

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2386
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26TH DECEMBER, 2018**

INTERNET PENETRATION IN RURAL AREAS

2386. DR. KULAMANI SAMAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether internet and broadband penetration, especially in rural areas is not so satisfactory and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether there is reluctance of investment in this regard in the rural areas and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise including the position in Odisha; and
- (c) the measures taken up by the Government to ensure better internet and broadband penetration network, State-wise especially in Odisha?

ANSWER

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

(a) As per “The Indian Telecom Services Performance Indicators” reports published by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), Licensed Service Area wise details of penetration of internet and broadband users (subscribers) in rural areas of the Country as on 30th June 2018 is annexed as **Annexure-I**.

(b) & (c) BharatNet project, to connect all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) (approx. 2.5 lakh) by broadband in the country including Odisha, is being implemented in a phased manner. As on 02.12.2018, a total of 1,21,652 GPs have been connected by laying 3,01,154 Km Optical Fibre Cable (OFC). OFC laying & equipment installation has been completed at 1,16,411GPs, which are Service Ready. The State/UT-wise details of the BharatNet project, are given in **Annexure-II**.

As part of BharatNet project, the last mile connectivity is being provided at all the GPs in the country, including Odisha through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology to access broadband /internet services. Every GP is being provided with 5 Access Points (APs) on an average i.e. 2 APs at Public places & 3 APs at Government Institutions such as school, hospital, post offices, police station, etc. For around 1.05 lakh GPs, the agencies for setting up of Wi-Fi hotspots have been selected. So far, Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed at 39,359 GPs and out of them, services are being provided at 10,775 GPs, catering to more than 11 lakh subscribers with a data usage of over 50 Tera Byte per month.

In Odisha, a total of 3805 GPs have been connected under BharatNet project by laying 11729 Km OFC as on 02.12.2018. OFC laying & equipment installation has been completed at 3,470 GPs, which are Service Ready.

In addition, the following initiatives have also been taken towards provision of broadband/internet service:

(a) Setting up of Wi-Fi Choupals at 5,000 Gram Panchayats, including Odisha, using BharatNet infrastructure.

(b) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) scheme for setting up of 25,000 public Wi-Fi hotspots using the infrastructure of BSNL's telephone exchanges in rural areas, including Odisha .

Further, the Cabinet has approved a proposal for providing mobile connectivity in inhabited and uncovered villages at 4072 tower locations identified by Ministry of Home Affairs in Left Wing Extremism (LWE)affected areas in 10 States in Phase-II. This includes 483 tower locations in Odisha using 2G + 4G technology.

In addition to above, Government has allocated 965 Megahertz spectrum through auction in October 2016 to various telecom service providers for access services in the country including Odisha. In this auction, the spectrum as detailed below has been allocated in Odisha:

Spectrum Band	Quantum of Spectrum Allocated
2100 MHz	5 MHz (Paired)
2300 MHz	20 MHz
2500 MHz	20 MHz

In order to provide high speed internet services, 3G/4G networks are being rolled out progressively by the telecom service providers in rural as well as urban areas.

**Licensed service area wise penetration of internet and broadband users
(subscribers) in rural areas (internet subscribers per 100 population) in the country
as on as on 30th June, 2018**

License Service Area	number of users (subscribers) of internet and broadband per 100 population in rural areas
Andhra Pradesh	24.71
Assam	16.58
Bihar	13.62
Delhi	87.97
Gujarat	24.92
Haryana	24.63
Himachal Pradesh	40.05
Jammu & Kashmir	25.16
Karnataka	25.61
Kerala	31.02
Madhya Pradesh	11.47
Maharashtra	25.40
Mumbai	
North East	20.65
Orissa	19.81
Punjab	35.14
Rajasthan	20.73
Tamil Nadu	36.33
Uttar Pradesh (East)	13.94
Uttar Pradesh (West)	
Kolkata	16.61
West Bengal	
Total	19.48

Notes: Data/information for Andhra Pradesh includes Telangana, Madhya Pradesh includes Chhattisgarh, Bihar includes Jharkhand, Maharashtra includes Goa, Uttar Pradesh (West) includes Uttarakhand, West Bengal includes Sikkim and North-East includes Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland & Tripura states.

Annexure-II

Status of BharatNet Project (as on 02.12.2018)

Sr. No	State/UT	Service Ready GPs
1	Andhra Pradesh	1160
2	Arunachal Pradesh	43
3	Andaman & Nicobar	0
4	Assam	1589
5	Bihar	5865
6	Chandigarh	13
7	Chhattisgarh	4052
8	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	21
9	Daman & Diu	17
10	Gujarat	5113
11	Haryana	6186
12	Himachal Pradesh	226
13	Jammu & Kashmir	257
14	Jharkhand	2302
15	Karnataka	6110
16	Kerala	1129
17	Madhya Pradesh	12689
18	Maharashtra	15126
19	Manipur	248
20	Meghalaya	122
21	Mizoram	19
22	Nagaland	86
23	Odisha	3470
24	Puducherry	101
25	Punjab	7903
26	Rajasthan	8447
27	Sikkim	14
28	Telangana	2047
29	Tripura	527
30	Uttar Pradesh	27940
31	Uttarakhand	1508
32	West Bengal	2081
	Total	116411
