

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2743  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY, 2018**

**QUALITY OF DATA CONNECTIVITY**

2743. SHRIMATI PRATYUSHA RAJESHWARI SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to improve the quality of data connectivity in the mobile network of rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any specific plan for the State like Odisha particularly Kandhamal Parliamentary Constituency which is having a low-tele-density and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the number of mobile towers which are being planned in Left Wing Extremism (LWE), areas of Odisha particularly in Kandhamal District to improve the connectivity?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &  
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS  
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)**

- (a) Yes, Madam. Department of Telecom through Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) is implementing:
  - (i) BharatNet project which is aimed at providing broadband connectivity to each Gram Panchayat of the country.
  - (ii) Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for North East Region (NER).
  - (iii) Provision of Mobile Connectivity in Left Wing Extremist(LWE) Area at the sites identified by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
  - (iv) Laying of dedicated submarine Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) between Chennai and Andaman & Nicobar Island.
  - (v) Augmentation of OFC between District Headquarters and Block Headquarters in North-Eastern States

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- (b) (i) BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner for providing broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2,50,000) in the country. Through this project 100 Mbps or above (on OFC/Radio) is being provided at Gram Panchayat (GP) level which may be used for backhauling the traffic of mobile network in rural area. This may help in improving the quality of data connectivity in the mobile network in rural area.
- (ii) A comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for the North-Eastern Region (NER) is being implemented. The Project envisages to provide mobile coverage to 8621 identified uncovered villages by installation of about 6673 mobile towers, installation of 321 mobile tower sites along National Highways and strengthening of transmission network in the NER.
- (iii) Total of 2355 mobile towers for LWE project are being setup at the sites identified by MHA in LWE affected areas. As on date, total **2329** tower sites are functional.
- (iv) For submarine OFC between mainland India (Chennai) and Andaman & Nicobar Island from Mainland India (Chennai) to Portblair & five others islands namely Car Nicobar, Havelock, Kamorta, Little Andaman and Great Nicobar Island, about 2164 Km of submarine OFC is to be laid.
- (v) Augmentation of Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) Network between District Headquarter (DHQ) and Block Headquarters (BHQs) in North Eastern States namely; Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh & Nagaland is being implemented.
- (c) & (d) LWE project is being implemented in Kandhamal District. Proposal for Phase-II of the LWE Project has also been prepared. The details of mobile tower setup and planned to be setup in LWE affected area of Odisha, at the sites, identified by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is as follows:

	<b>LWE Phase I project Functional</b>	<b>LWE Phase II project Under Planning</b>
<b>Odisha</b>	256	483
<b>Kandhamal District</b>	23	38

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