

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1891
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7th MARCH, 2018**

TELECOM FACILITIES IN THE STATE OF ODISHA

1891. SHRI KALIKESH N. SINGH DEO:
SHRIMATI RITA TARAI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the JAM Trinity (Jan Dhan Yojana, Aadhaar and Mobile Number) focusing on direct benefit transfer of subsidies can be made operational without telecommunication and broadband connectivity in remote areas of the country specially in the State of Odisha;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government for the utilisation of Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for creation of Telecommunication and Mobile Infrastructure in remote and inaccessible rural areas of the country, including in the State of Odisha;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to constitute a national Task Force to ensure mobile and broadband connectivity to deficit areas in the State of Odisha and other similarly placed States; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?:

ANSWER

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

- (a) The JAM Trinity (Jan Dhan Yojana, Aadhaar and Mobile Number) focussing on direct benefit transfer of subsidies cannot be made operational without telecommunication and broadband connectivity.
- (b) Government is undertaking various projects under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for creation of Telecom Infrastructure in remote and inaccessible areas of the country viz., BharatNet (initially National Optical Fibre Network) and Setting up of Public Wi-Fi Networks.

2,50,000 Gram Panchayats (GPs) across the country are to be connected through BharatNet project, including 6235 GPs of Odisha. As on 22.02.2018, a total of 1,03,279 GPs have been made service ready including 2402 GPs of Odisha (in Phase I of BharatNet project).

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USOF has provided viability gap funding for provision of mobile services at Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) identified sites in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas. USOF has planned for mobile services at 2355 MHA identified sites including 261 sites of Odisha in LWE affected areas under Phase I. As on date 2329 sites including 256 sites of Odisha are radiating.

(c) & (d) There is no proposal for constitution of National Task Force under consideration of the Government to ensure mobile and broadband connectivity to deficit areas in the State of Odisha and other similarly placed States as the issues are being addressed by the various initiatives of the Government through different projects under USOF.
