

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 805
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH FEBRUARY, 2026**

**4G MOBILE CONNECTIVITY GAPS UNDER USOF IN KORAPUT AND RAYAGADA,
ODISHA**

805. SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the block-wise list of mobile towers approved under the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for 4G mobile connectivity in Koraput and Rayagada districts of Odisha, along with the date of approval, stage of execution and expected date of commissioning for each site;
- (b) the list of villages and habitations in these two tribal districts that still lack reliable mobile data connectivity, including areas where only voice calls are available but 4G internet is non-functional;
- (c) the reasons for the slow implementation, repeated delays and discontinuation of several approved tower sites, and whether responsibility has been fixed on implementing agencies and telecom service providers for such failures; and
- (d) the time-bound roadmap to achieve 100 per cent mobile data coverage in Koraput, Rayagada and to extend 5G connectivity to all villages so that tribal, remote communities are not excluded from Digital India?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) Government through Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) has undertaken several schemes to provide 4G mobile services to the uncovered villages across the country, including the villages in Koraput and Rayagada Districts of Odisha.

Under DBN schemes, after physical survey undertaken by the implementing agencies, out of 459 towers planned, 386 towers have been made on air in Koraput district, and out of 700 towers planned, 546 towers have been made on air in Rayagada district respectively, as on 31.12.2025. The block-wise list of 89 out of 2047 villages and 149 out of 2671 villages lacking mobile connectivity in Koraput and Rayagada districts respectively as on 31.12.2025 is available on DBN website (<https://usof.gov.in/en/home>)

Execution of some sites has faced delays due to factors such as unavailability of road access, delay in land allotment, forest, wildlife and right of way permission etc. The villages found to have mobile connectivity during survey have been descoped from the DBN schemes. Penal action has been taken against the implementing agencies for delays in execution of the schemes as per the terms and condition of the Agreement.

5G mobile services are rolled out by the telecom service providers themselves on techno-commercial consideration.
