

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5553
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6TH APRIL, 2022**

MOBILE TOWERS IN LWE AREAS

5553. SHRI SHANMUGA SUNDARAM K.:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Department of Telecommunications (DOT) has sent a proposal for installing mobile towers in Left-Wing Extremist (LWE) affected areas and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the balance outstanding as on date of Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) and the amount disbursed so far for the past three years and for the current year;
- (c) the total number of mobile towers and base transceiver stations installed so far out of USOF;
- (d) whether the tender process was adhered to by DOT while forwarding documents for clearance by the Ministry and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the total number of mobile towers installed by BSNL in LWE areas?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Under Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas schemes, towers are installed for providing mobile services at the locations identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). Under LWE Phase-I Scheme, total 2343 towers have been installed to provide mobile services. LWE Phase-II Scheme includes the installation of 2,542 towers to provide 4G mobile services across 10 LWE States.
- (b) As on 28.02.2022, Rs. 58,569.89 crore is available as Universal Access Levy (UAL) under the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) and Rs. 21,367.22 crore has been disbursed during the past three years and the current year.
- (c) Under USOF schemes namely Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for North Eastern Region, Left Wing Extremism (LWE) Affected Area schemes, Border areas & other priority areas schemes, Aspirational Districts Schemes, Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for Islands to extend mobile connectivity, 4112 towers, along with Base Transceiver Stations, have been installed in the country.
- (d) The USOF schemes 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.
- (e) Total 2,343 Mobile towers have been installed under LWE Phase-I through Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) at the locations, identified by the MHA, in the 10 affected States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.
