GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 458
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24TH JULY, 2019

MOBILE/INTERNET CONNECTIVITY

*458. SHRI PINAKI MISRA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether approximately eleven thousand villages in the State of Odisha have no mobile connectivity, the highest in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b)   whether the mobile towers in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas of the State have low radiating antennas with low bandwidth thereby restricting the internet facility to insignificant levels, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c)   the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the mobile/internet connectivity in the villages and the LWE areas of the State and the time by which the said task is likely to be accomplished?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, LAW & JUSTICE AND
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (c)   A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) to (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *458 FOR 24TH JULY, 2019 ON "MOBILE/INTERNET CONNECTIVITY".

(a) to (c)   Mobile/internet connectivity in the uncovered villages and the LWE areas of Odisha are being provided by the Government and telecom service providers in a phased manner. As per data collected from the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) in 2018, it was estimated that out of 47,677 inhabited villages (as per the Census 2011) in the State of Odisha, 37,737 villages were covered with mobile services while 9,940 villages were not covered by mobile services. District-wise details are at **Annexure.** As per latest information received from the Department of Telecommunication's field unit, the number of uncovered villages have been reduced to 8,776 inhabited villages. Under the BharatNet project in Odisha, by laying 12103 km Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), a total of 3925 Gram Panchayats (GPs) (including Block Head Quarters (BHQs)) have been connected, out of which 3645 GPs (including BHQs) have been made Service Ready for broadband connectivity. In addition, 15 GPs have been made Service Ready over Satellite media. Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed in 90 GPs in Odisha which are providing services.

Under the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas Phase-I project, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) identified 2343 tower locations for mobile connectivity in 10 States including Odisha, which have been provided towers. Out of the 256 towers installed in Odisha, 132 towers were connected through Microwave media, 104 towers were connected through Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) media and 20 towers were connected through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) media. Tower sites with Microwave and OFC media have been connected with 2Mbps or above bandwidth. All 104 towers VSAT media which were initially connected with 512 Kbps bandwidth, have now been connected to 2Mbps.

Following projects also are being implemented by the Government for providing/facilitating Mobile/internet connectivity in Odisha:

(i)   Under LWE Phase-II project, the Government has approved installation of 252 towers for providing mobile connectivity.
(ii)   Under BharatNet project, the Government has recently approved provisioning of 2 Wi-Fi Access Points (APs) in all 3811 GPs.

Annexure referred to in reply of para (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 458 to be answered on 24th July, 2019 raised by Hon'ble Member of Parliament Shri Pinaki Misra regarding Mobile/Internet Connectivity

District-wise status of mobile services in inhabited villages of Odisha (as in 2018)

S. No.	District Name	Total No. of inhabited villages (as per Census 2011)	No. of covered inhabited villages	No. of uncovered inhabited villages
1.	Anugul	1654	1427	227
2.	Balangir	1751	1598	153
3.	Baleshwar	2635	2634	1
4.	Bargarh	1179	1130	49
5.	Baudh	1117	756	361
6.	Bhadrak	1250	1248	2
7.	Cuttack	1856	1822	34
8.	Debagarh	718	506	212
9.	Dhenkanal	1081	1013	68
10.	Gajapati	1499	609	890
11.	Ganjam	2783	2453	330
12.	Jagatsinghapur	1223	1220	3
13.	Jajapur	1598	1589	9
14.	Jharsuguda	347	330	17
15.	Kalahandi	2116	1383	733
16.	Kandhamal	2417	765	1652
17.	Kendrapara	1415	1408	7
18.	Kendujhar	2064	1769	295
19.	Khordha	1356	1331	25
20.	Koraput	1941	921	1020
21.	Malkangiri	995	394	601
22.	Mayurbhanj	3751	3436	315
23.	Nabarangapur	868	727	141
24.	Nayagarh	1541	1159	382
25.	Nuapada	656	524	132
26.	Puri	1600	1594	6
27.	Rayagada	2468	970	1498
28.	Sambalpur	1229	934	295
29.	Subarnapur	856	769	87
30.	Sundargarh	1713	1318	395
	Total	**47677**	**37737**	**9940**

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