GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1267
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 27/07/2022

SCHEMES FOR DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY IN TRIBAL COMMUNITY

1267   SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA**:**

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes in place to enhance digital connectivity in tribal communities;

(b) whether there has been an impact analysis of the schemes in place;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the upcoming schemes and/or upcoming developments in the existing schemes that the Ministry is planning?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SMT. RENUKA SINGH SARUTA):

(a) to (d): Ministry of Communications (MoC) is the Nodal Ministry to facilitate telecom and digital connectivity across the country including area inhabited by tribal community. Further, MoC is also mandated to have a separate STC component under various schemes which is envisaged to be utilized for enhancement of digital connectivity among tribal community. To that end, Mobile/ Broadband/ Internet services are provided in a phased manner by MoC and Telecom Services Provider (TSPs) in the uncovered villages of the country. The Government, with funding from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), has schemes, viz. BharatNet, Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for Aspirational Districts Schemes, Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for Islands etc. to extend Mobile/ Broadband/ Internet services in the uncovered villages/ Gram Panchayats of the country, including tribal areas.

In addition, Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) has initiated several projects to enhance digital connectivity of students of tribal communities studying in Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) across the country. These projects includes establishment of smart class infrastructure along with internet connectivity in collaboration with ERNET, MEITY.
This Ministry has not done gap analysis on the basis of Antodya Mission data for 1,17,000 to find out Infrastructural gaps in key areas including Mobile connectivity. Based on this gap analysis, Ministry has identified 36,428 village with population of more than 500 with 50% tribal population for providing infrastructure facilities in these areas in convergence with line Ministries through STC funds.

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