

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1500
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29TH JULY, 2022**

ALLOCATION AND UTILIZATION OF USOF

**1500 SHRI BINOY VISWAM:
SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA:**

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the total funds sanctioned, allocated and spent on Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) since 2017 till present;
- (b) the reasons for under-utilisation of the existing corpus of USOF;
- (c) whether any inspection has been conducted under the monitoring mechanism of the USOF during the Financial Years 2016-17 to 2021-22, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the utilized USOF is being diverted towards other purposes or schemes; and
- (e) the total disbursements under the USOF scheme, including details about the allocations to various partners and the status of projects initiated under the USOF for Financial Years 2016-17 to 2021-22?

ANSWER

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

- (a) During 2017-18 to 2022-23 (upto 30.06.2022), a sum of Rs. 30,759.41 crore has been sanctioned/ allocated/ spent under various Schemes of Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).
- (b) USOF utilized 100% funds as allocated by the Ministry of Finance during the said Financial Years.
- (c) The Monitoring of the schemes is an ongoing process and its mechanism includes checking the quality of services through Network Operating Centre / Network Management System on real time basis, as well as evaluation of Schemes through physical verification, impact assessment, etc.
- (d) USO Funds are used for providing telecom services in rural and remote areas of the country at affordable and reasonable prices and not for other purposes.

(e) Rs. 37,440.01 crore has been disbursed under various USOF Schemes during 2016-17 to 2021-22. The year-wise details are as under:

Financial Years	Rupees in Crores
2016-17	7227.03
2017-18	6998.76
2018-19	4788.22
2019-20	2926.00
2020-21	7200.00
2021-22	8300.00
Total	37440.01

The details of funds allocated/ disbursed during 2016-17 to 2021-22 to various partners / Project Implementing Agencies is given in **Annexure-I**. The status of projects initiated under the USOF for the said Financial Years is given in **Annexure-II**.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in Part (e) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1500 to be answered on 29.07.2022

The details of funds allocated/ disbursed during 2016-17 to 2021-22 to various partners / Project Implementing Agencies

Sl. No.	Name of Partners/ Implementation Agencies	Rupees in crores
1	Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL)	29958.15
2	Bharti Airtel Limited (BAL)	284.81
3	Bharti Hexacom Limited (BHL)	375.06
4	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)	5713.42
5	Common Service Centre -E-governance	979.73
6	GTL Infrastructure Limited (GTL)	0.06
7	Kerala Industrial and Technical Consultancy Organization Ltd. (KITCO)	0.03
8	RailTel Corporation of India Limited	44.96
9	Reliance Communications Limited (RCL)	1.73
10	Reliance Infocom Limited (RIL)	17.03
11	Reliance Jio Infocom Limited (RJIL)	41.46
12	Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL)	21.21
13	The Energy Resource of India (TERI)	0.40
14	Tata Teleservices Maharashtra Ltd. (TTML)	1.81
15	Other Expenses (Impact Assessment)	0.15
	Grand Total	37440.01

Annexure-II

Annexure referred to in Part (e) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1500 to be answered on 29.07.2022

The Status of USOF Projects initiated during Financial Years 2016-17 to 2021-22 under the USOF

S. No.	Major USOF Schemes/ Projects	Present Status
1	BharatNet	1,77,550 GPs are Service Ready
2	Provision of Submarine OFC connectivity between Mainland India (Chennai) and Andaman & Nicobar Islands	All segments of CANI submarine cable project are commissioned by laying about 2313 Km of Submarine Optical Fibre Cable in 8 segments. 200 Gbps Bandwidth is available between Chennai to Port Blair while 100 Gbps bandwidth is available within Islands.
3	Mobile services in uncovered villages in rest of NER and seamless coverage along National Highway (by Airtel) Except Meghalaya	Tower installed – 1358
4	Mobile Services in Meghalaya	As of June, 2022, total 278 sites have been installed, covering 417 villages.
5	Mobile Services in Arunachal Pradesh and Two Districts of Assam	As of June, 2022, survey work of all 1683 villages of Arunachal Pradesh and 537 villages out of 691 villages of two Districts of Assam, have been completed..
6	Hiring of 10 Gbps International Bandwidth for Internet Connectivity to Agartala from BSCCL, Bangladesh via Cox Bazar:	The project has been commissioned
7	Satellite Bandwidth Augmentation from 2 Gbps to 4 Gbps between Mainland India and Andaman & Nicobar islands and Intra-Islands	Bandwidth Augmented to 4 Gbps on 09.09.2021.
8	Provision of Submarine Optical Fibre Cable Connectivity between Mainland (Kochi) and Lakshadweep Islands (KLI Project) comprising of Kavarati and ten other Islands, namely, Kalpeni, Agatti, Amini, Androth, Minicoy, Bangaram, Bitra, Chetlat, Kiltan and Kadmat	M/s NECCIPL has completed the marine survey of all the segments and has also completed land OFC Pipe laying for 63.05 Km from beach man hole to Cable landing stations.
9	Satellite Bandwidth augmentation to 1.71 Gbps between Mainland India and Lakshadweep	Bandwidth Augmented to 1.71 Gbps on 14.08.2021
10	Provision of Mobile Services in 354 uncovered villages of J&K, Ladakh and other priority areas.	268 villages have been covered by installing 250 mobile towers.
11	Mobile connectivity in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas. (LWE Phase-I)	2343 Towers have been installed.

S. No.	Major USOF Schemes/ Projects	Present Status
12	Mobile connectivity in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas. Provision of 2542 sites in LWE affected areas (LWE Phase -II)	37 Mobile Towers have been commissioned under the project till 30.06.2022.
13	Provision of 4G Mobile services in uncovered villages and for seamless connectivity on NH223 in Andaman & Nicobar Islands	An agreement was signed on 15.03.2021.
14	Re-provisioning of Digital Satellite Phone Terminals (DSPTs) provided to MHA agencies (CAPFs), MoD agencies (Army, BRO) and other agencies using VSAT connectivity under BharatNet Project	As of now, 1384 sites have been operationalized.
15	Provision of Mobile Towers in 502 Sites	69 towers have been installed.
16	Provision of Mobile Services in 7,287 uncovered villages of 44 Aspirational Districts of 5 States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Odisha	Agreements have been signed on 20.05.2022.
