GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT
***

No. _293/_ /E&IT

EIT-DEV-III-SCHMOT -0007-2020

Bhubaneswar

Dated _26 · 11 · 20_

From

    Shri Sujit Mallick

    Joint Secretary to Government

To

    The Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Forest & Env Department

    The Principal Secretary to Government, Finance Department

    The Principal Secretary to Government, Panchayat Raj and Drinking water

    The Principal Secretary to Government, H & UD Department

    The Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Government, Works Department

    The CMD, OPTCL,Bhubaneswar

    The DDG, LSA-Odisha, BSNL Bhawan

    The CGM, BSNL, Odisha Circle

    The CGM, BBNL, Odisha Circle

    The Director General, TAIPA

    The Director General, COAI

Sub: Minutes of the First Meeting of the State Broadband committee held on 03/11/2020 at 12:45 P.M. through Microsoft teams

Sir,

    Please find enclosed herewith a copy of Minutes of the First Meeting of the State Broadband committee held on 03/11/2020 at 12:45 P.M. through Microsoft teams under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Odisha for information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully

Joint Secretary to Government

Memo No_____293 2_____/E&IT

Dated _26 · 11 · 20_

    Copy forwarded to the OSD to Chief Secretary/P.S. to Secretary, E & IT Department for kind information of the Chief Secretary/ Secretary, E & IT Department respectively.

Joint Secretary to Government

Minutes of the 1st Meeting of State Broadband Committee held under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Odisha on 03/11/2020 at 12:45 P.M

The first meeting of the State Broadband Committee was held on 03/11/2020 through Microsoft Teams under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary Odisha. The list of participants may be seen at Annexure A.

1. At the outset, Secretary to Government, E&IT Department welcomed all the participants belonging to different organisations and emphasised the need of Broadband in the State and challenges it is facing.

2. Sr.DDG, LSA-Odisha briefly spoke on importance of broadband connectivity , challenges and gaps pertaining to broadband in India. He informed the committee regarding the vision and the goals of National Broadband Mission. He informed that there are three committees under the National Broadband Mission. The first is the Governing Council for Broadband, Chaired by Hon'ble Minister, Telecom. The second committee is Broadband Steering Committee, Chaired by Secretary, Telecom, GoI and the third Committee is State Broadband Committee, Chaired by Chief Secretary of the State.

He also stated that the committee is formulated to advice on the matters relating to accomplishment of the objectives of the Mission, to facilitate implementation of the guidelines issued, to address all matters regarding Broadband Readiness Index (BRI), Monitoring and evaluation of the work of the Mission pertaining to the State.

3. Further, Sr.DDG, LSA-Odisha informed that NBM aims at Broadband Connectivity to villages at a rate of 50% in year 1, 60% in year 2 and 100% in year 3. He also mentioned that teledensity of Odisha is 75.96 as compared with the national average of 86.66. Total Kms of Optical Fiber Cable(OFC) laid is 63,222 kms. And the Tower density of Odisha is 0.436 tower per thousand population. He further intimated that out of 47677 inhabited villages, around 13% i.e. approximately 6000 villages are uncovered of which more than 97% villages are in 15 districts which are mostly LWE infected areas.

4. Secretary, E & IT Department intimated the committee that an exercise was conducted to find out the no. of uncovered villages and as per the report of State Government, the no. of uncovered villages is around 7500. He mentioned that as most of the uncovered villages are in LWE areas, and looking at the profitability, the TSP/IPs are reluctant to set up towers in those villages. He opined that the towers set up in LWE areas should be made 4G from 2G at present. Apart from the LWE areas , tele-density in Odisha continues to be very low in 4-5 districts of South-West Odisha.

5. It was intimated to the committee that no. of towers in Odisha are 20342 and No. of Towers Fiberised are 7174. Secretary, E&IT Department explained why it is essential that all the towers are Fiberised for high speed 4G and 5G services.Secretary , E&IT Department asked the committee to reiterate to MHA, GoI to fulfill the demand made by Odisha for setting up 800 mobile towers in areas with poor connectivity during the meeting with Home Minister Sh. Amit Shah during the last Eastern Zonal Council meeting which was held in Bhubaneswar.

6. Principal Secretary, Finance Department opined that as Mobile internet is on rise so installation of Towers in all villages is more essential for everyone to access Internet atleast through Mobile. He observed that universal accessibility is one the stated goals of USOF. He put forth that State should request Administrator, USOF for providing funds for installation of Mobile towers in areas where financial viability is not present so as to cater to the needs of the State and reduce the digital divide; and also that fiberisation of mobile towers is also the responsibility of USOF.

6.CMD,OPTCL suggested that OPTCL towers, OPGW lines could be put to use to proliferate OFCs and broadband in the state and that BharatNet OFCs could be used by private players to provide their services.

5. The status of BharatNet and its utilisation was informed to the Committee. Secretary, E&IT Department taking the discussion further said that funding should be sought from USOF for conversion of G-PON networks of BharatNet Phase-I & II to ring/MPLS network so that network may be reliable.

After deliberation, it was decided to write to DoT/USOF putting forth the views on various matters as discussed above .

6. Sr.DDG-LSA, Odisha informed that they have the list of villages which have mobile coverage. However they requested the data for Hamlets. He also informed that single window electronic portal is not yet implemented. Chief Secretary asked the officials present to consider the request made by DoT regarding data and provide the same wherever feasible at the earliest.

7. DG, TAIPA and DG, COAI highlighted various Operational Issues faced in State of Odisha like Rourkela Steel Plant Authorities' demand for retrospective increase in rent charges, Sharing charges etc and Coercive actions taken by them by disconnecting the EB supplies from existing sites if their demand is not met. Since timely permissions are not being provided, deemed clearance clause is requested to be adopted and Single Window Clearance Online Portal be developed on priority. The issue of pending NOC and EB Connection was also flagged. The Committee was informed that the issue of pending NOC and EB Connection was addressed to E & IT Department and E & IT Department has forwarded the list to the concerned quarters to resolve the issue at the earliest. It was intimated to the Committee that Bid opening has been done for the single window Portal and the same will soon be implemented. He also clarified why the deemed approval clause request cannot be acceded to.

Chief Secretary directed E & IT Department to take up the above issues flagged by TAIPA and COAI and resolve it at the earliest.

8. DG TAIPA also highlighted on Electricity related issue. He intimated that Electricity connections are not provided on priority for Telecom Towers. So he requested that connection may be provided within 7-15 days from the date of submission of application and documents. He intimated that State Electricity Department charges very high annual inspection fees i.e. @ Rs. 35,000 per site compared to rest of India. He also intimated that online timely bills collection may be started and shared on the emails through a Single Window collection mechanism to avoid delay in getting electricity connection. He also suggested that disconnection of electricity to telecom sites on trivial matters may be avoided, since these are critical infrastructures & provides emergency nature of service.

Chief Secretary directed CMD,OPTCL to resolve all the electricity related issues on priority keeping the above facts in sight.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair and all others present in the meeting.

[This is approved by Chief Secretary, Odisha in OSWAS File no. EIT-DEV-III-SCHMOT - 0007-2020 dated 17/11/2020]

1. Smt Mona Sharma, ACS to Government, F & E Department

2. Shri Ashok K.K. Meena, Principal Secretary to Government, Finance Department

3. Shri D.K. Singh, Principal Secretary to Govt, P R& DW Department

4. Shri G. Mathi Vathanam, Principal Secretary to Govt., H & UD Department

5. Shri Saurabh Garg, CMD, OPTCL & Chairman, GRIDCO

6. Shri Manoj Kumar Mishra, Secretary to Govt. E & IT Department

7. Sr. DDG, LSA-Odisha

8. Dr. US Panda, CGM BSNL

9. Shri Durga , CGM , BBNL

10. Shri Sujit Mallick, Joint Secretary to Govt, E & IT Department

11. Shri B.K. Nayak, DDG, LSA-Odisha, DoT

12. Cmde Dr. D Jena, DDG, COAI

13.Shri TR Dua. DG TAIPA