

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2508  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2022**

**BROADBAND CONNECTIONS IN ODISHA**

2508. SHRI. RAMESH CHANDRA MAJHI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details and the number of broadband connections working in Odisha and the action being taken for providing Broadband facility to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) under phase-1;
- (b) the details of GPs in Odisha under BharatNet project 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) whether there is poor utilization of phase-1 of BharatNet project and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Wi-Fi technology is used to provide the services in rural areas under the BharatNet project and if so, the details of the plans for the deployment of WiFi technology in rural areas in the State of Odisha; and
- (f) if not , the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) As per the “Indian Telecom Services Performance Indicators” published by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on 10.01.2022, there are total 2.09 Crore Broadband subscribers 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. Phase-II in Odisha is implemented in State-led model through the State Government under which, 2786 GPs have been made Service Ready out of 2946 planned GPs. Further, 22 GPs have been made Service Ready on Satellite media out of 43 planned GPs. Under Phase-I, a total number of 3810 GPs were taken up for implementation through Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL), out of which 3809 GPs have been made Service Ready. In total, 6617 GPs have been made Service Ready in Odisha, as on 28.02.2022. The scope of BharatNet has been recently extended up to all inhabited villages beyond GPs in the country, including Odisha.

Broadband/Internet services are provided in a phased manner by the Government and Telecom Services Provider (TSPs) in the uncovered remote villages of the country, including Odisha. The Government has the following schemes under Universal Service Obligation Fund for Odisha:

- (i) Under the scheme for providing 4G mobile coverage in 7287 uncovered villages of Aspirational Districts, 3933 uncovered villages of Odisha are included.
  - (ii) Under the scheme for providing 4G mobile coverage by installing 2542 towers in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas (Phase-II), 483 towers are included for Odisha.
- (d) to (f) The infrastructure created under BharatNet project 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 is implemented with funding from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). As on 28.02.2022, Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed under BharatNet Phase-I in 2511 GPs. Further, Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), the Executing Agency for BharatNet project, has signed 74 Agreements with Service Providers for providing broadband services across various States by utilizing BharatNet Phase-I network in the country. Out of these Agreements, four are for providing services on pan-India basis (including in Odisha).

BharatNet Phase-II in Odisha is implemented by the State Government, which is also responsible for its utilization. However, no Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed under Phase-II so far.

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