

**Department of Telecommunication,
Office of DDG (SC), Arunachal Pradesh
Sanchar Bhawan, 3rd Floor,
Gandhi Market, C-Sector, Itanagar-791111**

DDG/ARN/SBC/2021-22

Dated Itanagar 31st March 2022.

Minutes of SBC meeting, Arunachal Pradesh on 02.03.2022

DDG (SC), DoT briefed the National targets set by National Broadband mission and discussed the draft targets prepared for Arunachal Pradesh for discussion amongst committee members. A PPT was presented on agenda items and took the agenda wise discussion ahead.

Agenda wise discussion took place on village coverage, 4G USO project to cater to uncovered 1683 villages, BharatNet project, ROW pending applications, Progress of onboarding to centralized ROW portal, actions being taken to improve telecom service and reliable transmission media connectivity between state capitals, state capital DHQ, DHQ to Circle/ Block HQ , between circles (Blocks) etc.

Salient points discussed and decisions taken on SBC meeting are appended below.

- 11 tower installation and 4 OFC routes are pending for ROW clearances. Secretary (IT&C) may take up with respective DCs and get the clearances.
- On boarding to centralized DoT ROW portal is already approved by State Govt. State was requested to immediately complete the filling of templates shared with nodal officers and take up with implementation agency M/s MPSEDC urgently. Pending ROW cases be migrated to centralized portal for speedy online clearance.
- It was decided to cover 80% of the villages by 2023 by expediting the 4G USOF project. Once uncovered village list is finalized for Arunachal Pradesh, the remaining uncovered villages would be taken up with USOF authority under new USOF project.
- CS desired to take up coverage of villages inside 10km from international border with USOF in the similar way USOF funded Naxalite infested area.
- CS desired to get the list of 42 or more 4G sites for which BHL has received approval from USOF authority. BHL must take up acquiring sites and installation in those locations.
- CS asked power department to explore permission for erection of OFC on power transmission lines.
- For district to circle (block) OFC connectivity, state wants to fund BSNL to take up the work.
- Regarding pending 11 sites of USOF funded highway project, CS desired to clear all six ROW cases pending with local authorities.
- CS suggested to close 3G sites and replace by 4G sites and wanted to take up with DoT/ USOF for funding the same.
- Pending BBNL VSATs of 162 nos. are to be commissioned on mission mode by 31.03.2022. He urged Secretary (IT&C) to coordinate to remove the roadblocks coming at field causing excessive delay.
- CS wanted to know the broadband speed of the connected GPs/ villages under BharatNet project.
- CS decided to delegate the authority to Circle Officers for issue permission to use Govt. buildings for tower erection.
- It was learnt that Reliance Jio was given permission to utilize electric poles for their 4G equipment/ small cells. CS asks power department to extend the same for all TSPs.

T.R. Dua, DG, DIPA attended online and highlighted following issues:

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- Fast track issuance of Tower NoC cases across all the authorities - As on date around 395 NoC are pending at different levels for approval . Deemed approval clause to be activated
- Streamline guidelines for development of future street infrastructure - To support small cells and aerial fibre & power systems
- Implementation of A.P. permission RoW guidelines by all the authorities - Convening of District Level Telecom Committee Meetings on quarterly basis. As on date 11 DLTC meetings have been convened
- Availability of Electricity Poles for deploying Small Cells and Aerial OFC – Is now prescribed in amendment dated 21-10-2021 for IT RoW Rules 2016
- The local authorities may be sensitized to lease the government land and buildings for telecom tower installation
- Very high Capex demand while charging the telecom tower by State DISCOMs - Telecom IP companies should be allowed to use own infrastructure for electrification of tower
- Company-wise (not site-wise) Online bills may be provided on registered email ID to avoid any delay/penalty - EB tariff should be charged at industrial rates, Priority EB connection to be provided within 15 days of submission application
- Online system to be introduced for payment of Electricity Bills and for getting new connections
- Due to shortage of new Electricity Meters the faulty meters are not getting replaced - As on date 24-meter replacement is pending for which fee has also been paid
- Prepaid meter to be installed at Telecom Sites as done in other states like Manipur etc.
- Appointment of Nodal officer from each department such as Municipal Administration, Energy Dept/DISCOMs, PWD, Home (Police), Municipalities & Corporations etc for Telecom infrastructure issues
- Still no clarity on head of account has been issued by district authorities for remittance of one time NOC charges .
- Launch of Web-based Single Window Online Portal for Application Submission & Approvals
- District Level support from the Law enforcement agencies in case of public issues stopping work at cell site. Special committee may be constituted to handle such cases and issued related to DG restriction sites . DG restrict sites result in outages / poor network availability
- No permission been granted by the local DISCOM for deploying BTS on the electric poles

Kshem Kapoor, Deputy Director, COAI attended online and highlighted following issues:

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- **RoW Charges aligned with RoW Rules, 2016:** The annual rent for putting up manhole/chamber on the OFC route should be charged @ 1% of the notified land rules of the area
- **Single Online RoW Portal:** Now Arunachal approved onboarding to centralised DoT ROW portal
- **Written Deemed Approval:** Offline Deemed Approval Clause
- **Provision for Penalty clause on fiber cuts:** No
- **Provision for Dig - once' and 'Call before you Dig' :** No
- **Priority EB connections at industrial rates:** No
- **Safety of Telecom Infrastructure :** No
- **RoW Charges aligned with RoW Rules, 2016:** The annual rent for putting up manhole/chamber on the OFC route should be charged @ 1% of the notified land rules of the area
- **Delay in the grant in Telecom Tower & OFC permissions**
- **Fibre in Tawang Area:** Till date no fibre stringing work done due to no permission from Army, Pole installation pending due to material movement restrictions from Army
- **Support required to rationalize EB charges and for the priority Grid supply on Utility/Industrial/Favourable tariffs for providing Mobile & Broadband services:** Against Power requirement of 8-12 KW on LT, connections are given on HT, approx. Rs. 12.50 Lacs charged- highest amongst all States, and Dept. of Power adds escalation clause @ 7.41% for HT Line & 5.35% for Substation on SoR on yearly cumulative basis leading to cost escalation by 23.90% in 3 years, which is not inline with Power Dept. NE States
- **Safety & Security of Telecom Infrastructure across:** Telecom Infrastructure roll-out gets stopped/disturbed especially due to public objection and lack of police support
- District Magistrate/District Authorities/Police to be vigilant and safeguard the Telecom/Digital infrastructure.
- Instruct officials to take strict legal action against the obstructers/persons damaging / unlawfully obstructing the existing/upcoming Telecom/Digital Infrastructure.
- Make the damage to the Telecom infrastructure by the miscreants a cognizable offence.
- Appropriate authority to issue a copy of approvals for Tower / OFC installation permissions given to TSPs/IPs to the nearest SHO for safeguarding tower installation.
- Take Coercive action against the miscreants spreading misleading information regarding the health effects due to the EMF emissions from the Mobile Towers and causing opposition for installation of duly approved Telecom Infrastructure.

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Following decisions were conveyed by CS on the issues raised by DIPA and COAI:

Prepaid electric meters may be given to TSPs/ IPs which can be installed by TSP/IP themselves.

COAI may share the rates they are charged under industrial use at Uttarakhand for exploring same model here at Arunachal Pradesh.

CS urged COAI to take up improvement of network quality with TSPs namely Airtel, VIL and BSNL as their service quality is very poor here.

Issue of charging at HT rate instead of LT rate was discussed. Due to very low demand on hilly terrain, the cost to bring power to these locations are also highly expensive. However, he assured to look into.

CS urged COAI to share the digital MAP of OFC laid by their member TSPs urgently.

GM BSNL raised following issues

BSNL wants to hire bandwidth from members of DIPA, Power grid, Railtel but they are charging heavily. He requested DIPA to look into this.

Sd/-

(Naresh Kumar, IAS)
Chief Secretary-cum-Chairman,
State Broadband Committee,
Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh

DDG/ARN/SBC/2021-22

Dated Itanagar 31st March 2022.



(Souvick Kumar Das, ITS)
DDG (SC), DoT,
Arunachal Pradesh,
Govt. of India.