



**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Communication**  
**Department of Telecommunications**  
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**No. DDG(Rural)/TN LSA/SBM-PY/2020-21/08**

**Dated:23.09.2020**

**Minutes of 1<sup>st</sup> State Broadband Committee Meeting held on 02.09.2020**

The First State Broad Band Committee meeting of Puducherry UT was convened on 02.09.2020 through V.C. The following Members / Special invitees attended the meeting:

S.No	Name (Sh./Smt.)	Designation	Government/ Organization
1	Ashwani Kumar	Chief Secretary	Puducherry
2	S.Sundaravadivelu	Secretary(Forest and Environment)	Puducherry
3	Devesh Singh	Secretary (PWD)	Puducherry
4	Jayanta Kumar Ray	Secretary (LAD)	Puducherry
5	R. Smitha	Secretary (S&T and Environment)	Puducherry
6	Soumya	Secretary (Information Technology)	Puducherry
7	YLN Reddy	Director (IT)	Puducherry
8	Dr.Shukla	SIO	NIC - Pondicherry
9	S Rajasekharan	ASIO	NIC - Puducherry
10	R.Radha	Advisor	DoT-TN LSA
11	V.Meenalochiny	DDG Rural	DoT-TN LSA, CNI
12	Sathya Priya	DDG Rural	DoT-TN LSA, CBE
13	Rajasekhar S	Director Rural	DoT-TN LSA, CNI
14	Anita Ramdoss	Director Rural	DoT-TN LSA, CBE
15	Srikanth Vaddepally	ADET Rural	DoT-TN LSA, CNI
16	Kalaivani	CGM	BBNL ( TN and PY)
17	Jagadeesan	CGM	BSNL-TN Circle
18	Jaya Kumar	GM- Pondicherry	BSNL – TN Circle
19	T.R Dua	Director General	TAIPA
20	Ashish	Sr. Manager	TAIPA
21	Neethu Madhuri	Manager	COAI

Following agenda points were discussed during the meeting:

**a. Notification of Right of Way Policy and Single Window Clearance Portal.**

Secretary IT, GoP informed that the matter is under examination in consultation with Law Department and the Finance Department. Chief Secretary advised the IT Department to expedite decision for the sake of improving telecom infrastructure in the UT.

Secretary (IT) informed that discussions are going with NIC-Puducherry for implementing single window clearance. Chief Secretary advised that telecom operators may approach IT Department for any delay in pending applications. The members were also requested to bring to the notice of IT department if any app/best practices are available in other states.

**b. Priority in providing Electricity to Telecom Infrastructure and Industrial Tariff etc.**

Secretary IT informed that there was no issue in providing Electricity connections to tower infrastructure and industry bodies. The Chief Secretary suggested that as requested by telecom operators, Electricity Department may examine whether Telecom infrastructure be brought under industrial tariff by checking position in other states.

**c. Identifying Government Land and Buildings for Tower Erection.**

Secretary (IT) informed that there is a provision for utilising the Government Land and building for telecom infrastructure in the Communication and Connectivity Infrastructure Policy, 2015. Representatives of Telecom Infrastructure providers were requested to identify suitable Government Land/buildings. Further, IT department shall collate such locations in consultation with other departments and evolve a policy in respect thereof.

**d. Increasing the Telecom Tower Density.**

Secretary (IT) informed that the existing tower density in U.T. of Puducherry is 0.36 per thousand population as per Broadband Readiness Index data against the National average of 0.42 per thousand population. National Broadband Mission aims to enhance the tower density to 1 per thousand population by 2024.

It was also informed to the telecom industry groups that there have been many complaints regarding poor or no coverage in some of the area. Concerned Authorities (DoT, BSNL, COAI, TAIPA, etc) have been requested to identify such areas and take appropriate action to improve connectivity.

Advisor-TN LSA informed that DoT will explore the possibility of covering the uncovered areas through Universal Service Obligation fund.



**e. Utilization of Bharatnet fiber for enhancing digital connectivity across Puducherry UT.**

Bharatnet is available in all 98 GPs since 2015. 32 connections that utilise Bharatnet were given under NII to some government organisation such as PHCs, Schools, Animal Husbandry hospitals and Uzhavar Uthaviyagam with free of bandwidth charges for one year. 17 offices have surrendered their connections due to higher bandwidth charges collected from 2<sup>nd</sup> year. CGM, BSNL however clarified that CSC-SPV has been mandated to give 5 FTTH connections to Govt. Institutions per Gram Panchayat free of cost. The government departments may use the same facility.

The following suggestion were offered by telecom infrastructure providers :

1. Notify **Puducherry RoW Policy**, in line with Indian Telegraph RoW Rules 2016
2. Availability of **Government Land & Buildings** for installation of Mobile towers, list of Government buildings should be published by respective departments
3. Launch of **Web-based Single Window Online Portal** for Application Submission & Approvals.
4. **Appointment of Nodal officer from each department** such as Municipal Administration, Energy Dept/DISCOMs, PWD, Home (Police), Municipalities & Corporations etc for Telecom infrastructure issues.
5. OFC cut Penalty clause in Government Contracts: At present there is huge penalty levied by BSNL on whoever cuts BSNL fibre. This Provision has to be extended to all Telecom Service Providers on Pan India Basis.

Chief Secretary assured that he will explore this and further said that this issue will also be applicable to all states/UTs. So he has asked members to explore best practises in other states/UTs.

6. National Building code for in-building fibre layout be adopted by cluster houses and link it to issuing of Completion Certificate.
7. State DISCOMs, through a central agreement, to allow TELCOs to use their LT poles for mounting low power 4G/5G BTS antennas.
8. Permissions for laying Last mile aerial OFC/Co-axial cables in standardised aesthetic way.
9. Municipal and State authorities to facilitate construction of common ducts for Under Ground Electrical Cable and OFC during new road construction/ widening works.
10. A 'Dig Once' and 'Call before you Dig' policy should be encouraged as part of State's Policy

**Other points:-**

It was decided to co-opt/representatives from CSC-SPV for the next SBC meeting

The minutes have been issued with the approval of the Chairperson (Chief Secretary, GoP) of SBC.

Sd/-

Advisor TN LSA

To

All concerned Members of SBC

Copy to:

1. P.S to C.S, Chief Secretariat, Puducherry.
2. P.A to Secretary (Power), Chief Secretariat, Puducherry.
3. SIO, NIC, Puducherry