



Government of India
Ministry of Communication
Department of Telecommunications
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No. Advisor/TNLSA/CHN/Rural/Pondicherry/SBC/2021-22/

dated 28-04-2022

Minutes of the 2nd State Broadband Committee (SBC) Meeting held in the Conference Hall of the Chief Secretariat, Puducherry:

The Second State Broad Band Committee meeting of Puducherry UT was convened on 03.03.2022. The following members / special invitees attended the Meeting.

From Puducherry UT Government:

S.No	Name(Shri/Smt)	Designation
01	Ashwani Kumar	Chief Secretary
02	A. Nedunchezhiyan	Secretary, Information Technology
03	E. Vallavan	Secretary, Local Administration
04	Y. Lakshmi Narayana Reddy	Director, Information Technology
05	M.S.Yuvaraj	Sr. Consultant, SeMT
06	P. Vijayasathya	Consultant, SeMT
07	G. Kaniyamuthan	EE/ Urban, Electricity

From DoT-TN LSA:

S.No	Name(Shri/Smt)	Designation
01	Deepak Tayal	Sr. DDG, Chennai
02	S.K. Radha	DDG (Rural), Chennai

03	S.Sudhakar	DDG(Technology), Chennai
04	Ms. Sathya Priyadarshini	DDG (Rural), Coimbatore (VC Mode)
05	S.S.Venkatakrishnan	Director(Tech), Chennai
06	S. Rajasekhar	Director(Rural), Chennai
07	Vijaya Krishnamoorthy	Director(Rural),Coimbatore (VC Mode)
08	Srikanth Vaddepally	ADG(Rural), Chennai
09	Sampath kumar Gupta	Asst. Director (Tech), Chennai

From BBNL Tamil Nadu:

S.No	Name(Shri/Smt)	Designation
01	G. Kalai Vani	CGM (Projects) & State Head
02	M. Chandrasekar	PGM
03	A.M. Rafeeq	Network Engineer

Others:

S.No	Name(Shri/Smt)	Designation
01	T.R Dua	Director General, DIPA (VC Mode)
02	Kshem Kapoor	Head RoW, COAI (VC Mode)
03	Suresh K.G.	Head Legal & Regulatory, Bharati Airtel Ltd
04	K.Saravanan	CSC WiFi-Choupal
05	S. Prasanna	Indus Towers Ltd.
06	M. Shanmugasundaram	DGM, BSNL Tamil Nadu Circle
07	S. Ganesan	AGM, BSNL, Puducherry
08	M. Sivagnanam	Vodafone Idea Ltd.

OPENING REMARKS AND OBSERVATIONS / SUGGESTIONS :

I. Chief Secretary, Puducherry:

At the outset, Shri. Ashwani Kumar, Chief Secretary of Puducherry UT, who is also the Chairman of the SBC, informed that

- Though all districts of Puducherry are having mobile connectivity, complaints regarding poor coverage, low data speed, call drop etc., are being repeatedly received with respect to some locations in Puducherry and Karaikal.
- Problems are faced even in the heart of city like Raj Niwas, DGP Office etc.
- Puducherry UT has already reached satisfactory level of connectivity.
- All Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) should concentrate on next level i.e. improving Quality of Service.
- Digital India being a flagship program and reviewed by the Central Govt., TSPs should make an objective assessment by proper mapping of the areas, improve signal strength, and ensure all important locations are having good quality of service.

He requested TSPs/IPs to express the issues being faced by them currently.

II. Sr DDG, DoT Tamil Nadu LSA:

Shri. Deepak Tayal, Sr.DDG, DoT- TN LSA, member / convener of the SBC

- Welcomed all the participants and thanked the Chief Secretary and his team for aligning Right of Way policy of Puducherry with Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules 2016.
- He also congratulated Puducherry UT for its administrative approval for utilizing centralized portal of DoT (Sugam Sanchar Portal) which is likely to be commissioned by 31.3.2022. It was informed that, once the portal is live, important features of DoT ROW policy like time line for clearance, deemed approval clause, Grievance redressal mechanism etc., would be available for TSPs/IPs.
- The Compliance Vertical of DoT TN LSA would co-ordinate with all the TSPs in sorting out the issues in the poor coverage areas mentioned by the Chief Secretary.
- The Bharat Net FTTH services deployed at Sedurapet, Gram Panchayat (GP), Villianur is being utilized well for various Government services including Aadhar, PAN card, Electricity & Telephone bill payment, Revenue and Banking services as noticed during the inspection of GP.
- The services of CSC Wi-fi Choupal for setting up a Kiosk and delivering various Government services was appreciated.

- Puducherry Administration and TSPs/IPs should utilize BharatNet which is available in all the 98 GPs of Puducherry.

III. Director General, DIPA :

Shri. T.R.Dua, Director General of Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA), informed that

- DIPA represents >7.0 lakh Mobile Towers, housing ~23 lakh BTSs Pan-India.
- Puducherry is at present having 705 Towers and 25 towers were added in the last year.
- At least 1650 towers need to be added in Puducherry, in the next 2-3 years to meet the National Broadband Mission Target of 1 tower per 1000 population.
- Only 44% of Towers are fiberized in Puducherry.
- To maximize benefit from latest technologies like 5G, Artificial Intelligence, Big Data Analytics, Internet of Things etc, it is essential to invest on network densification heavily through provisioning of fiber, small cells and mobile towers.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION:

A. Raised by DIPA:

- i. Fast track issuance of NoC for Tower across all the authorities. 12 cases are pending at different levels for approval.
- ii. Deemed approval clause to be activated for application crossing 60 days.
- iii. Sort out the issue regarding the notice sent by the Puducherry municipality demanding Rs. 2.5 lakh per Tower
- iv. Streamline guidelines for development of future street infrastructure Electricity poles etc., to support 5G small cells and aerial fibre & power systems.
- v. Work out charges for utilisation of street poles. DoT and TRAI are in the process of working out the charges.
- vi. Implementation of Puducherry RoW guidelines by all the authorities. Convening of District Level Telecom Committee Meetings on monthly basis.
- vii. Local authorities to be sensitised to lease the government land and buildings for telecom tower installation.
- viii. Appointment of Nodal officer from each department such as Municipal Administration, Energy Dept/DISCOMs, PWD, Home (Police), Municipalities & Corporations etc for Telecom infrastructure issues
- ix. EB tariff charge at industrial rates. Priority EB connection to Telecom Infrastructure providers, Installation of prepaid smart meters.

- x. "Dig once policy". District level support from the Law enforcement agencies is required, if due to public issues, stopping of work at cell sites. Special committee to be constituted to handle such cases.
- xi. Removal of Location based restrictions like hospitals / schools.

B. Raised by COAI:

Shri. Kshem Kapoor, Head RoW, Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) informed that

- i. Though G.O. Ms No 2/DIT/2021/2242 dated 22.2.2021 was issued stating that RoW policy of Puducherry is fully aligned with Indian Telegraph RoW rules 2016, some of the Local bodies are still demanding charges as per old policy.
- ii. NoC for laying 400 Kms of OFC was pending and requested for early clearance.
- iii. As per the old policy charges for laying of UG OFC cable was Rs.100/meter whereas in the revised guidelines it is Rs.1000/km. Similarly for laying overhead cables using poles it was Rs.35/meter whereas as per the new policy it is Rs.1000/km.
- iv. In addition to one time charges, Annual lease charges (Track Rent) are also being levied. The track rent charges are to be withdrawn, similar to Govt of Tamil Nadu Telecom Infrastructure Policy dated 25th Jan 2022.
- v. Duplication of charges was being done by the Planning and Municipal authorities, for the same application and same work.
- vi. One of the Operators has given the list of Govt. land and buildings identified for Tower erection
- vii. Request State government support in ensuring safety and security for the new and existing installations. Necessary directions may be issued to District Magistrate / District Authorities / Police authorities to take strict legal action against the persons damaging / unlawfully obstructing the existing / upcoming Telecom Infrastructure.
- viii. Formation of a whatsapp group for "Dig once / Call before you dig" as available in Telengana government

REPLY BY PUDUCHERRY ADMINISTRATION:

a) Chief Secretary, Puducherry UT

- i. All concerned authorities have been sensitized to strictly follow the RoW policy dated 22.2.2021 issued by Puducherry UT Government for all applications submitted after 22.2.2021. For earlier applications, the charges prevailing prior to the issue of the policy dated 22.2.2021 would apply.
- ii. Regarding the NoC for laying of 400 Kms of fibre, the TSPs/IPs to approach the IT Department.

- iii. Availability of Government land and building cannot be made mandatory due to structural stability and other issues. However, the same can be processed on case-to-case basis, on the request of TSPs/IPs.
- iv. Regarding objection from general public on installation of new towers or existing towers, the government authorities and TSPs / IPs should reach out to the general public and sensitize regarding the requirement of towers for keeping pace with time and technology.
- v. Forming a Whatsapp group for the "Dig once / Call before you dig" policy is a welcome suggestion. COAI, to coordinate with the State administration and TSPs/IPs to form the group.

b) Secretary Local Administration :

Various discussions had taken place with Indus Towers regarding RoW issues. Citing some court cases of 2013, pertaining to Chennai, the payments were not being settled by the TSPs / IPs. Applications pending after Feb 2021 would be cleared.

c) Secretary Information Technology (IT) :

- i. Pending cases with regard to Puducherry Planning Authority, track rent charges etc. would be discussed with the Chief Secretary and sorted out at the earliest
- ii. Individual cases taken up by the TSPs / IPs could be discussed separately

IV. REMARKS BY CGM BBNL :

Smt. Kalaivani, CGM (Projects) & State Head, Bharat Broadband Network Limited– TN (BBNL) informed that

- i. Bharat Net project in Puducherry has been completed in the year 2015.
- ii. All the 98 Gram Panchayats in Puducherry are connected and well maintained by the CSC-SPV with good uptime.
- iii. As per MoU with CSC, 5 FTTH connections per Gram Panchayat to Government institutions / local bodies is to be provided by the CSC –SPV free of cost for one year.
- iv. 220 connections have already been given and 270 more is to be given. 100 more connections could be provided by the end of the month. Getting Customer Acquisition Form (CAF) is an issue.
- v. Puducherry UT Administration and TSPs/IPs to maximise utilization of Bharat Net Network.

Sr. DDG thanked the Chief Secretary, other members and special invitees of SBC for the fruitful discussions. He requested the TSPs / IPs to review all the old pending applications and incorporate in the Sugam Sanchar portal once it is ready.

The minutes have been issued with the approval of the Chief Secretary, Puducherry UT –
Chairman of SBC and the quarterly SBC meetings will follow

Radhakrishnan 28/4/2022
DDG(Rural), Chennai
DoT TN LSA

To

All Members of the SBC

Copy To : P.S to Chief Secretary Puducherry