

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 30
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27TH NOVEMBER, 2024**

UNIVERSAL SERVICE OBLIGATION FUND

***30 SHRI HARIBHAI PATEL:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a number of areas remained uncovered under the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) project in Gujarat and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any project proposals are pending with the Government for Gujarat 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 State-wise details of funds disbursed from the budget for USOF during the last three years?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN
REGION
(SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)**

- (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 30 FOR 27TH NOVEMBER, 2024 REGARDING “UNIVERSAL SERVICE OBLIGATION FUND.”

(a) to (c) A number of projects have been taken up with funding from Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) (erstwhile USOF), Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to provide coverage to remote and uncovered areas in Gujarat. The details are as below:

- (i) The BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country, including Gujarat. In Gujarat state, under BharatNet Phase-I and Phase-II, 14,316 GPs out of the total planned 14,320 GPs in the state have been made service ready by providing OFC/Satellite Connection.
- (ii) Various DBN funded mobile projects for providing 4G coverage to uncovered villages in Gujarat State are under implementation. These projects are (i) 4G saturation Project; (ii) Border Out Posts (BOP)/ Border Intelligence Posts (BIP); and (iii) 354 Border Villages. Out of 905 villages, proposed to be covered under these schemes, as of Oct-2024, 524 villages have been covered.

(d) & (e) The number of projects under DBN, sanctioned by the Government during the last three years, are as given below:

S.N.	Scheme
1	502 Aspirational Districts
2	Uncovered villages & NH of Andaman & Nicobar Islands
3	Left Wing Extremism Phase-II
4	Arunachal Pradesh and 2 Districts of Assam
5	7287 Aspirational Districts
6	4G Saturation
7	BOP/BIP scheme
8	Lakshadweep Islands
9	Left Wing Extremism Phase-I Upgradation
10	Amended BharatNet Program

These projects include upgradation of existing BSNL services as well.

(f) **The State-wise details of funds disbursed from the budget for DBN during the last three years is as follows:**

(Rupees in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of States/ UT	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (Till Sept 2024)
1	Andaman Nicobar Islands	86.02	54.43	38.36	45.88
2	Andhra Pradesh	128.55	806.64	682.28	204.90
3	Assam	32.74	52.83	247.92	50.42
4	Bihar	131.41	132.78	215.62	70.57

Sl. No.	Name of States/ UT	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (Till Sept 2024)
5	Chandigarh	-	0.77	-	0.13
6	Chhattisgarh	486.92	786.54	296.85	168.47
7	Gujarat, Dadara and Nagar Haveli	200.17	440.42	390.89	142.88
8	Haryana	30.61	70.87	36.60	42.70
9	Himachal Pradesh	10.61	17.51	192.60	33.03
10	Jammu and Kashmir	15.91	115.05	153.58	117.87
11	Jharkhand	218.78	165.22	398.62	153.66
12	Karnataka	94.53	198.62	241.96	107.58
13	Kerala	39.70	41.81	62.05	130.12
14	Lakshadweep	150.44	77.84	663.73	3.81
15	Ladakh	0.69	-	42.18	-
16	Maharashtra (including Goa)	511.37	547.60	1,549.49	397.71
17	Madhya Pradesh	78.46	367.16	408.50	170.36
18	NE-I (Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura)	14.31	153.98	154.98	66.40
19	NE-II (Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland)	27.51	166.84	435.42	137.95
20	Odisha	261.41	370.21	572.68	383.95
21	Punjab	106.27	112.29	100.85	82.73
22	Puducherry	-	-	-	1.40
23	Rajasthan	132.13	464.33	332.05	209.75
24	Tamil Nadu	74.92	107.54	554.14	310.50
25	Telangana	1,143.09	63.39	464.14	11.01
26	Uttar Pradesh	258.61	429.03	305.27	89.36
27	Uttarakhand	9.62	52.98	155.15	98.91
28	West Bengal (including Sikkim)	95.34	117.24	95.26	46.60
	Grand Total	4,340.12	5,913.92	8,791.17	3,278.66
