

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2734
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH MARCH, 2021**

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FROM USOF

2734. DR. SANJAY JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to allocate funds from the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) to mobile companies to develop telecom infrastructure in remote areas in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the allocation made from the said fund to various companies during the last three years, company-wise; and
- (c) the number of villages equipped with telecom facilities through the use of this fund during the same period, State/UT-wise?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)**

(a) & (b) Subsidies are provided to mobile companies for mobile connectivity in inaccessible, rural and remote areas of the country including North Eastern Region, Left Wing Extremism Affected areas, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep from Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF). Details of subsidy disbursed to various mobile companies from USOF under different projects during the last three years is enclosed as **Annexure A**.

(c) BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (approximately 2.5 lakh) in the country.

During the last 3 years, a total of 1,20,478 Gram Panchayats (including BHQs) have been made Service Ready under BharatNet Project. Further, mobile services have been provided in 1097 village during this period.

Subsidies disbursed to various mobile companies from USOF under different projects during the last three years

Rs. In crore

Sl. No.	Mobile Companies	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
1.	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	678.85	621.36	912.23
2.	M/s Bharati Airtel Ltd. & M/s Bharati Hexacom Ltd.			353.1
3.	Reliance Communication Limited		1.73	
4.	Reliance Infocomm Limited		14.50	
