

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3343
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH AUGUST, 2023**

AREAS REMAINED UNCOVERED UNDER USOF

3343. SHRI SUNIL BABURAO MENDHE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of areas remained uncovered under the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) project in Maharashtra and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any project proposals are pending with the Government for Maharashtra for these uncovered areas;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the number of projects under USOF sanctioned by the Government during the last three years;
- (e) whether the Government also plans to upgrade the existing BSNL services using the funds and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the details of the funds disbursed from the budget for USOF during the last three years, Statewise?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) Union Cabinet on 27.07.2022 has approved a project for saturation of 4G mobile services in uncovered villages across the country. The project will provide 4G mobile services in 24,680 uncovered villages in remote and difficult areas, including Maharashtra. In addition, 6,279 villages having only 2G/3G connectivity shall be upgraded to 4G. After survey, 2,943 villages in Maharashtra have been identified for providing 4G coverage under this project.

Further, to connect all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) with broadband in the country including Maharashtra, BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner. The scope of BharatNet has been recently extended upto all inhabited villages beyond GPs. In Maharashtra, out of 27,939 planned GPs, 23,963 GPs have been made service ready till Jun-2023.

(d) During the last three years, following 06 projects were approved by the Government (i) Upgradation of existing 2G mobile towers to 4G mobile towers of the scheme Left Wing Extremism (LWE) Phase-I, (ii) Provisioning of 4G based Mobile service in 7287 uncovered villages of 44 Aspirational Districts of 5 States -Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Odisha, (iii) Provisioning of 4G mobile services in Arunachal Pradesh and two Districts (Karbi Anglong & Dima Hasao) of Assam, (iv) Project for saturation of 4G mobile services in uncovered villages across the country, (v) Provisioning of 4G mobile services at 1,117 locations of Border Out Posts (BOPs) of various Border Guard Forces (BGFs) and Border Intelligence Posts (BIPs), (vi) Augmentation of Telecom infrastructure in Lakshadweep islands.

(e) The Universal Service Obligation Fund is utilized as per the provision of Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act-2003. It does not include provision for upgrading BSNL Services.

(f) The State/UT-wise details of funds disbursed under various USOF Schemes during last three years (2020-21 to 2022-23) is given in **Annexure-I**.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in Part (f) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3343 for answer on 09.08.2023

State/UT-wise details of disbursement of Funds under various USOF schemes during last three years 2020-21 to 2022-23.

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Rupees in crores
1	Andaman & Nicobar	681.01
2	Andhra Pradesh	249.70
3	Assam	132.73
4	Bihar	112.43
5	Chhattisgarh	455.49
6	Centrally disbursed from USOF	14,753.68
7	Gujarat (including Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu)	47.60
8	Haryana	21.09
9	Himachal Pradesh	24.10
10	Jammu and Kashmir (including Ladakh)	74.97
11	Jharkhand	322.69
12	Karnataka	102.97
13	Kerala	24.98
14	Lakshadweep	254.34
15	Maharashtra	108.42
16	Madhya Pradesh	240.98
17	NE-I (including Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura)	210.70
18	NE-II (including Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland)	271.22
19	Odisha	357.53
20	Punjab	27.56
21	Rajasthan	221.32
22	Tamil Nadu	26.54
23	Telangana	87.85
24	Uttar Pradesh	108.25
25	Uttarakhand	23.13
26	West Bengal	58.74
	Grand Total	19,000.00
