

## STATE BROADBAND MISSION COMMITTEE

**Venue: Chief Secretary Committee Room, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, main building,  
Mantralaya, Mumbai**

**Date: 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2020**

**Time: 3.30 PM**

### MINUTES OF MEETING

First meeting of State level Committee on National Broadband Mission, took place on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2020 at 11.00 AM under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Secretary. The following members participated in the meeting.

- 1) Shri Sanjay Kumar, Hon'ble Chief Secretary, Govt. of Maharashtra
- 2) Shri Mahesh Pathak, Principal Secretary, Urban Development Department
- 3) Shri. S V R Srinivas, Principal Secretary (IT )
- 4) Shri Arvind Apte, C.C.F (Mantralaya)
- 5) Shri E.K Gagre, Deputy Secretary (RDD)

Following members participated through Video Conferencing

- 6) Manoj Kumar Mishra, CGMT BSNL Maharashtra Circle
- 7) Shri Prashant Patil, CGM (BBNL), Maharashtra
- 8) Mr Mathur, Assist DDG, DOT
- 9) Shri Pranjal Thakur, Director MH LSA, DoT
- 10) Shri P Ramakrishna, Principal Advisor, COAI
- 11) Shri T. R. Dua , TAIPA

Other Invitees

- 12) Shri Ranjit Kumar, Director IT
- 13) Shri Prashant Patil, CGM (BBNL), Maharashtra

The State level committee discussed the broad parametres of National Broadband Mission (NBM) of Government of India and how the state policy is aligned with the NBM goals and objective. Specifically the Right of Way (RoW) policy/guidelines 2016 and Indian Telegraph Rules 2016 of G.o.I and the State Telecom Infrastructure Policy 2018, of Maharashtra were discussed. The committee expressed satisfaction that Maharashtra State Telecom Infrastructure policy (2018)



is broadly aligned with the RoW guidelines/policy of G.o.I and directed that all the state agencies, including urban local bodies should implement this policy (Telcom Infrastructure Policy 2018) in letter and spirit. The committee discussed and noted the key highlights of the Bharatnet and Urban Mahanet projects. The committee noted the following:-

- i. State Government Telecom Infrastructure Policy, 2018 is aligned with Right of way Policy of Government of India, except for buildings of schools, colleges and hospitals (state Location based Restrictions condition). On Online portal, it was informed that pilot of the online portal is ready and it will be launched shortly.
- ii. The committee noted that RoW charges as per GoI rules (2016) are at the rate of Rs. 1000/- per Km of OFC laid. GoM also have decided the same rates based on the Cabinet decision dated 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018. The same rate are to be levied by the concerned authorities.
- iii. Committee was briefed about status of implementation of BharatNet project and Urban Mahanet. BharatNet component has been implemented by BBNL, and BharatNet Phase 2 and Urban Mahanet are being implemented by MahaIT. It was informed by BBNL that about 3000 Gram Panchayats (GP) are not having electrical power due to which these are not in operational condition. Similar case has been reported in Bharatnet Phase II. It was highlighted that for smooth implementation and operationalization of the created infrastructure, functional electrical power should be available in Gram panchayat buildings.
- iv. Urban Development Department should ensure that urban local bodies implement the TIP policy (2018) of government of Mahatashtra as aligned with GoI guidelines (2016), including permissions for OFC cable & towers, administrative charges and restoration charges.
- v. It was informed that in BharatNet phase II, high cost equipments installed in Taluka Headquarters are not having sufficient space and stable electrical power.
- vi. BBNL has requested to expedite the Right of way permissions pending with Forest department for long time. Representative of the Forest department agreed to do the same.
- vii. CSC SPV work on wifi enablement is very slow and need to be expedited for Bharatnet Phase I.



viii. It was observed that Gram panchayats, Primary Health Centre/Subcentres, Agriculture department should utilize infrastructure facility created under BharatNet by connecting their establishments to respective Gram panchayat. Necessary Budget provision to be made the by respective departments. Also, Education, Public Health and Agriculture departments to prioritize their services for digital delivery of Services.

ix. COAI raised some of the issues related to ROW in the state which were as below:

- a. State RoW policy, at times, not implemented by Municipal Corporations and some other local bodies, when it comes to restoration charges.
- b. Time-lines for getting NOC for laying OFC to be included in online application process including environment & forest clearances.
- c. Frequent Fiber cut while digging by other agencies with no prior intimation. GIS mapping of Fibre network and central control of digging essential.
- d. 'Call before you dig' policy should be laid down to secure fiber network by defining guidelines.
- e. Penalty clause on fiber cut for any telecom players to be introduced in standard Govt. contract clauses.
- f. A Dig-once policy should be encouraged as part of State's Policy during development of Road networks with access to all utility infrastructures.
- g. Development of a utility corridor in conjunction with widening of road be encouraged.
- h. Municipal and state authorities may facilitate construction of common HDPE ducts and make Infrastructure sharing mandatory with rationalized rentals.
- i. Laying of OFC as per National building codes to be made mandatory to get construction completion certificate in Cluster houses.
- j. Low fiberisation of Telecom Towers leading to QOS with increased data usage. Issue needs to be addressed.

It was suggested to COAI, to submit their recommendations on the issues highlighted and submit again to UDD for discussion and further appropriate action.

- x. TAIPA raised that regularisation of Towers clause is not in the existing State TIP policy 2018. It was requested to include the same.



- xi. Rural Development department to take corrective action for the non-availability of electricity power in many Gram panchayats for smooth implementation and operation of BharatNet. Further, Rural Development Department will also ensure to have continuous availability of electrical power in each GP by considering to pay, dues to the State electricity board (Discom) and recover the same from the grants to the GP's. And Gramsevak to be custodian of the installed equipments in GP and provide smooth access to GP for operation and maintenance.
- xii. District Collectors should issue necessary instructions to respective Tahasildars to ensure that sufficient space with stable electrical power be given for the rack installed in the Taluka headquarter for BharatNet Phase II project.
- xiii. Forest department will clear all the Right of way permissions received under BharatNet Phase I and Phase II pending with various Forest field offices across the state in next 15 days.
- xiv. BBNL will issue O&M order for rest of the Grampanchayats covered in BharatNet Phase I for better utilization of services.
- xv. Gram panchayats, Primary Health Centre/Subcentres, Agriculture department to utilize BharatNet connectivity for their establishments in respective Grampanchayat. Respective department will make budgetary provision for the same. Education, Public Health and Agriculture departments to prioritize their services for digital delivery of Services.
- xvi. COAI / TAIPA to submit draft note again to the Urban Development department on the tower issues raised by them, as requested by Secretary UDD.

Meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

  
(Ranjit Kumar)  
Director

Information Technology, Govt. of Maharashtra