

NO: 30-39/2009-USOF/Instructions
Department of Telecommunications
Universal Service Obligation Fund
Room NO: 1115, Sanchar Bhawan
New DELHI-110117.

D-2129-50

Dated 05-02-2009

To ,

All Pr. CCA /CCAs,
Telecom Circle

Subject- Minutes of USOF H.Q. Meeting held on 16-01-2009

Sir/Madam,

Kindly find enclosed a copy letter No. 30-148/2008-USF (Vol. XIV) dated 23-01-2009 regarding 'minutes of USOF H.Q. meeting' held on 16-01-2009 for information and necessary action.

Encl. As Above.

S. C. Agrawal
(S.C.Agrawal)
Asstt. Administrator-(F)

Department of Telecommunications
Office of the Administrator, USO Fund
907, Sanchar Bhawan, 20, Ashoka Road, New Delhi

No.30-148/2008-USF (Vol. XIV)

Dated 23.01.2009

Subject: Minutes of the meeting held on 16.01.2009

A meeting was held in the Committee Room, 2nd Floor, Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi on Friday the 16th January 2009 at 1500 Hrs to review the status of the shared mobile infrastructure scheme and discuss the related issues. The minutes of the meeting are enclosed herewith.

Encl.: A/A

(Kamal Bhagat)

Dy. Administrator (Tech), USF
Tel. No. 23372088, 23372157 (Fax)

Copy to:

- i) Sr. PPS to Administrator USOF
- ii) Jt. Administrator (F) USOF
- iii) IPs - BSNL/ KEC International/ GTL/ Vodafone Essar/ QTIL/ RCIL
- iv) USPs - BSNL/ Bharti Airtel/ Dishnet/ Vodafone Essar/ Idea/ Reliance

Status of installation of remaining towers

Mr. GTL informed that out of 423 towers to be set up, 367 towers have been Commissioned. They further informed that out of the remaining towers, 33 sites are to be wooded and 4 sites are to be dropped. Mr. GTL suggested that instead of dropping the sites the IPs may explore the possibility of re-allocating these sites.

Mr. KEC informed that about 175 towers are to be set up by the end of March 2009 in a phased manner. They further informed that 33 sites are to be dropped in Mumbai and Chennai due to land acquisition problems. With regards to setting up of towers in Mumbai, they informed that the land handovers have already been completed and as a result the construction work has started. Mr. KEC also informed that the sites of towers to be dropped are in Mumbai. They further informed that the sites of towers to be dropped are in Mumbai.

**Minutes of the meeting held with IPs/ USPs on 16.01.2009
to review the status of setting up and managing of
infrastructure sites and provision of mobile services**

Venue: Committee Room, 2nd Floor, Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi

Date: 16th January 2009, 1500 Hrs

Present: As per Annexure-A

At the outset of the meeting, Administrator USOF welcomed all the participants. Following is the gist of the discussions held and decisions taken:

i) Status of Towers Commissioned & roll out of Mobile Services

Jt. Administrator informed that total 2845 towers have been set up by various IPs as on 31.12.2008 as per the monthly report received from them. M/s BSNL, GTL, KEC, QUIL, RCIL and Vodafone have installed 1600, 391, 223, 88, 281 and 262 towers respectively. Administrator USO Fund mentioned that BSNL has now picked up pace and appreciated them for setting up 552 towers in the month of December 2008. He was optimistic that BSNL would continue to maintain the same pace and would commission majority of the towers by March 2009. However, he expressed concern that even after 19 months of signing of agreement, no tower has been commissioned in the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Orissa and Tripura, where M/s BSNL or M/s KEC are the Infrastructure Providers.

JA (T) further informed that mobile services under Part-B of the scheme have also been launched by USPs from 2502 BTSs installed from these towers. He was concerned about the slow pace of launch of mobile services by USPs vis-à-vis towers installed by IPs. He urged the USPs to increase the pace of launch of mobile services within 2 months of the commissioning of tower by IPs.

ii) Status of installation of remaining towers

a) M/s GTL informed that out of 421 towers to be set up, 391 towers have been commissioned. They further informed that out of the remaining towers, 23 sites are to be relocated and 4 sites are to be dropped. JA (T) suggested that instead of dropping the sites the IPs may explore the possibility of relocating these sites.

b) M/s KEC intimated that about 378 towers will be commissioned by end of March 2009 in a phased manner. They further informed that the remaining 30 sites are to be dropped in Mizoram and Chhattisgarh due to inaccessibility and naxalite problems. With regards to setting up of towers in Mizoram, they informed that in 35 sites foundations have already been constructed and in 7 sites towers have been erected. Administrator urged M/s KEC and BSNL to hasten the work of setting up of towers in North Eastern states as the same are being monitored at various levels in the Government.

c) M/s BSNL informed that out of 5905 towers, 1718 towers have been commissioned as on date. Regarding towers in North Eastern states, BSNL informed the material has already reached Guwahati and they are hopeful to commission at least 50% of the towers in NE region by March 2009. He also mentioned that majority of the towers in the remaining states shall be commissioned by March 2009.

JA (T) asked BSNL to submit time schedule for the commissioning of the remaining towers to USOF urgently. Administrator directed BSNL to set up a tower at Loktak Dam site in Manipur on priority for which NHPC has requested number of times and is willing to provide the requisite infrastructure for the same.

d) M/s Vodafone informed that they have installed 262 towers in the allotted four clusters out of 322 sites approved by USOFA. In Maharashtra, all the 95 towers have been erected. However, only 47 towers could be declared as commissioned so far due to non-availability of power.

e) M/s QTIL informed that all the 88 towers have already been set up by them in UP (W). M/s Vodafone and M/s Idea have signed the SLA and mobile services have been rolled out by them from these towers. However, M/s RCL has not come up for sharing the tower and the SLA agreement is yet to be signed by them.

f) M/s RCIL informed that out of 468 sites, 281 towers have been commissioned while 90 towers are in the advance stage of completion. Out of the remaining sites, 63 sites are proposed to be dropped and the rest shall be commissioned by March 2009. Administrator raised concern over very slow progress made by M/s RCIL during the last 4 months. He also advised M/s RCIL to once again review the sites proposed to be dropped by relocating them in consultation with the USPs. M/s RCIL was also requested to submit a schedule for the commissioning of remaining towers within one week.

iii) Issues raised by IPs and USPs

a) JA (T) mentioned that as on 31.10.2008, 1934 towers had been declared as commissioned by various IPs and as such 5802 BTSs should have been commissioned by the end of December 2008 i.e. two months of roll out of services by USPs. However, services have been launched from only 2502 BTSs installed so far. To this, USPs informed that though the towers are declared commissioned by the IPs, they are not able to install the equipment for the launch of mobile services due to various shortcomings in the towers. As discussed in the last review meeting, a methodology needs to be evolved so as to decide the date of commissioning of towers agreeable to both IPs and USPs. Two months' period for launching of mobile service should begin from the date so arrived upon.

After deliberations, it was decided that henceforth whenever a tower is declared RFI by an IP, he shall inform in writing/by mail to the respective USPs. After examination, the USPs shall send a confirmation to this effect back to the IP if found satisfactory. The shortcomings, if any, are to be conveyed within 15 days time. However, if two out of three USPs agree that the infrastructure site is complete in all respects, the site shall be treated as commissioned on that date. In case no communication is received in this regard from the USPs within the specified period of 15 days, the site shall be deemed to have been commissioned. The so arrived commissioning date of the tower site shall however be applicable with prospective effect.

b) Some of the USPs complained that the antenna mounts of 60 mm size being provided by BSNL are not compatible with 1.2 M dia antenna, for which 110 mm antenna mounts are required. This issue had also been raised in the earlier review meetings and various USPs have been taking up the issue with BSNL directly. It was decided that for sites which are yet to be commissioned, USPs shall provide the size of the requisite antenna mounts to BSNL for providing the same accordingly. However, for the sites which have already been commissioned and where the USPs

intend to install 1.2 M antenna, BSNL shall provide the necessary antenna mounts/ clamps.

c) M/s Idea raised the issue that BSNL is not allowing them to use the tower earth for extending earth to their BTS equipment due to safety concerns. M/s Idea requested that they may be allowed to share the existing tower earth for which they are willing to own the responsibility of any damage to their equipment. M/s BSNL mentioned that they are adopting separate earths for tower, power plant and BTS equipment. It was decided that BSNL may permit USPs to tap the tower earth for their BTS subject to an undertaking that USPs shall not hold BSNL responsible of any consequence on account of sharing of tower earth.

d) M/s KEC raised the issue of non-issuance of demand note by SEBs even after a lot of pursuance with them. M/s KEC requested that they may be allowed to declare such sites as commissioned with single DG set. It was decided that in case, the demand note is not issued even after lapse of three months from the date of application with SEB, such sites may be declared as commissioned with single DG set with the concurrence of concerned USPs. However, this will not absolve the IPs from their responsibility for further pursuance with SEB and provision of electric connection.

e) USPs also intimated that they are facing a large number of problems like non-availability of diesel, security guards etc. in the sites commissioned by some of the IPs. JA (T) mentioned that since the SLAs have now been signed between IPs and USPs, such problems should be resolved mutually as per the terms and conditions of the SLA signed between IPs and USPs. Administrator opined that these issues come within the purview of SLA and need to be resolved therein with mutual coordination. He further mentioned that these review meetings are basically meant for seeking intervention of USOFA for providing clarifications/ amendments/ relaxations etc. and other issues concerning state governments

iv) Signing of Service Level Agreements

JA (T) informed that some SLAs are yet to be signed by M/s Reliance as IP/USP. M/s Reliance informed that the pending issues have been resolved and assured that the remaining SLA shall be signed shortly. Regarding signing of SLA with M/s KEC, M/s Dishnet informed that they have already sent the signed SLA back to M/s KEC.

v) Submission of Master Data

Jt. Administrator (T) mentioned that since the tower relocation, addition or dropping process has already come to an end, the IPs must submit the master data to USOFA along with new tower IDs, wherever required, by the end of this month. The Administrator stressed upon the urgency of this data for settlement of subsidy claims. All the IPs assured that the master data shall be submitted within next two weeks.

Annexure-A

List of Participants who attended the meeting held on 16.01.2009

USO Fund side

1. Administrator USOF
2. Director (T-I) USOF
3. Director (T-III) USOF
4. Dy. Administrator (F) USOF
5. Asstt. Administrator (T) USOF

IPs/ USPs side

Sl. No.	Name of Access Service Provider / Infrastructure Provider	Name of the Participant	Mobile No.	E-mail Address
1	M/s BSNL (IP)	Shri S.K. Babbar Shri Saurabh Tyagi Shri Vinay Kumar	9868860462 9868860461 9868217003	toskbabbar@gmail.com vinay.eepd@gmail.com saurabhthyagi08@gmail.com
2	M/s BSNL (USP)	Shri Sudhir Gupta Shri Tejpal Singh	9868261106 9868189692	sudhir_gupta@bsnl.co.in tpsingh@bsnl.co.in
3	M/s GTL (IP)	Shri Vipin Kalra	9871108449	sanjayg@gtlinfra.com
4	M/s Vodafone (IP/USP)	Shri Sanjeev Arora	9811918508	nitin.raste@vodafone.com
5	M/s KEC (IP)	Shri Pankaj Agrawal Ms Priyanka Kaul	9971186230 9971008144	tpurohit@kecrpg.com koulp@kecrpg.com
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9	M/s Idea (USP)	Shri Abhijit Das Shri Sanjay Bhatnagar	9702003370 9911005960	abhijit.das@idea.adityabirla.com sanjay.bhatnagar@idea.adityabirla.com
10	M/s Dishnet/ Aircel (USP)	Shri Ashish Kapur	9873563203	ashish.kapur@aircel.co.in