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Government of India
Ministry of Communications
Department of Telecommunications
O/o Spl. Director General-Telecom, TN LSA
3rd Floor, TNT Complex, 60 Ethiraj Salai, Egmore, Chennai-600008.

No. DDG(RURAL)/TNLSA/SBM-PY/2021-22/   **Dated:13.12.2023**

Minutes of the 3rd State Broadband Committee Meeting – Puducherry UT

The 3rd State Broadband Committee meeting of Puducherry UT was held on 06.11.2023.in the conference hall of the Chief Secretariat, Puducherry, under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary to the Govt of Puducherry UT, the SBC Members and SBC Special invitees have attended the meeting. Senior officers & officers from Government of PY & Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and executives from Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have attended the meeting

Members of SBC: Secretary (Finance, Industries and Education), Secretary (Transport, Labor and Science & Technology), Secretary (PWD and Information Technology), Secretary (Health), Secretary (Agriculture and Forest), Secretary (Fisheries and Rural Development), Secretary (Town & Country Planning and Housing).

Special invitees of SBC: Representative from Cellular Operators Association of India(COAI) & Representative from Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA).

The list of participants is attached as **Annexure -1**.

At the outset, the Chief Secretary to Govt of Puducherry UT & SBC Chairman, said that it is aimed to facilitate for the progress of 5G Roll out and to create robust eco system for providing telecom services in Puducherry. He said that from Govt of Puducherry there will be full support in achieving the objective and asked the industry representatives to bring to his notice if they face any hindrances in achieving the above objective.

Additional DGT DoT TN LSA & SBC Member Convener welcomed all the participants and acknowledged the actions by Puducherry Government for taking necessary steps to roll out 5G at faster pace. He informed to present the power point presentation from DoT.

ADG (Rural) TN LSA DoT presented the presentation and it covered the following:

The provisions & salient features of The Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016 and amendments issued further (2017,2021,2022 & 2023), Implementation of the "Call Before You Dig" (CBuD) App, 5G Rollout at faster pace, Preparedness for the implementation of the Digital Communication Readiness Index (DCRI) Framework, Formulation of guidelines/ policy for skill development in Telecom and related subjects.

The agenda points taken up in SBC were the points discussed in the meeting to review the Digital Infrastructure deployment-related issue chaired by Secretary (Telecom) held with States/UTs and field units of DoT on 20-01-23 (the MoM issued was vide Lr dated 15-02-23).

The following were discussed and decided:

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1. **Amendment of Puducherry RoW Policy in alignment with the Indian Telegraph Right of Way (RoW) Policy, 2016 as amended subsequently.**

Indian Telegraph (Right of Way) Rules, 2016 amended in 2017, 2021, 2022 and 2023. Puducherry Government issued orders aligning with up to 2022 amendment of IT RoW Rules, 2016 and it is yet to align with 2023 amendment rules.

Puducherry RoW policy to be aligned with 2023 Amendment of IT(RoW) policy. Director IT informed to Chief Secretary that the file is with finance department for concurrence and the amendment will be issued in a month time.

CS, Puducherry asked Industry Representatives to voice their issues w.r.t., RoW issues if any for which the Industry Representatives submitted the following issues:

a. **RoW Permissions for OFC – issues faced by M/s. Bharti Airtel.**

M/s. Bharti Airtel stated that RoW permission has obtained to lay OFC in the UT of Puducherry for 191.5 kms. Out of which, they only lay 75 Kms due to issue arise by Local Cable TV operators for their livelihood.

b. **Unlawful demand and actions of Local Cable Operators (LCOs):**

Airtel informed that it is facing insurmountable challenges in deploying and maintaining network infrastructure as the Local Cable Operators (LCOs) are interfering in the smooth functioning of network operations by deliberately cutting the OFCs especially Fiber-To-The-Home cables and damaging the Fiber Access Terminal boxes.

As informed by industry representatives, Aforementioned issue has been a major issue & a set-back for TSPs towards fiberization of towers.

M/s. Airtel Bharti has informed that 19 offline applications for establishment of mobile towers were pending for more than 2 years in the Planning Authority.

CS, Puducherry informed Director(IT) to look into the matter of 19 pending applications and if such applications are pending, he instructed to clear as soon as possible as per IT RoW Rules and its amendments.

CS asked Secretary IT to immediately write to DGP to take stringent action against those who disrupt telecom infrastructure.

2. **Implementation of the "Call Before You Dig" (CBuD) App.**

Puducherry Government had issued an Order (No: 94719/165/2023/PW(B2)) dated 31.10.2023, which mandates usage of CBuD before commencing excavation activity.

Further steps need to be taken to enhance the usage of the CBuD app (Awareness workshops, Randomized monitoring, etc). Excavators may be encouraged through information/encouragement.

DoT has come out with a notification dated 3rd Jan 2023, regarding safety of Telecom assets which mandates the use of a common portal/app (CBuD) and prescribes the procedure of giving notices etc. for digging and applicable damages in case of damage to telegraph

property. Puducherry Government to come out with similar notifications covering respective areas of Electricity, Gas, Water pipelines etc.

CS, Puducherry asked PWD Department to go through the above notification issued by DoT and come up with proposal after suitable consultations and deliberations with all stakeholders.

To make arrangement more pointed (respective asset owner only to receive the intimation where the digging is going to be taken up), it is proposed to send the alert to nodal officer only if the concerned department has its asset mapped at this particular location for this all-underground assets need to be mapped on NMP.

Secretary (PWD/ IT) informed that the concerned Departments are in close coordination with DPIIT and BISAG Team.

Registered users, Registered Excavators & Enquiries are very low. Departments at present registered up to district level will need to register up to Tehsil and in future Villages/GP level.

Secretary IT/PWD said that the registration process is so tedious and at present on the pilot basis, asset owner registrations done. In near future, excavators and enquiries at Tehsil /Village/GP level will be done.

Secretary (PWD) also informed DoT to modify the CBuD app as to use by designation and not by mobile numbers or by name.

3. **5G rollout at faster pace:** (Ref- Secretary (Telecom) to CS D.O No. 39-I/2020DGTHQ/3 dated 11-02-2022, DoT HQ Lr File No.:5-01/2022-NBM dated 1807-2022 to CS of all States/UTs regarding "Rollout of Small Cells for 5G Networks by leveraging Street Furniture in proposed Towns" & JS DoT D.O No.2-2/2023-Policy dated 21-06-23)

Activation of the 5G form on the Gati Shakti Sanchar Portal and formation of the 5G working committee have been done. The 5G working committee meetings are yet to take place.

CS directed that the 5G Working Committee shall meet periodically and function as per the per the guidelines and Secretary (IT) who is chairperson of committee shall ensure the same.

4. **GIS Mapping of Street Furniture data:**

The data of the street furniture for the 5G rollout such Electric poles, Traffic light poles, Bus shelters, Government buildings, Street-lights, billboards, etc., are to be provided further as the details provided is lesser than what could be provided. The complete data for a street furniture have to be provided to BISAG-N in excel format to map in NMP platform as per DOT format.

As on date, 27 Traffic lights, 938 Government Buildings, 206 Bus Terminals/shelters and 765 Electric Poles are provided which is lesser that what is available on the ground.

Director(IT) informed that Department of Industries is nodal for mapping of street infrastructure. CS directed Director (IT) to have consultations with all officers

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concerned and suggested that all should work in unison. He asked Secretary (IT) and CCS(Industries) to jointly monitor and ensure completion at the earliest.

5. **5G Use cases in Government Departments and Agencies.**

National Broad band Mission (NBM) Team conducted State Level Hybrid Conference on 5G Roll out on 20.06.23 in which various use cases of 5G were explained to line departments. Later also DoT TN LSA field unit arranged meeting with start ups and UT Administration in which 4 Startups working on Waste Management, smart cities and Fisheries, etc., explained about their products/solutions.

Additional DGT, TN LSA requested Puducherry Government to come up with Use cases at least one from each Department to begin with.

Director (IT) informed that the following indicative list of areas identified for developing 5G Services:

a. Traffic monitoring Surveillance.
b. Smart Ambulance Services in Health.
c. Augmented Reality(AR)/Virtual Reality(VR) /Mixed Reality(MR) based learning training.
d. Social Media Monitoring to identify predictive flash points and agitations.
e. AR/VR use cases in Tourism Sector.
f. Water and Sewage Management Monitoring.
g. Anganwadi: It serves as valuable source of data. Smart APP and IOT based devices can be deployed at Anganwadi Centres using ASHA workers and ANMs.
h. Fisheries: Tracking and Communication in sea borders.
i. Agriculture: Precision Agriculture (Two projects IAAS, RTIMS being implemented by Agri Department).

The above 5G Use cases are under various stages of development.

6. **Fiberization of Towers:**

As on 30.09.2023, in Puducherry 48% of BTSs are fiberized and there is very low fiberization of Airtel (22.86%) and VI (27.42%) BTSs.

CS, Puducherry asked Secretary (IT) to have consultation meeting with all stakeholders periodically and resolve the pending issues. He informed the industry representatives that if the issues are still not resolved, then it may be bring to the notice of his office and DoT field unit (TN LSA).

7. **Implementation of the Digital Communication Readiness Index (DCRI) Framework.**

Secretary (Telecom) to CS of all States/UTs vide D.O No.18-39/2022-ERU dated 17-02-2023, it was requested to form Inter Departmental Coordination Committee (IDCC) of the mapped Departments, under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary and Department of IT as the Nodal Department and IDCC should meet periodically.

IDCC comprising mapped Departments, under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary was constituted vide G.O MS.2/DIT/2023 Dated 05/04/2023).

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CS, Puducherry has asked Director (IT) to show the interim report prepared on DCRI questionnaire. On reviewing the report, CS Puducherry directed the Director (IT) that Commencement of data collection and documentation of best practices within each DCRI sub-pillar by State/UT IT Department shall happen periodically and guided him to conduct periodic meetings with all stakeholders. Further informed that there should not be any answer in the Questionnaire with 'Nil' as reply. He asked the data source from DoT may be furnished by DoT field unit (TN LSA). CS asked Secretary (IT) to monitor and ensure that complete report and response in the regard is firmed up at the earliest.

8. <u>**Common Duct-Integrated Planning.**</u>

Common Duct Provides a robust and flexible infrastructure that supports reliable telecommunication services. The advantages have been presented during the meeting.

NHAI have formed the SPV-NHLML to develop the telecom infrastructure along the highway. Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) created RCC duct containing prefabricated HDPE with the vision of "Digging Free City". In similar way, Govt of Puducherry may plan to lay common duct for better and stable digital infrastructure wherever possible.

CS asked Director (IT), Puducherry to come up with a policy after due consultation and deliberation with all stakeholders for common duct for which Director(IT) informed that Government of India is still preparing National Policy for common duct. CS directed Director (IT) to get the policy guidelines from GIFT CITY and NHAI and start preparing Puducherry's own policy. He also informed DoT to provide list States/ UTs issued the guidelines/policy for constructing common duct for developing telecom infrastructures. Additional DG(T), TN LSA informed that it will be obtained and given.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks by Director (IT), Puducherry.

This minutes of the meeting is issued with the approval of Chief Secretary, Puducherry UT & Chairman SBC

Signed by Momidi Venaiah
Date: 13-12-2023 17:55:22
Reason: Approved
(M. Venaiah, ITS),
Director(Rural),
DoT, TN LSA.

To
1)**All SBC Members.**
2)**SBC Special invitees.**

Copy to: **P.S. to the Chief Secretary Puducherry.**

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<div align="right">**Annexure-I**</div>

Members of SBC:

S.No	Name (Shri/Smt)	Designation & SBC Role
01	Rajeev Verma, I.A.S.	Chief Secretary(CS) – Chairman.
02	A. Muthamma, I.A.S.	Secretary (Transport, Labor and Science & Technology) – Member.
03	Dr. D. Manikandan, I.A.S.	Secretary (PWD and Information Technology) – Member.
04	L. Kumar, I.A.S.	Secretary (Agriculture and Forest) – Member.
05	R. Kesavan, I.A.S.	Secretary (Town & Country Planning and Housing) – Member.
06	K.C. Panday	Additional Director General(DG) Telecom - Member Convener.

From Government of Puducherry UT:

S.No	Name (Shri/Smt)	Designation & SBC Role
01	Ashish Madhaorao More, I.A.S.	Secretary (Finance, Industries and Education)
02	Pankaj Kumar Jha, I.A.S.	Secretary (Health)
03	A. Nedunchezhiyan, I.A.S.	Secretary (Fisheries and Rural Development)
04	D. Mohan Kumar	Director – Information Technology
05	Dr. A. Sivagnana Ganesan	Programmer (IT)
06	M.S Yuvaraj	Sr. Consultant, SEMT, DIT Puducherry

From DoT-TN LSA:

S.No	Name (Shri/Smt)	Designation & SBC Role
01	S. Parthiban	DDG(Rural)
02	M. Venaiah	Director (Rural)
03	V.Srikanth	ADG(Rural)

Others:

S.No	Name(Shri/Smt)	Designation
01	Suresh Kumar K.G	GM - Legal & Regulatory, Bharati Airtel
02	Anthony Yuain	ATC, Puducherry
03	R. Vinodh Kumar	RJIO
04	Tanaji Rey	RJIO
05	R. Gouna Sekaran	Summit Digital Infratel
06	M. Chandrasekar	Indus Towers
07	V. Sampath	Dy General Manager, BSNL, Puducherry
08	S. Ganesan	AGM, BSNL, Puducherry