

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 256
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24TH MARCH, 2023**

MOBILE NETWORK CONNECTIVITY IN ODISHA

256 Smt. Sulata Deo:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of villages in Odisha having mobile network connectivity as of December, 2022;
- (b) whether Government is taking steps to increase mobile network connectivity among village blocks; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS &
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

- (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF RAJYA SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) to (c) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 256/1ST FOR 24TH MARCH, 2023 REGARDING “MOBILE NETWORK CONNECTIVITY IN ODISHA”.

(a) As per data provided by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), Department of Telecom's field unit and State Governments as of December '2022, out of 51,176 villages (villages are as per data of Registrar General of India as of November 2019) in Odisha, around 45,406 villages are having mobile network connectivity. The District-wise details are attached as **Annexure-I**.

(b) & (c) Government and Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) provide telecommunication connectivity in the country in a phased manner. Government through funding from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) is implementing various schemes for providing mobile network coverage in all uncovered villages of the country including Odisha. The major USOF schemes for mobile coverage are as below:

- USOF 4G Saturation Scheme to cover 24,680 uncovered villages with 4G and 6,279 villages having 2G/3G connectivity are to be upgraded to 4G. The estimated project cost is Rs. 26,316 Cr.
- Provision of 4G mobile connectivity in 7,287 Aspirational District villages (Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Odisha). The estimated cost for projects is Rs. 6466 Cr.
- Under LWE Phase-I scheme, 2,343 mobile towers have been installed in LWE areas. Provision for upgradation of LWE Phase-I from 2G to 4G has also been made. The estimated project cost is Rs. 3567 Cr.
- Under LWE Phase-II scheme, 2,542 mobile towers at Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) identified locations are approved across the LWE States for provision of 4G mobile services. The estimated project cost is Rs. 2211 Cr.
- Provision of 4G Mobile Services in North Eastern Region of the country under Comprehensive Telecom Development Program for NER. The estimated cost for schemes is Rs. 3637 Cr.
- Provision of 4G mobile connectivity in 354 uncovered villages of J&K, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Border area & other priority areas. The estimated project cost is Rs. 337 Cr.
- Scheme for providing 4G mobile connectivity in 502 uncovered villages of Aspirational Districts in four States, namely, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. The estimated project cost is Rs. 686 Cr.
- Provision of 4G Mobile Coverage in 85 uncovered Villages and seamless 4G Mobile coverage of NH223 in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The estimated project cost is Rs. 130 Cr.

- Laying of submarine optical fibre cable between Chennai and Andaman & Nicobar Islands for providing connectivity to Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The estimated project cost is Rs. 1224 Cr.
- Submarine OFC connectivity between Kochi and Lakshadweep Islands. The estimated project cost is Rs. 1072 Cr.
- BharatNet project to create network to connect all the Gram Panchayats and villages with broadband infrastructure. The total funding of the BharatNet (Phase-I and Phase-II), approved by the Cabinet, is Rs 42,068 crores (exclusive of GST, Octroi and local taxes).

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in reply of part (a) Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 256 to be answered on 24/03/2023 raised by Hon'ble Members of Parliament regarding "Mobile Network Connectivity In Odisha"

District-wise status of mobile coverage in the villages of Odisha (as of December'2022) is as below:

Sr No	District Name	Total No of Villages	Total no of villages having mobile network connectivity
1	Anugul	1887	1817
2	Balangir	1777	1763
3	Baleshwar	2925	2916
4	Bargarh	1195	1179
5	Baudh	1182	1060
6	Bhadrak	1295	1281
7	Cuttack	1970	1941
8	Debagarh	835	713
9	Dhenkanal	1199	1188
10	Gajapati	1609	1027
11	Ganjam	3204	3012
12	Jagatsinghapur	1297	1295
13	Jajapur	1826	1797
14	Jharsuguda	354	352
15	Kalahandi	2274	1729
16	Kandhamal	2578	1331
17	Kendrapara	1553	1534
18	Kendujhar	2105	2020
19	Khordha	1541	1515
20	Koraput	2047	1449
21	Malkangiri	1036	724
22	Mayurbhanj	3940	3785
23	Nabarangapur	880	853
24	Nayagarh	1659	1435
25	Nuapada	663	629
26	Puri	1702	1698
27	Rayagada	2671	1630
28	Sambalpur	1256	1186
29	Subarnapur	951	937
30	Sundargarh	1765	1610
	Grand Total	51176	45406
