

5  
1st

State Broadband Committee 1st Meeting

No. 2063/HP LSA/NBM/25

Date: 09-03-2021

MINUTES OF MEETING

First meeting of State Broadband Committee of Himachal Pradesh on National Broadband Mission was held on 15<sup>th</sup> Dec 2020 at 11:00 AM through VC under Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Secretary, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh. List of participants is enclosed as Annexure-I.

At the outset, Hon'ble Chairman, SBC, & the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, extended warm welcome to all the participants. Thereafter, Shri Mohan Lal, DDG (Rural), DoT made a presentation covering meeting agenda points. The discussions held during the meeting are summarized as below:

1. Vision and Objective of National Broadband Mission and Functions of State Broadband Committee were discussed along with the status of telecom infrastructure in Himachal Pradesh and importance of Broadband.
2. Progress of Bharat/Net project and issues related to implementation of BharatNet were discussed. The Chief Secretary raised the concern about slow progress of BharatNet project. He pointed out that Wi-Fi Access Points & FTTN connection are few and CSC should come forward and market services available. He also stressed that BharatNet Phase-II should be completed at the earliest to cover all the Panchayats with Broadband.
3. The Committee was apprised about Broadband Readiness Index being prepared by ICRIER (Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations) on behalf of Govt. of India.
4. Present Status of National Broadband Mission parameters & targets were discussed.

8. Shri 14
5. Committee members were apprised about facts related to Electromagnetic Emission from Mobile Towers.
  6. Secretary (IT) apprised the committee that a special cell is being set up to track pending NOC & Electric Connections of towers. He also informed that shortly ROW policy will be notified after approval from the cabinet & work on Online Portal has already started.
  7. Shri J. Jena, DG, COAI informed the committee about issues faced by Telecom service providers in the absence of Uniform RoW policy and Single window Online Portal for processing applications in creating telecom infra including environment & forest clearances. He sought deemed approval to be issued by system after 60 days of application submission as envisaged in GOI RoW rules 2016. He also highlighted the need to :
    - (i) Allow TSP/IPs to use LT Poles for aerial OFC and mounting low power 4G/5G BTSs through a central agreement.
    - (ii) Grant permissions for laying last-mile aerial OFC/Co-axial Cables in a standardised aesthetic way.
    - (iii) Rationalise Restoration & Access Charges across the State
    - (iv) Adopt the National Building Code for in-building fibre layout by new cluster houses and link it to issue of completion certificate
    - (v) Standardized penalty clause on fibre cut as a standard contract clause and proceeds be used for swift restoration
    - (vi) Direct Municipal and State authorities to facilitate construction of common ducts for UG electrical cables and OFC during construction of new or widening roads
    - (vii) Encourage a 'Dig-once' and 'Call before you Dig' policy as part of State's Policy



8. Shri T. R. Dua, DG, TAIPA informed committee about issues faced by Infrastructure providers:

- (i) Multiple processes & policies followed by various authorities due to lack of Uniform RoW Policy.
- (ii) Multiple authorities to be approached for tower NoC due to non-availability of online Single window system.
- (iii) Huge delay of 3 to 6 months in getting electricity connection.
- (iv) Permissions are pending for more than 6 months
- (v) In some cases, Permissions being revoked by authorities after Public complaints.
- (vi) Non availability of Government Land & Buildings for installation of Mobile Towers at nominal rates.
- (vii) He also informed that more than 170 NoC for tower installation are pending along with 97 EB permission for electric connections.

9. DDG (Rural) from DoT summarized presentation with steps to be taken to increase coverage and data speed for achieving National Broadband Mission Targets.

- (i) Expedite Approval of State RoW Policy in line with Govt. of India's Right of Way Rules 2016
- (ii) Set up On-line portal for RoW application and approvals.
- (iii) Exorbitant restoration charges need to be rationalised.
- (iv) Invitation to TSPs & IPs to create Telecom infrastructure in remote areas.
- (v) Incentives at par with other industrial units.
- (vi) Rent free availability of Govt. lands and buildings.
- (vii) Priority Electric Connections.
- (viii) Subsidised power tariff.

### Action Points

1. The present status of Telecom Infrastructure in Himachal Pradesh was reviewed by the Chairman. The following directions were conveyed:-

- (i) BBNL to complete the Phase-II of project & cover 2968 GPs in Phase-II at the earliest.

(Action by BBNL)

- (ii) 5 free connections in each GP may be given on priority by CSC.

(Action by BBNL)

- (iii) BSNL broadband connectivity in Villages needs to be improved and action plan with timelines be submitted to Department of IT, Government of Himachal Pradesh.

(Action by BSNL)

- (iv) CS desired that remaining uncovered villages should be covered by TSPs or USOF at the earliest. An action plan with clear timelines be shared with Department of IT, Govt of HP.

(Action by DoT/USOF)

2. DDG Rural, DoT informed that 59 mobile sites have been sanctioned by USOF to cover Uncovered Villages and for remaining uncovered villages USOF will be pursued.

3. It was also decided that Department of IT shall pursue the following:

- (i) Approval of New RoW policy aligned with Govt. of India ROW Rules 2016
- (ii) Setting up Single window system for RoW applications processing and approvals.
- (iii) Setting up of a special cell in Department of IT, to deal with the issues of Telecom Service Providers

- (iv) Expedite the pending cases of Tower NOC, and Electricity Connections. List of pending NoC and Electricity connections shall be shared by TAIPA

**(Action by Department of IT, GoHP)**

4. To expedite achievement of NBM targets, the committee resolved to work on the following:

- (i) Coverage of all villages by 2022
- (ii) Increase in broadband data speed from 4Mbps to 50Mbps by 2024.
- (iii) Tower installation 7147 towers at present to 17633 towers in 2024.
- (iv) Fiberization of the towers from 27% at present to 70% by 2024.
- (v) Cumulative fiber laid at present 27521KM to 83986KM by 2024.

5. Secretary IT inform that a letter has been sent to the Administrator (USOF), DoT for waiving of ISRO charges for VSAT bandwidth used in remote/tribal areas. It was desired that DDG(Rural), DOT may pursue this with the Administrator (USOF).

**( Action by USOF)**

6. Secretary (IT) informed that BSNL has sought permission for sharing NFS OFC in remote / border villages. In this regard Chief Secretary has written to Ministry of Defense. DDG (Rural), explained that M/s VTL has already laid fiber along NFS route and same is being used by RJIO for commissioning USOF sites in Lahoul & Spiti. BSNL can also take fiber from M/s VTL to improve connectivity in Border Villages.


**( Action by BSNL)**

At the end, Hon'ble Chairman said that now the SBC has clarity on Way Forward. RoW Rules will be notified shortly in consultation with stake holders and shall try to accommodate all aspects. Broad roadmap



has been given to the state and responsibility centers may be made operational. In this time of pandemic, we need good internet connectivity for education and to access teaching material and teachers. We may meet again in next two to three months for mid-course correction, if any.

7. It was decided that the Committee may meet again after three months for mid-course correction, if any.

  
8/3/21  
(Mohan Lal)  
DDG (Rural) HP LSA  
O/o Sr. DDG HP LSA DoT  
Shimla-171002

Copy to:-

1. Director General Telecom, DoT New Delhi-110001
2. Administrator, USOF, DoT New Delhi-110001.
3. All Member of SBC, Himachal Pradesh
4. PS to Chief Secretary, Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-2.
5. The Director Telecom, Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi.

made  
for

Annexure-I.

The Following Members participated in the meeting:

1. Shri Anil Kumar Khachi, Chairman SBC & CS HP.
2. Shri Rajneesh, Secy. (IT & U. Development) Member  
Shri Ashutosh Garg, Director (IT)  
Shri Rajeev Sharma, Addl. Dir (IT)  
Shri B.K. Sharma, Engineer In Chief HP-PWD
3. Shri Ranveer Singh, Sr. DDG, DoT, Member Convener  
Shri Mohan Lal, DDG (Rural), DoT,  
Shri Anil Bhatia, Dir (Rural), DoT  
Shri S. K. Namdeo, ADET(R), DoT,
4. Shri M C Negi, GM (CFA), BSNL HP Special Invitee from BSNL  
Shri Chander Mohan GM (CM) BSNL
5. Shri H. K Negi, State Head. BBNL, HP Special Invitee from BBNL
6. Shri J. Jena, Director General, COAI Special Invitee from COAI
7. Shri T. R. Dua, Dir General, TAIPA Special Invitee from TAIPA

58/C

**Proceedings of the meeting held under the chairpersonship of Sh. Rajneesh, IAS Pr. Secretary IT to the Government of Himachal Pradesh on 31-07-2021 at 11:00 AM to review action taken report of 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of State Broad Band Meeting.**

Following Officers / Officials were present:

1. Sh. Mukesh Repaswal, IAS, Director, DIT HP
2. Sh. Rajeev Sharma Additional Director IT
3. Sh. Anil Bhatia, Sr DDG, DoT GoI.
4. Sh. Mohan Lal, DDG Rural, DoT GoI.
5. Sh. Harish Chand, State Head BBNL-HP.
6. Sh. Sanjay Gupta, Sr. Manager Project BBNL
7. Sh. Charan Singh, Principal GM BSNL
8. Sh. Chander Mohan, DGM BSNL.
9. Sh. Kshem Kapoor, Deputy Director, COAI
10. Sh. Mukesh Kumar, Advisor, COAI
11. Sh. Deepak Kumar Gupta, Dy. Manager, COAI
12. Sh. Ashok Chauhan, State Head CSC-SPV
13. Sh. Man Singh, Consultant SeMT, DIT HP

The Additional Director IT welcomed all the participants present in the meeting and informed that the said meeting has been fixed to review the decisions taken during the State Broad Band Committee meeting held under the chairmanship of worthy Chief Secretary to the Government of Himachal Pradesh on 15-12-2020 and action taken by various stakeholders. Gist of the discussions held and decisions taken during the meeting are as follows:

- ok repaswal*
1. It was decided to complete the Phase -II of Bharat Net Project & cover 2968 GPs in Phase-II at the earliest. BBNL directed to provide progress on monthly basis to Department of Information Technology Government of Himachal Pradesh.

**(Action by BBNL)**

2. DoT has been asked to provide action plan on utilization of funds sanctioned by GoI regarding implementation of Bharat Net Project.

**(Action by DoT)**

3. CSC-SPV has been asked to provide updated progress on FTTH (connection to 5 offices per GP) latest by 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2021 and

*ADIT(R)*  
*in file 28*  
*12*  
*25/8*

*DDG(R)*  
*25/8/2021*



thereafter on a monthly basis.

**(Action by CSC-SPV)**

4. BSNL broadband connectivity in Villages needs to be improved and quarterly action plan with timelines for covering the remaining villages to be submitted to Department of Information Technology Government of Himachal Pradesh.

**(Action by BSNL)**

5. DoT informed that the count of uncovered villages in Himachal Pradesh are 276. As of now, USOF sanctioned connectivity to 59 villages of Himachal Pradesh. The Pr. Secretary IT directed DoT to convey the correct figure of uncovered villages to the Department of Information Technology along with detailed plan to cover these villages. Quarterly action plan with clear timelines be shared with Department of Information Technology Government of Himachal Pradesh.

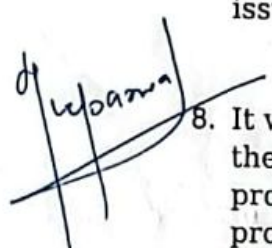
**(Action by DoT)**

6. It was decided that Director IT will conduct Joint Coordination Committee meeting in next 10 days of time to resolve the long pending issue of TSPs/ ISPs pertaining to RoW permissions and NoCs for electricity connections, by end of August.

**(Action by DIT - HP)**

7. TAIPA has been asked to provide latest status before the Joint Coordination Committee regarding updated status of pending issues shared by the Department of IT on 29-06-2021.

**(Action by TAIPA)**

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8. It was decided that DoT has to provide point-wise action plan for the implementation of NBM. It was also decided that DoT will provide complete status village-wise, where connectivity has been provided in terms of 2G/3G/4G along with the list of villages where no connectivity has been provided and these villages are totally untouched.

**(Action by DoT / BSNL)**

9. It was also decided that in order to ensure full signal coverage of villages which have been connected, DoT will conduct survey to check signal strength and submit report on actual signal coverage in the connected villages.

**(Action by DoT)**

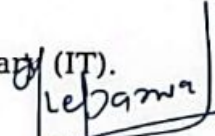
10. The Pr. Secretary informed TAIPA and COAI that there are very

few uncovered villages in the State and it is difficult to achieve RoI considering very thin and sparse population. Hence, TSPs must cover these villages under CSR. DoT to share list of uncovered villages with TSPs/ ISPs.--

(Action by DoT)

Meeting ended with vote of thank from the chair.

This issues with the approval of the Principal Secretary (IT).

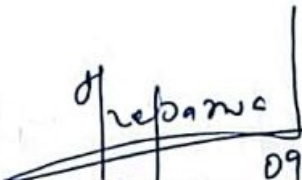
  
Director,  
Department of Information Technology,  
Government of Himachal Pradesh.

EndstNo.: E-27714-IT-F0(10)/5/2021-IT- 97  
Shimla-2/07 August, 21

Dated:

Copy forwarded for information & necessary action to:

1. Sh. Anil Bhatia, Sr DDG, Department of Telecom, Telecom exchange Chotta Shimla-02.
2. Sh. Mohan Lal, DDG Rural, Department of Telecom, Telecom exchange Chotta Shimla-02.
3. Sh. Harish Chand, State Head BBNL-HP, Good Wood Estate, Madhav Kunj, Bharari Road, Shimla-01.
4. Sh. Sanjay Gupta, Sr. Manager Project BBNL-HP.
5. Sh. Charan Singh, Principal GM BSNL, O/o GMTD, SDA Complex, Kasumpti Shimla-09.
6. Sh. Chander Mohan, DGM BSNL, O/o GMTD, SDA Complex, Kasumpti Shimla-09.
7. Sh. Kshem Kapoor, Deputy Director, COAI.
8. Sh. Mukesh Kumar, Advisor, COAI.
9. Sh. Deepak Kumar Gupta, Dy. Manager, COAI.
10. Sh. Ashok Chauhan, State Head CSC-SPV, DIT-HP.

  
Director,  
Department of Information Technology,  
Government of Himachal Pradesh.

09-08-21





भारत सरकार

Government of India

संचार मंत्रालय दूरसंचार विभाग

Ministry of Communication, Department of Telecommunication

कार्यालय वरिष्ठ उप महानिदेशक हिमाचल प्रदेश

O/o Sr. Dy. Director General, Himachal Pradesh

टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज बिल्डिंग छोटा शिमला, शिमला 171002

Telephone Exchange Building, Chhota Shimla, Shimla 171002

No.2063/HP LSA/National Broad Mission/71

Dated at Shimla the 21/09/2021

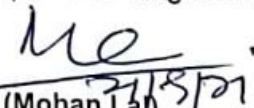
To

The Principal Secretary  
Department of IT, Govt. of HP  
Shimla

**Sub: Proceeding of the Review Meeting Held Under the Chairmanship of Principal Secretary IT on 31-07-2021 to review the ATR of 1<sup>st</sup> SBC Meeting, Point wise reply**

Please refer to above cited subject, the point wise reply is as under

1. As approved by the Union Cabinet, HP is among 16 states where Phase 2 of BharatNet project for connecting 2809 GPs will be executed under PPP model & bids for the same will be opened on 5.10.2021. It is hereby further informed that BharatNet Project is on the top priority list of Union Govt. and being monitored by PMO.
2. The funds allotted to BBNL will be utilised on commencement of Phase 2 in the state.
3. Till date CSC has provided 870 FTTH connection in 252 GPs plus 6 BHQ to government institutes and private customers. The different institutions at the GP level may get FTTH connection installed on priority. The HP Govt may once again reiterate the same by issuing instructions.
4. Till date BSNL has not shared any plan.
5. Under USOF, 59 villages of HP are to be covered. M/s RJIL has given the plan to cover 43 Villages. Rest 16 villages has been deleted from the Scope on account of either no habitats or already mobile signal present in those villages. The time line to cover this project is 19 Oct 2021. Till date RJIL installed 15 Sites to cover 20 villages.
6. Action by DIT.
7. Action by TAIPA.
8. The action plan to implement NBM is attached. The list of 276 villages which are not covered is also attached.
9. Regarding full signal coverage survey of villages, matter shall be forwarded to DoT HQ.
10. Regarding CSR, a meeting was held with TSPs to explore the possibility of getting some uncovered villages covered but none of the TSP committed in turn TSPs have highlighted very high restoration charges being levied by HP Govt as compared to neighbouring states.

  
(Mohan Lal)  
Dy. Director General (Rural)