

**2nd State Broadband Committee Meeting - Minutes of the Meeting on 6th January 2021
held in the chambers of the CHIEF SECRETARY, Government of Telangana**

Preamble:

The Department of Telecom (DoT) has informed all States that Central Government has launched National Broadband Mission (NBM) to enable fast track growth of digital communications infrastructure, bridge the digital divide for digital empowerment and inclusion, provide affordable and universal access of broadband for all. NBM is envisaged to fulfill the vision of “Broadband to All” and fulfill the goals of the National Digital Communications Policy 2018. The DoT has suggested the following:

- I. To conduct quarterly State Broadband Committee meeting for achieving the objectives of the National Broadband Mission in next five years.
- II. To address all matters regarding Broadband Readiness Index (BRI).
- III. Monitoring and evaluation of the work of Mission pertaining to the State.
- IV. To facilitate implementation of the guidelines issued by the Governing Council or Steering Committee enabling expansion of broadband services for the socio-economic development.
- V. To work with States to have their Right of Way (RoW) Policy aligned with the Right of Way (RoW) Rules notified by the Central Government.

Members Present during the review meeting:

1. Sri. Somesh Kumar, IAS, Chief Secretary – Chairman SBC
2. Smt. Shanthi Kumari, IAS, Spl. Chief Secretary, EFS&T Department
3. Sri. Sunil Sharma, IAS, Prl. Secretary, T,R&B Department
4. Sri. Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, Prl. Secretary, ITE&C Department, Co-Convenor
5. Sri. J.V. Raja Reddy, ITS, Advisor, APLSA, DOT, Govt. of India, Co-Convener
6. Sri. Nagesh Rao, ITS, DDG(Rural), APLSA, DOT, Govt. of India
7. Smt. Anupama Sanghi, ITS, DDG (Rural), APLSA, DOT, Govt. of India
8. Sri. G. Suresh Reddy, ITS, Director(Rural), APLSA, DOT, Govt. of India
9. Sri. Sujai Karampuri, MD, T-Fiber
10. Sri. U. Sreenivas, ITS, Sr. General Manager, BBNL, Telangana

Members Present through Video Conference:

1. Sri. V. Sundar, ITS CGM, BSNL
2. Sri. KVN Rao, ITS, Prl. GM, BSNL
3. Sri. Tilak Raj Dua, Chairman, M/s. TAIPA
4. CmdrDr. J. Jena, DDG, M/s. COAI

Proceedings of the Committee on 06.01.2021:

The 2nd State Broadband Committee (SBC) meeting started by Prl. Secretary, ITE&C (Co-convenor) welcoming Hon'ble Chairman and members. The State Broadband Committee reviewed the Minutes of the Meeting of 1st State broadband Committee meeting. The Co-convenor (DoT) has requested the State Government to make available the contact details of panchayat secretary/VRO/BDO whom DoT can contact to independently cross-check the mobile coverage status in all the villages of Telangana state.

The Committee discussed on GPs coverage Status, Uncovered Villages, The status of BharatNet Phase – I & Phase – II Projects.

The salient points are:

1. APLSA, DoT, Hyderabad requested the State Government for providing the contact details of Panchayat Secretary/MPDO/VRO for analysing the coverage status at the grass root level. State Government authorities to take necessary action and arrange the contact list to DoT.

2. DoT emphasised the need of the RoW Policy / guidelines for Telecom Infrastructure in Telangana State. The Principal Secretary, ITE&C replied that they are in the process of issuance of the Government Order shortly. The RoW Policy for Telecom Infrastructure for Telangana State will be issued along with the feature of Single window / Portal clearance. TR&B department is requested to give approvals for Integration of new web portal with the existing portal maintained by TR&B department.
3. Committee discussed on the Status of BharatNet phase-II project, as it is State led model in case of Telangana State, being implemented by M/s T-FIBER. In Telangana State, Under BharatNet Phase – II project, 2459 kms OFC is laid out of total 33156 KMs of fiber. M/s T-FIBER has replied that 623 GPS are LIT-up out of 10787 GPS. DoT requested the Chairman to give due importance to the uncovered villages while laying fiber under BharatNet Phase – II.
4. Committee has discussed the need for communicating the nomination of Additional Collector (Local body) at each district as the Nodal Officer for resolving issues at the district level, as per the decision taken in 1st SBC meeting.
5. Committee has discussed on the importance of National Building Code (NBC) 2016, of Government of India, for Telecom Infrastructure. Chairman of SBC replied that NBC 2016 will be taken up by Municipal Administration & Urban Development Department (MA&UD) in Telangana State.
6. Committee has discussed the importance of Dig Once Policy for Telecom Infrastructure. State Government authorities to take necessary action.
7. M/s. BSNL has raised the following issues:
 - Copper cables and Fiber optic cables cuts are happening across Telangana State. District Collectors to help in resolving the issues. TS Government to look in to this.
 - Common ducts should be constructed to enable speedy expansion of Telecom Network and it also can generate revenue for the Telangana State Government.

The Chairman has assured that those problems will be taken care accordingly.

8. M/s. COAI has raised the following issues:
 - a. Notification of State Policy aligned with Central ROW Rules, 2016.
 - b. Single online application process for OFC laying including environment & forest clearances. Written deemed approval to be issued by system after 60 days of application submission.
 - c. Permissions are still not being issued for installation of towers in GHMC area since last 02 years.
 - d. Restoration charges in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) area are very high and not uniform.
 - e. State Discoms, through a central agreement, to allow telco's to use their LT poles for aerial OFC and mounting low power 4G/5G BTS.
 - f. Penalty clause on Fiber cuts as s standard clause and proceeds to be used for swift restoration (incl. Govt. contracts)
 - g. National Building Code for in-building fiber layout be adopted by new housing societies and link it to issue of OC (Occupation certificate)
 - h. Municipal and State authorities to facilitate construction of common ducts for UG electrical cable and OFC during new/ widening road construction.
 - i. APLSA unit, DOT should be in the forefront in resolving the Radiation issues and create awareness in the public.

The Principal Secretary, ITE&C, has replied that issues are noted and will follow up with MA&UD department of Telangana State. He stated that the deemed approval will be for 14 days maximum in the State ROW Policy. GHMC permissions and issues in the Districts will be taken up and will intimate the District collectors to resolve quickly.

9. M/s.TAIPA raised the following issues:

- a. Right of Way(RoW) for Telecom Infrastructure in Telangana State has to be in line with the RoW Policy / guidelines of Indian Telegraph rules of Government of India, 2016
- b. Launch of web-based single window online portal.
- c. Reduction in EB Tariff to help businesses tide over the COVID-19 crisis, similar to other States like Maharashtra & Uttarakhand which have already reduced EB tariff by average 6-8%
- d. District Level Telecom Committee needs to be constituted to take care of operational issues like:
 - Delay in final permissions/NOC
 - Pending EB connections
 - Rejection of applications based on unfounded concerns of public on EMF radiation
 - Cancellation of already issued NOC by issuing Authority itself without any valid reason
 - Use of Electricity poles/Towers for mounting low power 4G/5G BTS.
 - No disconnection of EB from existing towers due to frivolous public complaints
 - Priority electricity connections at Industrial Tariff within 15 days
 - Online bills, preferably on registered email ID, to avoid delay/penalty.
 - Maintenance schedule should be shared in advance, to arrange for adequate alternate energy source.

The Principal Secretary, ITE&C, replied that once RoW Policy / guidelines is notified and released, then all the above issues will be resolved.

10. In the concluding remarks, Hon'ble Chairman SBC has summarised the following:

- A. G.O on RoW Policy / guidelines for Telecom Infrastructure will be released shortly and most of the issues raised by participants will be resolved.
- B. GHMC and District Collectors will clear all issues related to Towers & OFC. Asked DoT to submit district-wise pendency list of towers in this regard.
- C. Prl.Secretary, Energy and Prl. Secretary, PR&RD will be included as State Broadband Committee Members from the next State Broadband Committee to sort out all issues related to Electricity and Panchayats.
- D. Nodal officer may be nominated from DISCOM side to start working on the issues
- E. TS Government to provide the contact details of Panchayat Secretary/MPDO/VRO to DoT to enable them to monitor the mobile coverage at grass root level in Villages
- F. TR&B department is requested to give approval for Integration of new web portal with the existing portal maintained by TR&B Department.

11. Meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chairman of SBC.

Sd/-
Chief Secretary to Government

// FORWARDED :: BY ORDER //

J. Bhaskar Reddy
SECTION OFFICER
Ch. J.

