

भारतसरकार
संचारमंत्रालय
दूरसंचारविभाग
कार्यालयवरिष्ठउपमहानिदेशक,
लाइसेंससेवाक्षेत्र, जम्मूएवंकश्मीर,
चौथातल, बीएसएनएलटेलीफोनएक्सचेंजभवन,
रेलहेडकाम्प्लेक्स, जम्मू- 180012
दूरभाष: 0191-2470111



Government of India,
Ministry of Communications,
Department of Telecommunications,
O/o Senior Deputy Director General,
Licensed Service Area, Jammu & Kashmir,
4th Floor, BSNL Telephone Exchange
Building,
Rail Head Complex, Jammu-180012
Office no.: 0191-2470111

No: 2-48/2022-Rural/J&K LSA/Row-
SBCand5Grelatedmatters

Date: 11-03-2024

Minutes of Meeting (4th Ladakh SBC)

The 4th Meeting of the State Broadband Committee of UT Ladakh was held under the chairmanship of Dr. Pawan Kotwal, Advisor to Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, Administration of Ladakh UT on 20.02.2024 at 12:00 PM through VC.

2. At the outset, Sh. Nitin Jain, Addl. DGT, J&K LSA, DoT delivered the welcome address and gave a brief overview of the goal, vision, and objectives of the National Broadband Mission (NBM). He further requested the Advisor to Hon'ble LG for his opening remarks.
3. In his address, the Advisor to the Hon'ble LG expressed his concern regarding the USOF 4G Saturation project. Despite the speedy land allocation by the Administration of UT Ladakh to BSNL, no site has been commissioned so far. He advised BSNL to commission the sites as quickly as possible because many government services and daily reporting depend on internet connectivity and cannot be provided in the absence of functional 4G/5G services.

He was informed by BSNL that half of the sites would be commissioned by June or July of 2024. In this regard, he advised BSNL to mobilize the equipment well in advance and plan their logistics in order to prevent a single-day delay. He recommended that M/s BSNL strictly adhere to the deadlines. He further added that the completion of the 4G Saturation project is a prerequisite for the implementation of the Ministry's Vibrant Village Program. Since the project is significantly behind schedule, hence it is imperative that at least 150 to 200 sites should be commissioned by June or July of 2024.

4. The agenda points were then taken up for discussion by DDG (Rural), J&K LSA, DoT.

❖ Agenda Point 1: Review of MoM of 3rd SBC meeting held on 07.08.2024:

| Sr. No. as per MoM | Actionable Point | Action Taken | Remarks |
|--------------------|--|---|---|
| ix | Provision of Wi-Fi access point at 143 DSPT | As per Senior GM, BBNL, the tender proposal (Award of Purchasing Order) is currently under review. | GM, BharatNet, J&K mentioned that recently BSNL has floated a tender for connecting all the VSAT GPs on OFC (Amended BharatNet). The tender is likely to be finalized in the month of May or June. |
| xi | Conduct an inquiry regarding missing materials of BharatNet VSAT GPs | Director, RDD has been requested to conduct the inquiry in this matter for the No. of sites (where the material is missing) quoted by CGM, BSNL as Numerous sites have been incorrectly classified as missing or damaged. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These sites had been installed 4 years back without consultation with RDD and there was neither a formal takeover nor handover. RDD surveyed all these sites and discovered that the missing or damaged sites (which had been installed by the vendor) like schools, colleges, community halls etc. do not belong to RDD. It was found that equipment at six sites in the Kargil district and five sites in the Leh district were missing or damaged. • According to BSNL and the vendor's joint survey, there were 26 places where certain parts were either missing or damaged. After a local inquiry into each of these instances, it was discovered that the vendor had removed certain equipment from places that were not under the control of the panchayat. • The Advisor to the Hon'ble LG advised that the Dir (RDD) carry-out an official inquiry with appropriate |

| | | | |
|------|--|---|---|
| | | | photographs, and document the facts in writing, and send it to the appropriate authorities within a period of fifteen days . |
| xvii | Documents required for 5G RoW application form are yet to be finalized | The required documents are finalized centrally, hence no change required on the portal. | Item closed. |
| xix | Workshop on 5G Use Cases | 5G Use Case Workshop was scheduled on 9th October, 2023 but got cancelled at the last moment due to LAHDC, General Council Meeting. | To be scheduled in the next FY Preferably in April, 2024. |

- ❖ **Agenda Point 2: RoW Status:** DDG (Rural) briefed the chair on the RoW portal. As UT of Ladakh has recently adopted the Central RoW portal.

CGM, BSNL informed that BSNL has submitted 19 RoW applications on the portal for the 39 routes (28 routes of Kargil district and 11 routes of Leh district) and no approval has been accorded so far. He further highlighted the issue of NH-301 not being mapped on the Gati-Shakti portal (RoW).

List of these 39 RoW applications and the 08 routes of the NH-301 highlighted above is annexed as **Annexure-II**. DDG (Rural) assured that the above issue of the NH-301 may be taken up with IT Department, UT Ladakh and NHAI.

[Action by: Secy (IT) and J&K LSA, DoT]

BSNL was directed to take action against the eleven reverted RoW applications out of nineteen applications submitted.

[Action by: BSNL]

J&K LSA, DoT requested the UT administration to expedite the disposal of 8 pending RoW applications on the portal.

[Action by: UT Administration]

- ❖ **Agenda Point 3: Incorporation of RoW Amendment Rules 2022 and 2023 to RoW Policy of Ladakh:** UT of Ladakh has already incorporated the Indian Telegraph RoW Amendment Rules 2022, but the provision of high rental charges (Rs. 250/- per pole per

annum for uncovered area and Rs. 500/- per pole per annum for other area) for laying of overhead communication cables using poles has been mentioned.

Secretary (IT) informed that the above modifications with the Indian Telegraph RoW Amendment Rules 2023 has already been processed and incorporated. It is now being vetted by the Law section.

Advisor to Hon'ble LG advised Secretary (IT) to expedite it.

[Action by: Secy (IT)]

❖ **Agenda Point 4: USOF 4G Saturation Project Status:**

- Total Sites (land required) = 270
- Forest Sites = 82
- Total Land Allotment = 269 (1 forest site: payment is pending)
- Site Foundation Work in Progress = 29
- Tower Erection Work in Progress = 4
- Site Foundation Completed = 36
- Tower Erection Completed = 10
- Tower Commissioned = 0

The Advisor to Hon'ble LG advised BSNL to forward the updated status to the Secretary to Cabinet, Sh. Pradeep K. Tripathi as Cabinet Secretary may like to review the USOF 4G Saturation project in near future.

In response, the CGM, BSNL informed that the reports are already being forwarded almost on weekly basis and the CMD, BSNL also takes a review on fortnightly basis.

Advisor to Hon'ble LG advised BSNL to expedite the execution of project.

[Action by: BSNL]

❖ **Agenda Point 5: Electricity Connection under USOF 4G Saturation Project:**

DDG (Rural) highlighted that the electricity connections are yet to be extended to 139 sites of Ladakh UT for which payment has been made by BSNL.

CGM, BSNL requested the UT administration to issue demand notes for the remaining sites so that the erection work may be started. SE, PDD replied that the extension of the electricity connections to these sites is almost over.

Advisor to Hon'ble LG advised SE, PDD to complete the work of electricity connections to these sites (139) by March-2024.

[Action by: PDD]

bsnl

DDG (Rural) requested the UT administration to issue demand notes for the non-disputed sites (i.e., out of remaining 110 sites).

SE, PDD also mentioned that the estimate has already been shared with BSNL for the additional 50 sites but BSNL has yet not responded back.

CGM, BSNL mentioned that BSNL has not yet received any demand note for the 110 sites from PDD, so by today a physical copy of these additional 110 sites may be handed over in person to a BSNL official. He also requested PDD to share the list of non-traceable sites so that a team of BSNL Officers may accompany the PDD to mark these location.

Advisor to Hon'ble LG advised PDD to sort out this issue with BSNL and provide a demand note for the 110 sites by today evening.

[Action by: PDD and BSNL]

❖ **Agenda Point 6: 5G - Implementation Plan: (GIS Mapping Status of 5G Street Furniture)**

| S. No. | Concerned State Authority | Type of street furniture | Total count of street furniture | Count of street furniture mapped on NMP in DoT format |
|--------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Power Dev. Dept | Electric poles | 73676 | No update |
| 2 | NHIDCL | Bus Terminal & Bus Shelters | 09 | No update |

SE, PDD informed that PDD has already tendered for Geo-tagging of its poles and almost 95% work is in the completion stage.

The Advisor to Hon'ble LG advised to share the status of mapping on the portal by 15th March 2024.

[Action by: PDD]

❖ **Agenda Point 7: Call Before u Dig (CBuD) App:** The chair is briefed on CBuD App.

Total 15 departments have created their state admin users on the CBuD App out of which only 08 departments have created their state agency and remaining departments are yet to create their state agency users.

del.

Information Technology Department, UT of Ladakh highlighted that there are some departments which only function at the state level and therefore, do not have any Agency. Example- Civil Aviation, Estates, etc.

J&K LSA requested the UT administration that all the departments must create their users up to Tehsil level to fulfill the purpose of CBUd app in larger extent.

Secretary (IT) mentioned that they are coordinating with the different departments and nominations have been received from most of the line departments.

The Advisor to the Hon'ble LG desired that a contractor (for private work) or govt. employee like Executive Engineer (for govt. work) shall have the primary responsibility if an inquiry on the CBUd App is not made before the beginning of excavation work otherwise there are chances of damage to public property. Accordingly, a suitable system be put-in place for same.

He also advised the IT department to issue an executive order for mandating the use of CBUd App and share it among all the concerned departments to include it as one of a tender condition.

[Action by: Secy (IT)]

❖ **Agenda Point 8: Digital Communication Readiness Index (DCRI):**

The Chair was briefed about DCRI and the current status is as follows:

- Inter Departmental Coordination Committee (IDCC) has been formed.
- Mapping of DCRI indicators with the concerned in-line departments has been completed.
- For each of the line Departments (as per mapping), one Single Point of Contact (SPOC) has been identified and shared with DoT, J&K, LSA.
- Report containing status of each indicator with supporting documents has been submitted by Administration of UT Ladakh with DoT, J&K, LSA.

In view of the above, the Advisor to the Hon'ble LG made a specific mention of the importance of the 4G Saturation project for Ladakh UT, citing connectivity as a key factor in determining the UT's ranking.

J&K LSA requested UT government to conduct the quarterly review meeting.

[Action by: UT Administration]

❖ **Agenda Point 9: Advisory by Power Ministry**

A. Smart Metering of Telecom sites: The representative from DIPA (Digital Infrastructure Provider Association) requested the chair to make a provision of smart metering for telecom sites in the Ladakh UT.

Advisor to Hon'ble LG directed the PDD to connect all the telecom sites with smart meter while providing the electricity connection.

[Action by: PDD]

B. Composite Billing Scheme: The Ministry of Power, Government of India has released an Advisory on implementation of Composite Billing Scheme for multiple connections like TSPs dated 24.05.2023. The relevant portion of the Advisory is reproduced below:

"It shall be possible for establishment of a mechanism for issuance of a single order for multiple connections, for issuance of a single composite bill for multiple meters (with details of individual metering) and for payment of such composite bill. It was agreed the TSP may approach the concerned state commission, if required, for this purpose."

UT of Ladakh was requested to implement the Composite Billing Scheme for Multiple connections for Telecom Service Providers, Internet Service Providers, etc.

The Advisor to Hon'ble LG was in agreement with the Composite Billing Scheme. He advised DIPA (Digital Infrastructure Provide Association) to meet with Secretary (PDD) for further consultation.

[Action by: DIPA and PDD]

C. Green energy open access: The Ministry of Power, Government of India has released the Electricity (Promoting Renewable Energy Through Green Energy Open Access) (Second Amendment) Rules 2023 dated 23.05.2023. The relevant portion of the amendment is reproduced below:

"Provided that only consumers who have contracted demand or sanctioned load of Hundred KW or more, either through single connection or through multiple connections aggregating Hundred KW or more located in same electricity division of a distribution licensee, shall be eligible to take power through Green Energy Open Access and there shall be no limit of supply of power for the captive consumers taking power under Green Energy Open Access."

In its earlier amendment the limit was 01 MW but now it has been reduced to 100 KW (aggregated) so now small business entity and industry would adopt the Green Energy for their use. It is now the distribution company's responsibility to transport and provide the connection.

Advisor to Hon'ble LG was in agreement with the green energy policy. He advised COAI (Cellular Operators Association of India) to meet with Secretary (PDD) for further consultation.

[Action by: COAI and PDD]

❖ **Agenda Point 10: Other Issues:**

A. BharatNet GP Status:

- 56 GPs – Working
- 66 GPs – Down (Tender is under process for procurement – Battery, Spare parts)
- 91 GPs – BSNL (86 GPs) and BBNL (5 GPs) were asked to restore the GPs for which 40% advance payment had already been made by the Ladakh UT.

Status of 86 GPs (BSNL):

- 38 GPs Installed, 4 GPs work in progress.
- 5 GPs having issues (GP is being constructed etc. to be resolved by the UT).
- 39 GPs having material missing/ damaged. It requires procurement from the vendor on the basis of quoted rates (yet to receive, as per BSNL).

M/s BSNL was requested to restore the remaining GPs on priority so that the effective utilization can be ensured.

GM, BharatNet, J&K mentioned that recently BSNL has floated a tender for connecting all the VSAT GPs on OFC (Amended BharatNet). The tender is likely to be finalized in the month of coming May or June 2024.

A tripartite agreement will be executed between BSNL and all the States/ UT Govt. regarding free RoW permission for laying of OFC throughout country. The point has already been raised to DoT and a communication may come shortly to UT Govt. in this regard.

Additionally, he also requested the UT administration to make sure the infrastructure (GP building) will be ready and that necessary power requirement will be provided to these GP locations.

Advisor to Hon'ble LG advised the GM, BharatNet to submit the plan in consultation with RDD within a week.

[Action by: BSNL and RDD]

- B. **MoHUA Building by Laws:** J&K LSA requested the H&UD Department, UT of Ladakh to notify Ladakh Building By Laws at the earliest.

It was informed by the Pr. Secy, H&UD, UTL that the building bye-laws are currently being vetted by Law Department.

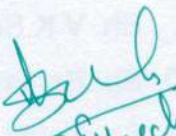
[Action by: Pr. Secy, H&UD, UTL]

- C. **Advisory on Common Duct:** UT administration was requested that an Advisory may be issued on the laying of the service duct while work on the road expansion is being done.

Advisor to Hon'ble LG suggested that the action for incorporation by Indian Roads Congress (IRC) may be explored, since there is a cost involved.

[Action by: UT Administration]

- ❖ The Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.



11 March 24

V K Surendra
DDG (Rural)
O/o Addl. DGT, J&K LSA
Email: ddgr.jk-dgt-dot@gov.in

Copy to: All concerned for further necessary action.

Annexure – I

List of Participants

1. Dr. Pawan Kotwal, Advisor to Hon'ble LG, Ladakh UT (Chairman);
2. Sh. Nitin Jain, Addl. DGT, J&K LSA, DoT, (Convener);
3. Sh. Sanjeev Khirwar, Principal Secretary (Housing & Urban Department), Ladakh UT, (Member);
4. Dr. Vasanthakumar Namasivayam, Commissioner/ Secretary (Forest Ecology & Environment Department), Ladakh UT, (Member);
5. Sh. Ravinder Kumar, Administrative Secretary, (Power Development Department), Ladakh UT, (Special Invitee);
6. Sh. Amit Sharma, Secretary (Information Technology), Ladakh UT, (Member);
7. Sh. Michael M. D'Souza, Administrative Secretary (Public Works Department, R&B), Ladakh UT, (Member);
8. Sh. Saurabh Tyagi, CGM BSNL, J&K Circle, (Special Invitee);
9. Sh. V K Surendra, DDG(Rural), DoT, J&K LSA;
10. Sh. Sanjay Kumar, Director (Rural), DoT, J&K LSA;
11. Sh. Sajad Kadri, Director, (Rural Development Department), Ladakh UT, (Special Invitee);
12. Sh. Kuldeep Kumar Singh, GM, BSNL, Leh Circle;
13. Sh. Tundup Spalzung, Chief Engineer, (SE- Power Development Department), Ladakh UT;
14. Sh. Nand Kishor Bijaraniyan, DGM (Mobile), BSNL, J&K Circle;
15. Sh. Rajesh Sharma, DGM (Mobile), BSNL, J&K Circle;
16. Sh. Bhudev Sharan, AGM (BN), BSNL, J&K Circle;
17. Sh. Sunil Bhat, JTO(R), DoT, J&K LSA;
18. Sh. Skalzung Dawa, Project Manager (IT/Telecom), IT Department, UTL;
19. Smt. Sonam Dolker, Project Manager (IT), IT Department, UTL;
20. Sh. Zia Ul Ramzan, Network Engineer/RoW POC, IT Department, UTL;
21. Sh. Ankit Bhardwaj, Team Leader, PMU, PM Gati-Shakti, Ladakh UT;
22. Representative from DIPA (Special Invitee): Sh. Harpreet Singh, (Pr Advisor);
23. Representative from COAI (Special Invitee): Sh. Deepak Kumar Gupta (Manager).