

Item No. D-12

Court on its own motion Vs. State of HP & others a/w connected matter

CWPIL No. 114 of 2024 a/w CWPIL No. 1398 of 2018.

02.07.2025 Present: Court on its own motion in CWPIL No. 114 of 2024.

None for the petitioner in CWPIL No. 1398 of 2018.

Mr. Pranay Pratap Singh, Additional Advocate General, for the respondents-State.

Mr. Rajinder Thakur, Central Government Counsel, for respondent No. 4/Union of India.

Mr. Vijay Kumar Arora, Senior Advocate with Ms. Godawari, Ms. Lalita Sharma, Mr. Gaurav Kumar, Mr. Hitansh Raj and Ms. Astha Kohli, Advocates, for respondent No. 6-BSNL.

Mr. Ashok Sood, Senior Advocate with Ms. Pooja Verma, Advocate, for respondent No. 7-Airtel.

Mr. Suneet Goel, Senior Advocate with Mr. Vivek Negi, Advocate, for respondent No. 8-Reliance Jio Infocomm.

Ms. Seema K. Guleria, Advocate, for respondent No. 9.

Ms. Nimish Gupta, Advocate, for respondent No. 11.

Mr. Mukesh Thakur, Advocate, for respondent No. 12.

Mr. Sandeep Dutta, Advocate, for respondent No. 13.

As per the affidavit dated 18.06.2025 filed by Mr. Mayank Negi, Deputy Controller of Communication Accounts, Shimla, five State Broadband Committee (SBC) meetings were held under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary to the Government of Himachal Pradesh. The last such meeting was held on 27.07.2024. Almost a year has passed after the last meeting. Copy of the said affidavit has now been supplied to the Counsel for the State for further instructions regarding the next meeting.

2. The affidavit would also go on to show that out of 354 uncovered villages, only 42 villages have now been covered. Similarly, under the 4G Saturation Scheme, out of 1092 villages, only 729 villages have been covered. Further, for the Border Outpost Coverage (BOPs) and Border Intelligence Post (BIPs), out of 16 villages, only 2 villages have been covered. Thus, the table given in the said affidavit would go on to show that out of total 1151 villages, only 773 villages have been covered.

3. Accordingly, fresh affidavit be filed by the respondents concerned including the BSNL, to

show as what steps have been taken to do the full coverage. State shall also file an affidavit as to when the next meeting of the State Broadband Committee (SBC) would be convened.

List on **13.08.2025.**

(G.S. Sandhawalia)
Chief Justice.

(Ranjan Sharma)
Judge

July 02, 2025
(hemlata)