

- The Phase-II of BharatNet is being implemented in Odisha by the State Government, along with life time maintenance of the network.

**Tele-density improvement connectivity in Odisha**

500. SHRI BHASKAR RAO NEKKANTI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any specific plans for the State like Odisha which is having a low teledensity to improve the connectivity in the State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) what steps are being taken by Government to provide mobile connectivity in uncovered villages;
- (d) whether Government has any plan to improve quality of data connectivity in rural areas;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) what are the plans to increase data connectivity in mobile towers in LWE affected areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) to (c) Yes, to accelerate and augment telecom connectivity in rural and remote areas of the country, including the State of Odisha, the following projects are approved/implemented by the Government:—

- (i) Under Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas Phase-I project, 2,355 towers in the country including 261 towers in Odisha have been installed;
- (ii) Under LWE Phase-II project, Government has approved installation of 2,217 mobile towers for providing mobile connectivity in the country including 158 mobile towers in Odisha;
- (iii) Under BharatNet project, broadband connectivity in all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country.

(d) to (f) Under LWE Phase-I Scheme 104 mobile towers in Odisha have been upgraded with 2 Mbps data bandwidth for better data access. All 158 proposed BTSs in Odisha under LWE Phase-II have been planned for 2G and 4G network.