary support to be provided to telecom industry being the critical and essential services by the GoR.

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.)

Copy to the following for information & necessary action:

1. PS to Chief Secretary, GoR
2. Addl. Chief Secretary, RD&PR department
3. Pr. Secretary, Forest
4. Pr. Secretary, UDH
5. Pr. Secretary, DoIT&C
6. Pr. Secretary, Energy
7. Pr. Secretary, PWD
8. Secretary, LSG
9. Sp. Secretary & Commissioner, DoIT&C
10. Sr. DDG, DoT (Member convener)
11. CGM, BSNL, Rajasthan
12. CGM, BBNL, Rajasthan
13. Representative from TAIPA
14. Representative from CoAI