

10/c

Government of India
Ministry of Communications & Information Technology
Department of Telecommunications
Office of the Administrator, Universal Service Obligation Fund
Sanchar Bhawan, 20 Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110 001

No. 30-31/2004-USF (Vol.III) (Pt.) D-1638 to 1641

Dated: 04.12.2007

To

The Deputy Director General (RN),
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited,
BSNL Bhawan,
Janpath,
New Delhi.

Subject: Minutes of the meeting held with CMD, BSNL on 16.11.2007 regarding improvement in functioning of VPTs.

Kindly find enclosed Minutes of the above-mentioned meeting. The time bound action plan agreed upon by BSNL for improvement in the functioning of VPTs and the implementation of the various VPT schemes by BSNL is contained therein.

2. You are requested to kindly adhere strictly to the same and ensure that compliance reports in accordance with the time frame agreed upon are submitted to the USOF Administration as detailed in the minutes.

Archana. G. Gulati
(Archana Goyal Gulati)
Joint Administrator (Finance), USF

Encls: As above

Copy to CMD BSNL, New Delhi.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16.11.07 WITH BSNL REGARDING
IMPROVEMENT IN FUNCTIONING OF VPTs.**

1. The agreements pertaining to O&M of VPTs and replacement of VPTs provide for a review of representative rates after the third year of Agreement. In pursuance of the above, M/s NCAER was asked to conduct a study and advise the USOF administration regarding the subsidy rates to be applied from the fourth year onwards. In its report, recommending continuation of existing representative rates, NCAER raised a number of pertinent issues with respect to VPT functioning, for example, the low incidence of STD facilities amongst VPTs which has implications on revenue generation. Further, the analysis of the feedback received from CCAs on this subject made it clear that there are several shortcomings in the implementation of the VPT scheme which need to be addressed by BSNL.

2. A comprehensive note on this issue was forwarded to BSNL along with D.O No. 30-31/2004-USF(Vol-III) Pt. Dated 12/09/07 addressed to CMD BSNL by Administrator USF. BSNL was asked, in particular, to review its position regarding provision of charge indicators to 95/STD VPTs; commission rates and security deposits for 95/STD VPTs; powering of VPTs on CDMA technology and placement of VPTs on a pre-paid model of functioning, so that the same may be discussed at an early date.

3. Accordingly a meeting was held in the office of the CMD BSNL on 16th November 2007 at 11:00 hrs to discuss the remedial action for improving the performance of Village Public Telephones (VPT).

4. The following officers were present in the meeting:

- a) Sh.Shantanu Consul: Administrator-USOF
- b) Sh.Kuldeep Goyal : CMD BSNL
- c) Sh.A.N Rai: DDG (RN) BSNL
- d) Ms.Archana G Gulati: Jt Administrator-USOF
- e) Sh.Kamal Bhagat: Dy Administrator (T) USOF
- f) Sh.H.G.S Dhakad: Dy Administrator (F) USOF
- g) Sh.Dipankar Mahto: Dy Administrator (F) USOF

5. A presentation on the importance of VPTs to rural India, the ground reality regarding the functioning of VPTs and the corrective action needed on the part of BSNL was given by Joint Administrator (F), Mrs. Archana. G. Gulati. A hard copy of the presentation is annexed (Annexure I). During the presentation it was underlined that if VPT scheme is properly implemented it will not only achieve the important socio-economic objective of mainstreaming the rural economy which the scheme envisages but will also prove to be a viable business proposition for both the custodians and BSNL.

