

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1203  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2022**

**UNIVERSAL SERVICE OBLIGATION FUND AND UNIVERSAL  
ACCESS LEVY**

**1203 DR. JOHN BRITTAS:**

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are instances of C&AG highlighting short transfer of UAL to USOF from Consolidated Fund of India and adverse remarks against retention of UAL in Consolidated Fund;
- (b) details of utilization of funds collected under UAL and parked in Consolidated Fund, towards other purposes;
- (c) year-wise details of disbursement/utilization of USOF in Kerala (excluding Lakshadweep) during last five years;
- (d) reasons for the underutilisation of the existing corpus of the USOF;
- (e) details of inspection reports till date under the monitoring mechanism of the USOF; and
- (f) total amount collected in USOF and total amount spent therefrom as on date?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) The issue of short transfer of the levy to the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) had been brought out in successive reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) on the Union Accounts for the years 2009-10 to 2014-15, 2018-19 and 2019-20. The funds collected under Universal Access Levy (UAL) goes to the Consolidated Fund of India and it is non-lapsable in nature. The outflow from this fund to Universal Service Obligation Fund is through budgetary provision by Ministry of Finance each year, based on the requirement of USOF.
- (b) USO Funds are used for providing telecom services in rural and remote areas of the country at affordable and reasonable prices and not for other purposes.
- (c) The Year-wise details of Funds disbursed under various USOF Schemes which are implemented in Kerala during 2017-18 to 2021-22 (last five years) is given in **Annexure-I**.
- (d) Adequate funds are provided to meet Universal Service Obligation as per requirements of projects/schemes under USOF.
- (e) The Monitoring of the schemes is an ongoing process and its mechanism includes checking the quality of services through Network Operating Centre / Network Management System on real time basis, as well as evaluation of Schemes through physical verification, impact assessment, etc.
- (f) As on 31.10.2022 a sum of Rs. 1,33,600 crore has been collected as Universal Access Levy under USOF out of which Rs. 68,737 crore disbursed/ spent from USOF.

## Annexure-I

Annexure referred in para (c) of the above said Rajya Sabha Untarred Question no. 1203 to be answered on 16.12.2022

The Year-wise details of Funds disbursed under various USOF Schemes which are implemented in Kerala during 2017-18 to 2021-22 (last five years)

Financial Year	Figures in Rupees Crore
2017-18	13.76
2018-19	13.02
2019-20	31.37
2020-21	10.08
2021-22	30.63
Total	98.86

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