

SENATE OF PAKISTAN



(Report No.2/2021)

**REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & TELECOM**

*'ON THE SUBJECT MATTER OF POINT OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE RAISED BY
SENATOR DR. JEHANZEB JAMALDINI IN THE SENATE SITTING HELD ON 15TH JULY,
2020, REGARDING NON-AVAILABILITY OF INTERNET FACILITY IN THE AREAS OF
DAAG, AARANJI AND BATTU, ETC, PROVINCE OF BALOCHISTAN.'*

PRESENTED BY

**SENATOR RUBINA KHALID
CHAIRPERSON**

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & TELECOM

1, Chairperson, Standing Committee on I.T & Telecom, would like to present report of the Standing Committee on the subject matter of point of public importance raised by Senator Dr. Jehanzeb Jamaldini in the Senate sitting held on 15th July, 2020, regarding non-availability of internet facility in the areas of Daag, Aaranji and Battu, etc, Province of Balochistan. The matter was referred by the Hon'ble Chairman Senate on 15th July, 2002, for consideration and report.

2. The composition of the Committee is as under: -

1.	Senator Rubina Khalid	Chairperson
2.	Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem	Member
3.	Senator Abdul Rehman Malik	Member
4.	Senator Taj Muhammad Afridi	Member
5.	Senator Fida Muhammad	Member
6.	Senator Faisal Javed	Member
7.	Senator Sana Jamali	Member
8.	Senator Engr. Rukhsana Zuberi	Member
9.	Senator Hilal-ur-Rehman	Member
10.	Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri	Member
11.	Senator Naseebullah Bazai	Member
12.	Senator Muhammad Khalid Bizenjo	Member
13.	Senator Nusrat Shaheen	Member

3. The matter was taken up for consideration in the Committee meetings held on 17.08.2020, 11.09.2020, 25th September, 19th October, 2020, 4th & 9th February, 2021. The last meeting was attended by the following members of the Committee: -

1.	Senator Rubina Khalid	Chairperson
2.	Senator Abdul Rehman Malik	Member
3.	Senator Taj Muhammad Afridi	Member
4.	Senator Sana Jamali	Member
5.	Senator Engr. Rukhsana Zuberi	Member
6.	Senator Muhammad Khalid Bizenjo	Member
7.	Senator Nusrat Shaheen	Member

4. The matter pertains to the non-availability of internet coverage in the various parts of Province of Balochistan i.e. Daag, Aaranji and Battu etc. raised by Senator Dr. Jehanzeb Jamaldini in the Senate sitting held on 15.07.2020.



5. Senator Dr. Jehanzeb Jamaldini, the Mover while apprising the Committee about the issue, thanked the Chairperson for providing him an opportunity to raise the voice for the people of Balochistan. He further said that the people of his Province specially those residing in the areas of Daag, Arangi and Battu have been deprived from the facility of internet coverage due to the non-availability of exact and sufficient coordinates, whereas, various parts of the province of the Balochistan are totally lacking 3G and 4G services due to which major portion of youth particularly students are facing severe problems. He also shared that unfortunately in the 21st century the people of Balochistan are deprived from cellular network coverage as during any emergency, the people are compelled to cover kilometers distance in order to make a phone call to their loved ones for their help. Thereafter, he strongly demanded that the PTA, Universal Services Fund and the Ministry of IT & Telecom in coordination with all other stakeholders should devise a strategy in order to spread latest cellular as well as internet facility across the province of Balochistan on war footing basis.

6. The point of view of Universal Services Fund, PTA as well as Ministry of IT & Telecom was also heard in the various meetings. The representative of USF presenting the entity's point of view apprised the Committee that as per the directions of the PTA as well as Ministry, regarding complaints as highlighted by the hon'ble Senator, the USF had conducted physical surveys of various locations of Balochistan wherein it was analyzed that there was need to strengthen the network signals in some of the areas. He also shared that under the directions of the Standing Committee given earlier, a team of USF alongwith the focal person of Senator Dr. Jehanzeb Jamaldini had conducted field survey of the areas and reproduced as under:-

S. No.	Location	Population (Approx.)	Coverage Status	USF Course Action
1.	Killi Batto	3000	Unserved	Already part of USF NG-BSD Chagai Lot
2.	Zaroocha	3000	Unserved	
3.	Sardar Samad	1500	Unserved	These locations fall within 3kms of intl. border. In light of revised Boarder Area allowances, these locations have been included in the targets of USF NG-BDS Chagai lot.
4.	Anam Bostan	2000	Unserved	
5.	Landi Mahmood Zai-Loc2	1500	Unserved	
6.	Essa Chah	7000	Unserved	The location fall within 10 kms of Intl. Border. However, coverage will be provided under NG-BDS Chagai lot, under revised Border Area allowances by PTA.

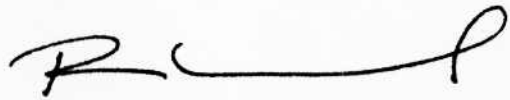
Tender for NG-BDS Chagai Lot has already been launched and bids were originally scheduled to be received on 12th October, 2020. The bidding schedule has been revised due to inclusion of above referred location in the project scope and will now be received on 22nd October, 2020. After

successful bidding process, within 18 months from award of contract, these areas will be provided with voice and high-speed internet services.

7. The Committee discussed the issue at length wherein all perspectives were deliberated with all concerned stakeholders. Other members of the Committee specially those from the province of Balochistan also took part in the discussion and highlighted their problems regarding coverage issues relating to their areas. The Committee raised various other relevant queries which were responded by the concerned quarters. Thereafter, on the assurance given by the USF, the Committee decided to dispose of the matter with the recommendations that beside above highlighted areas, the Universal Services Fund must initiate process for provision of sufficient 3G or 4G network coverage in the area of Sangatabad, Battu, considering the difficulties being faced by the locals of the area.



(HAFEEZULLAH SHEIKH)
AS/Secretary Committee



(SENATOR RUBINA KHALID)
Chairperson of the Committee