

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1292
ANSWERED ON 11TH DECEMBER, 2025**

TELECOM INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONNECTIVITY IN ODISHA

1292 SHRI MUZIBULLA KHAN:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of digital connectivity projects in Odisha, especially in rural areas;
- (b) the number of post offices and digital centres operational in the State;
- (c) the measures taken to improve internet penetration and broadband facilities;
- (d) the details of new telecom towers or network expansions being planned in the State; and
- (e) the steps being taken to ensure affordable and quality telecom services for all citizen?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DR. PEMMASANI CHANDRA SEKHAR)**

(a) to (e) As of November 2025, 1,03,740 Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) of various Telecom Service Providers are providing the mobile coverage in Odisha including the rural areas. Mobile coverage for any uncovered inhabited villages is provided by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) based on the techno-commercial viability. Government is implementing various schemes under Digital Bharat Nidhi for expansion of digital connectivity through installation of 4G mobile towers in the rural and remote areas of the country under 4G saturation projects. In addition, BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) for broadband services, such as Wi-Fi Hotspots, Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections etc. Further, the Union Cabinet has approved Amended BharatNet Program for provisioning of connectivity to all GPs in the country in ring topology including upgrading existing network and connectivity to about 3.8 Lakh non-GP villages on demand basis. As of November 2025, 3,389 mobile towers have been commissioned providing coverage to 4,965 villages under various 4G saturation projects and 6,741 GPs have been made service ready under Bharatnet, in State of Odisha.

The telecom tariffs are largely under forbearance regime. However, Government has taken various measures to strengthen telecom sector including rationalization of Adjusted Gross Revenue; rationalization of Bank Guarantees (BGs); rationalization of interest rates and removal of penalties; dispensing with the requirement of BGs (for auctions held after 15.09.2021) to secure instalment payments; permission for surrender of spectrum after 10 years (in future auctions); dispensing with the requirement of Spectrum Usage Charge (SUC) for spectrum acquired in spectrum auctions held after 15.09.2021; removal of additional SUC of 0.5% for spectrum sharing; permission for 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in telecom sector under automatic route subject to safeguards; easing Standing Advisory Committee for Radio Frequency Allocation (SACFA) clearance for telecom towers. This has led to substantial growth in data consumption, increasing from 8.32 GB per subscriber per month in September 2018 to 25.24 GB per subscriber per month in September 2025, while the average wireless data tariff has declined from ₹10.91 per GB to ₹8.27 during the same period.

To improve Quality of Service (QoS) parameters, revised QoS benchmark effective from 01.10.2024 have been introduced by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) which includes separate benchmarks for call drops for 2G/3G and for 4G/5G which are being monitored on monthly basis by the regulator.

Further, 8,912 Post Offices and 23,152 Common Services Centres (CSCs) are operational in State of Odisha.
