

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1293
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14TH DECEMBER, 2022**

TELECOM POLICY

†1293. SHRI ARUN KUMAR SAGAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the provision of Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has been made under the Telecom Policy, 1999 and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the percentage of gross revenue to be deposited in this fund by the telecom operator companies as per the provision of the Telecom Policy;
- (c) whether all telecom operator companies have deposited this amount of the gross revenue in USOF as per rules, if so, the details of amount of funds deposited as on date;
- (d) the State-wise and location-wise funds spent by the Government from USOF for mobile network in the country especially in backward and Scheduled Castes dominated areas of the country during the last five years along with the achievements made thereunder; and
- (e) the amount of funds remained in USOF as on the date?

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

- (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) & (c) 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. In accordance to the License Agreement, Telecom Service Providers are depositing the Licence Fee. As on 31.10.2022, total of Rs. 1,33,600.15 Crore is collected as Universal Access Levy under USOF.
- (d) The State/UT-wise details of funds disbursed/ spent during last five years (2017-18 to 2021-22) under various USOF Schemes for providing Mobile Network in the Country including Backward and Scheduled Castes dominated areas is given in **Annexure-I**. Physical achievements made under the said Schemes during last five years (2017-18 to 2021-22) is given in **Annexure-II**.
- (e) An amount of Rs. 64,863.28 Crore is available in the USO Fund at the end of October 2022.

ANNEXURE-I

Annexure referred to in Part (d) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1293 to be answered on 14.12.2022

The State/UT-wise details of funds disbursed/ spent during last five years (2017-18 to 2021-22) under various USOF Schemes for providing Mobile Network in the Country including Backward and Scheduled Castes dominated areas

| Sl. No. | Name of States /UT | Figures in Rs. crore |
|---------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Andhra Pradesh | 101.63 |
| 2 | Assam | 281.48 |
| 3 | Bihar | 244.62 |
| 4 | Chhattisgarh | 505.07 |
| 5 | Gujarat | 12.00 |
| 6 | Himachal Pradesh | 9.42 |
| 7 | Jammu & Kashmir | 4.15 |
| 8 | Jharkhand | 654.39 |
| 9 | Karnataka | 1.50 |
| 10 | Lakshadweep | 9.99 |
| 11 | Maharashtra | 83.65 |
| 12 | Madhya Pradesh | 31.12 |
| 13 | NE-I | 110.41 |
| 14 | NE-II | 264.65 |
| 15 | Odisha | 409.07 |
| 16 | Rajasthan | 8.11 |
| 17 | Telangana | 92.31 |
| 18 | Uttar Pradesh | 86.21 |
| 19 | West Bengal | 91.92 |
| | Total | 3001.70 |

ANNEXURE-II

Annexure referred to in Part (d) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1293 to be answered on 14.12.2022

Physical achievements made during last five years (2017-18 to 2021-22) under various USOF Schemes to provide Mobile Network in the Country including Backward and Scheduled Castes dominated areas

| S. No. | Name of States/UT | Number of Towers Installed |
|---------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Assam | 439 |
| 2 | Sikkim | 8 |
| 3 | Manipur | 404 |
| 4 | Mizoram | 214 |
| 5 | Nagaland | 152 |
| 6 | Tripura | 3 |
| 7 | Arunachal Pradesh | 138 |
| 8 | Andhra Pradesh | 8 |
| 9 | Bihar | 76 |
| 10 | Chhattisgarh | 35 |
| 11 | Jharkhand | 34 |
| 12 | Maharashtra | 5 |
| 13 | Madhya Pradesh | 17 |
| 14 | Odisha | 8 |
| 15 | Telangana | 0 |
| 16 | Uttar Pradesh | 26 |
| 17 | West Bengal | 0 |
| 18 | Gujrat | 39 |
| 19 | Himachal Pradesh | 22 |
| 20 | Jammu and Kashmir | 94 |
| 21 | Ladakh | 0 |
| 22 | Karnataka | 3 |
| 23 | Rajasthan | 27 |
| 24 | Uttarakhand | 9 |
| 25 | Lakshadweep | 10 |
| Total | | 1766 |
