

Year	Funds Allocated	Disbursed	Expenditure incurred
2012-13	52.06	39.70	38.56
2013-14	65.63	37.65	51.56
2014-15	75.78	72.88	68.42
2015-16	35.75	35.32	14.90

**Statement-II**

*Details of funds allocated, disbursed and expenditure incurred to the State Government of Tamil Nadu in the last five years in respect of ISOPOM Scheme during the year 2011-12 to 2013-14 and NMOOP for 2014-15 to 2015-16 (as on 29.02.2016)*

(₹ in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Year	Funds Allocated	Disbursed	Expenditure incurred
1	Tamil Nadu	2011-12	1268.00	1268.00	1104.83
		2012-13	821.94	821.94	1389.72
		2013-14	1206.45	1206.45	1022.82
		2014-15	1059.00	842.58	714.22
		2015-16	888.11	710.49	330.91

**Utilization of USOF**

971. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds accumulated in the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) through fees/cess levied on telecom operators, year-wise, since 2010;

(b) the amount and proportion of these funds that have been utilized each year since 2010; and

(c) whether a large portion of funds is unused, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) the amount of funds accumulated in the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) through Universal Access Levy (UAL) from telecom operators, year-wise since 2010 is as under:

(₹ in Crore)

Sl. No.	Year	UAL Collection (Booked figures as per DoT A/cs)
1.	2010-11	6114.56
2.	2011-12	6723.57
3.	2012-13	6735.46
4.	2013-14	7896.39
5.	2014-15	7538.70
6.	2015-16 (as on 31.01.2016)	5958.97
TOTAL		40967.65

(b) The utilization of USO Fund, year-wise since 2010 is as under:

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Year	UAL Collection (Booked figures as per DoT A/cs)	Fund allocated and disbursed through USOF
1.	2010-11	6114.56	3100.00
2.	2011-12	6723.57	1687.96
3.	2012-13	6735.46	625.00
4.	2013-14	7896.39	2163.45
5.	2014-15	7538.70	2086.98
6.	2015-16 (as on 31.01.2016)	5958.97	2161.25
TOTAL		40967.65	11824.64

(c) Since inception of USOF (*i.e.* from 2002-03), ₹ 72077.01 crore has been collected as UAL and ₹ 29144.72 crore (including ₹ 6948.64 crore for reimbursement of licence fees and spectrum charges to BSNL) has been disbursed under various schemes of USOF. The available balance is ₹ 42932.29 crore as on 31.01.2016. It is expected that amount accrued to the USO Fund would be utilized in the execution of the following Schemes *viz.* National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN), Left Wing Extremism (LWE) and Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for NE Region amounting to ₹ 20,100 crore, ₹ 3,567.58 crore and ₹ 5,336 crore respectively.

#### **Initiative to alleviate sufferings of farmers**

972. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of policy initiative measures taken or proposed to be taken to alleviate the sufferings of farmers, particularly the small and marginal ones;

(b) whether Government has issued statutory powers to any commission so that they take decisions for arranging funds and providing it to the needy and poor farmers against nominal interest rates; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) To alleviate the sufferings of farmers including small and marginal farmers, Government had constituted the National Commission on Farmers (NCF) under the Chairmanship of Dr. M. S. Swaminathan in 2004. The Commission submitted five reports to the Government. The major recommendations of the Commission contained in the five reports were included in the 'Draft National Policy for Farmers' submitted by the Commission itself in 2006. Based on the 'Draft National Policy for Farmers', the Government approved the National Policy for Farmers-2007, which aims to improve economic viability of farming and increase net income of farmers.

Policy provisions in NPF-2007 include, *inter-alia*, asset reforms in respect of land, water, livestock, fisheries and bio-resources; supply of good quality seeds and disease-free planting material, issue of soil health passbooks to the farmers and integrated pest management system; region and crop specific implements and machinery; support services for women; timely, adequate and easy reach of institutional credit at reasonable interest rates and farmer-friendly Insurance instruments; support services and inputs