

Dues Amount Close To 1500 Crores, TAIPA Urges BSNL For Urgent Clearance

New Delhi, 10th April, 2020: Tower & infrastructure Providers Association (TAIPA) has urged the Department of Telecommunications (DOT) for urgent intervention and support in clearing the dues of their IP members for maintaining 24*7 continuity of telecom operations at BSNL tower sites with regard to COVID 19 outbreak in the country.

In a letter to Shri P.K.Purwar, Chairman & Managing Director, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), TAIPA whose members include Indus Towers Limited, ATC Telecom Infrastructure Pvt Limited, Bharti Infratel Limited and Tower Vision Limited. Sterlite Technologies Limited, Space Telelink Limited, Applied Solar Technologies and Coslight India Limited, said **“There is an urgent need for intervention and support regarding clearance of outstanding dues of our IP – 1 members due to which our members are facing huge cash crunch which is leading to following challenges with regard to ensuring 24*7 telecom operations on telecom tower sites of BSNL in view of present situation due to COVID-19:**

- a. **Difficulty in payment of rentals to the landlords:** Landlords where BSNL sites are installed have been demanding the payment of rentals and threatening for coercive action.
- b. **Difficulty in payment of electricity bills of BSNL tower sites.**
- c. **Challenges in Operation & Maintenance (O&M) expenses for 24*7 telecom operation of BSNL tower sites.**
- d. **Procurement of diesel/batteries and other back up storage devices for telecom towers sites of BSNL is getting impacted.**
- e. **Challenges in keeping the uptime as per SLA's for BSNL tower sites which is leading to BSNL network outage and blackouts in nearby areas of the sites.**

Mr.T.R.Dua, Director-General, Tower & infrastructure Providers Association (TAIPA), said, “The situation has become highly critical now with total outstanding dues from BSNL amounting to approx. ₹1500 crore which has been pending for long. Already the telecom industry is going through financial crisis, this is an addition to the financial woes of the telecom IP-1 players who are working tirelessly for ensuring 24/7 connectivity across the country. We are looking forward for an urgent intervention and support from the CMD, BSNL in the matter.