

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2414
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16TH MARCH, 2022**

FUNDS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

2414. ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE:
SHRI KHAGEN MURMU:

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 infrastructure in any part of the nation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) 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;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government concurs with the view that the USOF Fund should be fully utilised with a focus on a transparent technology-neutral financing of broadband infrastructure;
- (f) if so, the steps that have been taken/being taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Rs. 65,678 crore has been allocated /disbursed up to February, 2022 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) to (d) 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.

(e) to (g) The Schemes under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) are designed and implemented transparently as per the extant provisions of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and Indian Telegraph Rules, 1951, as amended from time to time.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in Parts (a) & (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2414 to be answered on 16.03.2022

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

S. No.	Name of State/ UT	Amount in Rs. of Crore
1	Andaman & Nicobar	1074
2	Andhra Pradesh	876
3	Assam	507
4	Bihar	632
5	Chhattisgarh	566
6	Gujrat	687
7	Haryana	194
8	Himachal Pradesh	283
9	Jammu and Kashmir	100
10	Jharkhand	657
11	Karnataka	687
12	Kerala (including Lakshadweep)	663
13	Maharashtra	1456
14	Madhya Pradesh	878
15	NE-I *	244
16	NE-II **	363
17	Odisha	630
18	Punjab	337
19	Rajasthan	813
20	Telangana	74
21	Tamil Nadu	360
22	Uttar Pradesh	954
23	Uttarakhand	162
24	West Bengal (including Sikkim)	268
25	Centrally Allocated / Disbursed Funds#	52213
	Total	65678

#Fund released for BharatNet etc.

*NE-I includes Mizoram, Meghalaya, Tripura

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