

Inclusion of Kalahandi in worst LWE affected districts

1940. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Odisha has requested the Union Government for inclusion of Kalahandi district under the category of worst LWE affected districts;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government of Odisha has requested the Union Government for enhancement of the bandwidth of the mobile towers installed in the State under Left Wing Extremism (LWE) Scheme; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY): (a) to (b) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Odisha has requested for inclusion of Kalahandi under the category of most LWE affected districts. Inclusion/exclusion of districts under the category of most LWE affected districts is a ongoing process. The last review was undertaken in 2018 and based on the overall LWE situation and violence profile, 30 districts have been categorised as most LWE affected districts *w.e.f.* 01st April, 2018. Kalahandi district has not been categorised as the most LWE affected districts but is covered under Security Related Expenditure (SRE) scheme.

(c) and (d) 2335 towers were installed in Mobile Tower Project Phase-I, of which 256 were in Odisha. The issue of up-gradation was mainly for VSAT sites. On request from the State, capacity of all 104 VSAT towers in Odisha has been enhanced to 2 Mbps.

Naxalite attacks on civilians and security personnel

1941. SHRI RAJMANI PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of naxalite attacks on civilians and security personnel have increased during the last few months;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the corrective steps taken/being taken by Government to tackle such attacks by naxalites along with the achievements thereof?