

### Minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> State Broadband Committee Meeting

The 12<sup>th</sup> SBC meeting for 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2024-2025, was held on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2025 at DITEC Conference Hall, Janata Bhawan Campus, Dispur. The meeting was chaired by Shri K.S. Gopinath Narayan, IA&AS, Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Information Technology Department. The list of members / participants is attached in **Annexure-A**

The meeting started with the welcome address by Shri Pankaj Das, DDG (Rural), DoT Assam LSA. The Chairman observed and took a serious note of the fact that the main members of the SBC committee i.e. representatives from DoHUA, PWD & Forest Deptt. were absent in the meeting. He would pass appropriate directions to all the members from concerned departments for their presence henceforth in the SBC meetings as per GoI/DoT NBM mandates. After having a brief round of introduction, a detailed presentation was given by DoT, Assam LSA on various important issues as per following **agenda**:

1. **Review of DBN project:**
  - a. Forest Land and Road Access issues of BSNL and RJIL.
  - b. EB Connection Status & Issues of BSNL 4G Saturation Scheme.
2. **Deliberation on Digital Connectivity in Assam:**
  - a. Assessment of existing Digital Connectivity.
  - b. Critical bottlenecks.
  - c. Roadmap for Digital Infrastructure Development.
3. **Central RoW Rules Implementation Progress. (Nomination)**
4. **Status of Street Furniture Mapping.**
5. **Call Before You Dig – DLT Users and Utilization of CBuD in excavation activities.**
6. **DIPA/COAI /ISPAI issues.**
7. **Misc. points: Any other points with the permission of the Chair.**

The points discussed & decisions taken are stated as follows:

1. **Review of DBN (USOF) Projects:**

- A. **Forest Land and Road Access issues of BSNL and RJIL:** BSNL 4G Saturation & 4G mobile coverage in 2 Dists of Assam:

A DO letter was written by Hon'ble MoC to the hon'ble CM of Assam regarding DoT / GoI's Digital Bharat Nidhi projects being executed by RJIL and BSNL in the state. The Hon'ble MoSC is directly reviewing these DBN projects on regular basis through a dashboard in the PMIS portal. In the portal dashboard, there are 29 cases of BSNL and 15 cases of RJIL issues which were pending due to forest land allotment and road access issues (however, it was pointed out by DoT LSA that there were, in fact, 17 issues against RJIL– 13 Locality & 4 Road access as per RJIL's reports). 14 cases out of these 44 mentioned in PMIS have been resolved.

**Summary of the pending cases as per DoT /DBN PMIS portal is as below:**

Issue	TSP	Name of DBN Project	Status	No. of Issues	Remarks
Forest Land	BSNL	BSNL 4G Saturation	Applied through e-Parivesh	6	All are under process at DFO offices.
			Unable to access the forest site	1	Bangla Vasha (Hailakandi)
Road Access	BSNL	BSNL 4G Saturation	Not resolved	8*	*Includes Bangla Vasha (Both Forest + Access Issue)
	RJIL	ARP & 2 Dist of Assam	Not resolved	14	
Locality Issue	RJIL	ARP & 2 Dist of Assam	Not resolved	3	

1. **Forest land Allotment cases:** BSNL informed that 6 applications under cat IV of 4G saturation Project, out of total 7 pending Forest land allotment cases under FCA, have already been submitted in the field in mid of Feb-25 which are under-process at respective DFOs' offices. As there was no one present from the Forest Department, the information on the current status could not be known. However, the DDG(R) informed that he had a telephonic discussion with the CCF, Shri Rajendra G. Garawad, few days back who assured that the cases are already under his close monitoring and would be settled at the earliest. However, the chair was requested to take up the matter with the Forest Dept to expedite the processing of these applications.  
One site i.e., the Bangla Vasha, under Hailakandi Dist, is yet to be applied through e-Parivesh due to road access issue as informed by BSNL Assam.

**--Action by BSNL/State/Forest Deptt.**

2. **The Road access issues:** BSNL informed that the sites with access issues are difficult and they have written to their corporate office to drop these villages, but the same has not been conceded by DBN. After having a detailed discussion on individual cases, the BSNL expressed that the cases are not undoable, but it may need some extra resources. Chair instructed BSNL to do the needful and go ahead with it and if required concerned district authorities would also help as far as possible. The reply accordingly would be given to BSNL in response to its letter seeking State Govt. assistance, dated 20<sup>th</sup> Feb-25.

**--Action by State/BSNL**

3. **Locality issues faced by RJIL:** There are 4 issues (DH-1, WKA-3) of RJIL where they are facing the resistance from locals. These sites are located at Assam- Meghalaya border. It was decided that for these cases, the Public representatives (hon. MPs) would be approached to provide the necessary support for execution of these sites and negotiating with the locals. 1 Case, out of these, under Dima Hasao Dist, has been resolved, however RJIL is waiting for DBN's approval for extension for executing the works in the site.

**--Action by DoT/DBN/USP/State**

4. **Access Issues faced by RJIL:** For the 13 sites of RJIL whereby road access issues were flagged, the State Govt has previously given a reply (dated 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024) stating that the construction of approach roads is not feasible and there is no plan for construction of roads presently. Under the present condition, RJIL has informed that it would not be possible to execute the works for these sites without proper access. RJIL has sent a letter in this regard to DBN on 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2024. Final decision & Response awaited from DBN/DoT HQ.

**--Action by DBN/DoT**

- B. Hold sites:** There are 46 sites on hold. BSNL informed that these issues are being handled by BSNL field units for settlements and as such no State assistance is required at present. BSNL Assam would intimate the target for completing these cases.

**--- Action by BSNL**

- C. Dropped sites:** BSNL was requested in the 11<sup>th</sup> SBC to share the list of 4G Saturation sites which were dropped after land allotment with reasons. BSNL submitted the list to DoT/ Assam LSA, stating that 132 sites were dropped after allotment (without specifying the reasons as sought).  
In total, out of the 2902 villages surveyed by BSNL under 4G Saturation Cat I-IV, 2402 were dropped, however no reason for dropping the site was given. DoT requested BSNL to provide reasons for dropping the sites as it is a vital information for planning coverage & replies to many PQs. BSNL agreed to share the reasons for dropping these 2402 sites.

**--- Action by BSNL**

**D. EB CXNs:**

Sl No.	EB CXN Details	Count
1	EB connection Applied by BSNL	317
2	EB D/Note issued from APDCL	267
3	EB D/N yet to be issued by APDCL	50
4	EB D/Note < 3 Lac	177

5	EB D/Note > 3 Lac & < 5 Lac	42
6	EB D/Note > 5 Lac & < 10 Lac	32
7	EB D/Note > 10 Lac	16
8	EB D/Note Paid (out of 177 cases <3Lacs)	138
9	EB D/Note yet to be Paid by BSNL (<3 Lacs)	39
10	EB Commissioning Done (Out of 138)	100
11	EB Commissioning Pending (Out of 138)	38

For the 50 D/N yet to be issued, APDCL informed the committee that 11 D/N has been issued, 9 sites are not feasible and some sites were relocated & not intimated by BSNL. APDCL shared the details of these 50 cases with BSNL.

For the 38 sites where EB commissioning is pending, APDCL informed that connections were released for 10 sites. For rest of the sites, APDCL provided the details to BSNL.

In 11<sup>th</sup> SBC, the Chair asked APDCL to devise some method for averaging or re-estimating the D/N being issued since the D/N ceiling for BSNL was increased from 2 lacs to 3 lacs. However, in the meeting APDCL informed that a review of the D/N more than 3 lacs was done but averaging of these D/N was not feasible.

It was therefore decided that BSNL would execute these sites as per DBN guidelines - with other alternatives - 2 power sources (DG & Solar). BSNL informed that they will execute the sites accordingly thereby concluding the point of re-estimation of Demand Notes.

*--- Action by APDCL/BSNL*

**2. Deliberation on Digital Connectivity in Assam:**

DOT presented the status of the existing telecom infrastructure in Assam (& NE) and also discussed the challenges and roadmap for enhancing the telecom infrastructure in the State. DDG (R) shared his views & discussed about the concept of NTCN (National Telecom Core Network) to make a common Core Network under direct Govt. control by effective resource pooling & budling of existing public resources which can overcome almost all key challenges in Telecom sector and bring myriads of benefits & advantages for the users & citizens. COAI and DIPA showed a positive concern on this, but also expressed that it might face few challenges too. They were asked to share their comments & thoughts on this citizen centric proposal. The Chair asked for having a separate discussion on these challenges and proposed solutions ahead.

*--Action by COAI/ DIPA*

**3. Central RoW Rules Implementation Progress:**

1. DoT requested the State to provide the update on the implementation of Central RoW Rules in State and modifications in the State RoW Portal. The Chair informed that State has already integrated the key changes in the State RoW portal (Intimation for Pvt Property, and Charges of application). It was informed that the rest of the provisions would be implemented in the portal within 1 month.
2. COAI informed that APDCL was not on-boarded on State RoW portal and so that operators had to apply for EB poles for aerial fibre separately and for that the charges levied by APDCL were on a higher end.  
On this, APDCL informed that the charges have been revised to Rs. 100 per pole which is in line with Central RoW rules, 2024. The Chair asked the State RoW team to ascertain whether APDCL is on-boarded on the RoW Portal and also instructed the State to issue a letter to MD (APDCL) stating that henceforth, the applications for EB poles would be done through State RoW Portal only. A letter in the same line would be sent to all the other departments mandating the processing of the applications through RoW portal only.
3. DIPA informed that the acknowledgement receipts for intimation (for mobile tower/Pole installation on private property) was not being generated in the portal. DIPA shared the intimation format being generated in the Gati Shakti Sanchar Portal. The Chair instructed the RoW team to resolve this issue at the earliest.

4. The RoW portal of State and Gati Shakti Sanchar Portal are not in sync in that the pendency is being shown in the GS portal which the State informed were already cleared. The credentials of the GS portal were shared with the State by DoT so that the pendency can be verified and be in sync in both the portals.
5. Discussion was held on the nomination for appointment of Nodal Officer under the Section 14(4) of “Chapter III: RoW for Telecom Network” (Telecom Act 2023). The State informed that the letter regarding the appointment of Nodal officer would be shared with DoT shortly after the approval from the CS/Assam.

**--Action By State RoW Team**

**4. Street Furniture Mapping (SFM) progress of Assam:**

HOME & POLITICAL Dept & DoHUA		PWD (Buildings)		ASTC & DoHUA				APDCL		DoHUA	
Total Traffic Lights	Traffic lights mapped	Total Govt. Bldg	Govt. Bldgs mapped	Total Bus Terminals	Bus Terminals mapped	Total Bus Shelters	Bus Shelters mapped	Total Electric Poles	Electric Poles mapped	Total Street Lights	Street Lights mapped
	105		144	106	94		0	1,13,90,309	41,862		

DoT apprised the Chairman of current status of Street Furniture mapping in the State of Assam, vis-à-vis progress of Other States. APDCL has shown considerable progress in mapping the EB poles (approx. 8,000 in the last 11<sup>th</sup> SBC meeting). APDCL informed that the mapping of the EB poles across the State (Over 1.13 Crore) would incur some additional cost. The Chair asked APDCL to come up with a cost estimation for the entire mapping exercise, so that a way forward may be found for financing the funds gap.

**--- Action by State govt./APDCL**

**5. Call Before You Dig:**

**1. Regarding CBuD Utilisation:**

Citing the importance of CBuD utilization in preventing the damage to underground assets, and complying GoI mandates, the Chair requested State IT-Department to take all necessary measures for improving CBuD utilisation. The State CBuD Nodal officer to continuously monitor and analyse the activities closely in the CBuD portal / dashboard and initiate needful action towards enhancement of CBuD utilization. Instructions to all concerned departments to be given to observe a strict discipline to adopt CBuD as per GoI mandate without fail.

**2. DLT User creation:**

DoT informed that out of 35 districts, only 6 districts’ DLT users have been created so far and requested the State Nodal to follow up with the remaining 29 districts for creation of DLT users.

**--Action by State CBuD Nodal**

**6. Issues raised by DIPA:**

1. DIPA requested the assistance for district authorities for 7 of their sites on hold in Kamrup (3), Karimganj (1), Nalbari (1), Dhubri (1), Sonitpur (1) due to locality radiation concerns. State asked DIPA to share the details of these sites so that the same could be forwarded to DCs to extend their supports & facilitations wherever necessary.
2. DIPA also requested that DLTC meetings could be arranged periodically so that such issues can be regularly discussed with district authorities. The committee, however, is in the opinion that DLTC meetings may be held on need basis only as the cases are not regular and their nos. too are not appealing. The issues can be directly taken up with the DCs concerned with a copy to the

DoT/LSA & DoT nominees at BSNL SSA HQs. The DLTC meetings can be arranged accordingly. Local representative from the party concerned can also attend the meeting. A general instruction to all DCs will be issued from State for conducting DLTC meetings for resolving the issues at their level. The issues which are not resolved or settled at DLTC can be raised or escalated to the SBC.

3. DIPA shared the list of locations where the payments have been made for replacement of faulty meters, however the replacement has been pending. APDCL requested DIPA to share the details so that the replacement could be done at the earliest.
4. DIPA requested priority installation of smart meters at telecom sites to resolve billing disputes, ensure accurate billing, and reduce operational costs through efficient energy management.
5. DIPA citing the DO letter from Secretary (Telecom) to Chief Secretary dated 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2024 (issuing instructions to police authorities and local authority to be vigilant and active in preventing such incidents of theft of telecom infrastructure.) and subsequent directions released by Meghalaya Govt, requested the State to issue similar guidelines to the district authorities which would aid DIPA in better pursuance of the telecom related thefts/cases. The Chair asked State to issue similar guideline for Assam too.

**--Action by APDCL / DIPA / State**

The meeting concluded with the closing remarks & vote of thanks from the DDG (Rural).

**Principal Secretary to Govt. of Assam,  
Information Technology Department.**

**Memo eCF No. IT. 228702/2022/339-A**

Copy to:

1. The Director, Directorate of Information Technology, Electronics & Communication (DITEC), Dispur, Guwahati-06.
2. The Managing Director, AMTRON, Bamunimaidam, Khanapara, Guwahati-21.
3. The Secretary to Govt. of Assam, Power/PWD (Roads)/ PWD (Bldg & NH)/ Forest/DoHUA Department, Dispur, Guwahati-06
4. The State Project Director, AITEC & CSD Society, Agriculture Complex, Khanapara, Ghy-22.
5. All DC/ADC.
6. The Sr. DDG, DoT, Assam, LSA.
7. The DDG(R-II), LSA, Assam.
8. The CGM, BSNL, Paltan Bazaar, Guwahati-01
9. The GM, Bharatnet, Assam.
10. The Area Manager, Reliance Jio Infocom Ltd.
11. The General Manager, APDCL, Bijulee Bhawan, Paltan Bazaar, Guwahati-01
12. The DG, Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI).
13. The Digital Infrastructure Providers Association of India (DIPA).
14. P.S. to Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Information Technology for kind information of the Secretary.
15. P.S. to Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Information Technology for kind information of the Secretary.

By orders etc.,

***e-signed***

Principal Secretary to the Government of Assam,  
Information Technology Department