

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1826
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28TH DECEMBER, 2018**

LOW TELE-DENSITY OF MOBILE NETWORK IN ODISHA

1826. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any specific plan for the State like Odisha to improve the connectivity, which is having low tele-density, if so the details thereof;
- (b) the number of villages not covered by any mobile network in the State of Odisha, and the steps being taken by Central Government to provide mobile connectivity in such villages; and
- (c) whether the Ministry is having any plan to improve the quality of data connectivity in the mobile network in rural areas?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)**

- (a) Government has approved the project to provide the mobile connectivity in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected Areas including in Odisha to improve rural telephone density:
 - (i) LWE Phase-I project has been implemented by providing mobile connectivity through 2341 mobile towers including 261 mobile towers in Odisha.
 - (ii) LWE Phase-II project has been approved by the Government for providing mobile connectivity at 4072 locations including 483 locations in Odisha.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has planned to install 772 numbers of new Base Transceiver Stations (BTSS) in Odisha under phase VIII.4 GSM (Global System for Mobile) expansion project, based on techno-commercial viability, out of which 362 numbers of BTSS have been made operational.

(b) There are 9940 villages in Odisha which are not covered by mobile services. Mobile coverage in the uncovered villages is being provided in a phased manner, subject to availability of financial resources.

(c) BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to create network to connect all the Gram Panchayats (approx 2.5 lakh) by broadband in the country. The infrastructure created will be a national asset, accessible on a non-discriminatory basis to the Service Providers. As on 16.12.2018, by laying 3,03,560 Km Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), OFC laying and equipment installation has been completed at 1,16,543 Gram Panchayats, which are service ready.
