



## **BHARAT BROADBAND NETWORK LIMITED**

*(A Govt. of India Enterprises)*

O/o State Head BBNL, Punjab,  
Sector - 53 , Phase – 3A, BSNL Telephone Exchange Building  
Mohali (Punjab)-160059

To,

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest,  
Forest Bhawan,  
Sector 68 SAS Nagar Mohali,  
PUNJAB.

No. BBNL/PB-II/RoW-Misc/2018-19/14

Dated 01-02-2019.

**SUB: CREATION OF NATIONAL OPTICAL FIBER NETWORK (NOFN) FOR PROVIDING BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY TO PANCHAYATS (PUNJAB)- Regarding Issuing guidelines to your offices at ground level for expediting processing of right of way request to meet timelines for implementation of this project.**

We are pleased to inform you that under Phase II of the Bharatnet Project BBNL have selected two Project Implementation (PIA) agencies i.e. **M/s Himachal Futuristic Communications Ltd., and M/s Vindhya Telelinks Limited** to lay down optical Fiber (OFC) in 50 blocks of Punjab and about 4850 Gram Panchayats. These PIA's are interacting with all the RoW authorities in Forest offices of Punjab for RoW matters.

2. We draw your kind attention to endorsement letter No. 1/11/98-SM/DGR/2268-69-69 A dated 23/4/2014 bringing to your kind notice that the Government of Punjab has signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Telecommunication, Government of India and M/s BBNL Ltd. As per the MoU the State Government has agreed to provide free Right of Way without further need of permission under the state agencies and electric utilities in the state during life cycle of the project.

3. As per the Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding clause 6.5 the blanket approval for RoW should be applicable to the all State Government agencies like PWD/RES/FOREST\*/MUNIIPALITY/PANCHYAT authorities/Electricity Board/Irrigation/Private Electricity Distribution Agency etc. as applicable(\*subject to adherence to provisions Forest Conservation Act wherever applicable).

4. As is known to you No RoW charges including reinstatement charges will be levied by any State Government department and this support was considered as contribution of the State Government towards this project as a larger good of the state for ensuring the Time bound Implementation of the programme and to avoid any delays in grant of RoW permission as per the MoU.



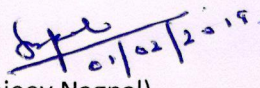
5. The Project Implementation agencies (PIA) have brought to our notice that the slow progress in processing request of RoW by Forest offices at ground level making difficult for them to achieve the given timelines.

The PIA have pointed out that:-

1. The forest officials at district level are not update about the MoU and guidelines for expediting RoW applications processing under this Project.
2. To determine forest area falling in the route of the project the joint survey with forest officials is taking time longer than the desired. Some instances the survey of the routes were not conducted even after one month of submission of the application. There is considerable delay in conducting joint survey by the forest officials.
3. Once the survey is complete the PIA needs duly signed survey reports to submit On-line applications. Such signing off of the survey report is also delayed in certain districts.

6. The timelines for completion of the project are very stringent. The delay in processing RoW applications defeat the spirit of the Tripartite MoU and the progress of this project of national importance get adversely affected.

Therefore it is requested to ensure that the issued guidelines are percolated at the district level and there is awareness about the strategic importance of this Project so that ground level officials extend whole hearted support in the matter.

  
(Sanjeev Nagpal)  
State Head, BBNL Punjab.

Enclosure: As Above.

Copy to:-

Nodal Officer  
Forest Bhawan,  
Sector 68 SAS Nagar Mohali  
PUNJAB.