

Room No. 14B(1st Floor), Raniganj Coal House, 3A, Chowringhee Place,Kolkata-700013. Phone 2228-8955, 2228-3434/09433344333

SANCHAR NIGAM EXECUTIVES’ ASSOCIATION (INDIA)

# WEST BENGAL CIRCLE

## Ref. No. WBC/CGM/ 2013-14/ 2 Dated at Kolkata, the 09.12.2014

To

The CGM/ WBTC,

1, Council House Street,

Kolkata – 700 001.

**Sub:-- USO sites-- proposals.**

Sir,

With due respect I would like to inform that Govt. of India, in order to spread GSM services at the deepest rural parts of India, erected towers and asked all GSM service providers to install BTS equipments through sharing of common infrastructures like tower and Electricity etc. BSNL on behalf of GOI built towers through civil wing and engine-alternators were installed by Electrical wing and ultimately in 2008 some GSM service providers started operating by installing BTS in those areas. These BTS sites are termed as USO site as USO organisation funded and supervised the project. In some such USO sites BSNL also started GSM service. For incurring running expenditure, electrical wing of BSNL were getting funds from USO organisation. As per terms & condition that fund was available for 5 years which ended by 03.11.2013. The other service providers were also paying for sharing of infrastructures to the Electrical wing and in turn to BSNL. As soon as the five year term was over the other service providers withdrawn their GSM service from those USO sites.

In West Bengal there were total 163 USO sites out of which in 86 sites BSNL provides GSM service. In 144 sites Electricity Board(EB) power supply is available, remaining 18 sites totally dependent on E/A, and 1 site runs on Solar power. The modality for non-EB( 18 ) sites as set by electrical wing is, the Engine will run for 8-10 Hours per day and the rest period that means rest 14-16 Hours service providers have to arrange power supply from their own battery banks.

As long the USO funds were available those sites were profitable on books. Presently funds are unavailable both from USO organization and other service providers and hence electrical wing are not supplying diesel for NON-EB sites as well as EB sites also.

USO sites in West Bengal maintained by electrical wing—A breakup:--

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SlNo | District | Service provider’s presence | | | | Present radiation status |
| RCL | Vodafone | BSNL | |
| 1 | NADIA | 10 | NIL | NIL | | EB available in all sites. |
| 2 | DERJEELING | 2 | NIL | NIL | | EB available in all sites. |
| 3 | JALPAIGURI | 1 | NIL | NIL | | EB available in all sites. |
| 4 | BARDHAMAN | 6 | NIL | NIL | | EB available in all sites. |
| 5 | BIRBHUM | 11 | NIL | NIL | | EB available in all sites. |
| 6 | MURSHIDABAD | 14 | NIL | NIL | | EB available in all sites. |
| 7 | MALDA | 10 | NIL | NIL | | EB available in all sites. |
| 8 | UTTAR DINAJPUR | 13 | NIL | NIL | | EB available in all sites. |
| 9 | DAKSHIN DINAJPUR | 110 | NIL | NIL | | EB available in all sites. |
| **TOTAL** | | **77** | **0** | | **0** |  |
| 10 | MIDNAPUR | 35 | 35 | | 35 | EB supply available in all sites. 24 sites are radiating at present. Rest 11 sites halted. Average Income from 24 sites= 10-12thousand per month per site. Only **Sirshi** site is justified (income 80 thousand). Baraparua, Bamundiha, Kajichak & Mongalpara can be retained (income in and around 30 thousand).**Except the 5 sites mentioned above, rest 30 sites may be closed.** |
| 11 | HOWRAH | 1 | 1 | | 1 | EB available. Average income per month is 24 thousand & can be retained. |
| 12 | HOOGHLY | 1 | 1 | | 1 | EB available. Average income per month is 20 thousand & can be retained. |
| 13 | NORTH 24 PGS | 10 | 10 | | 10 | EB supply available in 7 sites & 3 NON-EB sites. Only 5 sites are radiating. Average income per BTS is Rs 10-12 thousand from 5 radiating sites per month. Rest 5 sites are halted. Only 2 sites (Deopul & Labanga) out of 10 sites can be retained. **Rest 8 sites can be closed.** |
| 14 | SOUTH 24 PGS | 18 | 18 | | 18 | EB supply available in 2 sites and 1 site runs on Solar Panel and rest 15 sites runs on DG. Only 3 sites are up and rest 15 sites are halted. Average per month income from 3 radiating sites is Rs 4000. **All sites should be closed.** |
| 15 | BANKURA | 11 | 11 | | 11 | As this district comes under Maoist active area hence sites cannot be closed. But all 11 site having EB supply. |
| 16 | PURULIA | 10 | 10 | | 10 | As this district comes under Maoist active area hence sites cannot be closed. But all 10 site having EB supply. |

In a nutshell the brief expenditure per month is as follows

**For ‘EB’ sites:**

**Watch & Ward/Rent Rs. 10000/-**

**Electricity Bill Rs. 12000/- minimum**

**Diesel for E/A Rs. 10000/- minimum**

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**Total Rs. 32000/- minimum**

**For ‘Non-EB’ sites:**

**Watch & Ward/Rent Rs. 8000/-**

**Diesel for E/A Rs. 12000/-minimum ( For E/A running duration 7/8 hrs)**

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**Total Rs. 20000/- minimum**

For both ‘EB’ and “Non-EB’ sites –

For E/A repair and maintenance Rs.3000/- and should be added up both with A) & B).

For Non-EB sites, the batteries are completely damaged because the running of E/A for 7/8 hrs per day is not at all sufficient to make the batteries healthy. Customer presence is very very poor in the said sites as they are not served for 24X7.

**Hence we strongly propose to close all the 97 sites on first priority basis where 77 sites (sl 1 to sl 9)and 17 sites in South 24 Parganas and 3 sites in North 24 Parganas, as cited above.**

Then all 56 non-viable sites except 9 sites in five districts mentioned above and tower etc may be deployed suitably in urban areas as BSNL is not getting any subsidy from USO and from other operators also. Minimum establishment expenditure (Watch & Word, Rent, minimum Electricity Bill) per site is about Rs 12,000/- per month when BTS is not radiating for months together.

**Although there is specific Order from corporate office (vide No. 3-1/USO twrs/Civil-2014 dated 22/07/2014 issued by DGM(C), USO Project, Corporate Office, New Delhi) to close all such sites and redeploy the infrastructure in urban/ commercially viable areas but no initiative has been taken to close those sites, rather we are waiting to install 77 BTS equipment (sl 1 to sl 9) for GSM service in Phase VII.**

This is astonishing because from those sites from where other operators had left BSNL will make profit which can’t be realistic.

Total monthly expenditure WBTC is incurring for USO BTSs is as follows:--

There are 77 sites (serial No. 1 to 9) where BSNL didn’t put BTS at all and there are 31 sites halted out of rest 86 sites where BSNL has put up BTS, so a total of 108 BTS where BSNL is not radiating at all but expenditure per site is minimum Rs 12000/-, hence a total of **Thirteen Lacs Rupees per month BSNL is expending without a single penny return. Yearly which amounts to one crore fifty five Lacs.**

Therefore I request your personal intervention for materialize our proposals at the earliest possible time so that we can save at least 1.5 Crore per year and can earn expected revenue by redeploying those infrastructure in a commercially viable area.

Thanking you,

Sincerely yours,

(TAPAS GHIOSH) Circle Secretary,

SNEA (I), West Bengal Circle.

Enclosed for kind intimation

1. Letter of Corporate Office vide No. 3-1/USO TWRS/Civil-2014 Dated: 22/07/2014.

Copy for kind intimation and necessary action to:

1. The Sr. GM/CM,WBTC
2. The Chief Engineer/ Electrical, WBTC.