

**Exemption of Processing Fee
and Registration Fee, ROW for
the Implementation of BharatNet
Phase-II Project**

**Government of Gujarat
Science and Technology Department
G.R. No: NOF/102012/1085/IT/Part-II
Sachivalaya, Gandhinagar
Date: 18th October 2017.**

RESOLUTION

Read:

1. Letter from the Secretary, Department of Telecommunications, Government of India dated 25th September, 2017
2. This department letter dated 24.08.2017 and email dated 23.08.2017 for submission of Final DPR of BharatNet Phase-II of Gujarat State to BharatNet Broadband Network Limited
3. This department GR no NOF/102012/1085/IT/Part-I dated 03.09.2016 regarding establishment of "Gujarat Fibre Grid Network Limited" under the Department of Science and Technology.
4. Government Resolution of Forest and Environment Department dated 25.05.2016 exempting the implementation agency from payment of Registration fee and processing fee as per FED's GR No-FCA-1013/11-10/11/SF-24/F dated 12.06.2015
5. Letter of R & B Department dated 15.01.2015 addressed to all superintending engineers granting blanket permission for laying optical Fibre, in accordance with the requirement of MoU.
6. Letter of Panchayat Department dated 05.06.2013 addressed to all DDOs, all TDOs and all Gram Panchayats for the Right of Way (ROW) for the implementation of Phase-I project.
7. Government Resolutions of Urban Department dated 22.06.2016 for fibre laying works carried out by BBNL

PREAMBLE:

Government of India approved the scheme of setting-up National Optical Fiber Network (NOFN) as a national asset to Provide universal and affordable broadband

access to every citizen of India with utilizing of Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF) and creating institutional mechanism for management and operation of NOFN. The main aim for creation of this NOFN is e-Delivery of Citizen Centric Services, universal access to internet upto Gram Panchayat level An SPV named BBNL is created which plans to cover all 2,50,000 Gram Panchayat of India.

2. In 2015, NOFN was renamed as BharatNet in terms of design and approach to give itself pace and faster execution with an aim to establish a highly scalable network infrastructure accessible on a non-discriminatory basis, to provide on demand, affordable broadband connectivity of 100 Mbps to all GPs and on demand capacity to all institutions, to realize the vision of Digital India..
3. Telecom commission approved a revised strategy for a three-phase implementation of the BharatNet Project. Phase I provides one lakh gram panchayats with broadband connectivity by laying underground OFC lines by March 2017. This needs to be cover by BBNL. Phase II will provide connectivity to all remaining gram panchayats in the country using an optimal mix of underground fibre over road network, power lines, radio and satellite media. It is to be completed by March 2019. Phase III will provide, state-of-the-art, future-proof network, including fibre between districts and blocks, with ring topology to provide redundancy would be created.
4. Phase I covers 6905 villages, is being executed by Railtel for the BBNL. For Phase II, Government of Gujarat is deeply aligned with the Nation's vision of a Digital India to spur economic development and to provide Integrated Services to the Citizens and has volunteered to execute the project for the Department of Telecom for Phase II of the Project. Accordingly, vide GR dated 03.09.2016, the State Government has set up an SPV namely "Gujarat Fibre Grid Network Limited" to implement phase-II of the project.
 - GFGNL will set up the lit-up grid and make it open to private enterprises who, in turn, would be encouraged to provide high quality services in a non-loss-making proposition.
 - State has opted for underground Fibre laying for BharatNet Phase-II scope.

5. The State Government had submitted DPR covering 6916 Village Panchayats in Phase-II proposing to connect them through underground optical fibre network. It was provisioned that 48 core optical fibre will be used and every Village Panchayat will get 8 optical fibres. Out of the 8 optical fibers, one fibre is to connect with the OLT to be provisioned at a BSNL exchange into the network that will be charged providing for data in accordance with the GPON technology prescribed by the DoT. Of the remaining 7 fibres, one fibre will be used for creating State Wide Network by the Government whereas 6 fibres will be available for leasing dark fibre to various telecom service providers or ISP or other data distribution networks. Subsequently the State Government has made proposal to Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to shift work of Fibre Project in 7 blocks where work has either not begun or stalled to shift to phase-II.
6. The State's DPR has been approved by the Telecom Commission and Secretary DoT has conveyed approval to the State Government vide her letter dated 25th September, 2017 at reference 1.
7. One of the precondition for approval of DPR as conveyed by Secretary DoT has been waiver from ROW charges, processing fees and other charges to be granted by the State. Therefore, as was done in NOFN (I), it was under consideration of the State Government to give waiver of right of way charges, administrative and all other kinds of fees, charges etc. for laying of optical fibre under BharatNet Phase-II project from all areas under the jurisdiction of State Government departments and State Bodies such as Panchayats, Roads and Buildings Department, Irrigation Department, Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Limited (GUVNL), Urban Department and Forest Department. It was also under consideration of the Government to exempt prior approval of ROW for alignment and to substitute that with the need for prior intimation in relation to the assets of Panchayat Dept, R & B Dept, Urban Dept, Irrigation and GUVNL.

Resolution:-

After careful consideration, the State Government has decided to give waiver of right of way charges, administrative and all other kinds of fees, charges etc. for

laying of optical fibre under BharatNet Phase-II project from areas under the jurisdiction of State Government departments and State Bodies under Panchayats, Roads and Buildings Department, Irrigation Department, Energy and Petrochemicals Department (GUVNL), Urban Department and Forest Department. Similarly, approval for waiver from prior grant of ROW permission and substituting the need for ROW approval with prior intimation for laying of fibre in case of areas falling in domains of all above mentioned State agencies, except under domain of Forest Department where prior approval by provisions of law is necessary, is granted.

2. The State Government conveys its approval to give waiver of Right of Way charges including all other kind of fees, charges etc. and approval for waiver from prior grant of ROW permission for laying of optical fibre under BharatNet Phase-II from all areas under the jurisdiction of Water Resources (Irrigation) Department.
3. The State Government conveys its approval to give permission to allow placing of network termination devices such as OLT, ONT, Router and Switches at Gram Panchayat location and access to such by the members of officers of DoT / BBNL, State Govt., officers of SPV GFGNL, and officers and staff of the implementation and O&M agency engaged by the SPV GFGNL to the fibre termination points as well as equipments.
4. The State Government conveys its approval to give provision for utilities such as powers at Gram Panchayats for the network termination devices without asking for separate metering by Gram Panchayat. GFGNL will endeavor for having a direct electricity unmetered connection for NOFN – assets at Village Panchayat level. At that stage, approval for access to building for direct electricity connection shall be given by the respective competent authority.
5. Administrative Departments such as Panchayat, R & B, Irrigation, Energy and Petrochemicals, Urban Development and Forest Departments will issue administrative instructions to their field units through appropriate GR / Circular / letter to facilitate expeditious Right of Way (ROW) for laying of Optical Fibre Cable for the BharatNet Phase-II project in the State through "Gujarat Fibre Grid Network Limited" under Department of Science and Technology, Government of Gujarat.

This Government Resolution is issued with the concurrence of R & B Department, Irrigation Department, Panchayat Department, Urban Development and Urban Housing Department, Energy and Petrochemicals Department, Forests and Environment Department and Finance Department on the department's file of even number.

By order and in the name of the Governor of Gujarat,



(Dhananjay Dwivedi)

Secretary to the Government of Gujarat,
Department of Science and Technology.

To

1. Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Governorshri, Raj Bhavan, Gandhinagar.
2. Chief Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister.
3. Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister.
4. Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister.
5. Personal Secretary to Hon'ble Ministers, Government of Gujarat.
6. Personal Secretary to the Leader of Opposition Party in Gujarat Legislative Assembly, Gandhinagar.
7. Deputy Secretary to Chief Secretary, Government of Gujarat.
8. Registrar, Hon'ble Gujarat High Court, Ahmedabad.
9. Secretary, Gujarat Vigilance Commission, Gandhinagar.
10. Secretary, Gujarat Public Service Commission, Ahmedabad.
11. Secretary, Gujarat Legislature Secretariat, Gandhinagar.
12. Secretary, Gujarat Civil Service Tribunal, Gandhinagar.
13. All Administrative Departments
14. VC and MD, GIDC, Udyog Bhavan
15. Industries Commissioner, Government of Gujarat
16. All Heads of the Departments, Science and Technology
17. All Collectors.
18. Managing Director, Gujarat Fibre Grid Network Limited
19. Managing Director, Gujarat Informatics Limited

20. Director, Information Technology
21. DDG and SIO, NIC, Gujarat
22. Account General (A&E) Gujarat, Post Box No. 2201, Rajkot.
23. Account General (A&E) Gujarat, Ahmedabad Branch, Ahmedabad.
24. Account General (Audit-1) Gujarat, MS Building, Ahmedabad.
25. Director, Account & Treasuries, Gujarat State, Gandhinagar
26. Pay & Account Offices, Ahmedabad/Gandhinagar
27. All District Treasury Offices
28. Resident Audit Officer, Ahmedabad/Gandhinagar.
29. Select File.

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