

**Government of Punjab**  
**Department of Industries & Commerce**  
**(Infra Section)**

To

1. Additional Chief Secretary to Govt. of Punjab, Department of Rural Development & Panchayats.
2. Principal Secretary to Govt. of Punjab, Department of Power, Punjab (Special Invitee).
3. Principal Secretary to Govt. of Punjab, Department of Governance Reforms, Punjab.
4. Principal Secretary to Govt. of Punjab, Department of Information Technology, Punjab.
5. Principal Secretary to Govt. of Punjab, Department of Local Government, Punjab.
6. Principal Secretary to Govt. of Punjab, Department of Housing & Urban Development, Punjab.
7. Principal Secretary to Govt. of Punjab, Department of Forest.
8. Secretary to Govt. of Punjab, Department of Public Works Department (B&R).
9. Secretary to Govt. of Punjab, Department of Science, Technology and Environment, Punjab.
10. All Deputy Commissioners in the State of Punjab.
11. Additional Director General, LSA Punjab, Department of Telecommunications, Govt. of India, Mohali.
12. Chief General Manager, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Punjab, Chandigarh.
13. Chief General Manager, Bharat Broadband Nigam Ltd, Punjab, Chandigarh.
14. Representative, Digital India Providers Association, New Delhi.
15. Representative, Cellular Operations Association of India, New Delhi.
16. All General Managers, District Industries Centre in Punjab.

Memo no. Infra/SBC/Meeting/2023/ 2211-B

Dated: 09/05/23

**Subject:- Proceedings of 3rd Meeting of State Broadband Committee under National Broadband Mission (NBM) held on 17.04.2023 at 4:30 PM under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Punjab**

Reference is invited towards the aforesaid subject.

2. Please find enclosed proceedings of 3rd Meeting of State Broadband Committee under National Broadband Mission (NBM) held on 17.04.2023 at 4:30 PM under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary to Government of Punjab for your information & necessary action.

  
Assistant Director (Infra)

**Proceedings of the 3rd meeting of State Broadband Committee (SBC) under National Broadband Mission held under the Chairmanship of Vijay Kumar Janjua, Chief Secretary to Government of Punjab on 17.04.2022 at 4:30 PM.**

The list of participants is attached as **Annexure 'A'**.

At the very outset, Principal Secretary Industries & Commerce apprised the Chairman that the 2nd meeting of State Broadband Committee was held on 21.06.2022 and the actions have been completed in reference to the issues raised therein. It was also informed that some of the issues are on-going issues and are also being taken up in this meeting of State Broadband Committee.

The item wise review and decisions taken thereon are as under: -

**1. Current Status of Pendency of Mobile Tower Applications**

Principal Secretary Industries & Commerce brought to the notice of the Chairman that 535 applications were pending as on 31.03.2022 and among these 535 applications, 249 applications are pending for installation of ground based towers and 286 applications are pending for installation of roof top towers.

Chairman raised a concern that from among 5368 applications received, 3045 applications were rejected and enquired about the reasons for rejection of so many applications. Answering the query raised, Principal Secretary, Industries & Commerce apprised the Chairman that many applications are being auto rejected whenever applicants/investors are unable to clear the objections raised by the concerned departments within the specified period of 45 days.

Chairman asked Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana to give comments on the reasons for rejection of applications as in district Ludhiana among 1053 applications moved, 724 stand rejected. On this, ADC, Ludhiana apprised the Chairman that many applications relate to regularization of mobile towers wherein towers are already installed on unapproved buildings. Since the applicant is unable to produce approved building plans, such applications are being rejected.

Also, on behalf of telecom operators, Sh. Harpreet Singh from Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA) apprised Chairman that the Regularization policy of State of Punjab is one of the best policy all over



Country and the same has been adopted by many other States. He also confirmed that most of applications which have been rejected are those where telecom towers have already been installed but local bodies are not issuing NOC because they have been installed on unauthorized buildings.

After hearing ADC, Ludhiana and representative of Digital Infrastructure Providers Association, Chairman opined that towers installed on roof tops of buildings which are unauthorized cannot be allowed and further asked Director, Department of Local Government to look into the issues involved relating to rejection of mobile tower applications in such large numbers.

Chairman also directed all Deputy Commissioners in the State to speed up the approval process and clear the pending applications at the earliest.

**(Action to be taken by Department of Local Government, Punjab & All Deputy Commissioners in the State).**

## **2. Current Status of Pendency of Optical Fibre Cable Applications**

Principal Secretary, Industries & Commerce informed Chairman that as of now, 268 applications relating to laying of Optical Fibre Cable Applications are pending with various line departments and the overall pendency position of OFC applications is satisfactory.

On a query raised by Sh. Dhanjay Gawanday, Director, Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), PSIC informed the house that in densely populated areas of State where laying of Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) is not feasible, provision of installation of Aerial OFC has already been made in latest notification issued by Department of Industries & Commerce on 04.10.2022. He further requested Chairman that all Deputy Commissioners may be asked to speed-up the pace of approvals for the applications relating to Aerial Fibre in the State.

**(Action to be taken by All Deputy Commissioners in the State).**

## **3. Adherence to the recommendations of the Forum of Indian Regulators (FOIR) regarding use of utilization of Power transmission infrastructure for 5G roll- out by DISCOMs.**

The instant issue relates to utilization of PSPCL infrastructure by Telecom Companies for installing various telecommunication infrastructure.

Principal Secretary, Department of Power apprised Chairman that PSPCL is in process of finalization of the parameters relating to contractual agreements and commercial terms in reference to issues flagged by Secretary, Department of Telecommunication, Govt. of India. He further undertook to finalize the matter within a week or two.

**(Action to be taken by Department of Power, Punjab).**

**4. Mapping of Street Furniture in the State on PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP) platform for rolling out of 5G Small Cells.**

Principal Secretary Industries & Commerce apprised the house that Department of Industries & Commerce is the Nodal Office for providing data relating to 24 different layers on PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (NMP) platform wherein a large portion of data has already been provided by the concerned departments to BISAG-N. Further, Chairman was informed that recently Govt. of India amended the format and new attributes have been added on which data needs to be provided. Accordingly, all the Departments have been requested to furnish data as per new format.

Further, Principal Secretary, Department of Power suggested the Chairman that the said issue is technical in nature, therefore, a workshop of the Nodal Officers of the concerned departments may be conducted at MGSIPA/Online to sensitize all of them as the details of all the said utilities of the State will have to be mapped with PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (NMP) platform.

Chairman concurred with the suggestion made by Principal Secretary, Power and issued directions for arranging workshop.



**(Action to be taken by all the line Departments to furnish data as per new format & Department of Industries & Commerce for arranging workshop on the said issue).**

**5. 4G Saturation Project of BSNL**

It was apprised to the house that the objective of 4G Saturation Project is to provide telecom connectivity in such pockets of villages in the State which are blind spots wherein telecom connectivity has not been provided by any of the Telecom Service Provider and such areas are mainly concentrated in Kandi Areas of Hoshiarpur.




Deputy Commissioner, Gurdaspur also informed that there are many shadow villages in border districts where local authorities faced network issues while organizing various official Camps/Seminars. He said that there are 26 such villages in the District Gurdaspur.

On this, Sh. Sudesh Kumar Chopra, GM, BSNL apprised Chairman that such villages should be covered under Border Area Development Program (BADP) and Department of Planning is the implementing agency for the same. For this purpose, information be shared with Department of Industries and GM, BSNL.

Chairman was apprised that under 4G Saturation Project, there are 30 such villages shortlisted by BSNL in District Hoshiarpur for which Government land is required to install 4G tower. On this, Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur informed the house that 24 villages have been identified where land is available.

Chairman told DC, Hoshiarpur that the funding for installation of such towers under Saturation project is to be covered under USOF Program and State needs only to identify the free land wherever available and any other incidental expenses/fees would be borne by BSNL.

Chairman further directed Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur that the latitude/longitude details of such villages/shortlisted sites may be shared with the Department of Industries & Commerce and also with BSNL for further necessary action. Chairman also directed all Deputy Commissioners to find out the shadow villages in the State and also share the list with Department of Industries & Commerce so that arrangements to increase connectivity in such villages could be planned.

 (Action to be taken by All Deputy Commissioners in the State to identify shadow/blind spots in the State and Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur to share latitude/longitude details of shortlisted sites to Department of Industries & Commerce & BSNL).

**6. Comments for mandating use of 'Call Before u Dig' (CBuD) Mobile App by all excavation / digging agencies in the State.**

Chairman was apprised about the 'Call Before u Dig' (CBuD) Mobile app provides an interface for excavating agencies/contractors to alert/inform owners of existing utility assets about their upcoming excavation route.

Secretary, Department of PWD (B&R) and Director, Department of Local Government apprised Chairman that the user details of the Officers/Officials of their departments are mapped on this app. Further,

Secretary, Department of PWD (B&R) requested Chairman that an online training should be arranged to Officers/Officials for awareness of workflow of CBuD Mobile App. It was decided to follow CBuD in the State.


On this, Sh. Kamal Kumar, Additional Director General, LSA, DoT, Punjab informed Chairman that Officials of Licensed Service Areas (LSA), DoT, Punjab will provide the online training whenever required.

**(Action to be taken by Department of Industries & Commerce and LSA, DoT, Punjab).**

**7. Digital Communication Readiness Index (DCRI): Framework for ranking the performance of States/UTs.**

Principal Secretary Industries & Commerce apprised the house that Digital Communication Readiness Index (DCRI) will be used by Department of Telecommunications, Govt. of India for ranking of States based on different parameters relating to telecom infrastructure. The list of such parameters has already been shared to the concerned departments and all the departments need to fill out their response.

Further, a review meeting will also be conducted to finalize the response of the line departments, so that the filled-up document may be shared with Department of Telecom, Govt. of India.



**(Action to be taken by All the concerned Departments to fill their responses for the parameters mentioned in Digital Communication Readiness Index (DCRI)).**

**8. Adoption of provisions relating to designing of Common Ducts for laying of Optical Fibre Cable**

The said issue was discussed in detail and Chairman was of the view that Chief Town Planner (Department of Housing & Urban Development), Chief Engineer (PSPCL), Chief Town Planner/Chief Engineer (Department of Local Government), Chief Engineer (Department of PWD (B&R)) and Chief Engineer (Department of Rural Development & Panchayats) will jointly hold a meeting to assess as to whether it is feasible to lay common ducts which will house all the utilities such as gas pipe, water pipe, OFC cable, power cable etc.

**(Action to be taken by Department of Industries & Commerce to schedule a joint meeting of the Officers of the concerned Departments).**

**9. Installation of Telecom Infrastructure on Private Property (Clause 10B) of Right of Way (Amendment) Rules 2022, DoT, GOI.**

The said issue was raised by Additional Director General, LSA, DoT, Punjab which relates to installation of telecom infrastructure on private property as prescribed under RoW (Amendment) Rules 2022 wherein prior approval is not required from the appropriate authority for installation of telecom infrastructure on private property.

It was informed to the house that in light of the directions passed by Hon'ble Punjab & Haryana High Court in CWP 4424 of 2021, it was decided that implementation of clause 10B of Right of Way (Amendment) Rules 2022 would interfere with the interim order passed in CWP 4424 of 2021 and therefore, this provision would be taken up for implementation at a later date when the aforesaid CWP gets disposed-off.

Meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.



**Participants**

1. Sh. Tejveer Singh, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government of Punjab, Department of Power and Department of Governance Reforms & Public Grievances.
2. Sh. Dilip Kumar, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government of Punjab, Department of Industries & Commerce & Department of Information Technology, Punjab.
3. Sh. Nilkanth S. Avhad, IAS, Secretary to Government of Punjab, Department of Public Works (Buildings & Roads), Punjab.
4. Smt. Isha Kalia, IAS, Director, Department of Local Government, Punjab.
5. Sh. Girish Dayalan, IAS, Director, Department of Governance Reforms & Public Grievances, Punjab.
6. All Deputy Commissioners in the State of Punjab (through VC).
7. Sh. R.K. Mishra, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Department of Forest, Punjab.
8. Smt. Geetika Singh, PCS, ACA, PUDA, Department of Housing & Urban Development, Punjab.
9. Sh. Amrinder Singh Tiwana, PCS, ACA (F&A), GMADA, Department of Housing & Urban Development, Punjab.
10. Sh. Gurdev Singh Atwal, DTP, GMADA, Department of Housing & Urban Development, Punjab.
11. Sh. Jatinder Singh Brar, Deputy Director, Department of Rural Development & Panchayats, Punjab.
12. Sh. Kamal Kumar, Additional Director General, LSA Punjab, Department of Telecom, Government of India.
13. Sh. Mohan Lal, Deputy Director General, LSA Punjab, Department of Telecom, Government of India.
14. Sh. Punit Kumar, ADET (Rural), LSA Punjab, Department of Telecom, Government of India.
15. Sh. Sandeep Deewan, Chief General Manager, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Punjab, Chandigarh.
16. Sh. Ajay Kumar Kararha, PGM, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd., Punjab, Chandigarh.
17. Sh. Sudesh Kumar Chopra, Senior General Manager, BBNL, Punjab, Chandigarh.
18. Sh. Dhanjay Gawanday, Director, Cellular Operations Association of India (COAI) (through VC).
19. Sh. Harpreet Singh, Vice President, Digital India Providers Association (DIPA) (through VC).
20. All General Managers, District Industries Centre in State of Punjab (through VC).