

Dated: 05/03/12

To

Principal Chief Conservator of Forest,
Forest Bhawan, Sector-68
SAS Nagar, Mohali

Subject: Signing of Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for
National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) Project

Reference: (i) Your Departmental letter No. 10467 dated 3.12.2012
(ii) Minutes of Meeting held under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary
on 3.12.2012.

As you are aware that Government of India, Ministry of Communications & Information Technology, Department of Telecommunication has approved the scheme for creation of National Optical Fiber Network (NOFN) as a national asset, for providing broadband connectivity to Panchayats. The objective of the scheme is to extend the existing optical-fiber network to Panchayats by utilizing Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF) and creating an institutional mechanism for management and operation of NOFN. The Special Purpose Vehicle M/S Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) is fully owned by the Central Government with equity participation from BSNL, RailTel and Power Grid.

The points raised by your department vide above reference letter were put up in the Cabinet Meeting held on 5.2.2013 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Punjab for consideration. Keeping in view the significant benefits of the project to the citizens of state, the council of Ministers in the said meeting decided to allow Right of Way (RoW) free of cost and without any conditionalities. It is also informed that Department of Governance Reforms has been allowed to sign the tripartite MOU with BBNL and Ministry of Communication and IT, Govt.

Therefore, You are requested to issue guidelines to your offices for providing the free Right of Way (RoW) and facilitation to BBNL for the implementation of the project.

Principal Secretary

10/1/2012

05/03/12
o/c