

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1515
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31ST JULY, 2024**

NATIONAL BROADBAND MISSION

1515 SMT. APARAJITA SARANGI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of villages connected so far under National Broadband Mission during the last five years across country particularly in the State of Odisha;
- (b) whether the Government has details about the number of villages connected under National Broadband Mission Lok Sabha Constituency-wise and if so, the details of the same for Bhubaneswar Lok Sabha Constituency during the last five years;
- (c) the funds allocated and utilized under National Broadband Mission during the last five years and the details of funds utilized in Bhubaneswar Lok Sabha Constituency; and
- (d) the step taken by Government to meet the growing demands for high-speed internet services under National Broadband Mission across the country and in the State of Odisha?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DR. PEMMASANI CHANDRA SEKHAR)**

- (a) The number of villages connected in the country is 6,20,629 out of which 47,323 are connected in the state of Odisha as of 30th April 2024.
- (b) Constituency-wise village coverage data is not available.
- (c) A budget of Rs.10,52,28,723/- was allocated for the NBM (National Broadband Mission) till 2024-25 and Rs.8,35,15,564/- were utilized till June 2024. The funds allotted to the National Broadband Mission are for the development and operations of the Centralized Right of Way portal named as GatiShakti Sanchar portal and for the mission activities.
- (d) The National Broadband Mission was launched by the Government of India on the 17th December 2019 with a vision to enable fast-track growth of digital communications infrastructure to provide affordable and universal broadband access for all. The Mission aims to facilitate universal and equitable access to broadband services for growth and development throughout the country (especially in rural and remote areas).

The following actions were undertaken for quick deployment of Telecom Infrastructure across India including the state of Odisha

- i. **Centralized Right of Way portal:** The GatiShakti Sanchar Portal (Centralized Portal for Right of Way Permissions) was launched on 14th May 2022, to bring Ease of Doing Business for the applicants for quick RoW permissions for laying OFC and erecting Telecom towers. The portal has onboarded/integrated all 36 States/UTs and four central ministries.
- ii. DoT has also come out with ITRoW (Indian Telegraph Right of Way) rules 2016, which were amended in Aug 2022 for the 5G roll-out. These rules provide for the standardization of rates for

overground and underground telecom infrastructure, rates for street furniture for utilization for 5G small cells, and charges applicable for compensation and restoration. DoT has followed up with all states/UTs for alignment of their RoW policies with that of Central Right of Way rules and for clearance of pending Right of Way applications. Further, the Telecommunication Act passed in 2023 will provide legal backing to the RoW rules to be issued as per this act

BharatNet: Also, under BharatNet, out of 2,69,215 Gram Panchayats under BharatNet scope, 2,17,725 are service-ready as of 25th July 2024. In Odisha state, out of 7,112 Gram Panchayats under BharatNet scope, 7,099 are service-ready as of 25th July 2024.

The above steps of the National Broadband Mission, DoT will facilitate meeting the growing demands for high-speed internet services under the National Broadband Mission across the country and in the State of Odisha.
