

SANCHAR NIGAM EXECUTIVES' ASSOCIATION MAHARASHTRA CIRCLE



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To,

Hon'ble Director (Consumer Mobility)
BSNL New Delhi.

No. SNEA/MH/Cir Corr/2019-23/

Dated at Mumbai the 7th Sept 2021.

Sub: Welcome to Maharashtra Circle and request to look into certain issues related to CM growth in Maharashtra Circle including MTNL Mumbai.

Respected Sir,

On behalf of all executives of Sanchar Nigam Executives Association (SNEA), Maharashtra, we welcome you in Maharashtra Circle. I would like to thank you for giving us opportunity and spare some time despite your busy schedule. Despite various constraints CGMT MH and team CM MH Circle is doing its best and any issues are being resolved on priority, and if certain issues are resolved by BSNL CO, then the sincere efforts by CGMT MH and team GSM MH Circle will yield fruitful results, MH circle is managing mobile services nicely under your leadership, Sir we are sure, if following issues are looked into by corporate office under your guidance, MH circle will certainly attain a better position in terms of availability and revenue. Sir we find out certain issues listed below where your kind intervention is required for betterment of GSM services in Maharashtra including MTNL Mumbai:

- 1. Request Retention of 6.2 MHz Spectrum in 900 MHz:** Spectrum in the 1800 MHz band has already been surrendered in the MH circle. Dual band sites which were working with high capacity of 900 MHz + 1800 MHz bands are now operating in 900 MHz band only, carrying all the voice traffic. Also in Cities like Pune, Nagpur, Nasik having high density of sites and inter-site distance is very less, it will be difficult to maintain Uplink and downlink Quality with reduced spectrum due to more Co-channel & adjacent channel interference. Currently the voice traffic is on an upsurge in MH circle. There has been an increase of 46% in the last 2 years. Reduction in spectrum will create capacity issues (congestion) in high traffic carrying sites, and quality of service issues (like more Co-channel & adjacent channel interference) in Dense networks like Pune, Nagpur, Nashik cities and also at very high traffic areas in Konkan region, sensitive tribal areas of Gadchiroli/Dhule. As such it will reduce the overall capacity of the NW, with already procured existing HW. In case, it is not possible to retain the existing 1.2 MHz Spectrum in 900 MHz, MH circle may please be allotted 1500 nos of

3G/4G equipment and 5 MHz spectrum for 4G services for replenishing the reduced capacity due to spectrum reduction. Traffic will be catered by commissioning additional RATs with the new 5 MHz Spectrum.

2. **Urgent requirement of 4G services in Maharashtra:** In this highly competitive mobile services, where other operators are providing 4G services and planning to roll out 5G services in Maharashtra, It is need of hour to provide 4G services immediately by at least upgrading Phase VIII.4 Nokia 3G equipment to 4G. In Maharashtra approximately 4100 Nodes can be converted to 4G by this Upgradation within a short span of time. The Sindhudurg and Gadchiroli are the best performing SSAs of MH in terms of revenue earning where additional 4G BTSs may be allotted to increase revenue.
3. **Replacement of life Expired Battery and Power plants for increasing uptime:** No batteries have been replaced since the last two years in MH circle, approximately 2000 life expired batteries require immediate replacement. It is reported that the Corporate office has allotted about 400 sets for MH circle which will certainly help but more sites are in rural areas and electricity outage is about 4-6 Hrs in MH, sites are failing due to poor or zero battery backup. Similarly some of the power plants are very old and controllers and modules are faulty. Due to this the life of batteries are also reduced. The alarm extension from these faulty PPs are also not possible hence monitoring and restoration also affected. Hence kind intervention of your good self is required in replacement of old and life expired batteries and power plants.
4. **Timely payment of electricity bills:** In Maharashtra Circle, earlier the monthly expenditure on electricity bill was more than 25 crore, thanks to electrical wing effort it is brought down to 21 crore but MH circle is getting less amount from CO. Due to this EB provider disconnecting supply for nonpayment resulting in loss of revenue and increase in outage on an average of 5 days.
5. **Long pending payment of Rent to owners:** every month a good number of sites are down due to long pending rent payment to owners, either owners not allowing access to the sites or switching off the sites for want of rent.
6. **Timely payment to outsource CM agencies:** In the recent past it is reported that technicians of outsource agencies stop work every month as they are not being paid by their employer. Since BSNL is not paying them in time and their outstanding is about more than 10 crore. Due to this BSNL maintenance services hampering frequently.
7. **Equipment locked by GTL:** In Maharashtra Circle more than 300 nodes are locked by GTL where in more than 150 are new Nokia equipment. It is also reported that now working non-disputed sites are also being switched off by GTL. Some of the equipment were already recovered by the BSNL team after meeting with owners directly. Your kind intervention is required for recovery of equipment from locked sites.
8. **Tower vendor payment (CIVIL WORK):** Due to outstanding payments vendors have stopped tower erection works, presently more than 70 tower foundations have been

completed but erection is pending for want of funds. These towers are pending in high revenue earning areas in Sindhudurg and Gadchiroli.

9. **Special approval and allotment for new OFC routes in Maharashtra Circle and Media Issues:** In Maharashtra Circle large number of civil works like road widening, new highways started in recent past due to which BSNL OFC cables are being damaged resulting in prolonged outage in BSNL services, Special approval for laying new OFC routes as alternate media is required. Alternate media like Microwave/radio modem may be provided for reducing the media outage. Since BSNL plans to launch 4G services, backhaul must be upgraded before launch of 4G to avoid low speed issues.
10. **GGSN Upgradation:** It is reported that data traffic in the west zone is stagnated and GGSN capacity to be increased. It is learnt that a proposal is submitted by Nodal for making GGSN 1+0 to increase the capacity, it is requested to kind honor to approve or additional GGSN may be provided to cater the load of the west zone. Frequent issues in IGW needs to be resolved on priority as it is hampering the BSNL services.
11. **Takeover of MTNL Mumbai Mobile operations by BSNL MH Circle: As per the BSNL Co order, Maharashtra Circle has taken over mobile operations from 1st Sept 2021. Following points needs to be considered for betterment of MTNL services:**
- I. MTNL Mumbai is the economic capital of India, Mumbai Operation may turn into a gold mine if we can deploy OLTs at Mobile sites and provide FTTH connections using existing OFC.
 - II. Operational fund may be arranged
 - III. Capex expenditure for replacement of more than 10 years old battery/PP and other infra may be allowed to be done on MTNL sites.
 - IV. It is reported by MTNL that 2G equipment installed is more than 15 years old and obsolete, having no support from vendors that needs to be replaced with 4G immediately .Most of the equipment of MTNL is out of AMC and needs some arrangement for maintenance of these equipment.
 - V. Some BTSs of MTNL are still on copper pairs and need to be replaced by OFC or MW.
 - VI. Exclusive team of BSNL may be formed for MTNL operations.

We would like to thanks again for giving us the opportunity to express our views and request your honor to look into the above points so that GSM services in MH including Mumbai can be improved further.

Thanking you,

Sd/-
M. N. Kotambe,
Asst. Circle Secretary,
SNEA Maharashtra.

Copy to: Hon'ble CGMT MH Circle for information please