

Government of India
Ministry of Communications
Department of Telecommunications
Sanchar Bhawan, 20-Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001
(DS Cell)

No. DS-11/143/2023-DS-III

Dated : 11.09.2023

To,

All Internet Service Providers (ISPs) Licensees.

Subject: Scheme for recognition of Internet Service Providers (ISPs) excelling in providing Rural Fiber to the Home (FTTH) connections.

In order to accelerate Rural FTTH connections so as to bridge the digital divide and promote socio economic development of rural India by promoting high speed broadband connections, Department of Telecommunications, GOI, has decided to recognize 3 ISPs of each A, B and C categories (total 9 ISPs) who have provided maximum number of net additions in rural FTTH Connections in a year. The scheme includes ISP VNOs as well. The recognition will be given annually for the net additions from April to March as reported by ISP on Saral Sanchar portal. First recognition would be for the period 1st April, 2023 to 31st March, 2024.

2. Details of the Scheme are enclosed as **Annexure**.
3. This is issued with the approval of Competent Authority.

Vivek Narayan

(Vivek Narayan)
DDG (DS)

Tel. No. 011-23717050

Encl. - As above

Copy for kind information to

1. Secretary T
2. Member T / Member S, DOT
3. DGT
4. USOF Administrator
5. Secretary TRAI
6. DDG NBM / DDG NT / DDG T O/o DGT / DDG USOF
7. DDG SM for wide publicity of the said Scheme
8. DDG IT – for uploading the Scheme on DOT Website
9. President ISPAI / AIFISPA

(विवेक नारायण)
(VIVEK NARAYAN)
उप महानिदेशक (डेटा सेवा)
Dy. Director General (Data Service)
दूरसंचार विभाग, भारत सरकार
Deptt. of Telecom, Govt. of India
नई दिल्ली / New Delhi

Scheme for recognition of Internet Service Providers (ISPs) excelling in providing Rural Fiber to the Home (FTTH) connections.

In order to accelerate Rural FTTH connections so as to bridge the digital divide and promote socio economic development of rural India by promoting high speed broadband connections, Department of Telecommunications, GOI, has decided to recognize 3 ISPs of each A, B and C categories (total 9 ISPs) who have provided maximum number of net additions in rural FTTH Connections in a year. The scheme includes ISP VNOs as well. The recognition will be given annually for the net additions from April to March as reported by ISP on Saral Sanchar portal. First recognition would be for the period 1st April, 2023 to 31st March, 2024.

2. The details of the recognition are as follows:

i. The recognition would include:

- a. Recognition certificate.**
- b. Name of the ISP would be displayed on DOT website under relevant section.**

ii. The recognition will be subject to the following:

a. The minimum number of net additions in rural FTTH connections in the last financial year should be at least:

- i. 50,000 i.r.o. Category A,**
- ii. 10,000 i.r.o. category B; or**
- iii. 2,000 i.r.o. category C.**

b. In case of ISPs having License / Authorization for multiple service areas, in the same category, the net additions in rural FTTH connections for all his service areas combined in a given category, would be considered. Licensee having both B and C category License / Authorization would be considered for Categories B or C respectively based on the Rural FTTH connections in the respective categories.

For example, if an ISP has License for 2 Category B service areas then his net addition in Rural FTTH connections combined for both Service areas would be considered for recognition for Category B. In case an ISP has License for Category B and Category C service areas then his net addition in Rural FTTH connections would be considered for respective categories. The net additions for Category B and C will not be combined.

c. Connections provided by an ISP VNO will not be counted for NSO.

d. There shall be no License fees due from the ISP as on 31st March of the year for which the recognition is to be given (except for dues which are part of any pending litigation). For example, for the recognition for the period 1.4.23 to 31.3.24 the License fees dues till 31.3.24 should be Nil.

e. ISP has uploaded reports in Saral Sanchar portal preferably for the entire period of his operation or at least up to 31st March of the year for which the recognition is

to be given. For example, for the recognition for the period 1.4.23 to 31.3.24 reports in Saral Sanchar portal should have been uploaded by ISP preferably for the entire period of his operation or at least for the period 1.4.23 to 31.3.24.

f. Rural FTTH connections would be those FTTH connections which are installed within the boundaries of Rural areas as defined vide TRAI Telecommunication Tariff Order, 1999 (copy attached) as amended from time to time.

g. FTTH connections installed during the period of consideration using Government funds (Central / State) would not be considered for the said recognition.

h. DOT reserves the right to get the number of rural FTTH connections claimed by the ISP, verified through its field units / any other entity.

3. A committee of following officers has been constituted for recommending the said recognition on annual basis:

- (i) DDG DS - Chairman
- (ii) DDG T o/o DGT - Member
- (iii) DDG USOF - Member
- (iv) DDG NT - Member
- (v) DDG NBM - Member

Committee may co-opt any other official(s) if required.
