

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1991
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17TH MARCH, 2023**

UNIVERSAL SERVICE OBLIGATION FUND SCHEME

1991 Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has decided to provide mobile coverage to 7,300 uncovered villages, including 1200 in Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) Scheme;
- (b) if so, by when the project is targeted to be completed and the present status of the project;
- (c) whether any agreement has been signed between the Ministry and Telecom Service Providers (TSPs); and
- (d) if so, details thereof, if not, by when the agreement is going to be signed?

ANSWER

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

(a) The Union Cabinet has approved a Scheme for provisioning of 4G Mobile Coverage in 7287 uncovered villages of Aspirational Districts of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Odisha, to be funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). Under this scheme, 1218 identified uncovered villages of Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram and Y.S.R. Districts of Andhra Pradesh are included for provision of 4G Mobile Services.

(b) to (d) The agreements for the implementation of aforesaid scheme have been signed on 20.05.2022 with the timeline of 18 months. The work for installation of mobile towers has started and till February 2023, 94 mobile towers have been installed covering 156 uncovered villages including 32 mobile towers providing services to 69 uncovered villages in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
