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Title: Regarding tele-density in Odisha.

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK):** Odisha is a connectivity deficit State with overall tele-density of about 76 per cent and rural tele-density of about 58 per cent. About 11000 out of 51313 villages in Odisha do not have mobile coverage. Bharatnet Project has also not achieved the desired results in Odisha so far. The Government has fixed a target to provide broadband connectivity to 3860 Gram Panchayats in Odisha under Bharatnet Project Phase-I. However, 3003 Gram Panchayats have been covered so far and as per field survey only 120 broadband connections are actually working properly. The situation is worse in LWE areas due to low bandwidth. There are certain areas where mobile towers are yet to be installed by the Government. Such connectivity deficiency is also a hindrance in achieving the target of Financial Inclusion in Odisha. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take urgent steps to ensure broadband connectivity to each village of Odisha and thus, to achieve the target of Financial Inclusion and above all to achieve the aim of implementing the Digital India Programme in the country.