

भारत सरकार  
संचार मंत्रालय  
दूरसंचार विभाग  
कार्यालय वरिष्ठ उपमहानिदेशक,  
लाइसेंससेवाक्षेत्र, जम्मू एवं कश्मीर,  
चौथा तल, बीएसएनएल टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज भवन,  
रेल हेड कॉम्प्लेक्स, जम्मू – 180012  
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Dated: 09.09.2020

**Minutes of Meeting (MoM) of the Ladakh UT Broadband Committee (SBC) held on 18.08.2020**

The First SBC meeting of Ladakh UT was held on 18<sup>th</sup> of August'20 under the chairmanship of Shri Umang Narula, Advisor to Hon'ble LG, Ladakh UT. The meeting was attended by the following:

1. Shri. Umang Narula, Advisor to Hon'ble LG Ladakh UT and chairperson of SBC.
  2. Sh. Rigzin Sampheal, Administrative Secretary (Forest Ecology and Environment) Ladakh.
  3. Sh. Saugat Biswas, Secretary, Information Technology, Ladakh.
  4. Sh. A K Tiwari, Sr. DDG, J&K LSA and Convener of the meeting
  5. Sh. Radheshyam Parmar, DDG (R) and Disaster In-charge, J&K LSA
  6. Sh. Kailash Chandra, Director(R), J&K LSA
  7. Sh. Sachin, ADET(R), J&K LSA
  8. Sh. Amit Rawat, ADET(C), J&K LSA
  9. Sh. T. R. Dua, DG TAIPA,
  10. Sh. Kapil Bhateja, Vice-President, TAIPA
  11. Dr. J Jena, Deputy Director General, COAI
  12. Sh. Avinash Vyas, TAIPA
  13. Sh. Rajeev Goyal, GM BBNL
1. The meeting was held through Video Conferencing. At the outset, Sh. A K Tiwari, Sr. DDG, J&K LSA, DoT and the convener of the SBC Committee welcomed all the members of the committee and especially thanked Advisor to Hon'ble LG Ladakh UT for timely constitution of Ladakh UT SBC. He also requested the Ladakh UT administration to approve the Right of Way (RoW)



policy at the earliest, so that the various developmental activities like increasing the Tower Density, Fiberisation of Towers and accessibility of Broadband Services to all the villages etc. can be undertaken on priority.

2. After brief Introduction by the members present in the VC to the chair, Sr. DDG, J&K LSA requested the Advisor to Hon'ble LG Ladakh UT to deliver his keynote address and his consent for commencement of the meeting proceedings.
3. A detailed PPT was presented by J&K LSA covering all the agenda points of the meeting.

**4. Sh. Umang Narula, Advisor to Hon'ble LG, Ladakh UT, in his Key Note address stressed upon the following salient points:**

- 4.1 The fixed broadband and mobile subscriber per 100 population presented for Ladakh UT as 1.07 and 106 respectively in the report is factual and not actual because the population figure taken for Ladakh UT is as per Census 2011 and it does not account for the personnel of CAPF, armed forces and migrant labour located in Ladakh. The floating population be taken into account for proper and correct planning.
- 4.2 The villages in Ladakh UT are having more than one hamlet and sometimes these hamlets are situated 50 to 100 Kilometer away from the village. So, if plans are made to cover the village only, it will not serve the purpose of total coverage of population, unless all the hamlets of the villages are also covered. He suggested that hamlets wise approach be adopted for having a realistic mobile coverage in the villages of Ladakh UT.
- 4.3 The optical fiber connectivity in the Ladakh UT is not in ring topology. The optical fiber is laid from Kashmir to Ladakh via Zojila in unidirectional manner so whenever there is any fiber cut Ladakh becomes totally cut off. Alternative fiber route be explored for uninterrupted services in the UT.
- 4.4 Advisor observed that there is very limited no of mobile towers in Ladakh. Although the optical fiber cable seems to be laid everywhere along the major highways but the mobile coverage is very poor and in case of accidents and landslides/avalanches in winter, there is no means of communication for hundreds of kilometers. The number of towers should be increased to improve the coverage along the National Highways. Innovative solutions need to be devised so that seamless mobile coverage is available on the national highway.



4.5 There is only partial Grid power supply in UT. Ladakh UT is having 3 valleys in Leh District as Indus, Nubra and Shyok and 3 valleys in Kargil District i.e Zaskar, Drass and Suru. Power supply is a major problem in the UT. Telecom services often get affected during power failure and hence alternative power arrangement should be made by the TSPs to ensure uninterrupted Telecom services in the area.

4.6 The number of BTSs in Ladakh UT is very low which accounts for poor mobile services. The Advisor desired to know the reasons from the stakeholders for not installing sufficient number of BTSs in the UT.

4.7 FTTH penetration is also very less in Ladakh UT and at the same time it's very difficult and challenging task to lay optical fiber. But the demand for FTTH is very high in Ladakh UT, therefore, TSPs should take appropriate steps to provide FTTH connections in Ladakh UT.

4.8 The winter in Ladakh UT is very harsh and during this season the communication in remote areas is completely cut off. The people living in far flung areas are even unable to communicate with the nearby health center in case of emergency. Thus, the need to provide some form of communication is a must during emergency.

**5. Sh. Saugat Biswas, Secretary (IT), Ladakh gave the following inputs on the agenda points:**

5.1 The RoW policy aligned with DoT RoW Rules 2016 is under approval stage. J&K LSA has already submitted comments and suggestions to Ladakh UT. The draft policy has been shared by Ladakh UT with the TAIPA and other stakeholders. On receipt of feedback from TAIPA, the policy will be approved. The online portal for RoW will be launched once the RoW policy is approved. The district level committee will also be setup as per the provisions made in the RoW policy.

5.2 The work of preparation of agreed list of villages and hamlets is in progress and the updated list will be shared very soon with the LSA.

5.3 The partial information w.r.t. BRI Data has been submitted by the UT. Some of the inputs are pending due to non-availability of RoW policy. Once the policy is ready, the BRI parameters will be furnished.

5.4 Shri Biswas also gave his suggestions on the following Schemes of DoT:



- a) Har Ghar Fiber – The UT will examine the scheme & identify the areas/localities where 100 percent homes are to be covered by FTTH.
- b) Common Duct Policy – As informed by LSA, The Ladakh UT can lay duct and lease the duct to the stakeholders. This proposal will be examined by the UT.
- c) Fiberisation of Tower – More optical fiber is to be laid so that 90% of the BTSs are connected with OFC backhaul.
- d) VSAT - The Gram Panchayats are covered by installing VSAT under BharatNet phase-II. VSATs services are not suitable for the area and instead fiber be provided in each Gram Panchayat to have proper mobile services.

6. Sh. T. R. DUA, DG TAIPA gave a small presentation covering the following points:

6.1 Ladakh is having the biggest advantage of less population so better services can be provided to the UT.

6.2 As per the NBM objectives, merely 500 towers are planned. These are insufficient and he suggested that there is need for more towers to be installed on top priority.

6.3 Power issue – As grid supply is not available everywhere in Ladakh UT, therefore, alternate renewable energy option should be adopted in such areas.

6.4 If the RoW policy is in line with DoT guidelines, then there will be no hindrances in roll out and growth of the mobile services.

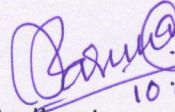
7. Dr. J Jena, DDG, COAI highlighted that RoW policy of Ladakh UT needs to be finalized at the earliest.

8. The meeting ended with the Vote of Thanks by Sh. Radheshyam Parmar, DDG(R), J&K LSA. He thanked Advisor to Hon'ble LG for sparing his precious time and providing valuable inputs during the meeting. He also thanked Administrative Secretaries of Ladakh UT, representatives of TAIPA and COAI and other committee members for making it convenient to attend the meeting. He also thanked the NIC team of Ladakh and Jammu for providing support in successful holding of the meeting. He also placed on records the sincere efforts made by Dir(R) Sh. K C Meena and ADET(R) Sh. Sachin for coordinating, collecting the inputs and preparing the presentation.



9. The next meeting will tentatively be held in November 2020. Advisor to Hon'ble LG was kind enough to give his consent and also invited Sr DDG J&K LSA to hold next meeting at Ladakh.

This has approval of Advisor to the Hon'ble LG, Ladakh UT.

  
10.09.2020

(Radheshyam Parmar)

DDG (R)

O/o Sr. J&K LSA

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Copy to:

1. Advisor, Ladakh UT
2. DGT, DoT, Delhi
3. All members present in the SBC Meeting