

(b) whether the vendors including multinationals Nokia, ZTE, ATC group and UTStarcom and domestic firms including Bharti Infratel and Aksh Opti Fiber have warned to disrupt services to BSNL customers unless payments are cleared; and

(c) whether this crisis is likely to affect the launch of 5G services in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) to (c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has informed that the bills of vendors are being paid as per agreement and availability of funds. BSNL has also informed that no warning to disrupt services has been received from any multinational/domestic vendors.

Telecommunication coverage in Odisha

3673. SHRI SASMIT PATRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the present coverage of telecommunications in Odisha as a percentage, district-wise;

(b) the steps being taken to increase the coverage in that State; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve the telecommunication coverage specifically in the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts of the State?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Telecommunications coverage basically includes telephone penetration (wireless and wireline) in rural and urban areas of the country. The coverage can also be assessed by the number of telephone exchanges for wireline services and Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) for wireless services. Licenses are given service area-wise, therefore data is also maintained in the Department service area-wise and not district wise. The number of connections, teledensity (percentage of population covered) and the percentage share of Odisha License Service Area (LSA) in total number of connections in India as on 31st May, 2019 are as under:—

Service Area	Number of connections (in Million)					Teledensity (in %)	Share of Odisha LSA in Total telephone connection in India (in %)
	Rural	Urban	Total	Wireline	Wireless		
Odisha	21.34	11.42	32.76	0.23	32.53	75.27	2.77

Source: DoT.

The number of telephone exchanges in Odisha License Service Area as on 31st March 2019 is 1080. The number of Base Transceiver Stations for (2G), Node-Bs (3G), eNode-Bs (4G) as on 31st May 2019 in Odisha License Service Area is as follows:—

Licensed Service Area	2G (BTS)	3G (Node-Bs)	4G (eNode-Bs)
Odisha	14398	6709	40955

Source: TRAI.

(b) and (c) USOF is implementing projects to provide mobile connectivity in remote and rural uncovered areas. A project to provide mobile service in LWE (Left Wing Extremism) affected areas of Odisha is being implemented. Under Phase-I of this project, 256 towers have been installed. Under Phase-II, a provision has been made to install 252 towers in the State.

In addition, under the flagship programme BharatNet, the Government plans to create network infrastructure for providing Broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) (approx. 2,50,000) in the country, including Odisha. As on 1st July 2019, a total of 6843 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the State of Odisha have been connected, out of which 3660 GPs have been made service ready.

Problem of non-performing networks or defective equipments

†3674. SHRI R.K. SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of panchayats linked by commercial and operational broadband connections under the BharatNet programme;

(b) whether it is a fact that out of one lakh Gram Panchayats, that have been defined as "services (sic) open", more than 50 per cent of them had non-performing networks or defective equipments due to which they faced difficulty in providing connectivity;

(c) if so, whether Government had taken any steps to resolve the problems;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.