Minutes of Meeting

State Broadband Committee (SBC)

Date: 12th Oct 2020

Venue: CHiPS 3rd Floor & Video Conference

National Broadband Mission was designed to enable fast track growth of digital communications infrastructure, bridge the digital divide for digital empowerment and inclusion, provide affordable and universal access of broadband for all.

In this regard State Broadband Committee was formed in the state of Chhattisgarh and the meeting was convened under chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary, E&IT Department, Govt of Chhattisgarh on 12th Oct 2020.

The list of attendees is enclosed as Annexure 1.

The committee deliberated on the agenda and the following decision were taken-

AGENDA 1: RoW Policy Finalization by Chhattisgarh State Government

TAIPA and COAI team briefed the Committee on the Current Status of the RoW Policy in the State of Chhattisgarh.

- DoT (GoI) has issued Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016 through Gazette notification dated 15 November 2016 and current State RoW Policy 2015 needs to be aligned with it.
- Erection of Temporary Tower or Structure for Cellular Mobile Phone in Chhattisgarh is Governed by Chhattisgarh Municipal Corporation Rules 2010 and amendments there in released by Urban Administration Department. Latest tower rules amendment in June'20 has doubled the existing charges.
- Draft Policy incorporating latest Government of India Rules put up as Annexure A for the perusal of SBC Committee

ACS took cognizance of the issues relating to RoW policy and stressed on the urgent need of a unified RoW Policy for the advancement of Telecom Industry.

In this regard CEO, CHiPS appraised the committee regarding the draft RoW policy shared with Government of Chhattisgarh for review.

Principal Secretary, Forest Department raised no objection to the proposed RoW Policy. And there were no suggestions on amendment to the presented draft Row policy.

Secretary, UADD agreed to the need of unified RoW policy and expressed no objection on the proposed draft policy and agreed to follow the State Government decision as proposed by E&IT department.

Decision Taken:

> Members of SBC Committee agreed on the draft RoW policy as put up in the meeting. Hence SBC committee approves the draft RoW policy as presented to it in the meeting and recommends it to be adopted by the State Government.

> The Chairman, SBC directed the E& IT dept. for getting the the Draft RoW policy notified at the earliest for improving the telecom infrastructure in the State.

AGENDA 2: Points From BBNL

a) CGM (SH), BBNL apraised on Implementation & Utilisation of BharatNet Phase 1. And also updated on current Operation and Maintenance of the same, which along with Utilization is being looked after by CSC WiFi SPV (M/s CSC Wi-fi Choupal Services India Pvt Ltd).

Total Blocks	64
Total GPs Connected	4075
Total GPs Currently Active	3523
Number of FTTH Connections provided	5294
Number of Wi-Fi Connections provided	4928

b) CGM (SH), BBNL also raised concernsover the Utilisation of BharatNet Phase 2 project. And CHiPS updated the committee regarding the Proposal Reciveved from CSC WiFi SPV for utilization of the network by providing FTTX (Fibre To The Home / Office) connection to nearby Government offices, which has been submitted to Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for further directions and release of fund.

Total Blocks	82
Total GPs planned	5987
Total GPs Currently Active	1565

Further CGM, BBNL raised the Major Concerns of the project on the following:

> Power Availability is a major issue for uptime and utilization of both BharatNet Phase I & II.
> - Unavailability of permanent power connectivity at Gram Panchayat (GP) Buildings is directly impacting BharatNet connectivity and broadband penetration at villages.
> - E&IT Depart. has already written to Chhattisgarh State Power Distribution Company Limtied (CSPDCL) for permanentConnection to all Gram Panchayats.
> - Need support from CSPDCL and district authorities to resolve the power issues at Gram Panchayat level.

➤ Total of 37 Forest RoW permissions for BharatNet Phase-2 is pending at multiple levels hindering the project progress and boradband availability at villages.

➤ Field Survey at 5 blocks for BharatNet Phase-2 are effected due to Left Wing Extremism (LWE) issues.

➤ Also places where the GP infrastructure is not appropriate for Network Utilization, State has proposed to move the Network Infrastructure to CSC centers within GP boundary

➤ Utilization of BharatNet Phase-2:
  - CHiPS has initiated discussion with CSC WiFi SPV for utilization of the Network by providing FTTX connection to nearby Government establishments which includes Primary Schools, PHC Post Office, Anganwadi etc and is waiting for approval and fund allocation from USOF for the proposal submitted
  - CHiPS is also planning to map all Government Institutions over a GIS layer to improve the penetration of Broadband at Government offices.
  - Will need support in surveying and capturing the correct lattitude-longitude of each of the Government offices envisaged to be connected over BharatNet Ph 2

Decision Taken:

➤ The Chairman instructed CHiPS to discuss the mentioend issues with CSPDCL and District Administration to expedite priority power connections to Gram Panchayats.
➤ The Chairman instructed the Forest Department to expediate the processing of RoW application under the Deaprtment.
➤ CHiPS to communicate the Need ofUtilisation of the BharatNet infrastructure, with all the District Administrationas well as with all the Departments of Government of Chhattisgarh

AGENDA 3: Points from BSNL

Post BBNL's input, CGM, BSNL updated the committee regarding Utilization of Wi-Fi hotspots created by USOF.

➤ Around 300 Wi-Fi hotspots have been created by USOF which need to be utilized.
➤ The information about these hotspots will be shared with Schools and Government Institutions through CSC and guidelines will be shared by E&IT department for usage of these hotspots to schools and Government Institutions.

Decision Taken:

➤ CHiPS to instruct the CSC WiFi SPV to share details of Wi-Fi hotspots to Schools &Government Institutions across the State for better utilisation of the infrastructure

> CSC WiFi SPV to work closely with E&IT department and prepare guidelines for usage of these Wi-Fi hotspots inlinewith guidelines from USOF/DoT

AGENDA 4: Points from TAIPA& COAI

TAIPA& COAI communicated to the Committee about the issues being faced by Telecom Service providers in terms of following:

> Doubling of Tower installation rates vide Gazzete Notification Dated 30 June'20
> Notices received by Telecom Service Providers for settlement of fees @ Rs 40-50 Lakh per tower and threats of coercive action
> Pending NOCs and EB connections for tower installations.

Decision Taken:

> The issues raised by TAIPA & COAI were taken care under Agenda 1.
> Chairman directed UADD Secretary to resolve the issues raised and do the needful.
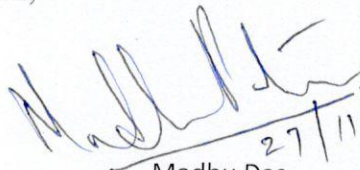
AGENDA 5: Points from DOT

DoT has requested for providing the next 5 years plan of the Telecom Operators for tower planning and Telecom Infrastructure Development in the state.

Also, DoT has asked for plan from telecom operators for getting the pending villages covered for mobile communication.

Decision Taken:

> CHiPS needs to arrange for formal discussion with the Telecom Service Providers (TSP) to conduct a workshop for understanding their future plans.

Meeting concluded with Vote of thanks. This is being issued with the approval of the Chairman, State Broadband Committee and Chief Secretary, Govt of Chhattisgarh,

27/11/2020

Madhu Das
Director Rural
O/o DDG (R),DoT Raipur
MP –LSA (CG)

ANNEXURE - I

LIST OF ATTENDEES IN THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF STATE BROADBAND COMMITTEE DATED 12TH OCT 2020

1. Shri Manoj Kr Pingua, Principal Secretary, Forest Department, Government of Chhattisgarh
2. Smt Alarmelmangai D, Secretary, Urban Administration and Development Department, Government of Chhattisgarh
3. Shri Sameer Vishnoi, CEO, CHiPS, Raipur, Chhattisgarh
4. S D Bind, DDG Rural, MP LSA, Raipur, Chhattisgarh
5. Rajendra Kumar Garhwal DDG Compliance, MP LSA, Raipur, Chhattisgarh
6. Prashant Trivedi ,CGM, BSNL, Raipur, Chhattisgarh
7. Rakesh Chandrakar, CGM (SH), BBNL, Raipur, Chhattisgarh
8. Madhu Das Director Rural MP LSA, Raipur, Chhattisgarh
9. J Jena, DDG, COAI, New Delhi
10. T R Dua, Director General, TAIPA, New Delhi