GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1686
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8ᵀᴴ DECEMBER, 2021

BROADBAND CONNECTIONS IN ODISHA

1686. SHRIMATI MANJULATA MANDAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   the number of broadband connections that are working in Odisha and the action being taken for providing broadband facility to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) under phase-I;

(b)   the number of GPs in Odisha under BharatNet project that have been provided with infrastructure to provide high speed broadband connectivity;

(c)   the details of the plans to connect all villages with internet connectivity;

(d)   the reasons for very poor utilisation of phase I of BharatNet project; and

(e)   whether wi-fi technology is used to provide the services in rural areas under BharatNet and if not, the details of the plan for provision of wi-fi technology in rural areas in the state of Odisha thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)

(a) to (c)   As per the "Indian Telecom Service Performance Indicators" published by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on 21.10.2021, total 2.11 Crore Broadband subscriber are in Odisha Telecom Service Area.

BharatNet project is implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country, including Odisha. In Odisha, a total number of 3810 GPs were taken up for implementation under Phase-I through Powergrid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL), out of which 3809 GPs have been made Service Ready, as on 01.11.2021. The Phase-II in Odisha is implemented in State-led model through the State Government under which, 2402 GPs have been made Service Ready out of 2,946 planned GPs. Further, 19 GPs have been made Service Ready on Satellite media out of 43 planned GPs. In total, 6,230 GPs have been made Service Ready in Odisha. The scope of BharatNet on 30.06.2021 was extended up to all inhabited villages beyond GPs in the country, including Odisha.

(d) & (e)   The infrastructure created under BharatNet project is a national asset, accessible on a non-discriminatory basis to the Service Providers, and the same can be utilized for provisioning of broadband/internet services through   Wi-Fi Hotspots, Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections, leased lines, dark fibre, backhaul to mobile towers, etc.

The work of providing broadband facility (Wi-Fi hotspots and Fibre to the Home connections) in Phase-I GPs, with funding from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), was assigned to CSC e-Governance Services India Limited (a Special Purpose Vehicle under Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology). The BharatNet Phase-II is implemented in Odisha by the State Government, which is also responsible for its utilization.

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