



**GOVERNMENT OF KERALA**

No.IT-B1/23/2020-ITD

ELECTRONICS & IT (B) DEPARTMENT  
30-11-2022, Thiruvananthapuram

From

The Secretary to Government

To

Additional Chief Secretary, Environment Department  
Additional Chief Secretary, Revenue Department  
The Principal Secretary, Forest Department  
The Principal Secretary, Local Self Government Department  
The Principal Secretary, Power Department  
The Secretary, Public Works Department  
The Director, Kerala State IT Mission, Thiruvananthapuram  
The Advisor /Sr. Deputy Director General, Department of  
Telecommunications, CTO Building, Karakkat Road, Ernakulam  
-682016  
✓ The Managing Director, Kerala Fibre Optic Network Limited  
The Chief General Manager, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, PMG  
- 695001  
The Chief General Manager, Bharat Broadband Network Limited Kerala,  
Telephone Exchange, Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram-695011  
The Principal Advisor, Cellular Operators Association of India  
(COAI)  
The Director General, Digital Infrastructure Providers Association  
(DIPA)

Sir,

Sub:- Electronics & IT Department- State Broadband Committee- Special Meeting on 08.11.2022-forwarding of minutes-reg:

Ref:- G.O.(Rt.)No.68/2020/ITD dated 18/06/2020.

I am to forward herewith a copy of the minutes of the special meeting of the State Broadband Committee, held on 08.11.2022, for information and necessary action.

Yours Faithfully,

ARUN R B  
UNDER SECRETARY  
For Secretary to Government.

Approved for Issue,

  
Section Officer.

**Minutes of the Special meeting of the State Broadband Committee (5<sup>th</sup> SBC Meeting), Kerala held on 08.11.2022 through video conference**

The Special meeting of the State Broadband Committee, Kerala was held on 08.11.2022 at 02:00 pm through video conference under the Chairmanship of Dr.V.P.Joy, Chief Secretary, Govt of Kerala. This meeting was called based on the letter from Secretary (Telecom) for taking expeditious decisions on the issues related to the 4G Saturation Project.

2. Sr. DDG, DoT Kerala LSA and Convenor of SBC Kerala, Shri. Vinod P Abraham welcomed all the participants to the meeting. The Chairman SBC & Chief Secretary, Govt of Kerala, Dr.V.P.Joy, then directed to take up the agenda points.

3. A presentation was given by Shri. N.S.Deepu, DDG(Rural) DoT Kerala LSA and covered the following points. Discussions and directions are detailed below.

4. The committee was given an overview of the USO funded 4G saturation project that is being implemented by BSNL. The Union Cabinet approved the 4G Saturation Project on 27 July 2022. The Project envisages 4G provisioning at 24,680 Uncovered villages across India and 4G up-gradation of existing 2G/3G sites at 6,279 villages (5,461 BSNL+818 other TSP). Project is entrusted to BSNL for execution and maintenance. Timelines for completion of the project is within 500 days i.e., by 9 Dec 2023. Provision is there for 20% extra sites. Vide DO No IT-B1/95/2021-ITD dtd 29 Jan 2022, Govt of Kerala, had given a list of 204 locations that are without connectivity, and another 10 VIP references were added, and thus 214 locations are included for Kerala in this project, which are located across 12 districts of Kerala. USO Administrator has sought proactive support from the State Government for allocation of land for mobile towers (2000 sq ft space for each tower location free of cost), speedy clearance of sites in forest area, lease/acquisition of sites, Right of Way Permissions (for OFC and Towers) and Power Connectivity at the allocate site, in a time bound manner.

5. BSNL has completed the survey for all locations, and identified 107 locations for tower installation. Support from State Government is required for the following – (a) Land allotment (Private Land -15, Govt Land - 4, Forest Land - 89), (b) Electricity connections -107 locations (c) Forest Clearance and Right of Way permissions for laying OFC and Tower erection.

6. The tight timelines for completion of these activities were emphasized and are as follows-

- a. Land allotment / acquisition to be completed by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022 – and all sites by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022. It was emphasized that Priority allotment of Tower, 4G BTS to states will be subject to Land allotment.

- b. KSEB connections - 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 and all sites by Feb 2023
- c. OFC laying - December 2022 to March 2023
- d. Tower erection - January to April 2023,
- e. Infra Installation for initial site by April 2023, eNode B (BTS) integration by May 2023. All sites by November 2023.

Since work cannot progress smoothly during monsoon season from June to September, the above timelines are very critical for timely completion of the project. It was also requested that directions be given for conducting regular review by District Collectors, and senior officers of various departments involved to ensure smooth progress of the project.

7. Land Allotment: As per BSNL survey the land requirement is - Private Land :15, Govt Land : 4, Forest Land : 89. The Chairman asked the Revenue department to examine the various possibilities for allotting land. Land Revenue Commissioner apprised the Committee that there is no provision for negotiated purchase except for SC/ST land. After deliberations, the process for Land Allotment suggested is as below, for which State Government was requested to issue necessary directions/GO to District Collectors on the following:

- a. Regarding non forest locations identified for the project, BSNL shall carry out joint inspection with the concerned State Revenue/LSGD Officials at the locations finalized based on Radio Frequency (RF) survey to ascertain availability of State Government land for constructing towers.
- b. If Government land is available close to the finalized location (say within 200m), then the concerned District Collector shall arrange to provide details of that land to BSNL, and on confirmation by BSNL, shall submit the proposal for land diversion to the State Land Revenue Commissioner. State Govt shall initiate suitable procedures to divert the land for the purpose to BSNL , it was opined that as allotment of land free of cost as per the guidelines will take time BSNL may consider to purchase the same at a cost. However CGM, BSNL requested to kindly consider giving advance permission for commencement of work in the identified Govt. land, so that the project time lines are not hampered on account of the time for decision regarding allotment of land free of cost for this project. It was informed the final decision of the State Govt will be binding on BSNL for the Govt land allotted.
- c. Where Private lands are identified and, if Government land cannot be identified close to the finalized location (say within 200m), then the concerned District Collector shall confirm about the non-availability of government land in writing to BSNL and shall also provide No Objection Certificate to BSNL to go ahead for acquiring suitable private land.
- d. Provisioning of the forest land/government land on special as per the

provisions of the GO issued for tribal location connectivity is under consideration by the government.

8. Allotment of forest land at 89 locations was discussed next. Addl. PCCF, and Nodal Officer for this project apprised the Committee that BSNL has applied for tower permissions at 66 locations. BSNL also needs to apply for Right of Way for access also apart from the tower permission. CGM BSNL replied that BSNL does not need exclusive access/Right of Way. Wherever access/approach road is available it can be shared with BSNL. OFC is planned to be laid along with KSEB alignment and the route can be finalized only after joint survey with KSEB officials which is planned to be completed very soon.

9. DDG(Rural) DoT informed the Committee that apart from the locations currently included in the project additional locations are also planned based on references received from various sources like Hon'ble MPs/ Hon'ble MLAs/District Collectors etc. The list of additional locations will be compiled by BSNL and shared with E&IT department, who then will circulate the list to Districts Collectors, Tribal Welfare department with directions to confirm availability (or) non-availability of 4G network at these locations from any Telecom Service Providers after necessary checks by their field teams, and give their recommendations indicating the population in the location, Geo Coordinates (Latitude, Longitude). Locations with no 4G network in Rural/ Tribal areas can be included as part of this project. The final list must be arrived at within 2 weeks since DoT HQ will freeze the final list soon. Sr DDG DoT, requested the Chairman to issue necessary directions to the District Collectors in this regard.

10. Sr DDG DoT, emphasized that the addendum to Model Building Bye-laws 2016 issued by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) needs to be adopted in the State Building Bye-Laws to facilitate Common Telecom Infrastructure (CTI), so that public, private buildings are Digital Connectivity Ready. The Prl. Secretary (LSGD) apprised the Chairman that Town Planning department has already added a new chapter. Chairman directed Pr. Secretary (LSGD) to take necessary steps to provide for Common Telecom Infrastructure (CTI) in Building Bye-laws as per MoHUA addendum.

11. Other issues pending are the following:

- a. Kerala Right of Way Policy to be notified in Alignment with IT-RoW Rules 2016-2022
- b. Policy for Use of Govt land and buildings for tower/small cell installation
- c. Policy for Use of street infrastructure for installation of 5G small cells
- d. Single Window Portal for OFC and Towers
- e. Incorporation of RoW application forms for 5G rollout and Issues with Sugama portal

- 022
- f. Pending RoW permissions and need for Deemed Approval, fast tracking applications.

Secretary(E&ITD) informed the Chairman SBC that a Committee/Task Force has been constituted vide G.O(Rt.)No. 202/2022/ITD dtd 28-09-2022, to frame policy on use of Street Furniture for 5G rollout in the state, Revise Telecom Policy on the guidelines of Right of Way rules issued by Govt of India, and to finalize 5G leadership package. The Committee has met twice and the views will be consolidated in the next meeting that will be held soon. Subsequently the policy will be finalized soon.

12. DDG(Rural) DoT also requested the Chairman for giving necessary directions to the departments concerned, w.r.t. the DO letters from Secretary (Telecom) in regard to

- a. Mapping of additional 4 layers in view of the forthcoming rollout of 5 G Services -- Electric Poles, Traffic Light Poles, Bus Terminals and Bus Shelters, Government Buildings (State Govt/Central Govt/ PSU) in PM GatiShakti State Master Plan
- b. Consider the recommendations of the Working group on "Cross Sector Collaborative Regulation between Telecom Regulators and Electricity Regulators" under the aegis of the Forum of Indian Regulators (FOIR) for robust Electrical and Telecommunication Infrastructure.

The Chairman stated that the Govt is working on it.

13. The MD,KFON informed the Committee that access to KFON OFC has been requested by DoT/BSNL for this 4G Saturation project at Rs.6000/fiber/km/annum. The monetization plan has not been finalized but the prevailing market rate is around Rs.25,000/fiber/km/annum. If there are no takers after auction then these routes can be given at lower rates. CGM BSNL informed that committee that BSNL also wishes to maximize utilization of KFON fiber as this will be a Govt-to-Govt transaction.

14. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by DDG(R), DoT Kerala LSA on behalf of DoT and BSNL. He thanked the Chairman for holding the meeting at short notice and looked forward to the State Governments support for fast roll out of the 4G Saturation project, and other important issues highlighted in the meeting.

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

Sl no	Name	Designation
<b><u>Govt of Kerala</u></b>		
1	Dr. V.P. Ioy IAS	Chief Secretary
2	Dr. Rathan U Kelkar IAS	Secretary (E&ITD)
3	Dr. Sharmila Mary Ioseph IAS	Principal Secretary (LSGD)
4	Shri. K Biju IAS	Land Revenue Commissioner
5	Shri. Aijt Kumar IAS	Secretary (PWD)
6	Representative from KSEB	KSEB
7	Dr. Santosh Babu IAS	MD (KFON)
8	Shri.Snehil Kumar Singh IAS	Director,KSITM
9	Shri.Rajesh Raveendran IFS	Additional PCCF
<b><u>Department of Telecommunications, Kerala LSA</u></b>		
1	Shri. Vinod.P. Abraham ITS	Senior Deputy Director
2	Smt. Sobhana V ITS	DDG(Technology)
3	Shri. N.S.Deepu ITS	DDG(Rural)
4	Shri. S. Aijith Kumar ITS	DDG (Co-ordination)
5	Shri. Girish Kataria ITS	Director(Rural-2)
6	Shri. Seetharaman T.A. ITS	ADG(Rural)
<b><u>BSNL Kerala</u></b>		
1	Shri C.V.Vinod ITS	CGM,Kerala
2	Shri A.K.Misra ITS	PGM(NWO-CM)