Minutes of the 6th State Broadband Committee (SBC) Meeting held under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, Government of Telangana on 2nd April 2024

Members Present during the review meeting:

1. Smt. A. Santhi Kumari, IAS, Chief Secretary – Chairman SBC
2. Sri. Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, Sp. Chief Secretary, ITE&C Department, Co-Convenor
3. Sri.K.Srinivas Raju, IAS, Principal Secretary, TR&B Department
4. Sri. Sandeep Kumar Sultania, IAS, Secretary, PR Department
5. Sri. Sandeep Kumar Jha,IAS, Joint Managing Director, Energy Department
6. Smt.Soni Bala Devi,IFS, Spl.Secretary, MA&UD Department
7. Sri.Dr.Vishnuvardhan Reddy, IFS,Spl.Secretary, Investment Promotion, I&C Dept
8. Smt.Viziendira, IAS, Spl.Secretary, TR&B Department, Hyderabad
9. Smt.P.Srilakshmi, IFS, Dy.Secretary, EFS&T Department
10. Sri.G.Suresh Reddy, ITS, Director(Rural), APLSA, DOT, Govt. of India
11. Sri. Hemanth Rathwe, ITS, DDG(Rural), APLSA, DOT, Govt. of India
12. Sri.G.Ganesh Kumar, ITS, ADET, APLSA, DOT, Govt. of India
13. Sri.N.Murali, ITS, Prl.General Manager, BSNL, Hyderabad
14. Sri. K.Naveen Kumar,ITS, GM (BharatNet), BSNL, Hyderabad
15. Sri.J.Mohan Naik, Chief Engineer(R&B), State Roads & CRN, R&B Department, Hyd
16. Sri.I.Ganapathi Reddy, ENC, R&B Department, Hyd
17. Sri.A.Sridhar, CTM(M&C), TSRTC, Hyderabad
18. Sri.N.Raghava chary, JD(e-GOV) I/c, ITE&C Department, Hyderabad
19. Ms.Aparna Bhumi, Director, Logistics, I&C Department

Members Present through Video Conference:

1. Sri. Dhananjay Gawande, Director M/s. COAI
2. Sri. Col.Mukesh Kumar M, Advisor M/s. COAI
3. Sri. Harpreet Singh, AVP M/s. DIPA
4. Ms.Neeti Tiwari, DGM, M/s. DIPA

6th State Broadband Committee (SBC) meeting was held on 2nd April 2024 in the conference hall of the Hon'ble Chief Secretary, Government of Telangana. Special Chief Secretary, IT,E&C Department has started the meeting by welcoming Hon'ble Chairman & members and requested Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to start the deliberations.

The Director (DoT), Hyderabad informed that Telangana DoT Telangana unit, AP LSA has been ranked #1 in the country for the FY 2022-23 and thanked the State Government for their unwavering support and implementing various initiatives of DoT and requested to extend the similar support in future also.

The Committee discussed the below points:

a. Status of implementation of Amended RoW rules.
b. Issues related to TS RoW portal.
c. Pendency of RoW cases in various departments,
d. Digitization of street furniture within the Hyderabad city limit un 5G roll out.
e. Implementation of Indian Telegraph (Infrastructure safety) rules.
f. Status of implementation of CBuD App.
g. Status of on-going USOF projects like LWE Phase-II & 4G saturation.
h. Identification of vacant lands & buildings of the Government.
i. provision of EB connection at industrial rates to Telecom Installations including the Safety & Security.

Discussion started with deliverables and outcome of National Broadband Mission (NBM) in the Telangana State and progress made in the various parameters like Tower Density, Growth of Telecom

Towers and their Fiberization, OFC Laid, Tele-Density in comparison to other similar & neighbouring states. The Director (DoT), Hyderabad has made a detailed presentation on the above-mentioned aspects. Copy of the presentation is enclosed as **Annexure-II**. The 6th State Broadband Committee also reviewed the Minutes of the 5th State broadband Committee meeting.

The Committee deliberated on the following action points:

1. Though State RoW policy is broadly aligned with central RoW amended guidelines, certain deviations are brought out w.r.t higher charges. Spl. Chief Secretary, ITE&C informed that the charges are set by Government of India for reference in the Central IT RoW Policy. Information Technology, Electronics & Communications Department is coordinating with associations of Telecom Service Providers and Infrastructure Providers and asked them to provide comparative study of charges in other states. Based on the consultations, decision will be taken to bring the rates in parity with other States. It is also informed that this exercise will be completed in two weeks' time.

2. **Pending RoW Cases:** Department-wise pending RoW cases of >60 days were analysed. The following is the summary:

    i. The Principal Secretary, TR&B Department has informed that all these cases were indexed and explained various stages of pendencies like Joint Inspection, for demand note payment, applicants not willing to pay demand note and some of the cases are deemed approved already. The Chairman asked DoT, why the deemed approval cases are shown as pendency. The Director, DoT has informed that field level officials on daily basis are not viewing the applications logged in the RoW portal resulting the deemed approval in most of the cases (around 73%). Then, the Principal Secretary, informed that a meeting will be held with DoT and TSPs for resolution of field level issues.
    ii. The Secretary, Panchayat Raj Department has informed that directions will be issued to all the field level officers to allow the work in deemed approval cases and also will issue circulars to all concerned that necessary action should be taken as per the stipulated timeline. He also informed that a meeting will be held with DoT and TSPs for resolution of field level RoW related issues.
    iii. The Special Secretary, MA& UD Department has informed that the pending cases will be sent to all concerned officials for timely clearance.

In this regard, Chairman, SBC opined that an Executive Committee with members from each department namely T,R&B, PR & RD, PR & ED, MA&UD (CDMA & GHMC) including IT, E&C, CGG and DoT, APLSA, Hyderabad shall be formed to review the pending RoW cases every month. All members agreed and informed that a Nodal Officer will be nominated for the said committee. Joint Director (e-Gov) I/c will compile the list of Nodal Officers and inform to DoT, APLSA, Hyderabad. DoT expressed that this initiative would help in clearing the field level issues.

3. **RoW Portal Issues:**
    i. DoT informed that the applicants are facing issue with Bill Desk Payment Gateway while doing 2nd Level payment (payment gateway) using their Corporate Banking Accounts. The Chairman asked CGG to respond on the issue for which Sr. Project Manager, CGG has informed that there are 2 levels of authentications being done i.e., level 1 being paying and level 2 being approving. Despite keeping a scheduler to track the effect of payment, due to time lag between the two levels, it is resulting in failure of payment. The Chairman directed CGG to resolve the issues by coordinating with all the stakeholders (Payment Gateway service providers)
    ii. CGG is directed to include the automatic rejection of application post 30 days of raising demand note in accordance with the State RoW Policy.
    iii. CGG is directed to include the provision of transfer of application from one authority to another authority in the same department and to other departments.

iv. Based on the feedback from COAI, the Chairman asked the TR&B Department to make available the list of Roads to CGG for incorporating in the TS Right of Way Portal.

v. CGG is directed to include the clause of mandatory posting in Call Before You Dig (CBuD) App in the RoW approval letter format.

4. Though Single Window RoW portal of Telangana is launched and integrated with the centralized DoT Gatishakti Sanchar portal, some of the departments namely GHMC & its allied agencies [like CRMP, SRDP, TSIIC & HMRL, HMDA], TSIIC, TS-SPDCL & TS-NPDCL for electricity poles, some of the GPs in PR & RD Dept.) are yet to be on boarded onto the portal. It was decided that the Joint Director (e-Gov) I/c will coordinate with CGG & these departments to hasten the process of onboarding.

5. Digitization of street furniture was discussed. DoT informed that all the states are way ahead in this aspect. State nodal officer, Spl. Secretary, I&C Department told that he is continuously pursuing with all departments. The information i.r.o Transmission Lines was received and mapped in the portal by TRAC and also informed that Government Buildings of T,R&B Department also received. DoT requested to complete the digitalization for Electricity Poles, Street Lights, Bus Shelters, Traffic Lights, Bus Terminals, Government Buildings as per the DoT approved format. Chairman told all the Asset owning departments namely TS-RTC, MA & UD, TS-SPDCL, TS-NPDCL & GHMC to complete the digitalization in the Hyderabad City Limits at the earliest and also directed to support Industries & Commerce(I&C) Department in this regard.

6. DoT informed that a clarification was received from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) regarding issuance of In-building Solutions (IBS) NOC. A certification from building architect mentioning the availability of Common Telecom Infrastructure is mandatory to issue Occupancy Certificate (OC) for the high rise multi storey buildings. The Director (DoT) also emphasized the need to modify the checklist by including Telecom compliance in the existing Occupancy Certificate format. The Chairman told MA&UD Dept. to take necessary action.

7. Status of implementation of the Call Before You Dig (CBuD) App was also discussed. It is informed that departments are not posting digging notifications in the CBuD Mobile App which is resulting in damage of underground utility assets. The Chairman informed all Departments to make a note and direct their field staff to post notifications. DoT also informed that the suitable clause may be added in the work orders given by Government Departments that it is mandatory to post notifications in CBuD App while digging.

8. DoT informed that NBM has developed a dashboard for District Level Telecom Committee (DLTC) for effectively monitoring the digging enquiries posted in the CBuD App and other telecom related issues. DoT requested to endorse the DO Letter written by Secretary (Telecom) to all the District Collectors for onboarding the DLTC onto CBuD App through IT, E&C Department.

9. Status of various USO funded projects was reviewed.

i. **LWE Phase-II Project:** Five (5) proposals pending at various levels of Forest Dept. is discussed and instructed to clear all these proposals within a week time. Site-wise pendency is given in below:

District	Issue	Current Status
Nagarkurnool	Amaragir_Last Mile (OFC)	Stage -I Approval issued. Pending with DFO for compensatory levies in PARIVESH Portal.
Nalgonda	Polepalli -Chitriyala (OFC)	Pending with PCCF(FCA) for recommendation of WL Proposal from 20th March 2024.

Nagarkurnool	Amaragiri Site	Peg marking and Joint Inspection completed. Pending with DFO from 24th Feb'24 onwards.
Asifabad	Bhimrelli (Repeater), Markagudem(Repeater), Bandragudem (Site)	Pending with PCCF(FCA) for EDS Reply from 19th March 2024
Asifabad	Irkapally(Repeater)	Pending with District Collector for DLC Meeting from March'24 onwards.
Asifabad, Adilabad	Provisioning of EB Connection	Pending with DFOs for want of NOC.

ii. **4G Saturation Project:**

BSNL request	TS Govt reply
Non-availability of Govt. revenue land/private land undertaking	IT,E&C Dept. will write a letter to concerned Dist. Collectors. for undertaking i.r.o USOF Mobile Connectivity projects.
Issuance of RoFR Certificate from Dist. Collectors for Forest Lands	IT,E&C Dept. will endorse relevant guidelines to concerned Dist. Collector. for issuing RoFR certificate wherever required i.r.o USOF Mobile Connectivity projects.
Reducing Demand Note for EB	Not in the purview of State Govt.
Reducing Demand Note for Forest Sites	Not in the purview of State Govt. as the rates are decided by Govt. of India.

10. Representatives of COAI & DIPA brought the following issues to the notice of the committee:

M/s. COAI has raised the following points:
   a. Rationalization of RoW charges and bring it in line with latest RoW amendments of DoT.
   b. Identification of vacant lands & buildings in the state for installation of telecom infrastructure.
   c. State Government should construct common ducts and make them available to the TSPs for laying OFC on lease/rental basis.
   d. Electricity related facilitations –
      I. Industrial / utility tariff for the telecom industry – States like Maharashtra, HP and KTK (for Data Centres) have already given.
      II. Green Energy Open Access – Adoption of the Ministry of Power's latest amendment i.e. aggregation of loads to achieve 100 kW as an eligibility.
      III. Composite / Consolidated Billing – Request for implementation of the Ministry of Power's advisory on the same.
      IV. Timely new connections – Support on timely electricity connections. For e.g. applications of various sites are rejected/pending for want of NOC from DFO. It is requested that Forest Dept. and Energy Dept. may be advised to do the needful for providing EB Connection at the earliest.

M/s DIPA raised the following points:
   a. Clauses regarding Refund of Fee needs to be added in the policy for cases where:
      i. Application of NoC is rejected by Local authority.
      ii. NoC is granted but towers not installed due to lack of support from local administration/ Policy in resolving public/RWA issues.
      iii. Refund of deposit money from the state in case of non-deployment of Telecom Tower due to public protest.
   b. Electricity Related Issues:
      i. Making available 24X7 power to telecom sites.
      ii. Migrating telecom tariff from commercial to industrial category.

    iii. Facilitating priority connections with Smart meters to the telecom industry.

    iv. Moving to single company single bill

c. Need to provide safety & security to Telecom infrastructure.

d. For private properties, only intimation is sufficient for overground infrastructure.

e. Rationalization of RoW charges and bring it in line with latest RoW amendments of DoT.

The following is summarised in the 6th SBC Meeting:

1. IT E&C department will convene a meeting with all stake holders to examine rationalization of RoW charges and to implement other provisions related to amendments of IT RoW Rules, 2022 and 2023 within two weeks and place before appropriate authority.

2. An executive committee to be formed by nominating a Nodal Officer from each Department, including IT, E&C Department and DoT to discuss the pending RoW Cases on monthly basis.

3. Some of the departments (GHMC allied agencies [like CRMP, SRDP, TSIIC, HMDA & HMRL], & TSIIC, TS-SPDCL & TS-NPDCL for electricity poles, some of the GPs in PR & RD) are yet to be on boarded onto the portal. IT E&C department shall coordinate with CGG and concerned departments for quick on boarding.

4. Digitization of street furniture as part of PM Gati Shakti NMP project will be taken up in the Hyderabad city limits for all types of street furniture. I&C Department. to actively complete the digitalization in coordination with asset owning departments.

5. MA&UD department should make necessary amendments for including IBS-DCI as a checklist while issuing Occupancy Certificate (OC) for high rise multi storey buildings.

6. IT, E&C Department and CGG should coordinate with Bill Desk Payment Gateway for resolving the corporate banking issue. CGG was also directed to incorporate all necessary modifications in the portal as discussed for seamless flow of RoW Clearances.

7. TR&B, PR-ED shall provide the soft copy of list of roads to the CGG for incorporating in the portal.

8. IT E&C Department shall endorse letter from Secretary (Telecom) reg CBuD to all the District Collectors for onboarding the DLTC onto CBuD App.

9. Forest Department should expeditiously clear the USOF proposals pending with them.

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

A. SANTHI KUMARI
CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

a. Annexure-2: 6th SBC presentation

b. Annexure-3: List of department-wise pending RoW cases

// FORWARDED :: BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER