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MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS
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Minutes of Special Meeting of State Broadband Committee held on 20.12.2022

The Special Meeting of State Broadband Committee was held under the Chairmanship of Shri V. B. Pathak, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Sikkim on 20.12.2022 at 3:00 PM at Conference Hall, Secretariat, Gangtok. Shri J. Kole, Director Sikkim, DoT welcomed the chairman & all the participants present in the meeting. The list of participants is in Annex-I. Shri V. B. Pathak, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Sikkim, in his opening & keynote address, stressed upon the need for a high-speed data network in the state of Sikkim and asked to discuss the key areas for improvements and intervention required. The following discussions were held & decisions were taken:

1. Status of 4G Saturation Project (including coverage in Border outposts) of BSNL and Land allocation to BSNL for 4G Saturation Project:

The status of 4G Saturation Project implementation by BSNL was discussed at length. CGM BSNL apprised the progress of the project and the total number of uncovered villages/sites identified for installation of 4G BTS is 36. Out of 36 identified 35 are the new location where new towers and BTSs are to be installed. BSNL has completed the survey of 32 sites with State Govt. local authorities. The number of sites where State Govt. Land is available: 04, 02 sites are falling in forest area. The number of sites where no State Govt. Land is available: 29.

With regard to allocation of two pieces of land falling in the forest area, the Secretary of, the Forest Dept. has assured to take action for the allotment of land. In respect of four other Govt. lands, CGM BSNL informed that two sites are at Namchi, one site at Pakyong and one site at Yangyang, where allotment is in process. It is requested to expedite the allotment. Chief Secretary directed Secretary IT to prepare a status note and expedite the matter.

With regard to 29 Private lands, CGM BSNL mentioned that he is getting support from the local Authority as the main Amin of the area is involved in the process and this will be of great help if District Magistrates intervene in this process. In a query about the extant land area requirement, CGM BSNL informed that around 600 to 1000 Sq. Ft. of land is required in each BTS site.

CGM, BSNL further raised the issue of 5 KVA Single Phase Power connection in all the sites & Chief Secretary directed Power Sectary to provide power connection on all the sites as soon as sites are acquired by BSNL. CGM BSNL also informed the Chief Secretary that BSNL is planning to provide mobile coverage in 448 villages and for the same, permission is required for laying OFC through electricity poles. The Chief Secretary directed the Power Department for an early decision regarding the

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commercial aspects (rates per pole) for the hiring of poles. Further, it was also decided that a joint survey would be done by BSNL and Power Department Sikkim to ascertain the number of poles to be used for OFC co-laying for the work mentioned above. Further, it was also decided to take all precautions while executing the work so that no untoward incident of electrocution occurs.

[Action by: BSNL, Forest Department and Power Department, Govt. of Sikkim]

2. Incorporation of important data layers in PM Gatishakti State Master Plan Portal.

Director, DoT Sh. Kole informed that there are 28 total layers in the Gatishakti Portal in which GIS mapping is required to be done. Department of Commerce, Govt. of Sikkim was doing the mapping work with the help of BISAG-N. Now Department of IT is also coordinating with the Department of Commerce & Industry. The Chief Secretary stated that it is mostly related to ease of doing business for which he had already convened a meeting and direction in this regard was given. The CS further directed that IT Department shall be co-ordinating for the mapping of the data layer in the Gatishakti portal. Addl. Director, IT will coordinate with Industry and Power Department.

[Action by: Commerce & Industries Department, IT Department, Govt. of Sikkim]

3. To incorporate the recent amendment of Indian Telegraph RoW Rules, 2016 dated 17.08.2022 i.e. Indian Telegraph Right of Way (Amendment) Rules, 2022 in Sikkim State RoW Policy.

Secretary, IT department, Govt. of Sikkim informed that draft to amend Sikkim State RoW Policy has already been prepared and sent to Law Department for vetting. After completion of vetting, the same will be submitted for Govt. approval.

[Action by: IT Department, Govt. of Sikkim]

4. To incorporate the recent amendment (March 2022) of Model Building Bye-Laws-2016 issued by MoHUA in Sikkim State Building Rules.

Regarding the incorporation of the recent amendment (March 2022) of Model Building Bye-Laws-2016 issued by MoHUA in Sikkim State Building Rules, Secretary Urban and Housing Department informed that Draft Bye-Laws are being prepared and shall be ready by Feb-2023.

[Action by: UDHD, Govt. of Sikkim]

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5. Formation of Working Committee for 5G implementation in Sikkim State.

The Chief Secretary observed that 5G is the thrust area of Government and directed that committee formation shall be completed by 15 January 2023, and Secretary IT shall be the Nodal.

[Action by: IT Department, Govt. of Sikkim]

6. Implementation of provision of 5G application form in Sikkim State RoW portal and integration of the same with GatiShakti Sanchar Portal for receiving 5G applications.

For provisioning of 5G application form in Sikkim State RoW portal for receiving 5G RoW applications, GIS mapping is a primary requirement. The Chief Secretary directed IT Department for early implementation of the provision of 5G application form in the Sikkim State RoW portal and integrate the same with GatiShakti Sanchar Portal with help of other Departments, particularly with the power Department regarding street infrastructure details.

[Action by: IT Department, Govt. of Sikkim]

7. The development of the telecom infrastructure in Smart City Projects in Gangtok and Namchi.

Regarding the development of the telecom infrastructure in Smart City Projects in Gangtok and Namchi. CGM, BSNL raised a problem in laying cable in Namchi Smart city because of the non-availability of duct. With regard to development of Telecom infrastructure, the Chief Secretary has directed that Secretary Urban Department shall be nodal and specific requirements after survey and study of newly installed HVDS in this regard may be submitted.

[Action by: Smart City Authorities in Sikkim, UDHD, Govt. of Sikkim]

8. Improvement of BTS fiberisation.

Director, DoT informed that the National Broadband Mission target for BTS fiberisation for the third year is 55% and for the fourth year it is 65% and in running third year fiberisation is around 40% in Sikkim which is well below the target and SBC may direct the TSPs to increase fiberisation. The CS directed that TSPs may be requested to take action in this regard to achieve the desired target of fiberisation of NBM.

[Action by: TSPs in Sikkim]

9. Formation of District Level co-ordination Committee.

In this regard, the CS directed that a draft of the committee may be submitted for approval.

[Action by: IT Department, Govt. of Sikkim]

10. Provisioning of PM-WANI connections in State Govt. Offices.

Director, DoT explained about the PM-WANI framework and its utility and requested that State Govt. may issue directions to various departments to use PM-WANI to increase Broadband coverage. The CS asked IT department to issue such direction.

[Action by: IT Department, Govt. of Sikkim]

11. Request for redressal of concerns of Telecom Industry (COAI, DIPA).

COAI and DIPA also participated in the meeting through Video Conferencing (VC) and mainly raised the issue of early implementation of RoW policy 2022 and the high charges and tariff of Power connection and its rationalisation in Sikkim. The Chief Secretary directed that specific issues of power may be brought before Power Secretary for its resolution.

[Action by: Power Dept, Govt. of Sikkim, COAI, DIPA]

12. Any other issue(s) with the permission of the Chair.

“Call Before u Dig” App.

Director, DoT informed about the recently launched CBuD App and its utility and requested that details of Nodal officers from Assets Owner Departments may be uploaded in the App. The CS, directed IT Department shall be nodal in this regard and get details of all the Nodal officers of various Departments and Utility Agencies at the State and District level.

[Action by: IT Department, Govt. of Sikkim]

The meeting ended with thanks to the chair.

DDG Sikkim, DoT
Member-Convener SBC

Annex-I**List of Participants:**

1. Shri V. B. Pathak, IAS, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Sikkim
2. Shri Pabitra Sarkar, ITS, Deputy Director General, DoT, Govt. of India
3. Shri CS Rao, IFS, Pr. Secretary, RDD, Govt. of Sikkim
4. Shri Ganesh Chettri, Secretary Power Department, Govt. of Sikkim
5. Shri M. T. Sherpa, Secretary, UDHD, Govt. of Sikkim
6. Shri Yogendra Sharma, Secretary IT, Govt. of Sikkim
7. Shri D. C. Nepal, Secretary Education Dept., Govt. of Sikkim
8. Shri Pradeep Kumar, Secretary, Forest Department, Govt. of Sikkim
9. Shri Rajeev Chandel, CGM, BSNL Sikkim
10. Shri Jayanta Kole, ITS, Director Sikkim, DoT, Govt. of India
11. Shri D. Pariyar, Spl. Secretary, LR & DM, Govt. of Sikkim
12. Lt. General K. Bhushan, HQ(P), Swastik, DC
13. Shri R. Chamling, Director, NIC
14. Shri S. T. Wangdi, Addl. Director IT, Govt. of Sikkim
15. Shri Dipankar Lama, Addl. Director, UDHD, Govt. of Sikkim
16. Shri D. Dorjee, PCE, Road and Bridges Dept., Govt. of Sikkim
17. Shri Tashi Namgyal, SDM, Pakyong, Govt. of Sikkim
18. Shri D. Sharma, SE, Road and Bridges Dept., Govt. of Sikkim
19. Shri S. L. Tamang, Dy. Director, RDD, Govt. of Sikkim
20. Shri D. K. Upadhyay, DGM, BSNL Sikkim
21. Shri A. K. Gupta, ADG Sikkim, DoT, Govt. of India
22. Shri Mahendra Sharma, Zonal Manager, Airtel
23. Shri Suman Pradhan, Nodal Officer, Reliance Jio Ltd., Sikkim
24. Shri Promod Dubey, Manager, Reliance Jio Ltd., Sikkim
25. Shri Sanoj Pandit, VIL

Following Participants joined through VC

1. Shri Suprateek Gulia, COAI and team
2. Shri Harpreet Kainath, DIPA and team