

I/3093840/2023

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/NBM-Pt-Part(1)

Dated:31.03.2023

Sub: Minutes of the third SBC meeting held on 23.02.2023

Please find attached the Minutes of the third State Broadband Committee (SBC) meeting held on 23.02.2023, under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Government of Himachal Pradesh. All the stakeholders may submit the Action Taken Report by 15.04.2023.

(Ved Prakash Verma)
Dy. Director General (Rural)
HP LSA

Encl: As above

To,

1. Chairman SBC & Chief Secretary, GoHP: For kind information please.
2. DDG (NBM), DGT HQ, New Delhi: For kind information please.
3. All Participants: for kind information and necessary compliance please.
4. All TSPs, Himachal Pradesh: for kind information and necessary compliance please

State Broadband Committee 3rd Meeting**Minutes of Meeting**

The 3rd meeting of State Broadband Committee of Himachal Pradesh on National Broadband Mission was held on 23rd February, 2023 at 14:30 Hrs, under Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Secretary, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh. List of participants is enclosed as Annexure-I.

At the outset, Sr. DDG, HP LSA, welcomed Hon'ble Chairman of State Broadband Committee cum Chief Secretary, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, followed by Members and other senior officers were also extended warm welcome by Director (Rural) DoT.

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

1. The NBM Status & Targets was presented to The Hon'ble Chairman. It was informed that Broadband connectivity is available in 97.15% of villages of the State. There are 8855 mobile towers in HP. The Chair queried about the achievement of various NBM targets specifically about the Mobile Towers. It was informed that the proposed roll out of BharatNet, 4G saturation project etc. would help in achieving the NBM targets.
2. The status of 4G saturation project was briefed in the meeting. It was by informed by The Director (IT) that under 4G saturation total 2267 villages would be covered. As on date, total 688 mobile towers are proposed with 389 on forest land and 46 on Govt land and rest on private land. BSNL informed that there is slight mismatch of figure. BSNL is to coordinate with the State for updation of the latest figures regarding sites and villages to be covered.

3. As regard allotment of Forest land for 4G saturation, BSNL sought the assistance of State. The matter regarding the processing of cases under FRA, 2006 or under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 was discussed owing to the inclusion of Telecommunication and Electric Lines in the approved category of works under the section 3(2) of the Forest Rights Act, 2006. The Chairman requested the Principal Secretary (Forests and Revenue) to take a final decision in the matter. The Chairman desired that Secretary (IT) may write to all the DCs in the matter and the issue of forest land permission for 4G saturation may be cleared by 31st March, 2023.
4. It was informed in the meeting that BSNL would require permission to install tower on Govt land at 46 locations. Till now, Govt land at only 3 sites have been allotted to BSNL. Chairman enquired about any problem in the Govt land permission to BSNL, since it's a Govt funded project. It was informed by CGM BSNL and HP LSA that in the State of Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, MP and Orissa orders have been issued for free allotment of land to BSNL for 4G saturation project. It was discussed that BSNL may again send formal request to State. Accordingly, BSNL may again write to State for the allotment of Govt land, free of cost, with details of site. CS directed that Govt land permission to BSNL for 4G saturation may be cleared by 20th March, 2023. As regard permission to use Govt land 'Free of Cost', CS desired that Revenue Department may examine the same. Secretary (IT) may write to Revenue Dept. in this regard.
5. As regards adoption of Model Building Bye Laws, 2016 notified by the MoHUA, by the state, Pr. Secretary (TCP), informed that they will put up the proposal in the next cabinet meeting for approval. It has been informed that TCP has proposed these bye

laws for Government buildings, commercial buildings and building with area more than 500 sq. meter.

6. As regard ROW pendency it was discussed that there are total 334 applications pending with the State. 169 applications are pending for more than 60 days and 153 for more than 90 days. The Chairman queried about the reasons for the same. Director (IT) informed that there was some technical issue with the portal as a result application could not be processed and the same has been resolved. It was informed by HP LSA that State is required to implement deemed approval clause beyond 60 days. CS directed that all the pending RoW may be cleared by 31st March, 2023.
7. As regards per adoption of GoI ,RoW rules as amended in August, 2022, it was informed by the Director (IT) that they have sought comments from all the concerned depts., there after same would be put up for approval. The Chair desired that concerned departments may supply their comments by 10th March, 2023.
8. CS queried why the forest/Govt land etc. issues pertaining to only BSNL are being taken and other service providers are not attending the meeting. It was informed that these service provider association i.e. COAI is attending the meeting and taking up the issues. CS desired that in the next meeting all other service providers may called in SBC as special invitee.
9. State expressed that even though 5G has been launched in the State, there is hardly any difference in 4G and 5G speed. COAI informed that they will ask its members to look into if there is any specific issue.
10. As regarding mapping of street furniture, it was informed that Department of Industries, GoHP is the Nodal dept. GIS mapping

I/3093840/2023

of street furniture is being done by Industry Dept., GoHP with support from BISAG-N. The 6 types of street furniture i.e. Govt. Buildings, Electricity Poles, Bus Stand, Traffic Lights Petrol /Diesel Outlet and Village Habitation are being mapped on the Gatishakti portal. The Chairman desired that all the relevant assets may be mapped on the portal.

11. Electricity department informed that their poles may not be capable of taking load of antennas and other telecom equipment's if shared for 5G. CS enquired about the Electricity Dept. existing agreement with RJIL. It was informed that it is only for laying of the cables only. HP LSA informed that FOIR has studied the use of street furniture for telecommunication services in detail and submitted its recommendations. CS desired that Electricity Dept. may study the report and after examination submits its comments to IT Dept.
12. BSNL informed that for 4G saturation project, for electricity connections, the electricity Dept. is sending demand note of as high as Rs. 5 lakhs for some sites. As per the mandate, BSNL can only spend up to Rs. 2 lakhs for electrical connection. BSNL requested that Electricity Dept may reconsider the same. It was advised BSNL to have a separate meeting with CMD, HPSEB.
13. As regards CBuD, it was discussed that it would help in avoiding the damage of utility assets due to digging. The diggers have to notify to the concerned utility agencies before any digging. It was informed by DDG(R) that State need to create asset owners at 4 Levels i.e. State Nodal, Department Nodal, Agency Nodal and District Nodal. Further, all the excavators need to be registered on the app. All Excavation / digging agencies to be mandated by States to do any type of excavation only after prior intimation through CBuD App.

I/3093840/2023

While granting the approval, all State departments should mention the use of CBuD App before commencing any type of digging anywhere in the State in their approval letter. The State is also requiring to Notify in line with 'Indian Telegraph (Infrastructure Safety) Rules, 2022'.

DDG(R) informed they are ready for the workshop/training on the uses of CBuD to state Dept. users. IT Dept. informed that the same would be done by the month end.

14. As regard Utkarsh villages, it was informed by DDG(R) that presently there are 310 uncovered villages in Chamba. 299 villages are already being part of the 4G saturation project. For 9 villages which were earlier part of RJIL expansion and 2 villages that were deleted from earlier USOF scheme, proposal has already been sent to DGT office for inclusion in 4G saturation. CS enquired about the timelines for covering these uncovered villages. BSNL informed that these villages will be covered under 4G saturation project by the end of the year.
15. As regard DCRI, it was informed in the meeting that DCRI score would be effective from the next financial year and the raking would be very important to attract the investment in the state and for assistance from GoI. Accordingly, CS desired that Secretary (IT) may hold a meeting with all concerned in this matter.
16. As regard BharatNet, it was discussed that there is slow progress of OFC laying in the State as the work under phase-II in PPP model could not be awarded. HP LSA informed that now this will be done in phase-III and they have written to USOF to expedite the same. The Chairman directed that since State is suffering, State Govt may write a letter to DoT to expedite the OFC cable laying in the State under BharatNet. The already

created Telecom infra under Bharat Net is to be utilized for penetration of Broadband and fiberization of Telecom Towers to achieve the targets as set under NBM.

17. As regard FTTH Connection utilization by State, It was discussed that Government may issue necessary directions to Village Panchayat to avail the BharatNet FTTH. Sr. DDG, HP LSA informed that 30 million broadband connections are to be provided in the country in next 5 years. Recently he has visited Dharog, GP in Hamirpur and saw that all the GP staff is having facility to work online. He expressed that the similar facility may be provided to other GPs using BharatNet FTTH. However, it was discussed in the meeting that since no special rebate is there by BSNL for GPs, the data connectivity may be availed by GPs on demand basis.
18. As regard 50 Cr. Special assistance fund to State from GoI, it was informed by Director(IT) that one third of fund has been kept for OFC laying by BSNL and two third has been kept for restoration by PWD. BSNL requested that the PWD restoration charges may be exempted and BSNL would restore by itself for any damage due to OFC laying. The Chairman desired that BSNL may submit application in this regard in writing and have a meeting with PWD and IT departments.
19. COAI informed that there should be provisions in the RoW portal for submission of applications for the regularization of old cases. Director (IT) to examine the same.
20. DIPA informed that on the RoW portal, 185 applications are pending. Further, for submission of permission, there is a requirement of building completion certificate. Due to lack of building completion certificate with the owner, they are not able to get permission to install tower. In other state they are

I/3093840/2023

only submitting the structural suitability certificate. It was further informed by DIPA that charges for use of poles are very high in HP. The Chairman directed Director (IT) to examine the same along with the concerned deptt.

21. After the detailed deliberations, following **action points** emerged from the meeting:

- (i) Secretary (IT) may write to all the DCs regarding forest land permission for 4G saturation project and all the requests for the forest land permission for the project may be cleared by 31st March, 2023.

[Action by: DIT/Forest deptt]

- (ii) BSNL may write to State for the allotment of Govt land, free of cost, with details of site. IT Dept to coordinate with DCs for allotment of Govt land. Revenue Department may examine the matter separately for use Govt land 'Free of Cost' for 4G saturation project.

[Action by: BSNL/DIT/Revenue Dept. and DCs]

- (iii) BSNL to coordinate with the State for updation of the latest figures regarding sites and villages to be covered under 4G saturation project.

[Action by: BSNL]

- (iv) Adoption of Model Building Bye Laws, 2016 notified by the MoHUA by GoHP.

[Action by: TCP]

- (v) State Govt to clear all the pending RoW permission requests on the portal, by 31st March, 2023.

[Action by: DIT, All DCs]

I/3093840/2023

- (vi) Adoption of GoI RoW rules, 2016 as amended in August, 2022, by GoHP. All stakeholder departments to furnish comments within 10 days. It was also discussed that instead of creating own RoW Policy, the State may see if RoW Rules as notified by GoI may be adopted in the State.

[Action by: DIT, All stakeholder departments]

- (vii) GIS mapping of all Street furniture in HP.

[Action by: Industry Dept.]

- (viii) In the next SBC meeting, all other service providers may be asked to attend the meeting as special invitee.

[Action by: HP LSA]

- (ix) Look into the Issues related to unsatisfactory 5G speed recently launched by TSPs in HP.

[Action by: COAI]

- (x) Utilization of Electricity poles for the installation of 5G Smart BTS in consultation with State Power Department.

[Action by: HPSEBL, HP LSA, COAI, DIPa]

- (xi) Notification in line with Indian Telegraph (Infrastructure Safety) Rules, 2022' by the state and conduction of training for CBuD state users.

[Action by: DIT]

- (xii) For the DCRI, Secretary (IT) to hold a meeting with all concerned.

[Action by: DIT]

- (xiii) State Govt may write a letter to DoT to expedite the OFC cable laying in the State under BharatNet project.

[Action by: DIT]

- (xiv) Exemption of restoration charges by PWD for OFC laying under Rs 50 Cr. Special assistance fund to State from GoI.

[Action by: BSNL, PWD and DIT]

I/3093840/2023

- (xv) Provisions in the RoW portal for submission of applications for the regularization of old cases.

[Action by: DIT, COAI]

At the end, Hon'ble Chairman emphasized on the need for facilitating all telecom service providers in Himachal Pradesh to improves telecom services. He desired that pending Forest permission and RoW pendency may be cleared by the end of March 2023.

(Ved PrakashVerma)
Dy. Director General (Rural)
Department of Telecom
HP LSA , Shimla

Annexure-I**List of participants**

1. Shri Onkar Chand Sharma, Pr. Secretary (TD, Revenue, Forests) Financial Commissioner (Revenue) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh.
2. Shri Devesh Kumar, Pr. Secretary (UD, TCP, Tourism & Civil Aviation, Housing) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh.
3. Dr. Abhishek Jain, Secretary (IT) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh.
4. Shri Priyatu Mandal, Secretary (RD & PR) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh.
5. Shri Rumel Singh, CE, HPSEBL, Vidyut Bhawan, Shimla-04.
6. Shri Anil Thakur, APCCF, Forest Department, Talland, Shimla -01.
7. Shri Ranveer Singh, Sr. DDG, Ministry of Communications, Department of Telecommunication, HP LSA, T.E Building, Boundary Estate, Chhota Shimla-02.
8. Shri Pavan Kumar Gupta, Director (Rural), Ministry of Communications, Department of Telecommunication, HP LSA, T.E Building, Boundary Estate, Chhota Shimla-02.
9. Shri J. S. Sahota, CGM, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd., Block II, SDA Complex, Kasumpti, Shimla-09.
10. Shri V. P. Verma, DDG(Rural), Ministry of Communications, Department of Telecommunication, HP LSA, T.E Building, Boundary Estate, Chhota Shimla-02.
11. Shri Anil Goma, Information Officer, Information & Public Relation, Majitha House, Chotta Shimla-02.
12. Shri Bhuwanendra Kumar, GM (Mobile), M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.,O/o CGMT, SDA Complex Kasumpti, Shimla- 09.
13. Shri Chander Mohan, M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.,O/o CGMT, SDA Complex Kasumpti, Shimla- 09.
14. Shri Sanjay Kashyaps, AGM, M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.,O/o CGMT, SDA Complex Kasumpti, Shimla- 09.
15. Shri Deepak Gupta, Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) (Through VC)
16. Shri Harpreet, Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA) (Through VC)
17. Ms. Nitu Thaliwal, Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA) (Through VC)
18. Shri Rahul Dhall, Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA) (Through VC)

