

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to take steps to improve network connectivity to the existing mobile towers in Odisha.

श्री भर्तृहरि महताब (कटक): धन्यवाद, अध्यक्ष महोदय ।

Hon. Speaker Sir, since long, Odisha has been a connection-deficit State. The present tele-density of Odisha is 75 per cent against 90 per cent of all India. There are nearly 51,353 villages, out of which 11,000 villages have no mobile connectivity. The State has the maximum number of uncovered villages in the country. The quality of mobile connection is a major concern in view of requirement of data connectivity for citizen-centric applications including digital payment being promoted by the Government. During this COVID-19 pandemic, all work is being done through digital platform and people are dependent on internet for access to basic necessities like online education of students, work from home etc. Out of 47,677 inhabited villages, at least 37,737 were connected by mobile service while the rest 9,940 are uncovered and most of them fall in tribal districts and LWE-impacted districts. The data connectivity to the existing mobile towers should be improved with special emphasis on tribal and LWE-impacted areas. I urge upon the Government to address the distress posed by resultant digital divide in Odisha with utmost urgency.

माननीय अध्यक्ष: माननीय सदस्यगण, अगर सदन की सहमति हो तो मैं पहले महिला सदस्यों को बोलने की अनुमति देता हूँ।

अनेक माननीय सदस्य: जी, हां ।

माननीय अध्यक्ष: उसके बाद 60 वर्ष से अधिक उम्र वाले सदस्यों को बोलने का मौका देंगे। नौजवानों को बाद में समय मिलेगा। मैं सभी माननीय सदस्यों से यह भी आग्रह करना चाहता हूँ कि वे अपनी बात को एक मिनट में समाप्त करने का प्रयास करें, आवश्यकता हो तो डेढ़ मिनट कर दें, लेकिन एक से दो मिनट के बीच में अपनी बात को समाप्त कर दें।