

The Madras High Court has issued a notice to the Tamil Nadu government after receiving a petition from Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) that challenges a circular issued by local authorities asking BSNL to pay an annual track rent for laying optical fibre cables along public roads.

The court has directed the Commissioner of Land Administration and the Revenue Department to file their reply within two weeks.

In its plea BSNL has mentioned that it is a central government enterprise and 100 per cent equity share of the company is held by the Union government.

The telco further added that it had duly paid the restoration charges prescribed by the local administration prior to laying optical fibre cables (OFC) in public ways.

BSNL in Erode district alone controls over 120 telephone exchanges and has laid around 2,730 km of OFC in the past 20 years.

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