Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to improve BSNL mobile service in LWE affected districts in Odisha.

SHRIMATI PRATYUSHA RAJESHWARI SINGH (KANDHAMAL): 253 BSNL mobile towers were allotted to the State of Odisha in the 1st phase of LWE Scheme for installation in LWE affected districts. In the meantime, 248 towers have been installed. Out of these 253 towers, 81 sites are in Security Force locations and 172 sites are in Revenue villages. As far as bandwidth is concerned, 162 sites are VSAT and 91 sites are through M/w mini-link. The 162 sites through VSAT are having limited broadband with 612 Kbps, which is hardly serving the purpose. The limited broadband speed is proving even insufficient for voice communication, let alone providing data communication. The sites with mini-link are having somewhat better connectivity compared to VSAT sites. Most of these towers are fitted with low power radiating Trans-receiver Units (TRU) from 2 Watt to 10 Watt limiting the mobile coverage. Hardly, the coverage of 300 metres to maximum 3 KMs is available for mobile towers depending on the types of TRU. The basic purpose of these LWE projects is largely defeated because of the low coverage.

In the meantime, a list of 518 additional locations has been sent to the Government of India for installation of mobile towers in the 2nd phase of the Scheme.

It is suggested that Trans-receiver Units (TRUS) of the existing mobile towers may be upgraded and regular mobile towers of 20 Watt may be installed in all LWE sites in the second phase of the Scheme. The bandwidth of the towers may be enhanced to at least 4 Mbps, upgradable to 8 Mbps subsequently, which can meet the needs of data connectivity. The State Government of Odisha has requested the Union Government vide D.0. No. 1389/CS, dated 29.06.2017 to enhance the bandwidth of the towers.

Since Kandhamal, Boudh, Nayagarh and some parts of Ganjam districts of my Parliamentary Constituency come under Naxalite belt/LWE affected areas, I would request you to resolve this issue at the earliest.