



Government of India

Ministry of Communications (संचार मंत्रालय)

Department of Telecommunications (दूरसंचार विभाग), Gujarat LSA,
First Floor, P & T Administrative Building, Khanpur, Ahmedabad- 380001

Dated: - 29-08-2022

**Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of Gujarat State Broadband Committee held on
07.07.2022**

The 3rd meeting of Gujarat State Broadband Committee (SBC) was held on 07-07-2022 in conference room of Chief Secretary, Govt. of Gujarat in Gandhinagar . The meeting was attended by:

1. Shri Mukesh Kumar, Principal Secretary, Department of urban housing and housing development, Government of Gujarat.
2. Smt. Gunjan Dave, Sr. DDG, DoT, Gujarat LSA
3. Shri Vijay Nehra, Secretary, Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of Gujarat
4. Shri S. B. Vasava, Secretary, Department of Road & Bldg., Govt. of Gujarat
5. Shri Dharmendra Sharma, CGM, BBNL, Gujarat
6. Shri Sandeep Sawarkar, CGM, BSNL, Gujarat
7. Shri Neeraj Kumar, DDG, NBM, DoT Hq, New Delhi
8. Shri Ram Kumar, DDG (Rural), DoT, Gujarat LSA
9. Shri Jaspal Singh , Chief conservator forest, Government of Gujarat.
10. Shri Vikas Dadhich, Director (Technology), DoT, Gujarat LSA
11. Shri Ajay Patel, Representative from BISAG
12. Dr. Kshem Kapoor, Representative from COAI
13. Shri T R Dua, Representative from DIPA

At the onset, Sr. DDG, DoT, Gujarat LSA and convener of the State Broadband Committee (SBC) welcomed Chairman and all the member of the committee. Further, Sr. DDG, DoT, Gujarat LSA briefed the committee about the objectives of National Broadband Mission (NBM), role of SBC, actions to be taken to achieve the mission objectives. She appreciated Gujarat Government for notifying the ROW policy. A brief PPT was presented by Gujarat LSA covering all the agenda points of the meeting. She also emphasized on issuing the amendment or guideline for deployment of small cell using street furniture, which is very critical for 5G

roll out as 3 cities of Gujarat are on priority. Issue of formation of District level committees (DTCs) was discussed at length. Secretary, Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of Gujarat insisted that at first three city level committees at Ahmedabad, Gandhi Nagar and Jam Nagar would be formed as an experiment and DTCs would be formed later on.

Principal Secretary, Department of urban development and urban housing, Government of Gujarat, told that as per the GoI ROW rule 2016, Govt. of Gujarat has also issued its ROW policy which is broadly aligned with GoI ROW rule 2016. He further added that this has put municipal corporations of Gujarat under huge financial burden. Secretary, Department of science and technology, Government of Gujarat told that the uptime of Phase-1 GPs has reduced to 30 % and in this condition utilization of Bharatnet cannot be achieved satisfactorily. He also told that the Govt. of Gujarat has issued ROW policy now and suggestions for improvement in ROW policy are welcome.

1. **Implementation of State RoW policy:** Government of Gujarat has already notified its ROW Policy and it is broadly aligned with Indian Telegraph RoW rules 2016. Sr. DDG Gujarat submitted that though broadly aligned but this ROW policy needs to be further amended to fine tune with RoW rules 2016, subsequent amendments to it and recent guidelines issued by DoT HQ for utilisation of street furniture for 5G roll out.
2. **Fibre connectivity to all villages:** Government of Gujarat has taken initiative to provide optical fibre connectivity to all the villages and a Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been prepared for providing fibre connectivity to leftover nearly 3600 villages (proposed phase-III of BharatNet Project).
3. **Utilization of Network of BharatNet Project:** CGM, BSNL has informed that BSNL has taken over the O&M of Phase I of Bharatnet w.e.f. 01-07-2022 & BSNL is committed to improve the uptime of fiber connectivity of GPs. CGM BSNL also informed that due to uncertainty in O&M in last quarter GPs uptime was reduced and hopefully 90% of GPs will be up by end of August 2022. CGM BSNL informed that out of 14266 GPs, 14161 GPs had already been lit. 23551 FTTH connections have been given and 7600 km dark fibers have been leased out through Bharatnet. CGM BSNL also requested to Govt. of Gujarat to take FTTH connection at GPs using Bharatnet & Govt. of Gujarat should finalize the monthly plan for state agency to take the connection. Secretary, Department of science and technology, Government of Gujarat told that as GPs had provided the space

that, free connection should be given for phase-1 GPs. He also told that once the GPs uptime reached to 90% for phase I then Govt. of Gujarat would definitely decide to take FTTH connections and issue GR for the same. Principal Secretary, Department of urban development and housing, Government of Gujarat opined that all the TSPs/IPs must share the spare fiber capacities with other TSPs/IPs as frequent digging of the roads of cities like Ahmedabad cannot be permitted. He also informed that AMC had also laid fiber for its internal use but it could also be provided on lease to TSPs if they had requirement for that.

4. **ROW policy for 5G roll out:** Sr. DDG Gujarat told that Guidelines and charges for installation of small cell for 5G roll out for Utilization of street furniture is needed to be incorporated in ROW policy. She suggested that a state level committee comprising of all stake holders should be formed to work out modalities for use of government infrastructure/street furniture for establishing Telecom structures and to issue suitable addenda to existing state RoW policy for smooth and timely rolling out 5G in state of Gujarat. A copy of the letter regarding formation of committee in Rajasthan for the purpose was also presented as an example.

She also informed that there are three components of using street furniture;

- i. Use of street pole/ wall of bldg./bill boards for installing the small cell
- ii. Use of street pole for laying arial OFC.
- iii. Provisioning of Electricity to Radio unit.

Secretary, Department of science and technology, Government of Gujarat told that before forming committee, to assess the requirement at ground level, committee at local level need to be formed first including the Industry representative and LSA officers as well for 3 priority cities i.e. Ahmedabad, Jamnagar & Gandhinagar. Based on their observations, necessary amendment may be made in ROW policy also.

5. **Tower density/Fiberization of Telecom Towers:** At present, nearly 41000 towers are operational in the state of Gujarat which amounts to about 0.67 towers per 1000 population (census-2011). At present, about 41% towers are already having fibre connectivity. A large quantity of optical fibre is to be laid in urban as well as rural areas and also along the highways to increase the percentage of tower fiberization to 70% as envisaged under the National Broadband Mission. CGM BBNL informed that dark fiber from Block to GPs had been laid & commissioned for all GPs in Gujarat and these could be utilized for fiberization of towers. Commercial rates have also been provided for the same. Sr DDG Gujarat also requested Industry representatives to use Bharatnet fiber and told that it is very critical for 5G roll out. Secretary, Department of science and technology, Government of

Gujarat told Bharatnet fiber utilization is very critical and fiberization of tower is one of the ways of using this national resource.

6. On behalf of Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA), Shri T R Dua submitted that:

- Welcomed the notification of ROW policy of Govt. of Gujarat.
- GIDC policy need to be withdrawn as it is non-implementable in its present form and discourages installation of telecom infrastructure. He pointed out various issues in present GIDC policy as provision for numerous levies/charges, multiple conditions for regularization of existing towers etc.
- Power connections to be provided within a reasonable time and electricity for Telecom towers at Industrial Tariffs.
- National Building Code for in-building fibre layout be adopted by new housing societies and link it to issue of completion certificate.
- Formation of District Telecom Committees (DTCs) so that issues related to telecom infra can be resolved at district level itself.

7. On behalf of Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), Kshem Kapoor thanked Govt. of Gujarat for issuance of RoW policy.


He informed that:

- ROW policy is silent on Guidelines and Charges for installation of CoW / IBS/ Small Cell/ Utilization of Street furniture
- Constitution of DTC for resolution issues of district level
- Safety and Security of Telecom Infrastructure
- Considering 5G and new technologies, Right of Way (RoW) for Aerial OFC laying should be encouraged
- Requested to form a committee as done by the state of Rajasthan, Punjab, Delhi and HP for utilization of Street Furniture and installation of 4G/5G Small Cells

COAI requested that an amendment should be issued to include the above provisions. He also requested that:

- Government land and buildings should be made available at reasonable rates or free of cost
- Telecommunication being a critical infrastructure, Government land and buildings should be made available at reasonable rates

The meeting ended with vote of Thanks by Director Technology, Gujarat LSA, DoT. He thanked all the members of the SBC. The date of next meeting will be decided later on.

 (Madan Lal)