## MINUTES OF 3rd MEETING OF STATE LEVEL BROADBAND COMMITTEE HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MINECO ON 29.03.2022 AT 02:00 PM

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Renu Sharma, Chief Secretary, Government of Mizoram. The list of members present is attached at Annexure-I.

The Chairperson welcomed all members to the third meeting of State Level Broadband Committee. After a brief self-introduction of the members present in the meeting, the Chairperson continued her address. She emphasized the importance of having robust telecommunications infrastructure for betterment of society and better governance. She also mentioned that the initiatives such as National Broadband Mission are much appreciated by the state government and will be given utmost priority, full cooperation, and encouragement. Further, she also mentioned that all stakeholders must not work in silos but work in small groups to achieve the objectives of the mission. As requested by chairperson, Mr. K. Srikrishna, DDG, DoT-Mizoram gave presentation on National Broadband Mission objectives, status of the state broadband network, proposed targets for the state, status of various USOF funded projects of Department of Telecommunications in the state of Mizoram and issues, challenges and support required. Some of the important points highlighted in the presentation are as follows:

1. **Mizoram demographic and telecom profile:**

   a. Total population:      1097206 (525435-R)

   b. Total Villages count:      830

   c. Total Inhabited villages:      704

   d. Uncovered inhabited villages:      120

   e. Total fiber length in the state:      5335 kms

   f. Tele-density (Sept'2021):      114.07 (112.38-R, 115.48-U)

2. **Mizoram Telecom Coverage:**

   a. Total Inhabited Villages:      864

   b. Inhabited Villages covered with mobile network (Nov',21):      749

   c. % inhabited Villages covered with mobile network      86.7%

   d. Villages with BB(3G/4G)      709

   e. % BB coverage      82.1%

3. **Mobile BTSs fiberized details:**

   a. Number of BTSs in the state      3545

   b. Number of BTS connected on fiber      1110

   c. % of BTS connected on fiber      31.31%

4. **Tower Density:**

   a. Number of Sites/Tower locations:      1133

The Committee deliberated on the following Agenda points:

1. The action points from the last meeting were reviewed as below-

a) _List of five Government institutions to provide the FTTH connections:_ ICT Department may send the collected list of five Govt. Institutions at 20 service ready Bharat Net Phase-I locations to BBNL so that BBNL can provide FTTH connectivity to those institutions through BharatNet broadband connectivity. .

b) _District Level Monitoring Committee:_ ICT Department has already constituted District Level Monitoring Committee on 21.4.2021. However, as the members does not include key telecom personnel, the notification may be reconstituted to include all relevant parties such as TAIPA and COAI etc.

c) _Fibre Mapping:_ It was reported that for mapping of existing OFC network in India, Department of Telecom, GoI has signed an MoU with Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N). Details of all the telecom infrastructure including Fibre data of TSPs/ISPs is required to be mapped on the portal as GIS layer. This can be done only after getting clear instructions from DoT and may wait for further instructions.

d) _EMF awareness Workshops:_ One EMF awareness webinar was organized by North East LSA in coordination with    ICT    dept.    on    13.10.2021    and another by TRAI RO, Kolkata on 16.12.2021 and one more is scheduled for 30.03.2022 by NE    LSA. The committee directed ICT and NE-LSA to organize events in local language for better understanding by the public and to have better reach.

e) _Online RoW Portal:_ State Government is developing its own RoW portal and its integration with centralized portal (https://sugamsanchar.gov.in) is completed and ready for launch.

f) _Broadband Readiness Index (BRI):_ BRI data has to be updated periodically. The ICT department stated that the data is currently being collected from IPs and TSPs and BRI database will  be updated accordingly on priority.

g) _Coverage of uncovered villages:_ Finalized the list of 165 uncovered villages in Mizoram in consultation with state Government and TSPs and mailed the same to DGT HQs on 24.01.2022

2. The targets for Broadband mission in the state are as below.

| SN | Parameter | Present Status | 1-yr (2020) | 2-yr (2021) | 3-yr (2022) | 4-yr (2023) | 5-yr (2024) |
|----|-----------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1 | Broadband Connectivity to villages (%) | 88/82.1 % | 65% | 75% | 100% | | |
| 2 | Availability of broadband speeds (Mbps) | - | 4 | 10 | 25 | 30 | 50 |
| 3 | Fiberization (Kms) Cumulative | 5335 | 3500 | 4000 | 5000 | 6000 | 7200 |
| 4 | Number of Towers Cumulative | 1133 | 1000 | 1200 | 1400 | 1600 | 1800 |
| 5 | Fiberization of Telecom Towers (%) Cumulative | 31.31 | 35 | 45 | 55 | 65 | 70 |

| SN | Parameter | Present Status | 1-yr (2020) | 2-yr (2021) | 3-yr (2022) | 4-yr (2023) | 5-yr (2024) |
|----|-----------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 6 | Mapping of Fiber Cumulative | - | 10% | 40% | 60% | 80% | 100% |

The committee resolves that improvement is required for No.4 and No.5 and requested TSPs to work towards achieving the state target.

3. **Centralized RoW Portal:** The state has developed its own RoW portal and integrated with central portal (https://sugamsanchar.gov.in/) through APIs. The ICT department also reported that payment gateway integration is in progress and will be completed in a weeks' time. As such the RoW portal is ready for launch to be organised by the DoT, GoI. The committee appreciated the efforts of ICT team for fast and timely development of the Online RoW portal.

4. **District level Monitoring Committee:** The committee directed all the Deputy Commissioners to conduct the District Level Committee meetings periodically to resolve any grievances regarding telecommunication infrastructure related matters under respective Districts. Any issues regarding delay in RoW permissions may also be resolved in these meetings.

5. **BharatNet Progress Review:** It was reported that till date, equipments were installed in 101 VCs and 41 VCs are in Service Ready state under Bharat Net Phase-I.

   Under phase-II, M/s TCIL has made 443 VSAT sites operational and work is in progress in remaining 57 sites. It was mentioned that if wifi Access Point/router can be provided to these locations, then Internet access through wifi can be used by the locality. Therefore, the committee has directed that LAD or DCs may be approached to find solution for providing Access Points/computers in their respective districts.

6. **Fiberization of towers:** Fiberization of Towers is necessary for increase in internet speed as well as roll out of 5G services. The committee requested all the TSPs to make efforts to increase the fiberization of their BTSs and increase the percentage of BTSs fiberised from present 31.31% to at least 55% as per the state target.

7. **OPGW Connectivity:** ICT department and P&E department may have a meeting to discuss the OPGW plans of the state to extend OFC connectivity to DHQs and BHQs and the issues regarding providing priority electricity connections to telecom towers.

8. **Mizoram Telecom Infrastructure Policy, 2020:** Necessary instructions may be issued to all field units to implement the Mizoram Telecom Infrastructure Policy,2020 with respect to charges to be levied for establishment of telecom towers and making available Government land and buildings wherever feasible for establishment of telecom towers.

9. **Pending ROW permissions:** It is brought to the notice of the committee that 406 RoW applications for establishment of telecom towers in Mizoram are pending. ICT department has informed that DCs have intimated that they have not received any of the applications which are shown as pending. Chairperson of the committee has directed to have meeting immediately with Infrastructure providers and Telecom Service providers to resolve this issue and to take action to clear the pending RoW applications. It is also directed to take a decision

regarding migration of pending RoW applications to new RoW portal which is going to be launched shortly

10. The representatives of DIPA, COAI and BBNL also raised the following issues

    (1) To issue necessary directions to district authorities regarding safety and security of telecom infrastructure. Similar instructions were already issued by Governments of Tamilnadu, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya etc.

    (2) Frequent theft of solar panels of Bharat Net VSAT equipment installed at village councils.

    (3) Delay in provisioning of Electricity connections in remote places where USOF sites are commissioned.

    (4) Restrictions being imposed by local residents regarding operation of Diesel Generator sets in case of power failure.

    (5) To issue guidelines for utilizing street furniture like poles etc for establishing small cells.

The committee has directed ICT department to look into these issues and coordinate with all the concerned to resolve these issues.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair.

**Sd/- Dr. RENU SHARMA**
Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Mizoram
& Chairman, State Broadband Committee

**Memo No. D.12012/129/2019-ICT**      :      **Dated Aizawl, the ....March, 2022**

Copy to:

1. *P.S to the Hon'ble Minister, Department of ICT for information*

2. *Sr. P.P.S to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Mizoram for information*

3. *Chief Informatics Officer, Department of ICT for information.*

4. *All Deputy Commissioners of Districts of Mizoram for information & necessary action.*

5. *All members concerned*

6. *Guard File*

**( Dr. LALTHLAMUANA )**
Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Mizoram
Information & Communication Technology

**ATTENDANCE**

| S. N | Name | Designation/Department |
|------|------|------------------------|
| 1. | Dr. Renu Sharma | Chief Secretary |
| 2. | Pu K. Lalthawmmawia | Secretary, UD&PA |
| 3. | Pu K. Srikrishna | DDG, DoT- Mizoram |
| 4. | Dr. Lalthlamuana | Jt. Secretary, ICT |
| 5. | Pu Lalhmasaa | Jt. Secretary. PWD |
| 6. | Pu R. Vanlalsawta | Jt. Secretary. LAD |
| 7. | Pu Lalduhawma | Jt. Secretary. P&E |
| 8. | Pu Pradip CH Das | DGM, NHIDCL |
| 9. | Pu Arun Kumar | GM, BSNL |
| 10. | Pu HC Zonunthara | EF&CC |
| *Attendees through Video Conferencing* | | |
| 11. | Pu Ravi Goel | Sr. DDG, NE LSA, DoT |
| 12. | Pu KS Madanpuri | CGMT, BSNL NE-I |
| 13. | Col. P S Basu | State Head BBNL, Agartala |
| 14. | Pu Harpreet Singh | Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA) |
| 15. | Pu Kshem Kapoor | Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) |
| 16. | Pi Neeti Mathur | Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) |