GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOK  SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3889
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17TH JULY, 2019

BROADBAND CONNECTIONS IN ODISHA

3889.  SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU:
       SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY:
       SHRI PINAKI MISHRA:
       SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)     whether 1800 Gram Panchayats in Odisha are provided with broadband connections and only
120 of them are working and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b)     whether the Government is reportedly not paying any attention towards the maintenance and
proper functioning of the said connections thereby making them unusable and if so, the details thereof
and the reasons therefor; and

(c)     the steps taken by the Government to restore broadband connectivity and ensure its
maintenance and stability in all the Gram Panchayats of Odisha?

ANSWER

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

(a)     In Odisha, a total of 3992 GPs (including Block Headquarters) have been taken up in Phase-I
for providing connectivity. Out of them, a total of 3463 GPs (including Block Headquarters) have
been tested with broadband connections. At present, there are 1689 GPs with active broadband
connections, out of which 206 GPs have commercial connections.

 (b) & (c)     For proper maintenance & functioning as well as for providing stable broadband
connections, the following steps have been taken:

- Network is being monitored through Network Operating Centre (NOC) and its reports are
  being monitored on a regular basis.

- The Digital Communications Commission (DCC) on 13.06.2019 has approved to award the
  work of maintenance (i.e. O&M of incremental Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) network and First
  Line Maintenance of equipment and supporting infrastructure) in each of 1.25 lakh GPs of the
  BharatNet Phase-I, including in Odisha, to CSC e-Governance Services India Limited.

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- The O&M of BharatNet Phase-II network, including in Odisha, is to be carried out mainly through the respective Project Implementation Agencies (PIA).

As enhanced utilisation of the network would help in better up- keep/operations of the network, the following steps have been taken towards this end:

- The infrastructure created under BharatNet Project to provide Broadband connections is being utilized through Service Provider(s), particularly BSNL and CSC e-Governance Services India Limited.

- The matter has already been taken up with the State Governments for taking Broadband connections by utilizing the BharatNet infrastructure in all the GPs of the country.

- Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections are being provided from BharatNet network.

- As part of this project, the last mile connectivity, through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology, is to be provided at all the GPs in the country. The Digital Communications Commission (DCC) on 13.06.2019 has approved to award the work of provisioning of 2 Wi-Fi Access Points (APs) in each of the 90,000 GPs of BharatNet Phase-I in all the States, including Odisha, except where Wi-Fi APs are provided under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) schemes.

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