

दूरसंचार विभाग / Department of Telecommunications

कार्यालय उप महानिदेशक (एससी), अरुणाचल प्रदेश / Office of DDG (SC), Arunachal Pradesh
बीएसएनएल सैटेलाइट और माइक्रोवेव स्टेशन / BSNL Satellite and Microwave Station
-K, SCIAR-791111/C-Sector, Itanagar-791111

Minutes of 9th SBC meeting, Arunachal Pradesh

(held on 19.12.2024)

The 9th State Broadband Committee (SBC) meeting of Arunachal Pradesh was held under the chairmanship of the Ld. Chief Secretary at Civil Secretariat, Arunachal Pradesh on 19.12.2024. SBC members from the Government of Arunachal Pradesh and representatives of M/s BHL, BSNL, and BBNL attended the meeting. Representatives of COAI and DIPA attended the meeting online.

At the outset DDG (SC), DoT welcomed all and with permission from the chair made a presentation covering telecom related issues in the State. He, presented the telecom status in the state, mentioning that out of a total of 6123 villages, only 4087 villages were covered with telecom services, while 2036 (almost 1/3rd) villages remained uncovered as on 31.10.2024. Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) reported addition of 475 BTSS (Base Transceiver Stations) and 201 towers from January 2024 to October 2024. Out of the total 6082 BTSS installed in the state, only 41.85% have backhaul connectivity via fiber. The Ld. Chief Secretary mentioned that BTSs not having fiber backhaul connectivity do not provide expected 3G/4G or 5G data rates to the users and hence all BTSs should be fiberized. He expressed his displeasure particularly on fiberization of Airtel sites, as about only one-third of their BTSS are

connected through fiber. Airtel informed that they are working on expanding their fiber network and will share the plan accordingly. All TSPs were instructed to submit an action plan for the fiberization of BTSS in the state to DoT, which will be discussed in the next SBC meeting. **(Action by all TSPs)**

Thereafter, status of action items identified in the last SBC held on 09.07.2024 were discussed followed by other agenda items of the meeting. The salient points discussed, and decisions taken in the SBC meeting are as follows:

1

Ques

1. **4G Saturation project being executed by BSNL** (a Digital Bharat Nidhi (earlier known as Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)) funded project): The status of the 4G saturation project was presented for discussion. At the end of November 2024, 565 towers have been erected out of the planned 827, and 53 sites have been commissioned, covering 103 villages. The Ld. Chief Secretary expressed displeasure regarding the low number of commissioned sites. BSNL informed that the delay in commissioning sites is mainly due to shortage of BTS equipment & VSATS and inaccessibility issues & hard weather. The Ld. Chief Secretary directed the IT department to prepare a DO letter to the Secretary (Telecom) with request to immediately make available all the required equipment to BSNL, Arunachal Pradesh, so that all planned 827 sites can be commissioned by March 2025. The Ld. Chief Secretary also instructed BSNL to submit a monthly plan for commissioning BTSS and requested the IT department to monitor the progress monthly. **(Action by BSNL and IT department)**

BSNL mentioned that there are about 98 sites for which demand notes are

pending with the power department. The Secretary (Power) informed that all the demand notes have been issued to BSNL and stated that no further

communication has been received from BSNL. The Chief Secretary requested Secretary (Power) to have a separate a meeting with GM, BSNL in the first week of January 2025 to resolve the issues. **(Action by Power Department and BSNL)**

Regarding the non-receipt of clearances from the Forest Department for 4 sites, for which BSNL has made payment, the Ld. Chief Secretary requested the CCF, Forest, to seek an explanation from the respective DFOS regarding the delay and to get it resolved. **(Action by CCF, Forest)**

BSNL mentioned that there are 15 non-motorable sites. The Ld. Chief

Secretary requested BSNL to have a review meeting with the Secretary (IT) on

the issue. **(Action by IT department and BSNL)**

2. 4G USOF 1683 project being executed by M/s BHL (a Digital Bharat Nidhi (earlier known as Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)) funded project):

The status of the USOF project being executed by M/s BHL was presented for discussion. At the end of November 2024, 457 towers have been erected out of the planned 534 towers, and 432 BTSS have been commissioned.

Regarding the inaccessible sites, DDG (SC) informed that during the the last PMG (Project Monitoring Group) meeting held on 07.11.2024, Secretary

(Coordination), Cabinet Secretariat instructed that a joint survey should be conducted for all sites having accessibility issues. Administrator, DBN in a review meeting on 17.12.2024 has instructed that the joint survey of all 77 inaccessibly claimed sites be completed by end of January 2025 and the reports signed by M/s BHL and District Administration be submitted to DBN.

(Action by M/s BHL and respective District Commissioners)

The BHL representative also informed that they have found existing coverage in many villages (more than 200) and submitted details to DBN, DOT with a request to drop these villages from their scope of work. DDG (SC), DoT informed that DBN, DOT is examining the request from BHL and will take a decision on it. The Ld. Chief Secretary directed the IT department to write a letter to DBN, DOT requesting that villages having 2G/3G coverage should not be dropped from the scope of the project to provide 4G coverage, as 2G/3G technologies are outdated and do not provide good data rate. **(Action Secretary (IT))**

The Ld. Chief Secretary instructed M/s BHL to submit a monthly plan for the commissioning of pending sites and requested the IT department to monitor the progress monthly. **(Action by M/s BHL and IT department)**

Regarding forest clearance to 8 sites, M/s BHL was advised to meet PCCF with details and CCF, Forest was requested to expedite the clearances. **(Action by M/s BHL and PCCF)**

3. **Amended BharatNet Program:** Status of Phase-I and Phase II of BharatNet program was presented. Senior General Manager (Sr GM), BBNL submitted that the amended BharatNet program aims to connect 411 Gram Panchayats

Pre y

(GPS) on fiber in Ring configuration and 733 GPs on linear fiber. Senior General Manager (Sr GM), BBNL informed the tender for the Amended BharatNet Program is yet to be finalized. He also mentioned that he is yet to receive the verified list of GPS from the State Government as there is possibility that their numbers may be more than 1797 being considered at present by DoT. Ld. Chief Secretary asked IT department to coordinate with DCs to get the verified list and provide the same to BBNL. **(Action Secretary(IT))**

4. Readiness of the State to follow new Telecommunications RoW Rules, 2024

w.e.f. 01.01.2025: DDG(SC), DoT informed that till now States were required to adopt the Telecommunication RoW Rules, but the new Telecommunication RoW Rules, 2024 are to be followed mandatorily by all States. He also informed that all States, including Arunachal Pradesh, have been informed about it and a number of VCs have been held with concerned officers of the States. AD(IT) confirmed that he has attended the VCs and mentioned that Arunachal Pradesh is using central government portal for RoW clearances and there should not be any issue in following new RoW Rules 2024 from 01.01.2025. Ld. Chief Secretary asked IT department to inform all concerned about all relevant provisions of new RoW Rules, 2024 and ensure that there are no problems in following the new RoW Rules, 2024 from 01.01.2025. **(Action Secretary (IT))**

5. DPR for optical connectivity to all Districts HQs and Block HQs: DDG (SC)

informed that the Secretary (T) wrote an DO letters dated 05.07.2024 and

02.09.2024 requesting the State government to examine the OFC connectivity

of DHQ and all BHQS in the state and prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for providing OF connectivity to all unconnected districts and blocks, with possible funding through DONER. The last date for submission of DPR to DOT was 09.09.2024. IT department officers informed that they have prepared the draft DPR. Ld. Chief Secretary asked IT department to quickly finalise the DPR and submit to DoT. **(Action by Secretary(IT))**

6. Incorporation/ mapping of important data layers in PM Gatishakti: The Ld.

Chief Secretary observed that some of the data layers on the Gatishakti portal may not be very relevant in Arunachal Pradesh due to its geography and

4

Prey

topography. However, he instructed the State government departments to take necessary actions for incorporation and updation of data in the Portal. **(Action by Secretary(Planning) and State Government Departments)**

7. Utilization of OPGW (Optical Ground Wire) Cable in the State: Secretary (Power) informed that at present no OPGW cables are available in the State to be used.

8. Holding of District level Telecom Coordination Committees meetings and keeping CBuD as one of the agenda: The IT department informed that the first DLMC meeting was held in Tawang district in November 2024. On request from DDG(SC), the Ld. Chief Secretary instructed the IT Department to issue an

executive order regarding the formation of DLTC, with one member from DoT, Arunachal Pradesh. The Ld. Chief Secretary also instructed IT department to issue instructions to all district administrations to hold DLTC meetings quarterly, with CBUD included as one of the agenda items. **(Action by Secretary (IT) and Deputy Commissioners)**

9. **Creation of District level nodal officers for CBuD and effective utilization**

of CBUD app by different departments/utility agencies: IT Department

informed that user accounts have already been created for all utility departments at the State level, and instructions have been issued for accounts creation at the district level as well. DDG(SC), DOT requested for early creation of all accounts. DDG(SC), DoT also requested that State Govt. departments and district administrations may be instructed to include use of CBuD app as one of the conditions in work orders involving any **digging** activities and link some small percentage of payment with mandatory usage of CBuD app. **(Action by Secretary (IT))**

10. **FTTH connections under BharatNet program for all Government**

Institutions and Special Assistance for Last mile connectivity: DDG(SC),

DoT mentioned that Rs. 50 crores have been allocated to the state under the Scheme of Special Assistance to States for capital investment in last-mile connections to government/Pvt institutions using 880 FTTH connections. The IT department informed that connections from GPs to the respective FTTH sites

have been completed. To link these sites, an MoU is needed with BSNL for

providing bandwidth. The Ld. Chief Secretary asked IT department to review the status and get the FTTH connections working at the earliest. **(Action by Secretary (IT))**

11. Creation of awareness amongst the citizens about 'Sanchar Saathi' portal

of DoT: DDG(SC), DoT informed about Sanchar Saathi portal (<https://sancharsaathi.gov.in>) launched by DoT and explained about various facilities available on it like reporting about lost/stolen mobile, fraud calls/messages, incoming international call from local number, and knowing about number of connections working, mobile device validity and Internet Service Providers etc. The State Government was requested to give wide publicity among the citizens about the portal. **(Action by Secretary (IT))**

12. To identify 5G use case projects in suitable area/sector which can be

implemented across the state: DDG(SC), DoT explained the advantages and

benefits of 5G technology, and the efforts being made by DoT to facilitate and support use case projects. The state government was also requested to support 5G use case projects. The 5G labs available at Pasighat and NIT, Jote can be utilized for testing and development. The Ld. Chief Secretary requested DoT to

arrange a workshop on 5G use cases and how the 5G labs can be utilized by the state government departments for the same. **(Action by DDG(SC), DoT)**

13. Preparation of calendar of major events of the state which may require

special attention for maintenance of telecom quality of service: DDG(SC),

DoT informed that whenever any major nation or state level event is planned, DoT takes actions, like conducting drive tests before the event in the city, to ensure good quality telecom services. Ld. Chief Secretary instructed all

departments to continue to provide event details to the Department of Telecom (DOT) in advance for taking necessary actions to maintain the quality of service by all Telecom Service Providers. **(Action by State Govt. Departments)**

14. Gainful utilization of Govt. land, building for commissioning of new

telecom towers: The Ld. Chief Secretary mentioned that the government of Arunachal Pradesh has been making every effort to allocate land for all towers

6

Prey

proposed in the 4G saturation Project and will continue the same. He also mentioned that TSPs can submit their request to install towers on government buildings.

15. Speedy provisioning of power connections to new telecom towers:

The Secretary (Power) mentioned that the Department of Power is committed to provide power connections to telecom towers on priority and to ensure regular supply to the sites.

16. Broadband speed to be enhanced to 50 Mbps (National Broadband Mission Target): It was noted that the broadband speeds measured by TRAI for all TSPs falls significantly below the National Broadband Mission target and hence

all Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) were asked to improve their backhaul connectivity by putting more and more BTSs on Fibre as well as commission additional BTSs. **(Action by all TSPs)**

17. Redeployment of BBNL VSATs as requested by Indian Army: In the 8th SBC meeting, Indian Army requested for assistance in establishing welfare

communication for troops deployed along the Line of Actual Control, along with suggestion that VSATS which are lying unused under BharatNet program may

be diverted to Indian Army sites. The Ld. Chief Secretary had asked the Indian Army to share the complete list of their locations with the Secretary (IT&C). IT

department informed that they have received the list from the Army. DDG(SC)

requested IT department to take action to prepare the diversion list and write to BBNL or USOF, DOT for the diversion as decided in the last SBC meeting. The Ld. Chief Secretary asked IT department to take action on priority. **(Action and**

Secretary (IT))

18. **Concerns of Telecom Industry (COAI, DIPA, ISPAI and TSPs):** DIPA raised issue of rejection of NOC due to non-availability of Land Possession certificate in some Districts. The Secretary (Planning) mentioned that there may be some issue with the sites like it may be under forest land or on unauthorized land etc.

DIPA was requested to write a letter with complete details for examination. COAI requested for provision for Industrial electricity tariff to the Telecom

Rhe
es

Industry in the State. The Secretary (Power) mentioned that it may not be possible as the Telecom services have not been categorized as Industry.

At the end the Ld. Chief Secretary thanked everyone and instructed all to take actions as per identified items and come prepared with ATRS in next SBC meeting.

DDG/ARN/SBC/2024-25

Broadband Committee, Govt. of Arunachal
Pradesh

Dated: 07.01.2025

Pree
m

07/01/20
25

(Ramawatar Meena)

DDG(SC) -cum- Member Convener, SBC DOT,
Arunachal Pradesh

Govt. of India