

Name of Post	Sanctioned Strength	Number of vacant posts
Sorting Assistants	699	182
Lower Selection Grade	225	153
Higher Selection Grade-II	76	34
Higher Selection Grade-I	77	37
Postmaster Grade-I	95	25
Postmaster Grade-II	20	6
Postmaster Grade-III	23	1
Inspector Posts	132	25
Assistant Superintendent Posts	104	9
TOTAL	9428	1922

(c) Vacant posts are being manned by appropriately redeploying the available staff to ensure that postal services are not affected.

(d) Shortage of staff is due to vacancies arising on account of retirement, promotion, death and deputation. Recruitment to fill up vacant posts is an ongoing process. It is done by holding departmental examination, direct recruitment through Staff Selection Commission and also by individual Circle as per the provisions of the relevant recruitment rules.

#### **Funds collected under USOF**

67. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of funds collected under the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) through the Universal Access Levy since 2014, year-wise;

(b) the details of the quantum of funds collected from telecom service providers since 2014, year-wise; and

(c) the quantum of funds utilised and the purposes for which the utilization has taken place since 2014, specifying any projects undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The funds collected under the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) through the Universal Access Levy since 2014 is as under:—

Year	Universal Access Levy (₹ in crore)
2014-15	7537.88
2015-16	9835.70
2016-17	9763.87
2017-18	3712.40
(upto December, 2017)	

(b) The details of the funds collected from Telecom Service Providers since 2014 is as under:—

Year	Licence Fee collection from TSPs (₹ in crore)
2014-15	12358
2015-16	15771
2016-17	15615
2017-18	6867
(upto December, 2017)	

(c) The quantum of funds utilised and the purposes for the utilization of funds since 2014 is given in Statement.

**Statement**

*The quantum of fund utilised and the purpose for which the utilization has place since 2014*

(₹ in crore)

Activity	Funds	Purposes for utilization of funds
BharatNet	12796.97	Provision of affordable broadband services to citizens and institutions in rural areas.
Left Wing Extremism Affected Areas	1856.10	Provision of Mobile services at locations identified by Ministry of Home Affairs in areas affected by Left Wing Extremism.
WiFi Hotspots at Exchanges	187.50	To set up 25000 Public WiFi Hotspots at rural telephone exchanges of BSNL.
WiFi Choupal	90.00	Provision of last mile connectivity by leveraging BharatNet infrastructure for providing Broadband services in 5000 Gram Panchayats.

Activity	Funds	Purposes for utilization of funds
Satellite Augmentation (A&N)	8.10	Enhancement of satellite bandwidth from 260 Mbps to 1 Gbps between Mainland India and Port Blair and other Islands.
Satellite Augmentation (LKD)	4.65	Augmentation of Satellite Bandwidth from existing 102 Mbps to 318 Mbps between Mainland India and Lakshadweep.
Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) for Assam and North East Region	62.86	Strengthening the OFC network.
Rural Wireline Broadband	179.66	Provision of wire-line broadband connectivity to rural and remote areas by leveraging the existing rural exchanges infrastructure and copper wire-line network.
Village Public Telephones in newly identified uncovered villages as per Census 2001	18.95	Village Public Telephones provided in inhabited uncovered villages in newly identified uncovered villages as per Census 2001.
Shared Mobile Infrastructure	32.52	Provision of mobile coverage in villages or cluster of villages having population of 2000 or more and not having mobile coverage.
Rural Household Direct Exchange Lines	14.31	Utilization for operation and maintenance by the USP for RDELs installed between 01.04.2002 and 31.03.2007 in the specified areas.
Rural Household Direct Exchange Lines-installed prior to 1.4.2002	1250.00	Subsidy support as compensation for deficit incurred in operating Rural Wire line connections installed prior to 1st April, 2002.
Amarnath Yatra	6.91	Creation of infrastructure for providing mobile services on the route of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.
Solar Mobile Charging Facilities	1.75	Provision of Solar Photo Voltaic Phone Charging Facilities in 5000 villages.
Sanchar Shakti	0.79	Provision of Mobile Connectivity and Value added Services to Rural Women Self Help Groups (SHGs).