



Date.....10-03-2023

D.O.No:IT-B1/167/2022-ITD

Dear *Bijn*.

As you are aware, various agencies often undertake excavation activities damaging underground utility assets like Optical Fibre Cables. This may be due to lack of knowledge of excavating agencies about existing utilities or lack of coordination with utility asset owner agencies. These damages cause economic loss to utility asset owners and inconvenience to the public. Therefore, the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, Government of India has come out with a mobile app viz., "Call Before u Dig" (CBuD) for addressing the issues related with coordination between excavation agencies and asset owner agencies. Moreover, the use of this app was made mandatory through the notification of the Indian Telegraph (Infrastructure Safety) Rules, 2022 (Copy enclosed).

In order to on-board the stakeholder departments in the CBuD App and coordinate the activities, an officer from the Kerala State IT Mission has been nominated as State Nodal Officer. In addition to that, the Power Department, Water Resources Department, Public Works Department and Local Self Govt. Department appointed the Departmental Nodal Officers for operating the CBuD App.

As it is mandatory to take necessary steps to protect underground utility assets, I would request you to issue necessary instructions to the

organizations concerned under the administrative control of your department for making use of the CBuD App, in consultation with the State Level Nodal Officer from the Kerala State IT Mission, as early as possible. Shri Subil BS, Manager (Infrastructure) KSITM is the State Level Nodal Officer for this purpose. I would also, request you to issue necessary instructions to the excavating agencies to carry out all types of digging activities after giving prior intimation through the CBuD App.

Warm regards,

Yours Sincerely

[Signature]
17/3/23

To

Sri. K. Biju IAS
Secretary, Public Works Department