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Title: Regarding expedition of the project of installation of towers in Odisha to provide wireless network connectivity to villagers.

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO (BOLANGIR):

Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a matter of urgent public importance.

Odisha is a connectivity deficit State with overall tele-density of approximately 79.58 per cent and rural tele-density of approximately 61.60 per cent as against the national average, which is 81 per cent. About 10,000 villages are still not connected by wireless network in the State. A large number of unconnected villages come under the Left Wing Extremists area, which also include my Parliamentary Constituency where 153 villages are yet to be connected, and those villages, which are connected with wireless, only have 2G rather than 4G connectivity.

Under the Universal Services Obligation Fund, LWE-Phase II, the Central Government has approved installation of 158 towers only although the State Government had sent a list of 866 towers.

Hence, I would request the hon. Minister of Communications to kindly expedite the above project for augmenting mobile connectivity to bridge the digital divide in the State. Thank you, Sir.

माननीय अध्यक्ष: कुँवर पुष्पेन्द्र सिंह चन्देल एवं श्री सी.पी. जोशी को श्रीमती संगीता कुमारी सिंह देव के द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है।

