

**Minutes of Meeting of 1st State Broadband Committee, Jharkhand held on
21.12.2020 in the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Jharkhand**

Time : 3:00 PM

Venue : Conference Room, Chief Secretary Office

Present :

1. Sri Sukhdeo Singh, Chief Secretary, Jharkhand
2. Sri A.P. Singh, Pr. Secretary, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Dept.
3. Sri V.K. Choubey, Secretary, Urban Development & Housing Dept.
4. Sri Sunil Kumar, Secretary, Road Construction/Building Construction Dept.
5. Sri R.K. Sharma, Secretary, Dept. of IT & e-Gov.
6. Sri Manoj Kumar, Director, Dept. of IT & e-Gov.
7. Sri Sarvesh Singhal, CEO, JCNL
8. Sri Ramesh Chandra, DDG (R), Jharkhand, DoT, GoI
9. Sri V. Vikram, Dir.(R), Jharkhand, DoT, GoI
10. Smt Supriya Jaiswal, Dir(C-1), Jharkhand, DoT, GoI
11. Sri K.K. Singh, CGM, BSNL, Jharkhand
12. Sri Sanjay Kumar, CGM, BBNL, Jharkhand
13. Sri Gangeswar Majhi, DGM (CFA), BSNL, Jharkhand

The Department of Information Technology & e-Governance, Govt. of Jharkhand vide notification no. ITSec2/DoT-Policy-1/2019/IT-602 dated 29.06.2020 and subsequent amendment letter no.-703 dated 27.07.2020 constituted "State Broadband Committee" for Jharkhand under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Jharkhand and Sr. DDG, BR LSA, DoT as the Member Convener. Accordingly, First meeting of State Broadband Committee (SBC) was held on 21.12.2020 in the Conference Hall, Chief Secretary Office, Ranchi. The DDG (R), Jharkhand, on behalf of Sr. DDG (Bihar LSA), DoT convened the meeting. All the members of SBC including representatives of COAI and TAIPA (through VC) participated in the meeting.

The State Broadband Committee has been constituted for effective implementation of the National Broadband Mission and proliferation of broadband in the States as detailed in National Broadband Mission guideline.

At the outset, DDG(R) welcomed all the participants on behalf of SBC, Jharkhand and gave a brief presentation on National Broadband Mission (NBM) to provide "Broadband for All". During the presentation, it was conveyed that out of 29492 villages of Jharkhand, 27468 have broadband connectivity. However only 10.8% i.e. 3192 have broadband through fibre network. The presentation suggests that state implementation plan has target of 124 villages in 1st year and 1900 villages in 2nd year only. The committee deliberated upon the idea of increasing the number of villages on fibre network. The presentation also highlighted that investment for this purpose will be largely catalysed by the industry. It was felt by the committee that in states like Jharkhand, where broadband penetration is quite low, due to lack of purchasing power & demand; industry may not be forthcoming for investment and hence DoT & BSNL should have an alternative plan to achieve the target in a timely manner.

Targets were also set for Fiberisation Cumulative, Towers Cumulative and Fiberisation of Telecom Tower Cumulative. During the current year, targets for fiberisation (in Kms) Cumulative is 42386 and in the five years is 70300. Similarly, targets for towers Cumulative for current year is

18500 and in the five years is 30200 and targets for fiberisation of Telecom Towers Cumulative during the current year is 6000 and in the five years is 22000 respectively.

Since, NBM is being monitored by Broadband Steering Committee at Central Level and by State Broadband Committee at State Level, it was suggested to set up a committee at district level too for monitoring and evaluation of NBM Project at the earliest.

Following issues were discussed in the 1st meeting of SBC -

1. Alignment of State RoW Policy with Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules 2016 by the Central Government : Suggestions from Bihar LSA to amend draft Jharkhand RoW Policy, 2018 of Jharkhand to align with Indian Telegraph Right of way Rules, 2016 were discussed and it was specially suggested to remove the clauses pertaining to the demand of free bandwidth in the State RoW policy apart from other suggestions. The demand of free bandwidth in respect of BSNL has already been exempted as per amendment notification of state RoW policy dated 21.10.2011 clause I(ii). It was informed that new draft RoW policy 2020 of Jharkhand State is being formulated. The State Govt. will examine the consequences of such policy change in view of the existing provisions.

DDG(R), Bihar LSA suggested that Website for RoW towers should have the provision for deemed approval of applications beyond sixty days. The committee was informed that the provision of deemed approval for such towers has already been incorporated in the said portal.

2. Sharing of details of all habitations (villages/hamlets/habitations) of the Jharkhand State :

It was requested to share ~~of~~ details of all habitations (villages/hamlets/habitations) of the Jharkhand State and information in respect of column nos. 15, 16 & 17 of annexed-II, if available. It was informed that the data for hamlets/habitations level has already been provided to DoT vide IT letter no.-1055 dt. 29.09.2020. However, during correspondence with DoT, it was found that there was a mismatch of village-codes in the report. Hence, it was decided to provide the required hamlet-wise data available with Dept. of Drinking Water and Sanitation to DoT again.

3. Response on BRI Questionnaire : Quarterly report was requested from Department of IT & e-Gov., Jharkhand so as to furnish to DoT HQ. It was informed that the same had already been provided to DoT vide IT letter no-855 dt 04.09.2020. It was also mentioned that the report was not requested to be submitted on quarterly basis. As collection of data for the report involves substantial resources, it was desired to know as how this data would be used by DoT on quarterly basis. Also, a letter regarding submission of the responses on quarterly basis is solicited so that quarterly updated report may be submitted.

4. Removals of discrepancies in LWE Phase-II site information : DDG(R) informed that in respect of LWE Phase-II, information was provided for all sites vide IT letter no-1036 dt 28.09.2020 except 6 locations. It was directed to get the information from Police HQ/Home Dept. to include another 06 locations under LWE Phase-II.

5. Increasing tower density:



- **Possibility of state funding:** As the state government, at present, is going through financial crunch due to COVID-19 pandemic, the Chief Secretary ruled out such possibility of state funding as of now.
- **Availability of govt. land and buildings:** It was informed that there is already provision for installation of communication towers on Govt. Lands and buildings in the current Tower Policy. The TSPs/IPs can approach the concerned departments/agencies that hold these assets and seek the no objection certificate from them. After getting the certificate, they can apply for NoC from the State Govt. for installation of Towers on such Lands/Buildings.
- **Expedite permissions:** DDG(R) suggested for faster disposal of applications related to Tower permissions. Also, as conveyed by TAIPA, NoC letters are not being issued through online portal for sites. It was informed that the applications with incomplete documents were submitted which had been returned to the applicants. TSPs can submit the applications for permission again with complete documents. Only 07 applications were pending with the IT Department on date.
- **Pending Power Connection permissions:** As reported by TAIPA, power connections are pending for more than 03 months. DDG(R) requested for early provision of power connections. TAIPA also suggested that all pending permissions for towers & power connections be cleared at the earliest. Chief Secretary, Jharkhand directed to send a DO letter to Energy Dept. from his side. It was also suggested to include ACS/Principal Secretary/Secretary, Energy Dept. in SBC.

6. **Increase tower Fiberisation and Speedy RoW approvals :** Issues discussed.

7. **Utilization of FTTH/Broadband connectivity for e-Governance initiatives :** Following points were discussed;

- Identify e-Governance initiatives that create demand for broadband
- Effective Utilization of BharatNet including FTTH to five Govt, institutions & Public Wi-Fi
- Sensitize core departments for using Broadband backbone
- Devise mechanisms for capacity building in the sector
- Tap Broadband revolution for Digital Education & Healthcare

8. **Safety & Security of Telecom Towers/Lack of support from law enforcement agencies where public/Municipal Corporations damage the telecom infrastructures :** DDG(R) conveyed concern about Safety & Security of Telecom Towers and need of support from concerned agencies where public/Municipal Corporations damage the telecom infrastructures. TAIPA also suggested to incorporate penalty clauses in State RoW policy for the damages, caused by the third agencies during their excavation, to recover the loss. Chief Secretary, Jharkhand advised to incorporate such clauses in State RoW policy.

9. **The forest RoW cases take 4 to 5 months in clearance from the forest department. This procedure may be simplified to get RoW permissions at the earliest:** DDG(R) conveyed that the forest RoW cases take 4 to 5 months in clearance from the forest department. This procedure may be

simplified to get RoW permissions at the earliest. Chief Secretary, Jharkhand advised Forest department to look into this matter on case-to-case basis.

10. Non-adherence of the terms and conditions of the RoW Policy and Mobile Tower Policy by TSPs/IPs: DDG(R) informed that no communication on the matter is reported to DoT unit, Ranchi. It was mentioned that many TSPs/IPs do not adhere with the terms and conditions of the RoW Policy and Mobile Tower Policy which are reflected through the public grievances submitted in the Dept. Moreover, several TSPs/IPs including BSNL have erected many towers without getting NoC from the Dept. Also, BSNL has not applied for RoW for laying OFC in the state for last ten years. Chief Secretary, Jharkhand advised IT department to re-examine the permissions for non-adherence of the terms and conditions.

11. Issues in Rollout of BharatNet : Issues in Rollout of BharatNet Phase-I and Phase-II were discussed. CGM, BBNL presented figures of 4217 FTTH which includes 1027 Private FTTH connections & 2331 WiFi Access Points through Phase-I BharatNet in the State till date. CSC-SPV will complete the work till March, 2021. It was informed that FTTH has not been provided at Gram Panchayats as targeted and if provided the services have been observed as too poor. Implementation of Phase-II BharatNet is in progress. As on date, a dedicated internet lease line has been provided from Jharnet to NOC of BharatNet Phase-II. Integration of SWAN with BharatNet to increase reachability was also discussed. Chief Secretary, Jharkhand asked the concerned departments to look into the matter.


The meeting ended with vote of thanks by the chair


Chief Secretary,
Jharkhand

Memo no. :

Date :

Copy to : All the members present in the meeting for information and necessary action.


Chief Secretary,
Jharkhand