

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2857  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2021**

**BHARAT NET PROJECT IN ODISHA**

2857. SHRI JUAL ORAM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether BharatNet is a project envisaged by the Government to digitally connect all the Gram Panchayats (GP) and villages of India by way of laying Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) upto GP level;
- (b) if so, whether there is a plan to connect all the GPs in Odisha;
- (c) if so, the number of broadband connections working in Odisha and the action being taken for providing broadband facility to all GPs under Phase-I and II;
- (d) the steps being taken to provide mobile connectivity in uncovered villages; and
- (e) whether there is any proposal received from State Government of Odisha in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS  
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

(a) to (c) BharatNet project is implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. On 30.06.2021, the scope of BharatNet was extended up to all inhabited villages beyond GPs. In Odisha, the Phase-II is implemented in State-led model through the State Government under which, 2485 GPs have been made Service Ready out of 2946 planned GPs, as of 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021. Further, 19 GPs have been made Service Ready out of 43 planned GPs on Satellite media. In Phase-I, a total number of 3810 GPs were taken up for implementation through Powergrid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL), out of which 3809 GPs have been made Service Ready. In total, 6313 GPs have been made Service Ready in Odisha.

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 subscribers are in Odisha Telecom Service Area.

(d) & (e) Mobile services are provided in a phased manner by the Government and Telecom Services Provider (TSPs) in the uncovered villages in the country. The Government has the following schemes for providing mobile services in Odisha under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF):

- (i) Scheme for providing mobile services in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas Phase-I by installing 2343 towers in 10 States, including 256 towers in Odisha
- (ii) Scheme for providing mobile services in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas Phase-II by installing 2542 towers in 10 States, including 483 towers in Odisha
- (iii) Scheme for providing mobile services in 7,287 uncovered villages of Aspirational Districts across 5 States, including 3933 villages in Odisha

No specific proposal has been received from State Government of Odisha for the above schemes.

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