

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1514
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH DECEMBER, 2021**

TELECOMMUNICATION CONNECTIVITY IN ODISHA

1514 **Dr. Amar Patnaik:**
Shri Sujeet Kumar:
Shri Subhash Chandra Singh:
Shri Bhaskar Rao Nekkanti:

Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are specific plans to improve connectivity for the States like Odisha that have low tele-density in the State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps that are being taken by the Central Government to provide mobile connectivity in uncovered villages;
- (d) whether the Ministry has any proposal to improve the quality of data connectivity in rural areas, especially in LWE districts; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

(a) to (e) Government and Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) provide telecommunication connectivity in the country including rural areas in a phased manner. Government has taken various initiatives under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) to improve telecommunication connectivity in the uncovered villages and Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts in the country including the state of Odisha. Also, as per TRAI's report dated 21st October 2021, the tele-density of the state of Odisha is 79.49 % against 88.07 % tele-density of the country. To improve the tele density in the state of Odisha the number of Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) has been increased from 16416 to 69472 from March 2014 to November 2021 by the TSPs. The details of the schemes under USOF are attached as **Annexure-I**. The district wise coverage in the state of Odisha under Aspirational District scheme and LWE Phase –II scheme are given in **Annexure-II** and **Annexure –III** respectively.

Annexure referred to in reply of para (a) and (e) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1514 to be answered on 10th December 2021 raised by Hon'ble Members of Parliament regarding "Telecommunication Connectivity In Odisha"

Schemes approved/implemented by Government to provide telecommunication connectivity in the country are as below:

1. Provision of mobile services in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas under Phase-I.
2. Provision of 4G mobile services in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas under Phase-II.
3. Provision of 4G mobile connectivity in 502 uncovered villages of Aspirational Districts in four States (namely Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan).
4. Provision of 4G mobile connectivity in 7287 uncovered villages of Aspirational Districts in five States (namely Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Odisha).
5. Provision of Mobile Services in Uncovered villages in Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh (National Highways only) of NER and seamless coverage along National Highway.
6. Provision of 4G Mobile Services in Uncovered villages of Meghalaya and seamless coverage along National Highway.
7. Provision of 4G Mobile Services in Uncovered Villages of Arunachal Pradesh and 2 Districts of Assam.
8. Provision of mobile connectivity in 354 uncovered villages of Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Border area & other priority areas.
9. Provision of 4G Mobile Coverage in 85 uncovered Villages and seamless 4G Mobile coverage of NH223 in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
10. BharatNet project to create network to connect all the Gram Panchayats and villages with broadband infrastructure.
11. Submarine OFC connectivity between Kochi and Lakshadweep Islands(KLI).

Annexure-II

Annexure referred to in reply of para (a) to (e) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1514 to be answered on 10th December 2021 raised by Hon'ble Members of Parliament regarding "Telecommunication Connectivity In Odisha"

District wise number of villages to be covered in state of Odisha under Aspirational District Scheme of Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF):

Sr. No	District Name	Total no. of villages to be covered
1	Balangir	11
2	Dhenkanal	11
3	Gajapati	467
4	Kalahandi	516
5	Kandhamal	1094
6	Koraput	520
7	Malkangiri	306
8	Nabarangapur	17
9	Nuapada	29
10	Rayagada	962
Total		3933

Annexure-III

Annexure referred to in reply of para (a) to (e) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1514 to be answered on 10th December 2021 raised by Hon'ble Members of Parliament regarding "Telecommunication Connectivity in Odisha"

District wise number of telecom towers to be installed in the state of Odisha under LWE Phase-II scheme of Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF):

Sr. No	District Name	Total No. of Tower Locations
1	Baragarh	2
2	Boudh	2
3	Kalahandi	66
4	Kandhamal	96
5	Koraput	85
6	Malkangiri	128
7	Nabarangpur	22
8	Nuapada	49
9	Rayagada	33
Total		483
