

TAIPA Writes To Ministry of Power For Uninterrupted Electricity Supply For Telecom Towers.

New Delhi, 13th April, 2020: Tower & infrastructure Providers Association (TAIPA) has urged Shri Sanjiv Nandan Sahai - Ministry of Power Secretary, for support in ensuring uninterrupted supply of electricity and priority connections for telecom towers” across the country during the lockdown period with regard to Novel Corona Virus (COVI19) outbreak.

In a letter to Shri Sanjiv Nandan Sahai - Ministry of Power Secretary, TAIPA whose members include all key players in the telecom infrastructure sector i.e. Indus Towers Limited, ATC Group Companies, Bharti Infratel, GTL Infrastructure, Reliance Infratel, Tower Vision, Sterlite Technologies and Space Teleinfra, said **“While the necessary support has been extended by the various State Electricity Distribution companies so far, we would further like to seek your support in ensuring uninterrupted EB supply for telecom towers, which is critical for continued operations of telecom services. In light of the fact that telecom is classified as critical service during the present lockdown and work from home situation in the country, it is serving as the backbone for various other services such as e-commerce, banking & finance, e-governance, e-education, healthcare etc.**

Therefore, TAIPA **requests for following support** from **Ministry of Power** to enable telecom industry for ensuring 24*7 continuity of telecom services in the country:

- a. To advise all the State Governments and State Electricity Companies across the country for ensuring availability of **24x7 uninterrupted electricity supply for telecom tower** operations.
- b. **All State Electricity Distribution Companies to give electricity connections on “priority” for telecom tower sites** in view of present situation to make them operational for telecom services.
- c. **No penalty to be charged** on account of any delay in EB bill payment of telecom towers since bill receiving / collection and payment is impacted due to lock down.
- d. **No Coercive action** like disconnection etc to be taken on account of any delay in EB bill payment of telecom towers since bill receiving/collection and payment are impacted because of lockdown.
- e. **Availability of online bills** and mandatory registration for online bill payment. Telecom Infrastructure Providers may also be granted at least 45 days of grace period for EB bill payments.
- f. **In case of EB failure on telecom tower sites restoration of EB to be ensured on priority**, and on an immediate basis since back-ups like Battery may take time due to movement restrictions.

Mr.T.R.Dua, Director-General, Tower & infrastructure Providers Association(TAIPA), said ,” Needless to mention, telecom infrastructure (telecom towers) are the backbone to ensure the availability of critical telecom services needed in this emergent situation arisen due to COVID-19 outbreak in the country. Such network infrastructure thus developed by our members can be made available to ensure 24*7 telecom operations in all the States. TAIPA requests for an urgent intervention and support from the Ministry of Power on the above mentioned points in order to expedite the rollout of the telecom network (telecom towers) at the faster pace in the States during this crisis situation and thus help in combating the impact due to Coronavirus pandemic.