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Title: Regarding improvement of mobile connectivity in Odisha - Laid

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK):** Odisha is a connectivity deficit State with overall tele-density of about 79.58 percent and rural tele-density of about 61.60 percent. Out of 51,313 villages, 11,000 villages do not have mobile coverage and out of these 11,000 villages, 10,000 are under the Left Wing Extremism Areas. The Government has allocated funds for development of telecommunication infrastructure in such areas, but due to poor implementation of Government schemes for development of communication infrastructure across State, the subscriber base has decreased in State. So, there is a need to promote private companies to establish their networks rather dragging BSNL subscribed network especially when it is incurring huge losses. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take urgent steps to ensure mobile connectivity to each village of Odisha and encourage private players to participate in building strong, durable and disaster-resistant communication infrastructure across the State.