



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: - 06-04-2023

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of Gujarat State Broadband Committee held on 21.02.2023

The 4th meeting of Gujarat State Broadband Committee (SBC) was held on 21-02-2023 in conference room of Chief Secretary, Govt. of Gujarat in Gandhinagar. The meeting was attended by:

1. Shri Raj Kumar, Chief Secretary, Government of Gujarat
2. Shri Arunkumar Solanki, Additional Chief Secretary, Forest & Environment Department, Government of Gujarat
3. Shri Mukesh Kumar, Principal Secretary, Department of urban housing and housing development, Government of Gujarat.
4. Shri Vijay Nehra, Secretary, Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of Gujarat
5. Smt. Gunjan Dave , Sr. DDG, DoT, Gujarat LSA
6. Shri S. B. Vasava, Secretary, Department of Road & Bldg., Govt. of Gujarat
7. Shri Sandeep Sawarkar CGM, BSNL, Gujarat
8. Shri Dharmendra Sharma, CGM, BBNL, Gujarat
9. Shri Hemant Pandey, PGM(CM),BSNL Gujarat
10. Shri Ram kumar, DDG (Rural), DoT, Gujarat LSA
11. Shri Sandeep Kumar, Development Commissioner, Panchayat, Rural Housing & Rural Development Department
12. Shri P. Swaroop, Commissioner of Land Reforms Revenue Department
13. Shri Nitin Sangwan, Director, ICT & e-Governance Department of Science & Technology
14. Shri N H Gadhavi, Dy. Secretary Department of Science & Technology
15. Shri Suryash Gautam, AD (Technology), DoT, Gujarat LSA
16. Shri Deepak Kumar Gupta, Representative from COAI
17. Shri T R Dua, Representative from DIPA

At the outset, Sr. DDG, DoT, Gujarat LSA and convener of the State Broadband Committee (SBC) welcomed Chairman and all the members 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. A detailed presentation was made by Gujarat LSA covering all the agenda points of the meeting.

1. 4G Saturation project:

- a. BSNL presented the land allocation status in tabular form for 221 sites which may increase as additional sites are being surveyed after VIP references.
- b. Chief Secretary asked Development Commissioner to cross check the cellular coverage status through e-Gram centre of villages. If any village reports about non-availability of Mobile Coverage than necessary actions to be initiated for providing 4G mobile services in that village.

- c. For now Out of 221 locations identified, land has been allotted only for 40 locations of Panchayat whereas no land has been allotted by revenue department and forest department so far.
- d. PGM(CM) added that it is in advanced stage in 85 locations out of 100 in forest department. Additional chief Secretary forest assured that the whole process of allotment of land for all the 100 sites shall be finished within a period of one month.
- e. Secretary(DST) informed that GR has already been issued for land allotment for tribal areas but actual land allotment has not taken place.
- f. CS asked Commissioner of Land Reforms (Revenue Department) for specific mention of the authorities who shall allot the land so as to avoid any ambiguity and also instructed that similar GR may be issued for non-tribal areas.
- g. BSNL also raised the issue of exorbitantly high charges for power connection (more than 2 lakh in some cases). CS asked BSNL to give details of the specific cases which will be looked into.

2. Utilisation of Bharat net

- a. CGM BSNL informed that 1221 RKM of GFGNL fiber and 134 RKM of BBNL fiber is under active consideration of BSNL for 4G Saturation project as well as other development work of BSNL.
- b. CGM BSNL expressed gratitude for, issuing GR, finalizing recurring charges of Rs. 1000/- per month per location for providing connectivity of 100 Mbps to various Government offices and institutions under Bharatnet Phase-I project. He also requested for utilisation of BharatNet project for connecting government offices and institutions. Upon which Secretary(DST) mentioned that necessary measures have been already taken for the same.

3. Right of Way Policy alignment and 5G roll out

- a. Sr. DDG mentioned that "Telecom Infrastructure Policy-2022" of Gujarat State is largely aligned with DoT RoW Rules, 2016 but there are issues of implementation at ground level in some authorities/offices. It was also mentioned that pendency applications since more than 60 days is very high.
- b. Principal Secretary(UDUHD) informed that procedure is now getting streamlined and most of the applications are under process and shall be cleared soon.
- c. Sr. DDG Gujarat submitted that the Policy needs to be further amended to incorporate provisions made in RoW(Amendment) Rules, 2022, notified by Department of Telecommunications, for roll out of 5G Network by leveraging the existing street furniture.
- d. CS advised that TSPs should give priority to private buildings/infrastructures for rollout of 5G network as considering factors like beautification, safety etc. as it may not be always possible/feasible to use electricity poles.
- e. Secretary(DST) informed that a committee for rollout of 5G Network has already been formulated and after lot of deliberations the draft, for amendment to the "Telecom Infrastructure Policy-2022", has been prepared and it is in advance level of discussion for approval.

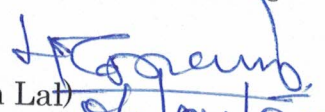
4. MOHUA:

- a. The issue of installation of common telecom infrastructure and associated cabling and in-building solutions mandatorily in all commercial, residential and official buildings (including government buildings) by amending building bye-laws was discussed.

- b. Principal Secretary(UDUHD) informed that a committee will be setup for preparing and finalising necessary guidelines for amendments in building bye-laws.
5. 5G Rollout: Recommendations of FOIR
 - a. Issues of bulk permissions/bulk metering/bulk billing and sharing of DISCOMs infrastructure with TSPs for faster 5G roll out were discussed.
 - b. Secretary(DST) informed that the issue has already been deliberated in detail during meetings of 5G roll out committee as well as meeting under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary(EPD). Accordingly, as decided during meeting under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary(EPD) a committee will be formed to address the operational and technical challenges in utilising DISCOMs infrastructure for 5G Network Rollout. On common metering issue, CS mentioned that it can be resolved as it is done in case of street lights.
 - c. The Committee also suggested DoT officials to study about how other countries have carried out 5G network rollout.
6. CBuD App:
 - a. Sr. DDG shared the status of asset owners mapping on the CBuD app and registration of digging enquiries. It was informed that most of the departments have mapped users upto district level except Water Supply Department. Sr. DDG also mentioned that, in CBuD mobile app, inquiries made prior to start digging activities are very less, i.e. 284, as compared to the total nos of excavators registered, i.e. 636.
 - b. Sr. DDG requested to get issued instructions, for all Departments, to include clause for use of CBuD mobile app in permission letters issued for granting any type of digging activity. Sr. DDG informed that Government of India notified Indian Telegraph (Infrastructure Safety) Rules 2022 on 03/01/2023 and requested to issue such notification for safety of state's own assets apart from telecom assets.
 - c. CS mentioned that more frequent digging activities is done by TSPs and it should be analysed. Further, he opined that there is a need to develop a mechanism for collection of the damage charges and appoint an authority to decide the charges. Moreover, it was proposed to impose penalty on digger for not inquiring on CBuD mobile app before excavation and authorities should have rights to penalise the digger.
7. Digital Communication Readiness Index(DCRI)
 - a. Sr. DDG informed about Digital Communication Readiness Index based on which performance of States/UTs will be evaluated from 01/04/2023 onwards.
8. On behalf of Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA), Shri T R Dua submitted that:
 - a. Welcomed the notification of ROW policy of Govt. of Gujarat.
 - b. He highlighted the stand of GIDC Gujarat in particular who is not following RoW policy 2022. CS asked Secretary DST, Government of Gujarat to take up the matter with the VC and CEO GIDC for necessary action in the matter.

9. On behalf of Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), Shri. Deepak Kumar Gupta submitted that:
- Gujarat Policy alignment with RoW (Amendment) Rules, 2022: COAI requested for urgent notification of Gujarat RoW Policy, 2022 aligned with the Central RoW (Amendment) Rules, 2022.
 - Allowing Aerial OFC: COAI requested to allow Aerial OFC wherever underground OFC is not possible to provide last mile connectivity. CS said that Aerial OFC can't be allowed in the State. (But still COAI request that Aerial Fiber is critical for 5G roll-out and State should allow Industry to roll-out Aerial OFC as a pilot project in a particular area)
 - Provision for Common Ducts: COAI requested for robust 5G network in the State to make available common ducts for laying underground OFC on rental basis. (If Aerial OFC is not allowed, then conduits will be required to lay underground fiber for last mile connectivity).

The meeting ended with vote of Thanks by Sr. DDG, Gujarat LSA, DoT to Chief Secretary Gujarat Govt. and all other members of the SBC. The date of next meeting will be decided later on.

(Madan Lal) 
Director Rural, Gujarat LSA, DoT 06/01/2023