

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1892  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3<sup>RD</sup> JULY, 2019**

**USOF**

†1892. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Universal Service Obligation Fund(USOF) was set up under Telecom Policy, 1999 and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the percentage of gross revenue required to be deposited by the telecom operator companies in the said fund as per the said Telecom Policy;
- (c) whether all the said companies have deposited the requisite amount in the USOF in accordance with the rules laid down in this regard and if so, the details of the deposits made as on date;
- (d) the details of the amount of funds utilized by the Government from the USOF for setting-up mobile networks in the country, location and State-wise, particularly in the backward and Scheduled Caste-dominated areas during the last three years along with the achievements made as a result thereof; and
- (e) the amount of money available in the said fund as on date?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, LAW & JUSTICE AND  
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

- (a) As envisaged in the New Telecom Policy 1999, Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) was established under Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 2003 which came into force from 1st April, 2002.
- (b) As per the New Telecom Policy 1999, the percentage of revenue share towards universal access levy was to be decided by the Government in consultation with Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) At present, as per license agreement the License fee shall be 8% of the Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR), inclusive of USO Levy which is 5% of the AGR.
- (c) The definition of AGR is subjudice in Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, so companies have deposited the amounts on self – assessment basis, based on their understanding of AGR. The Universal Service Obligation(USO) Levy collected since inception is Rs 99,674.59 crore.
- (d) The details are at **Annexure**.
- (e) An amount of Rs. 50,554 Crore was available in the USO Fund at the end of May 2019.

**ANNEXURE**

The location-wise / State-wise details of the amount of funds utilized and number of towers set up by the Government from the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for provision of mobile services in the country during the last three years:

**A. LWE Phase-I Project:**

S.No.	Name of States	Amount Spent in last three years (in Crore)	Total number of towers located in the State	Number of tower installed in last three years
1	Andhra Pradesh	41.73	62	23
2	Bihar	146.75	250	66
3	Chhattisgarh	352.60	525	40
4	Jharkhand	404.79	816	284
5	Maharashtra	54.66	65	9
6	Madhya Pradesh	18.35	22	0
7	Odisha	232.59	256	118
8	Telangana	57.10	173	119
9	Uttar Pradesh	46.15	78	0
10	West Bengal	51.17	96	18

**B. Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for North Eastern Region:**

S. No.	Eastern Region	No. of towers installed (Amount Yet to be released)
1	Arunachal Pradesh	23
2	Assam	190
3	Manipur	46
4	Mizoram	34
5	Nagaland	35
6	Sikkim	1
7	Tripura	1

**C. Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for Lakshadweep Island:**

S. No.	Region	No. of towers installed (Amount Yet to be released)
1	Lakshadweep Island	10

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