

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 377
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH FEBRUARY, 2022**

UTILISATION OF UNIVERSAL SERVICE OBLIGATION FUND

377 SHRI JOHN BRITTAS:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the year-wise details of amount collected so far towards Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF);
- (b) whether there are instances of short transfer of Universal Access Levy to the USOF by retaining a substantial portion of the amount so collected in the Consolidated Fund of India for other purposes outside the ambit of USOF objectives;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) the details of State-wise utilisation of the USOF during the last five years; and
- (e) the details of projects allocated to Kerala under USOF so far?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

(a) to (c) The year-wise details of the amount collected as Universal Access Levy (UAL) under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) are given in **Annexure –I**.

The funds collected under UAL goes to the Consolidated Fund of India and it is non-lapsable in nature. The outflow from this fund to USOF is through budgetary provision by Ministry of Finance each year, based on the requirement of USOF. The details of amount allocated/ transferred through Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) are given in **Annexure-II**.

(d) The State/UT-wise details of disbursement/ utilization of USOF during last five years (2016-17 to 2020-21) are given in **Annexure-III**.

(e) The following USOF projects are allocated to Kerala:

(i) BharatNet: - BharatNet Project is implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats in the country (including Kerala). As of December 2021, 978 Gram Panchayats (GPs) have been made Service Ready in Kerala.

(ii) Setting up of 25000 Wi-Fi Hotspot at BSNL Rural Telephone Exchanges:- Under this Project, Wi-Fi Hotspot have been installed at BSNL's 1066 Rural Telephone Exchanges in Kerala.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in Parts (a) to (c) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 377 for answer on 04.02.2022

The year-wise details of amount collected as Universal Access Levy under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)

Rupees in Crore.	
Financial Year	Universal Access Levy (UAL) collected
2002-03	1653.61
2003-04	2143.22
2004-05	3457.73
2005-06	3215.13
2006-07	3940.73
2007-08	5405.80
2008-09	5515.14
2009-10	5778.00
2010-11	6114.56
2011-12	6723.57
2012-13	6735.47
2013-14	7896.39
2014-15	7537.88
2015-16	9835.70
2016-17	9763.87
2017-18	7019.22
2018-19	6911.50
2019-20	7961.51
2020-21	9471.23
2021-22 (upto Dec., 2021)	4747.59

Annexure-II

Annexure referred to in Parts (a), (b) & (c) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 377 for answer on 04.02.2022

The details of amount allocated/ transferred through Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)

Rupees in Crores	
Financial Year	Funds allocated and disbursed through USOF
2002-03	300.00
2003-04	200.00
2004-05	1314.59
2005-06	1766.85
2006-07	1500.00
2007-08	1290.00
2008-09	8548.64
2009-10	2400.00
2010-11	3100.00
2011-12	1687.96
2012-13	625.00
2013-14	2163.45
2014-15	2086.98
2015-16	3100.00
2016-17	7227.03
2017-18	6998.76
2018-19	4788.22
2019-20	2926.00
2020-21	7200.00
2021-22 (upto Dec., 2021)	3340.68

Annexure-III

Annexure referred to in Part (d) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 377 for answer on 04.02.2022

The State/UT-wise details of disbursement/ utilization of USOF during last five years (2016-17 to 2020-21)

S. No.	Name of State/ UT	Figures in Crore
1	Andaman & Nicobar	884.99
2	Andhra Pradesh	65.09
3	Assam	270.05
4	Bihar	183.95
5	Chhattisgarh	233.98
6	Gujrat	6.50
7	Haryana	6.46
8	Himachal Pradesh	6.18
9	Jammu and Kashmir	9.84
10	Jharkhand	525.74
11	Karnataka	15.25
12	Kerala (including Lakshadweep)	49.08
13	Maharashtra	65.54
14	Madhya Pradesh	23.84
15	NE-I *	122.16
16	NE-II **	279.88
17	Odisha	188.63
18	Punjab	5.55
19	Rajasthan	6.47
20	Telangana	52.43
21	Tamil Nadu	3.33
22	Uttar Pradesh	74.92
23	Uttarakhand	0.21
24	West Bengal (including Sikkim)	81.73
25	Centrally Disbursed /Utilized Funds#	25978.21
	Total	29140.01

#Fund released for BharatNet etc.

*NE-I includes Mizoram, Meghalaya, Tripura

**NE-II includes Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur
