

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 39
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH FEBRUARY, 2021**

INTERNET ACCESS AMONG RURAL HOUSEHOLDS

39. SMT. MAMATA MOHANTA:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any steps to increase internet access among rural households across the country including the State of Odisha, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the present status of the scheme of Government to connect the rural areas of Odisha, particularly Mayurbhanj district with internet;
- (c) whether Government has achieved the targets fixed in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the number of villages in the State of Odisha connected with internet so far especially in the Mayurbhanj district?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, LAW & JUSTICE AND
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

- (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF RAJYA SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) to (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 39 FOR 4TH FEBRUARY, 2021 REGARDING “INTERNET ACCESS AMONG RURAL HOUSEHOLDS”.

(a) to (d) Internet is currently accessed through mobile wireless 3G and 4G technologies and fixed wireline broadband. At present mobile wireless 3G & 4G cover more than 95% of population of the country. In addition to this, Government of India is implementing BharatNet project to provide broadband/high speed internet connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) (approx. 2,50,000) in the country including Odisha. As on 15.01.2021, a total number of 1,51,404 GPs including Block Head Quarters (BHQs) have been made service ready.

In the State of Odisha, out of 7070 GPs (including BHQs) a total of 5,396 have been made service ready. In Mayurbhanj district, out of 430 GPs (including BHQs), 408 have been made service ready.

As per data collected from the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) in 2020, it is estimated that out of total number of 47,677 inhabited villages (as per Census 2011) in the State of Odisha, 38,730 villages have 3G or 4G or both mobile coverage. In Mayurbhanj district, out of total number of 3,751 inhabited villages (as per Census 2011), 3,446 villages have 3G or 4G or both mobile coverage.
