GOVERNMENT OF TRIPURA
DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
ITI Road, Indranagar, Agartala – 799 006

No.F.22(24))DIT/Comm(NBM)/2020/8473-92   Dated 16th Nov. 2021

Subject: - Record note of the 2nd meeting of State Broadband Committee of Tripura held on 27th October, 2021 at 03:30 PM.

State Broadband Committee (SBC) of Tripura was constituted vide Memo No.F.22(22))DIT/Comm/2018/Vol-I/2389-98 dated, 7th August, 2020 for effective monitoring and evaluation of the work of National Broadband Mission (NBM) in Tripura. The National Broadband Mission has been planned with objectivity of Seamless, high-speed (Quality) and affordable broadband connectivity to all. It has main deliverables like Broadband connectivity to all the villages by 2022, Broadband speed of 50 Mbps wherever necessary, Tower density of 1 per 1000 population, Fiberization of 70% tower, & 100% GIS mapping of Fiber.

2nd meeting of SBC was held on 27th October, 2021 at 03:30 PM under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Govt. of Tripura. List of participants is at **Annexure - I**.

At the outset Secretary, IT, Govt. of Tripura welcomed all participants and thereafter, presentations made by i) ADG of Dept. of Telecom (DoT),GoI,Tripura;ii) General Manager, BBNL, Tripura;iii) COAI; iv) DIPA; v) State Head CSC, Tripura.

During meeting following discussions took place.

1. The Chief Secretary (CS), Tripura directed DIT to bring the matter of absence of any enforcement mechanism upon its stakeholders regarding deliverables under National Broadband Mission(NBM) to Secretary, Dept. of Telecommunications (DoT), Govt. of India (GoI).

2. It was informed that in Tripura mobile service has been extended to 816 census village out of 863 census village. It was informed that absence of any concrete definition regarding coverage of a village makes it difficult to report village coverage. The chair advised the DoT officials to define standard definition of mobile connectivity of a village and till then coverage of 100 per cent geographical area of the village will be considered as covered village.

3. The Chief Secretary (CS), Tripura directed DoT officials to submit action plan to cover mobile connectivity to all villages of Tripura. Further DIT shall collect the information on uncovered villages and submit proposal for USOF funding.

4. It was informed that there are total 7793 nos. of BTS in Tripura of different Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) as on 30.09.2021, out of which Airtel has 2737 nos., BSNL has 684 nos., Reliance Jio has 3484 nos. and Vodaphone-Idea has 888 nos. The chair directed the DoT officials to share BTS data TSP wise and technology (i.e. 2G, 3G or 4G) wise and advised to convert 2G BTSs to 4G.

5. It is informed that at present USOF funded projects are being provisioned to provide 2G mobile services to uncovered villages/ areas.The Chair directed the DIT to write to DoT, GoI to consider 4G services instead 2G to be taken up under USOF funding.

6. In NBM it was emphasised to create Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping for entire integrated infrastructure. ADG, DoT, GoI, has requested to provide digital map of GPs/VCs in Tripura so that more accurate reporting of telecom coverage can be done.

7. It was informed by GM BBNL that out of 1178 GPs/VCs in the State, at present 714 are having BharatNet connectivity (572 using Fibre and 142 using VSAT). The Chief Secretary directed the GM BBNL to expediate the process to cover the BharthNet connectivity to all GPs/VCs of Tripura and directed DIT to write letter to DoT to expedite the implementation of BharthNet in Tripura.

8. It was informed that 572 GPs/VCs connected using OFC were handed over to CSC for last mile connectivity. The Chair directed the CSC-SPV to provide 5 internet connections from each GP/VC to Government Establishments on priority and upgrade the bandwidth of BharathNet sites wherever necessary and DIT shall write a letter to CSC-SPV in this regard.

9. **Aspirational Block coverage:** it was informed by GM, BBNL that out of 188 VCs under 12 aspirational blocks, internet has already been extended to 78 VCs. 80 VCs not commissioned yet, out of which 36 can be covered with very minimum expenditure. He also informed that 30 VCs has not been included under the scope of BharatNet yet. The Chief Secretory advised GM, BBNL to prepare and submit one estimate to State Govt. for extending internet to uncovered GPs/VCs and DIT may also explore the possibility of extending SWAN connectivity in uncovered GPs/VCs.

10. It was informed by COAI representative that State Govt. has issued notification in line with RoW Rules 2016 but it is required to have a more detailed RoW policy for the State. They also urged for State level policy for availability of Govt. land for installation of telecom infrastructures.

11. COAI representative also highlighted the requirement for common duct along road. The Chief Secretary suggested to COAI to bring any private establishment,

who are interested to create common duct along road and offer to others on rent basis, State will try to explore the possibility of viability gap funding options.

12. COAI representative informed that DoT made amendment in RoW Rules 2016 to include the provision for arial fibre (on electricity poles). DIT may check and take the necessary steps to amend state RoW Rules in consultation with TSECL.

13. A training session on online application for RoW permission available under edistrict.tripura.gov.in will be organised by DIT for all stakeholders. Further DIT will issue advisory to all DM and Collector to conduct District level telecom meetings.

14. CSC Representative informed that they are facing problems in providing last mile connectivity in BharathNet due to frequent OFC cut by different road executing agencies DWS, etc and non-availability of equipment. The Chief Secratory advised to train the local youth for repair of equipment instead of sending it to Nagaland. Further, Chief Engineer, PWD was advised to thoroughly examined the complaint of cutting optical fibre by contractor and take suitable action against the guilty.

15. DIT will issue advisory to different implementation agencies to monitor and recover the damages to OFC from the concern contractor.

16. It was informed that out of 9 no of BTS awarded to M/s Bharati HexacomLimited (BHL) under USOF funding, only 3 has been commissioned so far, for rest 6 M/s BHL cites forest permission issue, but PCCF &HoFF, Govt. of Tripura has informed that representatives from M/s BHL were reluctant to join meetings and sort out the issues and install remaining BTS. It was decided to recommend to DoT GoI to take action against M/s Bharati Hexacom Limited for non implementation.

The meeting ended with thanks to all.

12/11/21

(Tanusree Deb Barma, IAS)
Secretary, IT
Government of Tripura

To
All Participants.

List of Participants:

Physically present in meeting room,

1. Shri Kumar Alok, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Tripura
2. Dr. D. K. Sharma, PCCF & HoFF, Forest, Govt. of Tripura
3. Smt. Tanusree Deb Barma, Secretary, IT, Govt. of Tripura
4. Dr. Naresh Babu N, Director, IT, Govt. of Tripura
5. Shri Dipak Ch. Das, Engineer-in-Chief, PWD, Govt. of Tripura
6. Shri A. Nath, CE, PWD (NH), Govt. of Tripura
7. Shri Dilip Saha, DDG(SC), DoT, Tripura
8. Shri M. K. Gupta, GM, BSNL, Tripura
9. Shri Partha Sarathi Basu, GM, BBNL, Tripura
10. Shri Satyam Singh, ADG, DoT, Tripura
11. Shri A. K Saha, SE, PWD(DWS), Govt. of Tripura
12. Shri Uttam Podder, Joint Director, IT, Govt. of Tripura
13. Shri Subhash Ch. Datta, EE, PWD(WR), Govt. of Tripura
14. Shri Rajib Pal, US, PWD (R&B), Govt. of Tripura
15. Shri P. Saha, AE, PWD (DWS), Govt. of Tripura
16. Shri Biswajit Debnath, State Head, CSC-SPV, Tripura
17. Shri Satyabrata Debnath, NE, CSC, Tripura
18. Shri Subrata Kar, NE, BBNL, Tripura

Present in meeting through vidyo desktop VC system:
1. Shri Harpreet Singh, GM, Digital Infrastructure Providers of India (DIPA)
2. Mr. Kshem Kapoor, Director, Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI)