

STATE BROADBAND COMMITTEE

Date 01.06.2021 at 12.30 PM

Venue: CS Committee Room, 6th floor, Main Building, Mantralaya, Mumbai

Minutes of meeting

2nd meeting of State Broadband Committee on National Broadband Mission took place on 1st June, 2021 at 12.30 PM under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Secretary. Following members participated in the meeting,

1. Shri Sitaram Kunte, Hon'ble Chief Secretary, Govt. of Maharashtra
2. Shri Mahesh Pathak, Principal Secretary, UDD2, Govt. of Maharashtra
3. Smt. Abha Shukla, Principal Secretary, IT, Govt. of Maharashtra
4. Shri Ranjit Kumar, Director, IT, Govt. of Maharashtra
5. Shri Arvind Apte, CCF, Forest, Govt. of Maharashtra
6. Shri M.D. Pathak, Deputy Secretary, PWD, Govt. of Maharashtra
7. Shri Param Jai, Deputy Secretary, RDD, Govt. of Maharashtra
8. Shri Ashok Kumar Mittal, ADVISOR MH LSA
9. Shri P. Ramakrishna, Principal Advisor, COAI
10. Shri Pranjal Thakur, Director (Rural) DoT MH
11. Shri Shrigopal Agrawal DDG Rural DoT MH
12. Shri Deepak Gupta, COAI
13. Shri N.K. Lodha, PMU V MH
14. Ms. Neeti Mathur, COAI
15. Sr. DDG, DoT, Mumbai LSA
16. Shri T.R. Dua, TAIPA
17. Representative, BSNL, Maharashtra

Special Invitee:

18. Commissioner, Kalyan Dombivali, Municipal Corporation
19. Additional Commissioner, MCGM

At the outset Principal Secretary (IT), welcomed all the members of the committee and briefed the committee about the present status of various issues related to telecom infrastructure development in the State. The deliberated upon the agenda



points and resolved as follows,

1. It was brought to the notice of the chair of the committee, despite the assigned timelines of 30 days for clearance of the application for setting up mobile towers, a large numbers of applications are pending with various local bodies and municipal authorizes. The pendency as on 31st Dec, 2020 was as high as 13827 applications. Only 140 permission were granted during the year 2020. The total receipt of applications during the year 2020 was 1746. As per the Telecom Infrastructure Policy declared in 2018, there is provision of deemed permission after a lapse of 30 days.

As per the clause (9) of the Telecom Infrastructure Policy dated 17th Feb, 2018, "Urban/Rural development department shall issue detailed instructions to Urban/Rural local bodies regarding grant of approval to mobile towers and necessary documents to be submitted for the same". In absence of these guidelines regularization of the large numbers of existing towers is also pending.

The Committee resolved that Comprehensive guidelines in this regard shall be issued by the Urban/Rural Development departments in consonance with the clause 9 of the Telecom Infrastructure Policy within a period of next 45 days.

2. The committee was briefed about para 6 of the Telecom Infrastructure Policy which mentioned that the amount of administrative charges for application regarding installation of mobile tower is Rs. 10,000. However, in practice, the telecom service providers have to pay annual property tax in addition to administrative charges. The property tax rate itself varies from one Municipal Corporation/councils to another. In a number of cases the building owner which hosts the mobile tower is already paying property tax. This practically results in double taxation for the same property. The committee was of the view that Telecommunication and/ICT falls under the category of public utility and there is an urgent need for rationalization of such charges/taxes. The prevalent mindset of viewing the mobile towers/RoW as a source of revenue for Local bodies need to change and these telecom infrastructure should be viewed as critical infrastructure for promoting digital connectivity and transformation.



The Committee resolved that the Urban Development Department would take all necessary steps and finalize clear policy guidelines in this regard for all the municipal authorities within a period of next 45 days. They shall also issue necessary guidelines to all the municipal authorities in this regard.

3. The Committee also discussed the status of adoption of State Telecom Infrastructure Policy by the Municipal Authorities & Local Self Government and the status of alignment of bylaws with the state policy guidelines.

The committee was of the view that in order to ensure effective implementation of the provisions of the Telecom Infrastructure Policy 2018 issued by Government of Maharashtra, the Municipal Corporations / Councils need to align their bylaws with the Telecom Policy of Government of Maharashtra.

The committee instructed the Urban Development Department (UDD 2) to ensure that necessary realignment of bylaws is done at the earliest. This will lead to uniformity in procedures and fees that is levied for granting permission for installation of telecom infrastructure across the state and result in augmentation of telecom infrastructure in the state of Maharashtra.

4. The state broadband committee decided to constitute a committee to deliberate upon the procedure and timeline to be adopted by the local authorities for regularisation of mobile towers and rationalisation of property tax. The same can be notified as part of policy framework with the approval of the competent authority. The SBC directed that the committee may have a look at similar endeavours recently undertaken by other states in this regard. For example, Government of Punjab issued an order to regularise the unauthorised mobile towers in next six months, by charging a one time fee (prescribed fee) in lieu of regularisation. The constitution of the committee shall be as follows-

Committee for Regularization of telecom towers and Rationalization of property tax



Sl No.	Name	Designation
1	Secretary/Principal Secretary/ACS Urban Development Department (UDD 2)	Chairman
2	Secretary/Principal Secretary/ACS Revenue Department	Member
3	Secretary/Principal Secretary/ACS Rural Development Department	Member
4	Secretary/Principal Secretary Information Technology Department	Member
5	Director Municipal Administration (DMA)	Member Secretary

5. Para 17 of the GR stipulates that DIT will set up an online platform in the form of a single window portal for grant of various permissions required for setting up and maintenance of telecom infrastructure. The Committee was updated about this.

Status of the online portal: In first stage, a single window portal for application and processing of the requests for various permissions required for setting up and maintenance of telecom infrastructure has been developed. Training has been provided to officials of New Mumbai Municipal Corporation and Nanded Municipal Corporation. Further training is being planned and organised. In Second stage of development of portal, DIT has roped in MahaIT for enabling more features and linking to MAITRI portal, so as to comply with the requirements of guidelines on Ease of Doing Business.

The committee directed the Urban Development Department (UDD 2) to immediately form a working group of officials from the Municipal Corporation / Councils consisting of A,B,C,D class, to assist and validate the procedures incorporated in the portal being developed by MahaIT. This team will coordinate with MahaIT for projecting features required in the portal and doing UAT (user acceptance test).

6. The committee was informed that there is no provision of District Level Committee in the Telecom Infrastructure Policy of 2018, however, considering the number of



issues cropping up in implementation of the provisions of the said GR, file has been initiated to amend the provisions of the GR and set up a District Level Committee for smooth implementation of the Telecom Infrastructure Policy. The proposed District level committee under the chairmanship of the District Collector will spearhead the policy at district level and resolve the issues related to telecom infrastructure in speedy manner.

Committee approved the Constitution of District Level Telecom Committee under the Chairmanship of District Collector which will look after the resolution of telecom issues at the district level.

7. Representatives of the Broadband India Forum, Cellular Operators Association, Towers Association and the Academia, also flagged the following issues :-

- Need for "pole policy" on use of street level furniture and other state infrastructure assets available for installation of telecom NW elements.
- Provisions for deployment of Aerial Fiber
- To explore the possibility of using the provisions of Maharashtra Underground Pipelines and Underground Ducts Act, 2018 for deployment of Digital Infrastructure thereby reducing the time, efforts and investments in laying of ducts for ICT.

The Committee approved the Constitution of a Working Group comprising of Secretaries/HOD from IT, UDD2, Revenue, Forest, and PWD department who will suggest measures for improvement of Telecom infrastructure in the state of Maharashtra.

Meeting ended with thanks to the chair.



(Ranjit Kumar)

Director, Information Technology