

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2792
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15TH DECEMBER, 2021**

UNIVERSAL SERVICE OBLIGATION FUND

2792. ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE:
SHRI JAYANT SINHA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has allocated any funds from the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) towards improving the infrastructure in any part of the nation;
- (b) if so, the state wise details thereof;
- (c) the details of the Universal Access Levy (UAL) collected in the last five years, state-wise;
- (d) the subsidies disbursed under the Universal Service Obligation (USO) in the last five years;
- (e) the details of the subsidies and funds utilised under the USOF in the last five years;
- (f) whether the Government has any plans to improve the 4G connectivity of BSNL network in the Idukki parliamentary constituency by utilising funds from the above mentioned USOF;
- (g) if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) if not, the reasons for non utilisation of funds to improve connectivity in a largely backward region with a considerable tribal population?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Rs. 55,508 crore has been allocated /disbursed up to Oct., 2021 from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) towards improving telecom infrastructures in the rural and remote areas of the Country. The State/UT-wise details of allocation/ disbursement of funds are given in **Annexure-I**.

(c) Rs. 41,127 crore Universal Access Levy (UAL), collected in the last five years (2016-17 to 2020-21), the year wise details are as under:

Financial years	Universal Access Levy (UAL) (Figures in crores)
2016-17	9764
2017-18	7019
2018-19	6911
2019-20	7962
2020-21	9471
Total	41127

(d) & (e) Rs. 29,140 crore has been disbursed/utilized as subsidy from USOF in the last five years (2016-17 to 2020-21).

(f) to (h) 4G mobile connectivity is provided by the Government and the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) in a phased manner in the country. The Government, with support from USOF, is implementing schemes for providing 4G services in rural and remote areas of the Country. However, presently there is no specific USOF Scheme to improve 4G connectivity of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) network in the Idukki parliamentary constituency.

Annexure referred to in Parts (a) & (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2792 for answer on 15.12.2021

State/UT-wise details of allocation/ disbursement of subsidy from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)

S. No.	Name of State/ UT	Figures in Crore
1	Andaman & Nicobar	957
2	Andhra Pradesh	872
3	Assam	507
4	Bihar	609
5	Chhattisgarh	533
6	Gujrat	676
7	Haryana	194
8	Himachal Pradesh	274
9	Jammu and Kashmir	100
10	Jharkhand	647
11	Karnataka	686
12	Kerala (including Lakshadweep)	575
13	Maharashtra	1452
14	Madhya Pradesh	872
15	NE-I *	244
16	NE-II **	363
17	Odisha	618
18	Punjab	336
19	Rajasthan	804
20	Telangana	59
21	Tamil Nadu	359
22	Uttar Pradesh	952
23	Uttarakhand	162
24	West Bengal (including Sikkim)	267
25	Centrally Allocated / Disbursed Funds#	42390
	Total	55508

#Fund released for BharatNet etc.

*NE-I includes Mizoram, Meghalaya, Tripura

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