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Government of India
Ministry of Communication
Department of Telecommunication
O/o Addl. DG, Himachal Pradesh Licensed Service Area
Telephone Exchange Building, Chhota Shimla, Shimla-
171002

No. 2063/HPLSA/National Broadband Mission-Pt-Part(1) dated 02.02.2024

State Broadband Committee 4th Meeting

Minutes of Meeting

The 4th meeting of State Broadband Committee of Himachal Pradesh on National Broadband Mission was held on 31st January, 2024 from 17.00 hrs. Due to some exigency Hon'ble Chief Secretary, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, could not attend the meeting and the meeting was chaired by Secretary (DT&G), GoHP. List of participants is enclosed as **Annexure-I**.

At the outset, Addl. DDG, HP LSA, welcomed the Secretary (DT&G), GoHP and other members of State Broadband Committee. Chairman, while welcoming all the participants stressed the importance of telecom in the development of Himachal Pradesh and the society. He desired that various stakeholders should adhered to the timelines. Even a delay of one day cannot be tolerated in the telecom sector.

In the beginning, Director (IT), GoHP briefed the committee about the National Broadband Mission (NBM), SBC composition and mandate to the committee. Thereafter, DDG (Rural), HP LSA, DoT made a presentation covering meeting agenda points. The discussions held during the meeting are summarized as below:

1. Action taken on the actionable points of previous SBC meeting held on 23.02.2023 were discussed. At first, Chairman expressed that SBC meetings may be held regularly as per mandate, i.e quarterly. Majority of actions of last SBC meeting have been completed. As regard the Rs. 50Cr fund under special incentive scheme released to BSNL, it was

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informed that till now only Rs. 5Cr has been utilized whereas, as per the work order, it was supposed to be completed by 31.03.2024. The Chairman expressed serious displeasure and asked BSNL about the reasons for only 10% fund utilization and plan to utilize the same by March, 2024. BSNL informed that due to bad weather, flash flood in HP, delay in store procurement etc., the project could not be completed. BSNL assured following monthly timelines to utilize the fund and complete the work:

- a. Feb, 2024: 30%
- b. March, 2024: 50%
- c. April, 2024: 70%
- d. May, 2024: 90%
- e. June, 2024: 100%

[Action by: BSNL]

2. The NBM Status & Targets was presented to the Hon'ble Chairman as under:

Parameter	Present status	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Broadband connectivity to Villages (%) (3G&4G)	92.89 (97.84% inhabited villages)	50	60	100	100	
Availability of Broadband speed (Mbps)	13-18 Mbps	4	10	25	30	50
Fiberization Cumulative (km)	28401	34401	43001	53751	67189	83986
Mobile Towers cumulative	9274	8153	9352	11644	14064	17633
Fiberization of Telecom Towers cumulative (%)	33.67	35	45	55	65	70

Chairman has stressed for not meeting the targets and asked stakeholders to furnish reasons for the same and way forward. It was informed that due to non-implementation of BharatNet phase

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2 in HP, high restoration cost by PWD (the representative of HPPWD has apprised that the rates of GoHP is less as compared to nearby states and the same has been submitted in the Hon'ble High Court), high cost of OFC laying, Geographical tough conditions etc., the targets could not be met. HP LSA has informed that Govt. of India has approved the amended BharatNet Programme under which approx. 34 thousand km fibers would be laid. This may help in achieving the targets. On being asked why Airtel BTS Fiberisation is only 22%, the representative of Airtel stated that they are gradually increasing the same and Airtel would achieve 24% BTS Fiberisation by March, 2024 and 32% in next one and half year. M/s Jio requested that GoI RoW policy may be adopted by the GoHP for increasing BTS Fiberisation.

[Action by: All TSPs]

3. None of the representative of Voda Idea Ltd. Attended the meeting. Chairman viewed it very seriously and directed that VIL should attend the meeting in future, without fail. Secretary (IT) instructed that state head of all TSPs should participate in the meeting, so that they can take decisions during the meeting and also implement them.

[Action by: All TSP]

4. It was discussed that BTS Fiberisation may be increased and overall cost for the TSPs may significantly reduce if they share the fiber with each other. Chairman directed all the TSPs to coordinate with each other to share the fiber. It was also discussed that whenever any TSP is applying for the OFC RoW approval or approval is accorded, intimation may be given to other service provider so that they can plan, accordingly.

[Action By: All TSPs, PWD]

5. 4G Saturation project status was discussed. Chairman expressed displeasure that out of more than 600 towers, only 146 towers are

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erected till now and none of the BTS has been radiated. BSNL stated that they are pursuing with the vendor rigorously and will erect 500 towers by March, 2024. BSNL was asked to submit action plan to erect the towers and radiating the BTSs.

[Action by: BSNL]

6. As regards RoW applications, it was discussed that out of 942 applications, only 113 approved. Majority of applications have been reverted to the service providers. Director, DDTG informed one of the reasons for reversion is because of incomplete documentation. Chairman directed that service providers should furnish complete documents in all respect and also desired that detailed analysis may be carried out by concerned departments for reverted cases.

[Action by: All service providers/HP LSA]

7. As regard the GIS mapping, it was discussed that there is no progress in GIS mapping since last one year. None of the Govt buildings have been mapped. The mapping done till now is not in the format as prescribed by DoT, like Lat-Long capture up to 5 decimals, height & type of street furniture etc. Representative of Industry Department informed that they have shared a mobile app for capturing the Govt buildings and coordinating with the concerned Departments for completion of the same at the earliest. By March, 2024, 40% Govt buildings would be mapped. They are also coordinating with HPSEBL and other departments for capturing the required attributes of the street furniture. Chairman directed Industry Department to complete the GIS mapping of the street furniture in the prescribed format immediately to enable faster rollout of 5G services in HP.

[Action by: Industry Department, GoHP]

8. As regard the issues with HPSEBL, BSNL informed that at 178 sites, demand note amount is more than 2 lakhs rupees and requested to bring it below 2 lakhs. Further, they have paid demand notes for 313 sites,

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however, electric connection provided at only 23 sites. MD, HPSEBL stated that demand notes amount of more than 2 lakhs would be reconsidered. The smart meter are likely to be procured in a week time and the electric connections would be provided in 2 weeks' time. Airtel requested for sharing list of electric poles per overhead OFC laying/ small cells. The MD, HPSEBL assured that they will look into the matter.

[Action by: HPSEBL]

9. Chairman directed that the next meeting of SBC may be held in the last week of February, 2024.

[Action by: DDTG, GoHP/ HP LSA]

In the end chairman expressed that all the stakeholders should adhered to the targets/timelines and should do the regular follow up with the concerned departments. Himachal Pradesh should not be lagging in any the targets and telecom parameters. State Govt would provide all support for the development of telecom services.

**Secretary (DT&G) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh.**

Annexure-I**List of participants**

1. Sh. Abhishek Jain, Secretary (IT), GoHP
2. Sh. Sh.Harikesh Meena, MD, HPSEBL
- 3 . Sh. Mukesh Rapaswal, Director (IT) , DDTG GoHP
- 4 . Smt. Deepika Khosla, Addl DG Telecom, HPLSA
- 5 . Sh. Ajay Soni , SE, PWD
- 6 . Sh. Manish , Chief Engineer, HPSEBL
- 7 . Sh. Rajeev Sharma, Addl.DIR, DDTG GoHP
- 8 . Sh. Charan Singh, CGM Telecom, HP Circle BSNL
- 9 . Sh. Kulwinder Kumar, DDG (C), HPLSA
- 10 . Sh. B.M. Setia, DDG(T), HPLSA
- 11 . Sh. V. P. Verma, DDG C R), HPLSA
- 12 . Sh. P. K Gupta, Director(R), HPLSA
- 13 . Sh. Sanjay Gupta , GM(BBNL), BBNL
- 14 . Sh Vijay Prakash, GM(Mobile), BSNL
- 15 . Sh. Chander Mohan, DGM Mobile, BSNL
- 16 . Sh. Sanjay Kashyap, AGM , BBNL
- 17 . Sh. Pravesh Kumar, Network Head, Airtel
- 18 . Sh. Anuj Thakur, Airtel, Airtel
- 19 . Sh. Shashi Raikta, Airtel, Airtel
- 20 . Sh. Gurmeet Singh, Indus, Indus Tower Ltd
- 21 . Sh. Harkanwer Singh, Indus, Indus Tower Ltd
- 22 . Sh. P.L. Panchta, AD Const., HP LSA
23. Sh. Harpreet, DIPA (through VC)
24. Sh. Deepak Kumar Gupta, COAI, (through VC)