

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2776  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2023**

**MEASURES TO INCREASE TELE-DENSITY**

**2776 # Dr. M. Thambidurai:**

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the measures taken by Government to increase the tele-density and also the availability of cost effective mobile phone devices in the country;
- (b) the total amount allocated in the last five years for the development of telecom infrastructure facilities in the country, State-wise and year-wise;
- (c) whether Government has plans for production of iphones and android phones in Tamil Nadu to meet the huge demand for iPhones and Android devices; and
- (d) whether Government is aware of the fact that mobile technology is key to growth of digital economy in the country and if so, Government response thereto?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c) The National Digital Communication Policy 2018 envisages three missions of Connect India, Propel India and Secure India. To increase tele-density particularly in rural areas, the Government is implementing projects under the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) such as Aspirational District Project, Left Wing Extremism (LWE) Project, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam Project, Meghalaya Project and 4G Saturation Project.

The details of Funds disbursed from USOF during last five years (2017-18 to 2021-22) for development of telecom facilities in the country, State-wise and year-wise is at **Annexure-I**.

The Government of India has launched a Scheme “Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment for 2022-23”. Under Part V (Optical Fibre Cable) of the Scheme, an amount of Rs 3000 Crore is earmarked and is available to States for capital projects on Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) network. The total amount approved for the development of telecom infrastructure facilities in the country, State wise under the scheme of Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment for 2022-23 is at **Annexure-II**.

The National Policy on Electronics 2019 (NPE 2019) envisions positioning India as a global hub for Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM). In order to boost mobile phone manufacturing including specified electronics components in the country and incentivize large investments in the mobile phone value chain as well as promote exports, following schemes have been notified:

1. Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing.
2. Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for IT Hardware.
3. Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECS).
4. Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC 2.0) Scheme.
5. Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (MSIPS).
6. Program for Development of Semiconductors and Display Manufacturing Ecosystem.

As such, Government does not have any special projects, schemes for development of mobile phone manufacturing in specific states. The PLI Scheme is pan-India and eligible company having manufacturing facility in any of the State including Tamil Nadu can avail the benefits. One PLI beneficiary is currently manufacturing iPhones in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(d) Mobile technology facilitates enhanced connectivity fostering the growth of digital economy. By providing increased internet accessibility, it has led to the empowerment of the masses. Mobile technology has benefitted a range of sectors including finance, e-commerce, healthcare, education, agriculture etc. and has contributed to the development of the country.

**Annexure-I**

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) to (c) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question no. 2776 to be answered on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023 regarding Measures to increase Tele-density.**

**State/UT wise and Year-wise details of Funds disbursed from USOF during last five years (2017-18 to 2021-22)**

**(Rupees in crores)**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name of States/UT</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	Andaman & Nicobar	0.00	91.98	297.28	540.64	86.02	1939.88
2	Andhra Pradesh	6.85	5.45	11.58	40.55	10.99	138.54
3	Assam	0.50	6.34	170.70	91.80	21.23	574.31
4	Bihar	53.35	35.82	58.74	35.17	35.75	348.49
5	Chhattisgarh	118.64	28.22	48.50	38.62	54.14	429.40
6	Gujarat	0.54		0.37	5.60	17.76	47.99
7	Haryana	0.21	0.95	0.68	2.05	1.44	9.52
8	Himachal Pradesh	0.02	2.70	1.55	1.75	9.05	27.42
9	Jammu & Kashmir (including Ladakh)	7.03	0.03	0.69	0.12	4.29	37.99
10	Jharkhand	168.32	108.46	138.42	109.90	58.05	889.51
11	Karnataka	9.10	0.01	5.47	0.00	3.78	27.62
12	Kerala	0.76	2.59	5.37	2.08	1.63	21.51
13	Maharashtra	12.20	11.86	25.51	15.97	28.60	164.22
14	Madhya Pradesh	4.40	2.65	3.06	11.84	8.92	54.69
15	North Eastern Region (NE-I)*	0.33	0.08	48.02	58.73	5.13	224.17
16	North Eastern Region (NE-II)**	0.05	0.01	136.12	129.44	0.01	531.19
17	Odisha	40.64	38.62	61.97	43.39	36.91	363.77
18	Punjab	0.66		0.00	2.44	4.12	13.79
19	Rajasthan	0.45	3.68	0.14	0.55	10.74	27.00
20	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	3.06	0.26	0.71	8.07
21	Telangana	15.49	17.27	4.91	14.76	26.72	125.53
22	Uttar Pradesh	27.26	3.64	27.15	15.51	16.27	148.76
23	West Bengal (including Sikkim)	22.16	18.82	14.60	25.24	5.46	131.57
24	Lakshadweep	39.66	0.00		32.07	150.21	404.23
25	Uttarakhand	0.21					0.21
26	Centrally Allocated / Disbursed Funds#	6469.92	4409.04	1862.12	5981.51	7702.06	41970.34
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6998.75</b>	<b>4788.22</b>	<b>2926.00</b>	<b>7200.00</b>	<b>8300.00</b>	<b>48659.72</b>

#Fund released for BharatNet etc.

\*NE-I includes Mizoram, Meghalaya, Tripura

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

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) to (c) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question no. 2776 to be answered on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023 regarding Measures to increase Tele-density.

**Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment for 2022-23**

S.No.	State	Amount approved (in Rs. crores)
1	Andhra Pradesh	126
2	Arunachal Pradesh	50
3	Assam	79
4	Chhattisgarh	65
5	Goa	50
6	Gujarat	154
7	Haryana	65
8	Himachal Pradesh	50
9	Jharkhand	84
10	Karnataka	156
11	Kerala	85
12	Madhya Pradesh	185
13	Maharashtra	286
14	Manipur	50
15	Meghalaya	50
16	Mizoram	50
17	Rajasthan	175
18	Sikkim	50
19	Tamil Nadu	184
20	Tripura	50
21	Uttar Pradesh	300
22	Uttarakhand	50
23	West Bengal	232
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2626</b>

\*\*\*\*\*