

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 895  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024**

**BHARATNET IN ODISHA**

**895. SHRI BASANTA KUMAR PANDA:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of any financial assistance to State of Odisha and District Kalahandi and Nuapada during the current year and last five years, scheme-wise, project-wise, Bharat-Net phase-wise;
- (b) the number of beneficiaries under various schemes and towers installed in Odisha and abovesaid districts/gram panchayats during the last five years and the current year;
- (c) the details of beneficiaries in Odisha and abovesaid districts who benefitted through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) during the last five years, scheme-wise; and
- (d) whether any projects are pending with ministry, if so, the details thereof?

**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.

Under various schemes, Government has planned more than 5,333 4G mobile towers in uncovered areas of Odisha to provide connectivity to more than 7,400 villages with a total proposed outlay of Rs. 5600 Cr. As on 31.12.2023, a sum of Rs. 1873 crore has been disbursed to Odisha under various schemes including mobile tower scheme during last five years (2018-19 to 2022-23 and up to Dec. 2023 in 2023-24). The scheme-wise details is available on DOT website.

In Odisha, Phase-II of Bharatnet is being implemented by State Implementing Agency under State Government. Rollout, maintenance of network and providing services to customers is the responsibility of State Implementing Agency under State Government. 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.

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