

**No. 30-258/2019-USF**  
**Department of Telecommunications**  
**Office of the Administrator, USO Fund**

**Dated: 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2021**

To

**M/s Bharti Hexacom Limited**

Airtel Center, Plot No. 16

Udyog Vihar, Phase-IV

Gurugram, Haryana-122015

**Subject: Clarification/Amendment regarding clause No. 2.5 & 5.3.5 of agreement No. 30-252-7/2019-USF dated 04.09.2020 with M/s Bharti Hexacom Ltd. for "Provision of 4G based mobile services in identified uncovered villages & along National Highways in Meghalaya."**

Mobile connectivity in the uncovered villages and along National Highways in Meghalaya is being provided under the instant agreement. The issue of identification of villages for installation of tower and associated infrastructure for providing mobile services has been raised by the Universal Service Provider (USP) due to pre-existing mobile coverage in some of the villages.

2. The relevant clauses of the agreement are reproduced below:

*"Clause 2.5: Installation of tower and associated infrastructure in an uncovered village is not required if it is already covered from any type of technology i.e. 2G or 3G or 4G or a combination thereof through any TSP or the same can be covered by the towers to be installed along National Highways. The same should be duly justified and certified by the USP".*

*"Clause 5.3.5: Installation of tower and associated infrastructure in an uncovered village is not required if it is already covered from any type of technology i.e. 2G or 3G or 4G or a combination thereof through any TSP or the same can be covered by the towers to be installed along National Highways. The USP is advised to verify non-availability of the coverage in the villages before installing equipment for which it intends to claim support from Universal Service Obligation Fund. No claims shall be admissible for cases of duplicate/ redundant infrastructure sites/ towers. Partially covered village will be considered as covered."*

3. The matter has been examined in DoT and it has been decided that the USP's claim for support from USOF shall be admissible for installation of tower and associated infrastructure only in those villages where the following criteria is met:

*"Less than 60% street level coverage (including paths used by people, where "streets" are not there) of mobile services pre-exists in the inhabited areas of the village from a single operator as per the criteria specified in DoT's applicable Test Schedule & Test Procedure (TSTP)".*

This issues with the approval of competent authority.



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