

Ministry of Railways
Railway Board
New Delhi

GM(S&T)
All Zonal Railways

CMD
Railtel Corporation of India Ltd

No.2020/Tele/15(10)/1 (Tower)

dated: 02.06.2020

Sub: Proper Maintenance of Towers.

Ref: (i) Railway Board letter No. 2013/Tele/7(3)/1 Pt dated 19.08.2019

(ii) Railway Board letter No. 2000/Tele/MW/7/RCIL dated 18.12.2017

(iii) Railway Board Telecom Circular No, 03/2013 Dated 21.01.2013

Instructions regarding proper Maintenance of Towers have already been communicated vide Railway Board letters/circular referred at (i),(ii) & (iii). A case of accidental falling of Microwave tower has recently been reported by NCR. Falling of towers has safety concerns and can lead to serious accidents. Hence due importance should be given to maintenance of towers.

Zonal Railways and RCIL are therefore advised to ensure proper maintenance of Towers from safety perspective, proper working of aviation light, structural stability, etc. A 15 days Special drive may also be carried out by Zonal Railways/RCIL to check the following:

1. Structural stability of Tower including foundation etc.
2. Nut bolt tightened including proper fixing of antennas
3. Removal of unused antenna.
4. Testing & proper working of Earthing arrangements
5. Support arrangements.
6. Working of Aviation light.
7. Painting etc so that no rust.
8. Secures area- limited access
9. Identification of unused towers and either handing over to RailTel or their auction based on as is where is basis as per the extent rules.

Further a mechanism for Regular maintenance and Inspections for the towers may be formulated and implemented by Zonal Railways/RCIL.

A Compliance on the above 15 days Special Drive is also solicited from Zonal Railways/RCIL by 30.06.2020 at edtd@rb.railnet.gov.in & dtele@rb.railnet.gov.in.

(Dharmendra Singh)
Director Telecom
Railway Board

(भारत सरकार) GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
(रेल मंत्रालय) MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(रेलवे बोर्ड) (RAILWAY BOARD)

No. 2013/TELE/7(3)/1 PT

New Delhi, Dated: 19.08.2019

PCSTEs,
All Indian Railways.

Chairman & Managing Director,
RailTel Corporation of India,
143, Institutional Area, Sector – 44,
Gurugram – 122 003.

Sub:- Proper Maintenance of Micro-wave tower.

Ref.:- (i) Railway Board letter No.2000/Tele/MW/7/RCIL-A dated 18.12.2007.

(ii) Railway Board Telecom Circular No.No.03/2013 dated 21.01.2013.

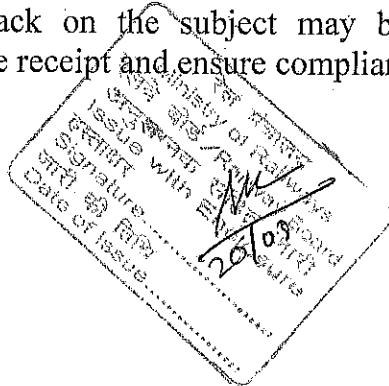
(iii) MST's inspection Note No. 2019/MST/Insp./03 dated 23.07.2019.

During Inspection conducted by Member(S&T) on 21.07.2019, it is observed vide para I (i) as:

“There is an old micro-wave tower in front of the RRI Cabin. This has been handed over to RailTel for letting out to Telecom Service Providers (TSP) for fixing their antennas. It is seen that the tower has started rusting and there is thick growth of vegetation surrounding the tower base. RailTel should carry out regular maintenance like painting and checking of the fasteners, etc. to ensure that the tower remains safe. Similar situation is also reported of another tower at Chandigarh. RailTel should regularly maintain the towers under their charge.”

Policy regarding Maintenance of Towers has already been communicated vide referred at S.no.(i) & (ii). In view of above, Tower Maintenance agencies i.e. Zonal Railways and Railtel are advised to take necessary steps for proper maintenance of micro-wave tower or any other tower under respective jurisdiction. A survey of the towers may be done and a mechanism for proper maintenance may be placed in order by the maintaining agency.

A feedback on the subject may be furnished to Board by 15.09.2019. Kindly acknowledge the receipt and ensure compliance.



19/08/19
(धर्मन्द्र सिंह)

संयुक्त निदेशक / दूरसंचार

फोन: ☎011-23388504, 030-44613

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S/N 152

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**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR)
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA)
(RAILWAY BOARD)**

No.2000/Tele/MW/7/RCIL-A

New Delhi,
Dated:18.12.07

**The Managing Director,
RailTel Corporation of India Ltd.,
Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001.**

Sub: Handing over Railway Telecom Towers to RailTel.

Ref. RailTel's letter no. nil dated 27.4.07.

1. RailTel vide their letter referred to above has requested Railway Board to issue an authorization to install upto 20 antennae on each Railway tower. This office has examined the proposal in detail and it is felt that issuing blanket approval for installing 20 antennae on a Railway tower may not be possible without having checked the structural stability of towers as the antennae installed have wide variety, different surface areas, weight etc.
2. Key issue before the Board is to facilitate RailTel to install additional antennae, as many numbers as technically feasible, on the microwave towers after ensuring safety of towers. In this regard, two major factors which affect the stability of towers are the antennae load and the quality of maintenance. Therefore, to ensure safety of towers, maintenance of towers should rest with the agency who is loading the towers with additional antennae.
3. Keeping above in view, Board (ME as ML) has approved the following:-
 - (i) Maintenance of towers should be handed over to RailTel on the OFC Routes.
 - (ii) RailTel be authorised to install additional antennae on these towers. However, responsibility of ensuring safety of towers will rest with RailTel.

RailTel will keep CSTE's informed about the additional antennae being installed.
4. RailTel will make room for installing Railway's antennae as and when Railway's need arises. In this regard, Railways will give a notice of 3 months to RailTel.

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18/12/07
(R.C. Adwal)
Exec. Director (Telecom)
Railway Board

Copy to:

Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/All Indian Railways.

भारत सरकार GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
रेल मंत्रालय MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(रेलवे बोर्ड) (RAILWAY BOARD)

सं.2010/Tele/6(2)/1

नई दिल्ली, दिनांक: २१/01/2013

TELECOM CIRCULAR NO. 03/2013

The General Managers/ All Indian Railways,
ALL PUs, CORE/ALD,
DGs/RDSO & Railway Staff College, IG/RPF,
CAOs/COFMOW,DCW,IRPMU & New PUs at Chappra & Raebareli,
Directors/IRISET,IRICEN,IRIEEN,IRIMEE,IRITM.

Sub: Phasing out of Microwave/UHF on Indian Railways.

The guidelines for closure of Microwave system on Indian Railways has been under consideration in Board for some time now. In this regard the following policy guidelines have been approved by Board (ML).

A. Microwave System:

- (i) Analog as well as digital microwave/UHF systems on routes provided with OFC with ring protection should be closed by Railways.
- (ii) Analogue microwave system which is used as a protection path to OFC routes for providing radio patch should also be closed. Railways should manage radio patch circuits by hiring of channels from Telecom Service providers.
- (iii) Digital microwave system being used as protection for OFC link shall continue till such time ring protection is not provided on OFC. The work of ring protection should be expedited.
- (iv) Microwave links utilised for providing strategic connectivity in Northeast Region & other areas and those located away from the track may be retained on need basis.

B. Utilisation of Microwave infrastructure - Released as a result of closure of microwave links:

- (i) Microwave/UHF towers and space released on closure of microwave links, on routes where MTRC system has been sanctioned should be retained and utilised for MTRC system wherever required and the remaining infrastructure should be used for alternative purpose by the division/railway.
- (ii) Towers being used and proposed to be used in future by RailTel may be retained.
- (iii) Spare space required for RailTel may be provided in accordance to the guidelines prescribed in revised agreement signed between MoR and RailTel.
- (iv) Balance space may be used for repairs & maintenance of assets, staff training etc.
- (v) Scrap the towers which are neither being used by RailTel nor by Railways and the space released may be utilised by the divisions/railway.

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- (vi) Microwave towers located away from the track for providing better line of sight and where no OFC communication is available may be retained for usage of these strategic location for railway communication.

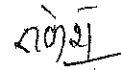
C. Maintenance of microwave towers:

- (i) Analogue as well as digital microwave/UHF towers provided on OFC routes and which have antenna/antennae installed by RailTel alone, will be maintained by RailTel.
- (ii) Digital microwave towers which have antenna/antennae provided by railway alone, will be maintained by railways.
- (iii) Towers which have antennae installed by railway as well as RailTel shall be maintained by RailTel. The maintenance cost of these towers will be shared in the ratio of the number-weight of antennae installed.
- (iv) In case, railway is maintaining the towers, established procedure for installing additional antenna/antennae will be followed for ensuring structural stability of the towers. Similar procedure will be followed in case railway is providing additional antenna on the towers being maintained by RailTel. The responsibility for structure stability and safety of the tower will rest with the agency who will maintain the towers.

D. Re-deployment of microwave maintenance staff:

The Re-deployment of staff released from MW organisation should be dealt as per the provision of Railway Board letter no E(MPP)/99/1/75 dated 28.11.2000 and E(NG)I-2000/SR6/23 dated 25.05.2004. The posts cannot be transferred from one unit to another as detailed in Board's letter no. 2001/Tele/MW/7/C/pt dated 04.04.2006. In this regard instructions as envisaged in Board's letter no. E(MPP)2003/1/88 dated 05.04.2006 be followed.

2. This issues with the concurrence of Finance & Man Power Planning(MPP) Directorate of the Ministry of Railways.
3. Please acknowledge receipt.



(राकेश रंजन)

निदेशक/दूरसंचार

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Copy to:

- (i) CSTEs/All Indian Railways.
- (ii) MD/RailTel for information & necessary action