

**GOVERNMENT OF NAGALAND
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION
NAGALAND CIVIL SECRETARIATE
KOHIMA :: NAGALAND**

No.IT&C/18-6/20

Dated Kohima, the 20th April 2021

Minutes of the First Meeting of State Broadband Committee held on 18th March 2021, 1:30 pm, Chief Secretary 's Conference Room, Kohima.

The 1st meeting of the State Broadband Committee was held on the 18th March 2021 under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Nagaland to address concerns relating to telecom service in the State and accelerate expansion of broadband services in the State as envisaged under National Broadband Mission.

Attendance List of Members present is appended as Annexure A.

Agenda Discussion in the meeting:

1. The Chief Secretary presided over the meeting and welcomed all the members. He noted that in this era of rapid change and instant communication, Telecom connectivity has admittedly become the most crucial infrastructure for providing transparency, speed in governance, development, security and the only means to overcome the geo-climatic obstacles to communications in the State. He opined that with the paradigm shift to Work from Home, virtual meetings and video calls, online classes etc. the uptake of e- services, e- commerce and e- governance, online classes have increased significantly. He stated that the telecom service has not improved over the years and He expressed serious concerns over poor quality of mobile services and low data speed in the State. He directed the Telecom organization to submit the following:-
 - a. **All Telecom Operator to submit Plan for improvement of mobile connectivity in the State.**
 - b. **TERM Cell, Department of Telecommunication, Govt of India to submit report on telecom coverage and quality of telecom service in the State.**
 - c. **TAIPA /COAI to submit proposal for review of Right of way guideline.**

(Action : Telecom operator, TAIPA/COAI, TERM Cell, DoT)

2. The Principal Secretary, IT & Communication highlighted the mission and objective of National Broadband Mission. He informed the members that the National Broadband Mission was launched in 2019 with a mission to fast-track growth of digital communications infrastructure and provide affordable and universal access of broadband for all.

He expressed dismay at the poor quality of telecom services in the State even in the State capital Kohima despite the fact the numbers of subscribers and usages has exponentially increased. He highlighted that subscriber complaints are increasing daily about poor service and network quality of all mobile service providers - Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea, BSNL. In spite of paying high charges for 3G/4G services, subscribers neither receive the 3G/4G network signal nor the desired download speed. He asserted that telecom regulatory authorities like TRAI, TERM Cell Govt of India, has to ensure the QoS are monitored and penalty imposed on telecom operator for poor quality of service to the subscribers.

3. Increasing Tower Density, possibility of State funding, availability of Govt Land and buildings.

TAIPA and COAI expressed their Intent to continuously improve the quality of telecom service and impressed the need for a collaborative effort between the Telecom organisations and State Government to improve telecom service in the State. TAIPA and COAI stated that matter relating to poor connectivity, call drop, network unavailability can be addressed by increasing the number of mobile towers in the State. Mobile towers in hilly terrain are mostly connected through a wireless backhaul having finite capacity and are often unable to cater to the high increase of data consumption. This issue relating to quality of service can be addressed by increasing fiberisation of mobile towers.

TAIPA and COAI requested the State Government to address the following points:

- a. Review of RoW Annual Charges for Mobile tower.
- b. Availability of Government Lands and Building
- c. Fast track clearance and provision of electrical connection for telecom towers.
- d. Single Window Clearance of RoW application permit clearance.
- e. Common ducts to avoid multiple digging.

In this regard, Chief Secretary assured that the State Government is ready to provide all necessary support, at the same time he urged the telecom operator to come forward and improve the telecom service in the State. He also noted that despite the substantial increase in the density of tower in the last 2-3 years, there is no visible improvement in quality of mobile service across the State even in Kohima, the State Capital.

2. Report on the mobile towers

To assess the reachability, density of mobile tower, working condition of mobile tower at the State level, District level and Village, the State Government requested the telecom operators to submit the following Data

1. List of towers district, block, village wise with following parameters: -
2. GPS location
3. Where in working/non-working condition.
4. Whether connected by fiber.
5. Bandwidth available.

TERM Cell to verify the data and submit to the State Government.

(Action : Telecom operators, TERM Cell, DoT)

3. USOF

The State Government expressed the view that under Government of India USO Fund, financial support is provided to telecom operator to increase mobile coverage and telecom services in specified uncovered villages and seamless mobile coverage.

In this connection, the State Government sought from TERM Cell, DoT, Government of India, a detail Report on status of mobile tower implemented under USOF in the State of Nagaland.

(Action : TERM Cell, DoT)

4. BHARATNET

Shri. Pankaj Das, PGM, BBNL representative brought to the notice of the State Government, that implementation of BHARATNET has come to a complete halt since the implementing agency M/s Railtel has short close the project. He also informed that there is no manpower deployed in the State to monitor the BHARATNET project in the State and till date only around 10% GP has been made service ready.

The State Government expressed serious concerned about the poor progress of BHARATNET in the State and short closure of the project by M/s railtel. The State Government urged BBNL to review and sincerely monitor the implementation of the project and update the State Government on the plans and actions to complete the project. It was decided that the matter will be taken up with Telecom Ministry.

(Action : BBNL, State Government)

5. Shifting of TERM Cell and GM BSNL to Kohima.

To enable better co-ordination and communication, the State Government was of the view that BSNL and TERM Cell Hq currently located at Dimapur should be shifted to Kohima. The matter will be taken up with Telecom Ministry.

(Action: State Government)

6. Monitoring of Telecom service

Monitoring and Assessing the level of penetration and quality of service is of great importance to the State Government since availability of telecommunications services provide new opportunities to rural communities, where over 90% of the population reside. Therefore, TERM CELL is requested to frunish quarterly report to the State Government on telecom subscriber data and coverage by all telecom operators in the State. The data may be sent by email to secy-itngl@nic.in, dit-ngl@nic.in , chura.katiry@gov.in.

(Action: Telecom Operators, TERM, DoT)

Sd/- (J. ALAM) IAS

Chief Secretary to the Government of Nagaland

Dated Kohima, the 20th April 2021

No.IT&C/18-6/20

Copy to :

1. The OSD to the Chief Secretary for kind information.
2. The Administrative Head of Departments, IT&C, Power, PWD, Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Urban Development, Nagaland, Kohima for kind information.
3. The Chief General Manager, BSNL NE-II Circle, Dimapur.
4. The Chief General Manager, BBNL.
5. The DDG, TERM Cell NE-II, Dimapur.
6. All Nodal Officers/NE Mobile Operator Head of Airtel/ BSNL/VodafoneIdea / Reliance JIO
- ✓ 7. The Director, IT &C, Kohima: Nagaland.
8. Office Copy.


20/04/21

(Vibozoto Yiene)

Joint Secretary to the Government of Nagaland