

Replies to Bidder's Queries (Batch-10)
Tender ID: USF/SP/OPTICFIBER/2025-26/03

3-June-26

S. No.	Queries	Document Ref:	USF Response
1	Within a cluster, is it permissible to modify the proposed fiber routes and corresponding lengths for network/route optimization, provided that all UCs and unserved areas are fully covered of that cluster? In such a case, the total fiber route length may be optimized of that cluster compared to the lengths specified by USF OR do we have to strictly adhere to the fiber routes and lengths as mentioned by USF?	Schedule C of SSA	Service Providers (SPs) may choose their own fiber routes in accordance with their network design provided that SP meets requirements specified in RFA/SSA.
2	With reference to Clause 4.6 of Schedule A - Part 2 of the SSA ; for Village connectivity via aerial cable deployment, the minimum 1-meter clearance between electric power lines and optical fiber cables cannot be maintained in several sections due to existing pole infrastructure and on-ground constraints. Kindly advise whether the clause requirement will still hold or if a best effort approach will be acceptable in such exceptional cases.	Schedule A (Part II) of SSA	In such exceptional cases where maintaining the minimum 1-meter clearance is not possible due to existing infrastructure, the SP may choose best industry practices to address the challenge.
3	kindly clarify whether the use of existing network infrastructure is permissible for the purpose of bid preparation and project implementation. If permitted, please specify the applicable conditions, limitations, and evaluation methodology to ensure equal treatment of all bidders.	RFA	USF carries out open competitive bidding as per PPRA, to get the most advantageous bid. In terms of project requirements, they are the same for all prospective bidders. Incumbent Telecom Service Provider or any other SP that may have a strong presence in/around USF area and have advantage of existing network, however USF network is in un/underserved area whereby all new equipment is to be installed. USF cannot and does not address competitive advantage of one SP over another.