

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 64
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND FEBRUARY, 2024**

TELECOMMUNICATIONS COVERAGE IN ODISHA

64 Dr. Sasmit Patra:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the current telecommunication coverage as a percentage and in terms of panchayats and villages in the State of Odisha as of now;
- (b) the details of areas that do not have telecommunication coverage in the State of Odisha as of now;
- (c) the details of the fund allocated and utilized to improve the telecommunication coverage in Odisha over the last five years, year-wise; and
- (d) the measures taken by Government to improve the telecommunication coverage in Odisha, especially in the left-wing extremism-affected districts of the state?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

(a) to (d) Telecom connectivity in Odisha has improved significantly in the last 10 years.

- The Number of Base Trans-receivers Stations (BTS) have increased from 16,416 in March 2014 to 89,531 in December 2023.
- The number of mobile phone users have increased from 2.5 Cr in March 2014 to 3.31 Cr in November 2023.
- The number of internet users have increased from 27.9 lakh in March 2014 to 2.2 Cr in June 2023.
- Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) laid has increased from 40,756 kms in March 2014 to 1,40,886 kms in September 2023.

Details of the villages made service ready and funds disbursed is available on DoT website.

Under various scheme, Government has sanctioned more than 5,333 4G mobile towers in uncovered areas of Odisha to provide connectivity to more than 7,400 villages at the cost of more than Rs 5,033 Cr.

Further, to improve telecom connectivity across rural India, scope of BharatNet Project has been recently expanded to cover all inhabited villages at a total outlay of Rs 1.88 lakh Cr.
