

श्री हंसराज गंगाराम अहीर: सभापति महोदय, जो आठ प्लांट्स बंद पड़े हुए हैं, मैं उनकी जानकारी देना चाहता हूँ। सिंदरी, रामागुंडम, गोरखपुर, तालचर और कोरबा—ये पांचों प्लांट्स FCIL के थे और सभी बंद पड़े हुए हैं। इनके अतिरिक्त बरौनी, हल्दिया और दुर्गापुर प्लांट्स भी बंद पड़े हुए हैं। सरकार ने यह निर्णय लिया है और सिंदरी, रामागुंडम, तालचर और गोरखपुर, इन चारों के revival का हमारा प्लान है। तालचर में coal based यूरिया बनाने का प्रयास चल रहा है। मैं स्पष्ट करूंगा कि हमने coal based यूरिया बनाने के लिए प्रयास प्रारम्भ किया है। हमारे जो भी प्लांट्स coal belt में हैं, उन प्लांट्स को हम coal based कैसे बना सकते हैं, हम इस पर विचार कर रहे हैं।

Utilisation of USO fund

*155. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has collected ₹ 52,722.64 crore under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) since its inception in 2002-03 to boost connectivity in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof and how much amount has been utilized by the Ministry from this Fund during the last ten years; and

(c) the infrastructure facilities created for the benefit of rural connectivity during the last ten years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Since inception of Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) (*i.e.* from 2002-03), ₹ 72077.01 crore has been collected as Universal Access Levy (UAL) available as potential fund under USOF to boost connectivity in rural areas.

(b) The reply is as under:—

(i) The Details of UAL is as under:

(₹ in crore)		
Sl. No.	Year	Amount
1.	2002-03	1653.61
2.	2003-04	2143.22
3	2004-05	3457.73

Sl. No.	Year	Amount
4.	2005-06	3215.13
5.	2006-07	3940.73
6.	2007-08	5405.80
7.	2008-09	5515.14
8.	2009-10	5778.00
9.	2010-11	6114.56
10.	2011-12	6723.57
11.	2012-13	6735.46
12.	2013-14	7896.39
13.	2014-15	7538.70
14.	2015-16	5958.97
(As on 31.01.2016)		
TOTAL		72077.01

(ii) The details of amount utilized by the Ministry during the last ten years and current financial year is as under:

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Year	USO Funds allocated to DoT by Ministry of Finance	USO Funds Utilized by DoT
1.	2005-06	1766.85	1766.85
2.	2006-07	1500.00	1500.00
3.	2007-08	1290.00	1290.00
4.	2008-09	1600.00	1600.00
5.	2009-10	2400.00	2400.00
6.	2010-11	3100.00	3100.00
7.	2011-12	1687.96	1687.96
8.	2012-13	625.00	625.00
9.	2013-14	2163.45	2163.45
10.	2014-15	2086.98	2086.98
11.	2015-16	3100.00	2161.25
(as on 31.01.2016)			
TOTAL		21320.24	20381.49

Note: In addition, the Ministry of Finance allocated ₹ 6948.64 crore to DoT. This amount has been utilized by DoT for the reimbursement of licence fees and spectrum charges to BSNL for fulfilling rural obligation.

(c) Infrastructure facilities created for the benefit of rural connectivity during last ten years is given in the Statement-I.

Statement-I

The infrastructure facilities created for the benefit of rural connectivity during the last ten years are as follows:—

Various Schemes are being implemented/planned with financial support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for expansion of mobile services in rural and remote areas. Details of such schemes are as below :

- (i) **Village Public Telephones (VPTs):** 581183 out of 593601 inhabited villages (*i.e.* 97.9%) of the country as per Census 2011 have been provided with Village Public Telephones (VPTs) with financial support from Universal Service Obligation Fund. State-wise details is given in Statement-II (*See below*).
- (ii) **Rural Community Phones (RCPs):** Agreements were signed with BSNL and RIL [Reliance Infocomm Limited] on 30.09.2004 for providing 40,694 Rural Community Phones (RCPs) [BSNL: 21958, RIL: 18736] in villages with population more than 2000 and not having Public Call Office (PCO) facility. All of these 40694 RCPs have been provided. [The scheme is closed].
- (iii) **Rural household Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs):** Agreements were signed in March 2005 with M/s BSNL, Reliance Infocomm Limited (RIL), Tata Teleservices Ltd. (TTL) and Tata Teleservices Ltd (Maharashtra) [TTL (MH)] for installation of individual Rural household Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) during 01.04.2005 and 31.03.2007, in eligible 1685 Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) out of total 2647 SDCAs, where cost of providing telephone connection was more than the revenue earned. About 79.3 lakh RDELs have been provided under this scheme till the closure of the scheme on 31.03.2010.
- (iv) **Shared Mobile Infrastructure Scheme:** 7,317 Mobile towers have been installed with the financial support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) under the Shared Mobile Infrastructure Scheme in villages or cluster of villages having population of 2000 or more and not having mobile coverage. State-wise details are given in Statement-III (*See below*). The infrastructure so created is capable of being shared by three service providers for provision of mobile services. The scheme was implemented during the period from June, 2007 to November, 2013.
- (v) **Rural Wireline Broadband:** For providing broadband connectivity to rural

and remote areas, USOF has signed an Agreement with BSNL on January 20, 2009. The Rural Wireline Broadband Scheme was implemented to provide wire-line broadband connectivity to rural and remote areas. As on 31.01.2015, a total of 656345 broadband connections have been provided and 15671 kiosks have been set up in rural and remote areas. State-wise details is given in Statement-IV (*See below*).

(vi) **Optical Fibre Network Augmentation, Creation and Management of Intra-District SDHQ-DHQ OFC Network in Assam:** The State of Assam has been taken up first for implementation. As per the outcome of the tender for implementation of this scheme in Assam, BSNL has been declared the successful bidder at a subsidy quote of ₹ 98.89 Crore, and subsequently, an Agreement has been signed with them on 12.02.2010 in this regard. The status is given in Statement-V (*See below*).

(vii) **Optical Fibre Network Augmentation, Creation and Management of Intra-District SDHQ-DHQ OFC Network in NE-I Circle (comprising States of Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura):** The States of Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura have been taken up for OFC augmentation in this scheme. As per the outcome of the tender for implementation of this scheme, M/s RailTel Corporation of India Limited has been declared the successful bidder at their subsidy quote of ₹ 89.50 crore.

This OFC Scheme would connect 188 locations in 19 Districts within 48 months from the date of signing of the Agreement *i.e.* by 15.01.2016. The Agreement shall be valid for a period of eight years from the date of signing of agreement *i.e.* 16.01.2012. The status is given in abovementioned Statement-V (*See below*).

(viii) **Optical Fibre Network Augmentation, Creation and Management of Intra-District SDHQ-DHQ OFC Network in NE-II Circle (comprising States of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland):** The States of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland have been taken up for OFC augmentation in this scheme. As per the outcome of the tender for implementation of this scheme, M/s RailTel Corporation of India Limited has been declared the successful bidder at their subsidy quote of ₹ 298.50 Crore.

This OFC Scheme would connect 407 locations in total 30 Districts within 54 months from the date of signing of the Agreement *i.e.* by 15.07.2016 for the States of Manipur and Nagaland and within 60 months from the date of signing of the Agreement *i.e.* by 15.01.2017 for the state of Arunachal Pradesh. The Agreement shall be valid for a period of eight years from the date of signing of agreement *i.e.* 16.01.2012. The status is given in abovementioned Statement-V (*See below*).

- (ix) **Solar Mobile Charging Facilities (SMCF):** Agreement for installation of Solar Mobile Charging Stations in 5000 villages in the country was signed with TERI on 29.04.2010. Mobile Charging stations have been established in 1900 villages by TERI till the expiry of the Agreement in April 2012.
- (x) **Sanchar Shakti:** Four pilot agreements have since been signed between USOF Administration in the service providers in Pune district (Maharashtra circle), Ajmer district (Rajasthan circle), Uttarakhand and Srikakulam, East Godavari and Vishakhapatnam districts (A.P. circle) for Provision of mobile Value Added Services to rural women's SHGs for a period of one year. The particulars are as under:

Sl. No.	Operational Area	Effective date of Agreement	Beneficiaries (No. of women)
1	Pune (Maharashtra)	05.01.2013 Ext. From 05.02.2013	2200
2.	Uttarakhand	05.01.2013 Ext. From 05.02.2013	2200
3.	Ajmer (Rajasthan)	05.05.2013 Ext. From 05.06.2013	2860
4	Srikakulam, East Godavari and Vishakhapatnam	10.03.2014 Ext. From 01.10.2014	3066

- (xi) **National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN):** NOFN is planned to connect all the 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats in the country through optical fibre utilizing existing fibers of PSUs viz. BSNL, RailTel and Power Grid (and of any desirous private operator) and laying incremental fiber wherever necessary for providing Broadband connectivity. Size of the incremental network is Approx. 6 lakh Km. Dark fiber network thus created will be lit by appropriate technology thus creating sufficient bandwidth (100 Mbps) at GPS level. Non-discriminatory access to the network will be provided to all the telecom service providers. These access providers like mobile operators, Internet Service Providers (ISPs), Cable TV operators, content providers can launch various services in rural areas. Various applications for e-health, e-education, e-governance etc. will be provided. The project has been approved by Union Cabinet on 25.10.2011. The project is being funded by USOF and initial estimated cost of project is ₹ 20,100 crore. The project is being executed by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) namely Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), which has been incorporated on 25.02.2012 under Indian Companies Act 1956. BBNL is getting the project executed through 3 CPSUs viz. BSNL, RailTel and Powergrid.
- (xii) **Mobile connectivity in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas:** 2199 mobile towers are being set up in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected

States with a total estimated cost of ₹ 3567.58 crore. State-wise details are given in Statement-VI (*See below*). 1517 sites are radiating as on 29.02.2016.

(xiii) **Satellite Bandwidth Augmentation in A&N Islands:**

- Decision taken in meeting held in Cabinet Secretariat on 12.06.2014 for funding of CAPEX by USOF for enhancement of satellite bandwidth from 260 Mbps to 1 Gbps.
- As on 31.12.2015, bandwidth augmented to 600 Mbps by BSNL as against the target of 1 Gbps mentioned in TC approved dated 22.04.2015.
- Bandwidth augmentation upto 1 Gbps to be implemented in a phased manner by 31.03.2016 owing to delay in supply of equipment by the vendor.

Statement-II

State-wise number of VPTs provisioned

Name of the State	No. of inhabited revenue villages as per Census 2001	No. of VPTs provided
1	2	3
Andaman and Nicobar	501	352
Andhra Pradesh/Telangana	26613	25107
Assam	25124	24692
Bihar	39032	38941
Jharkhand	29354	28821
Gujarat	18159	18054
Haryana	6764	6678
Himachal Pradesh	17495	16390
Jammu and Kashmir	6417	6385
Karnataka	27481	27451
Kerala	1372	1321
Madhya Pradesh	52117	51986
Chhattisgarh	19744	18328
Maharashtra	41442	40544
Meghalaya (NE-I)	5782	5290
Mizoram (NE-I)	707	704

1	2	3
Tripura (NE-I)	858	858
Arunachal Pradesh (NE-II)	3863	2810
Manipur (NE-II)	2315	2174
Nagaland (NE-II)	1278	1263
Odisha	47529	45215
Punjab	12301	12065
Rajasthan	39753	39568
Tamil Nadu	15492	15492
Uttar Pradesh	97942	97852
Uttarakhand	15761	15271
West Bengal excluding Sikkim	37955	37142
Sikkim (WB Circle)	450	429
GRAND TOTAL	593601	581183

Statement-III

*State-wise Mobile Tower sites installed under USOF Scheme
of Shared Mobile Infrastructure*

Sl. No.	Name of State	Total No. of sites commissioned as on 30.11.2013
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	327
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	65
3.	Assam	87
4.	Bihar	453
5.	Chhattisgarh	553
6.	Gujarat	59
7.	Haryana	12
8.	Himachal Pradesh	258
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	81
10.	Jharkhand	273
11.	Karnataka	381
12.	Kerala	43

1	2	3
13.	Madhya Pradesh	933
14.	Maharashtra	956
15.	Manipur	69
16.	Meghalaya	107
17.	Mizoram	43
18.	Nagaland	50
19.	Odisha	434
20.	Punjab	14
21.	Rajasthan	403
22.	Sikkim	6
23.	Tamil Nadu	327
24.	Telangana	269
25.	Tripura	115
26.	Uttarakhand	184
27.	Uttar Pradesh	652
28.	West Bengal	163
TOTAL		7317

Statement-IV

*Telecom Circle-wise achievement under USOF's
"Rural Wireline Broadband Scheme"*

Sl. No.	Telecom Circle	No. of Rural Exchanges	No. of Broadband Connections provided as on 31.01.2015
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	45	405
2.	Andhra Pradesh/Telangana	2665	59647
3.	Assam	429	5067
4.	Bihar	1000	6817
5.	Chhattisgarh	449	6743
6.	Chennai	123	5230
7.	Gujarat	1988	34315

1	2	3	4
8.	Haryana	805	21012
9.	Himachal Pradesh	811	8188
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	209	3057
11.	Jharkhand	291	3872
12.	Karnataka	2217	20464
13.	Kerala	1143	228741
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1982	25216
15.	Maharashtra	4353	44200
16.	North East I	149	2374
17.	North East II	221	7872
18.	Odisha	942	19828
19.	Punjab	1217	37797
20.	Rajasthan	1959	27,310
21.	Tamil Nadu	1182	40075
22.	Uttar Pradesh	2764	27811
23.	Uttarakhand	341	6891
24.	West Bengal	1387	13413
TOTAL		28672	656345

Statement-V*The status of the OFC schemes in NER**(As on 29.02.2016)*

Sl. No.	Item	Assam*	NE-I # (Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram)	NE-II (Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	No. of Districts	27	19	30
2.	No. of Nodes (locations)	354	188 Meg (71) + Miz (62) + Tri (55)	407 A (226) + M (62) + N (119)
3.	Operators (executive agency)	BSNL	RailTel	RailTel
4.	Date of Agreement	12.02.2010	16.01.2012	16.01.2012

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Agreement period	10 years	8 years	8 years
6.	Roll Out Period (Revised)	58 months (12.02.2010 to 31.12.2014)	48 months (16.01.2012 to 15.01.2016)	54 months (16.01.2012 to 15.07.2016) for Nagaland and Manipur 60 months (16.01.2012 to 15.01.2017) for Arunachal Pradesh
7.	Subsidy Outlay	₹ 98.89 cr.	₹ 89.50 cr.	₹ 298.50 cr.
8.	Progress	308 nodes installed	* Work awarded for trenching/laying in all the districts * 1,475 km duct laid * 1,038 km OFC laid * 123 nodes connected on OFC * 50 nodes commissioned in Tripura	* Work awarded for trenching/laying for 30 districts out of 36 districts * 3,746 km duct laid * 2,186 km OFC laid * 159 nodes connected on OFC * Roll out yet to start

* Proposal received from BSNL for dropping 37 OFC nodes and seeking roll out extension for one year upto 31.12.2015 for commissioning of balance nodes in two districts of Assam (North Cachar and Karbi Anglong) is under examination.

Proposal received from RailTel for seeking roll out extension for one year upto 15.01.2017 for commissioning of balance nodes North East-I Circle is under examination.

Statement-VI

*State-wise breakup of locations under the scheme of mobile services to
LWE Affected Areas*

Sl.No.	State	No. of Total Locations identified by MHA
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	54
2.	Bihar	184
3.	Chhattisgarh	497
4.	Jharkhand	782
5.	Maharashtra	60

1	2	3
6.	Madhya Pradesh	22
7.	Odisha	253
8.	Telangana	173
9.	Uttar Pradesh	78
10.	West Bengal	96
TOTAL		2199

श्री संजय राउत: सर, वैसे तो टाइम खत्म हो रहा है, लेकिन मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूँ कि 'Digital India' and 'Make in India' ये दो हमारी सरकार के बहुत ही महत्वाकांक्षी कार्यक्रम हैं। मुझे विस्तार से जो उत्तर मिला है, उसमें कहा गया है कि हम उस दिशा में काम कर रहे हैं।

महोदय, मेरा प्रश्न USO Fund के बारे में है। माननीय मंत्री जी ने बताया है कि लगभग 2.5 लाख ग्राम पंचायतों को Broadband Internet connection से जोड़ने का हमारा टारगेट है और National Optical Fiber Network (NOFN) के तहत तार बिछाने का काम चल रहा है, लेकिन मेरा प्रश्न जमीन से नहीं, समुद्र से जुड़ा हुआ है। हमारे महाराष्ट्र में ऐसे बहुत से जिले हैं, जो समुद्र तट पर हैं और गोआ भी समुद्र तट पर है। वहां पर रोजगार का जो साधन है, वह फिशिंग है। हजारों मछुआरे समुद्र में जाते हैं और उनका सम्पर्क टूट जाता है। आपको जो USO Fund है अथवा Digital India हैं, इनके माध्यम से उन मछुआरों की connectivity मोबाइल अथवा किसी अन्य साधन से बनी रहे, इसके लिए आप समुद्र तट पर या समुद्र के अन्दर भी टावर्स बना सकते हैं। अगर आपकी ऐसी कोई योजना है, तो उसमें आप आगे क्या करने जा रहे हैं?

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद: महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य से बहुत विनम्रता के साथ यह कहना चाहूंगा कि इन्होंने Optical Fibre Network की बात की। हम देश की 2.5 लाख ग्राम पंचायतों को इससे जोड़ना चाहते हैं। जब हमारी सरकार आई थी, तो 2,292 किलोमीटर Pipe lay हुआ था और 358 किलोमीटर Optical Fibre lay हुआ था। मैं आपको अभी 7 मार्च तक के आंकड़े दे रहा हूँ। अब 1,26,792 किलोमीटर Optical Pipe lay हो गया है और 98,901 किलोमीटर Optical Fibre lay हो गया है। यह हमारी स्पीड है और इसको हम और आगे बढ़ाएंगे।

माननीय सदस्य ने समुद्र के किनारे जो गांव हैं, उनकी connectivity के बारे में पूछा है, तो Optical Fibre Network वहां तक भी पहुंचेगा। उन्होंने एक चिंता भी जताई है। मैं इस बात को विशेष रूप से देखूंगा और विभाग को निर्देश भी दूंगा कि जो मछुआरे समुद्र में जाते हैं, उनके जो गांव हैं, उनके लिए टावर की व्यवस्था की जाए। वैसे पिछले 5-6 महीनों में लगभग 65,000 नये टावर्स लगे हैं। उन्होंने एक चिंता और भी जताई है, उसके बारे में उनको सहयोग मिल सके, इसके लिए हमारी पूरी कोशिश होगी।

श्री संजय राउत: सर, पिछले साल सीएजी ने यहां ...(व्यवधान)...