



**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & ELECTRONICS**  
**MONI BHANDAR (5<sup>TH</sup>&6<sup>TH</sup>) FLOOR, BLOCK- EP&GP,**  
**SECTOR-V, SALT LAKE, KOLKATA-700 091.**  
**Phone : 2357-2545, Fax : 2357- 2534.**

No: 36-Secy/ITE-17013/2/2025

Dated: 22/05/2026

**ORDER**

Whereas, Amended BharatNet programme has been approved by the Union Cabinet on 04.08.2023 with an objective to provide Broadband services to all Gram Panchayats and Villages on demand basis, across the Country and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has been appointed as the single Project Management Agency (PMA) with overall responsibility for construction, upgradation, Operation & Maintenance (O&M) and utilisation of BharatNet.

Whereas, BharatNet project has been notified as special project vide F.No. 24-01/2024-UBB dated 01.01.2025 under sub-rule (1) of rule 12 of Telecommunications (Right of Way) Rules 2024 notified vide F. No. 24-01/2024-UBB dated 17.09.2024 and;

Whereas, a notification towards the implementation of Telecommunications (Right of Way) Rules, 2024 was notified by the Department of Information Technology & Electronics, Government of West Bengal vide 428-IT/O/09/2026 dated 15/05/2026.

Whereas, an Addendum to the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated 18.5.2026, has been signed between Govt. of India, Government of West Bengal and BSNL , the BharatNet Project Management Agency for smooth execution of Amended BharatNet Program.

Now, therefore, to implement the above objective, following instructions are hereby issued for necessary compliance by the concerned authorities under the administrative control of Government of West Bengal.

Accordingly, **all public entities shall accord necessary permission/clearance/NOC, as the case may be, for the implementation of BharatNet project strictly in accordance with Rule 12 of the Telecommunication (Right of Way) Rules, 2024.**

**No entry fee, no Right of Way charges, fee, rent annuity, compensation, bank guarantee or any other financial contribution in any form whatsoever shall be levied for laying, granting access, establishment, operation, maintenance of the BharatNet network OR for the restoration of the site where BharatNet infrastructure will be located.**

**Power Supply Providers/utilities shall give and also accord permissions/sanction on their transmission/sub-transmission lines/distribution lines to BSNL for installation of Optical Grounded Wire (OPGW)/All Dielectric Self Supported(ADSS)/Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) .**

**For the use of forest land for the underground laying of cables, a similar procedure may be adopted keeping in mind the guidelines under Forest Conservation Act or any others prevailing Act or Statutes/Rules etc.**

**These shall be in force, during lifetime of the BharatNet Project i.e during execution & O&M phase.**

Hence, following necessary actions shall be undertaken by the respective departments as well as by BSNL :

### **Laying OFC in Roads/Bridges :-**

**The Facility of laying Optical Fibre (OF) cable along the roads and other State properties will be provided at no cost. The OF cable shall be laid through HDD (Horizontal Direct Drilling) or OT (Open Trench) at the edge of the Right of Way within two meter utility corridor to the best possible extent. No charge of any kind will be levied for providing this Right-of-Way.**

- **BSNL shall ensure restoration of the excavated pits/trenches for drilling/laying cables by proper filling and compaction, so as to restore the excavated land to the previous condition as it was before digging the pit/trench.**
- **The BSNL shall shift the Optical Fibre Cable (OFC)/High Density Poly Ethylene (HDPE) ducts within 90 days from the date of issue of the notice by the concerned department / Gram Panchayats/Urban local bodies, Govt companies or agencies(referred to as Parastatal's hereinafter) to shift / relocate the Optical Fibre Cable (OFC)/High Density Poly Ethylene (HDPE) ducts in case it is so required for the purpose of improvement/widening of the road/route/highway or construction of flyover/bridges and restore the road/land to its original condition at its own cost and risk.**
- **Wherever free OFC ducts are available along the intended line of OFC, the same will be allowed to be used by BSNL.**
- **Regarding existing underground installations/utilities and other cables, etc. the BSNL shall be responsible to ascertain their locations from the respective agencies in coordination with concerned Departments/Parastatals. The BSNL shall ensure the safety and**

security of already existing cables/underground installations/utilities/facilities etc. before commencement of the excavation.

- **BSNL will issue letter of assurance to the State Government to the extent that it would evolve a mechanism to prevent damage to the existing underground utilities and in case of any damage, it will take necessary steps to restore the same to the original conditions at its (BSNL) own cost in arrangement with the designated implementing agencies/contractors.**
- BSNL has to cut the road by horizontal drilling method (trenchless technology) to the best possible extent. In case any damage is caused to the road/pavement in this process, the BSNL shall restore the same to the original condition at its own cost.
- Existing Cross Drainage (CD) work shall not be allowed for the laying of the optical fibre cable and shall be cut by Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) method to the best possible extent.
- No Open Trenching will be allowed on pucca road. HDD / Manual Boring method will be used in pucca road and cable will be laid at the extreme edge of the road in the non-BT surface only.
- The permission granted shall not in any way be deemed to convey to BSNL any ownership right or any interest in route/road/highway/land/property, other than what is expressly granted in the MoU already signed.
- The BSNL shall have to provide barricading, danger lighting and other necessary caution boards while executing the work and its maintenance.
- If any traffic diversion work is found necessary during the working period, such diversion shall be provided at the cost of BSNL.
- If concerned Department/ Parastatal is required to do some emergent work, the BSNL will provide an observer within 24 hours from such

request. Concerned Departments/Parastatals will not be responsible for any damage of any kind by any means, natural or otherwise.

• **Space and Infrastructure : -**

- **For housing Routers/Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS), suitable indoor space with proper upkeep shall be provided at the Block Offices, Gram Panchayat or any other suitable govt. building, free of cost for placement and operation of BharatNet equipment. Further unhindered access on a 24\*7 basis shall be ensured to the BSNL or its authorized agency for operation & maintenance of network equipment wherever installed.**
- The OFC laying using HDD/Open trenching in the Roads constructed or maintained by Zilla Parishad/Gram Panchayat needs to be allowed at no cost for BharatNet Project .

**The authorized Officer of the concerned Block/Gram Panchayat or the Government building where the BharatNet equipment will be installed, will act as a custodian of the installed network instrument.** In the event of the emergencies such as fire, flood or other natural or man-made calamities, the custodian shall take appropriate preventive & protective measure for the equipment, strictly in accordance with the guideline issued by BSNL.

BSNL shall apply to get their own power connection for the installed equipment from the Power Discom and the Block/Panchayat & Rural Development authorities have to extend the cooperation required in this regard in the form of Single NOC for the state.

○ **Electricity connection in Block & GP location :-**

**BSNL or its representative shall apply for electrical connection for the installed BharatNet router along with other equipment in the Gram Panchayat or Government buildings. Uninterrupted electricity will be**

**ensured for all BharatNet network Equipment through separate electricity connection, on the basis of the fixed monthly charges as may be recorded** in Smart Meters. Such fixed monthly charges shall be determined based on load capacity (Max 1 KW) of the installed network equipment and the applicable rural, industrial or special tariff, whichever is the lowest. **The concerned power distribution companies (Discoms) shall enter into formal agreement with the BharatNet PMA (BSNL) for this purpose. Payment of the fixed monthly electricity charges, as per predefined usage norms shall be made by BharatNet PMA on a Single centralized bill basis against single customer application form (CAF) to be paid by BSNL.**

- All State Electricity Distribution & Transmission authorities shall allow existing poles owned by them to BSNL free of cost for laying All-Dielectric Self-Supporting(ADSS) optical fibre cable where HDD(Horizontal Direct Drilling) or OT (Open Trenched) is not possible. BSNL will submit such requirement to the Electrical Distribution or Transmission authorities prior to such requirements.
- For the purpose of ensuring redundancy & reliable back haul connectivity, six to eight optical fibres from all ADSS/OPGW network constructed or owned by electricity transmission & distribution authorities may be made available to BSNL for Internet Lease Line (ILL) back haul connectivity to the BharatNet network, either free of cost or on an actual cost basis. Additionally for connecting non Gram panchayat villages, the use of existing OPGW infrastructure maintained by the state or it's Discoms shall be permitted between villages and the nearest tapping point of BharatNet ring.

○ **OFC laying in forest area :-**

- **BSNL will apply in the required portal dedicated for such approvals and comply to the Forest Conservation Rules and regulations .**

Concerned Departments may apply Fiber to the Home (FTTH) connections through BharatNet for their village level Government Institutions such as School, Aanganwadi, Police Station, Health Centre, Panchayat Office, etc., which will help towards delivery of social services through e-governance.

**Concerned Departments shall appoint a Nodal Officer for effective coordination on BharatNet issues.**

The above instructions shall be in force, during lifetime of BharatNet project, i.e. during execution and O&M phase. Further, the concerned Department is also requested to issue the instructions to their concerned officials at District/Block/Panchayat level for implementing the above instructions.

The order is issued in Public Interest.



Secretary to the  
Government of West Bengal  
Information Technology & Electronics  
Department

No: 36-Secy(1/9)/ITE-17013/2/2025

Dated: 22/05/2026

Copy forwarded for kind information and necessary action to :-

1. The Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Telecommunications, Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi.

2. The Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/ Secretary, Department (all), Government of West Bengal.
3. The Special Director General, West Bengal LSA, 82, Ballygunj Place, 2nd Floor, Kolkata-19.
4. The Managing Director, WBEIDC Ltd, Block EP & GP, Sector-V, Salt Lake, Kolkata 91
5. The Chief General Manager, BSNL, West Bengal Telecom, CTO Building Red Cross Place , Kolkata-1.
6. The District Magistrate, District (all), West Bengal.
7. The Sr. P.S. to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal.
8. The SPA to the Secretary, IT&E deptt Govt. of West Bengal.
9. The SPA to the Special Secretary, IT&E deptt. Govt. of West Bengal.



Special Secretary to the  
Government of West Bengal  
Information Technology & Electronics  
Department



Government of West Bengal  
Information Technology & Electronics Department  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Moni Bhandar, Webel Bhawan Complex  
Block – EP & GP, Sector – V, Salt Lake, Kolkata – 700091  
Phone : 033 2357-2533 Email : [secit@wb.gov.in](mailto:secit@wb.gov.in)

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No. 428-IT/O/09/2026

Date : 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2026

### NOTIFICATION

WHEREAS in the reference to the D.O. No.5-6/2024(186123) dt.11.11.2024, the Secretary, Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India has informed that the DoT has notified the **Telecommunications (Right of Way) Rules, 2024** in accordance with the Telecommunication Act, 2023. It was further informed that the Telecommunications (RoW) Rules, 2024 are now mandatorily followed without any need for going through the adoption process and the Rules would stand implemented.

NOW THEREFORE, the Governor is pleased hereby to state that the **Telecommunications (Right of Way) Rules, 2024** in accordance with the Telecommunication Act, 2023 (44 of 2023), framed by the Govt. of India shall be deemed to have been come into effect on and from 01.01.2025 in the State of West Bengal. I am directed to inform that the said rules shall mandatory be followed by the various Departments including statutory authorities, non-statutory authorities including various parastatals under the administrative control of the State Government.

I am further directed to state that **the West Bengal Telecom Infrastructure Guidelines, 2023**, stands rescinded forthwith.

Secretary