



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: - 25-10-2021

**Minutes of Second Meeting of Gujarat State Broadband Committee held on
06.10.2021**

Second meeting of Gujarat State Broadband Committee (SBC) was held on 06-10-2021 under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Government of Gujarat. The meeting was attended by:

1. Shri Pankaj Kumar, Chief Secretary, Government of Gujarat & Chairman SBC
2. Shri Vijay Nehra, Secretary, Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of Gujarat
3. Shri S B Vasava, Secretary, Roads & Buildings Department, Govt. of Gujarat
4. Shri R K Chouhan, Sr. DDG, DoT, Gujarat LSA
5. Shri Sandeep Sawarkar CGM, BSNL, Gujarat
6. Shri Dharmendra Sharma, CGM, BBNL, Gujarat
7. Shri Ashish Thaker, DDG (Rural), DoT, Gujarat LSA
8. Shri Nilesh Chauhan, Sr. GM, BBNL
9. Shri Madan Lal, Director (Rural), DoT, Gujarat LSA
10. Dr. Kshem Kapoor, Representative from COAI
11. 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. He also requested Gujarat Government to approve the Right of Way (RoW) policy for the State of Gujarat at the earliest. A brief PPT was presented by Gujarat LSA covering all the agenda points of the meeting.

Secretary, Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of Gujarat, briefed about status of BharatNet project phase-I & phase-II. He also expressed his displeasure over state of affair of BharatNet project, especially phase-I and insisted on making CSC India Ltd. Member of SBC. He also acknowledged pending notification and implementation of state RoW policy.

1. **Finalization of Master database of villages in State:** GP data for 140 villages need to be provided by state for mapping villages with their GPs. There are nearly 22000 hamlets in state as per census 2011. Data covering name of hamlet, name of parent village, latitude & longitude of hamlet, number of households and population of hamlets are required by the Department of Telecom for finalization of master database including hamlets.
2. **Implementation of State RoW policy:** Sr. DDG requested for implementation of state RoW policy aligned with Indian Telegraph RoW rules 2016. He further submitted that lack of state policy is hampering the progress in building telecom infrastructure in state and it need to be implemented at the earliest.
3. **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) is prepared for providing fibre connectivity to leftover nearly 3600 villages (proposed phase-III of BharatNet Project). Necessary actions need to be taken in order to implement the proposal.
4. **Utilization of Network of BharatNet Project:** Sr. GM, BBNL shared status of BharatNet project Phase-I. The committee was informed that nearly 1800 GPs are found down at time that includes nearly 300 GPs affected due to development work in the state by various agencies. Chief Secretary, Govt of Gujarat insisted for time bound action plan for making all these GPs working. Sr. GM BBNL submitted that all these GPs will be made working by March-2022. He agreed to share monthly progress with state.

Secretary DST emphasized for weekly/monthly joint meeting of BBNL, BSNL, CSC India Ltd and Railtel to resolve issues involved. He also proposed to shift OLTEs out of BSNL premises to ensure smooth working of links. Chief Secretary, Govt of Gujarat, asked BBNL to deliberate on issues involved and find a reliable solution.

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.
6. On behalf of Towers And Infrastructure Providers Association (TAIPA), Shri T R Dua submitted that:
- 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 requested for early implementation of state RoW policy. He also reiterated that:
- State Discom, through a central agreement, to allow Telcos to use their LT poles for aerial OFC and mounting low power 4G/5G BTSs.
 - GIDC policy is non-implementable in its present form and need to be kept in abeyance (at least) till finalization and implementation of state Row policy.
 - Municipal and state authorities to facilitate construction of common ducts for underground electrical cable and OFC during new/widening road constructions. He also briefed about TRAI recommendations for common duct.
 - Shared data of pending permissions/NOC cases of Bharti Airtel Ltd.
8. The meeting ended with vote of Thanks by Secretary DST, Govt of Gujarat. He thanked Chairman and all the members of the SBC. The next meeting will be tentatively held during January/February, 2022.


Madan Lal)
Director Rural, Gujarat LSA, DoT