

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:332

ANSWERED ON:07.07.2004

SEPARATE FUND FOR RURAL TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITY

Gandhi Shri Pradeep

**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has set up a separate fund for rural telecommunication facility;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the amount collected under this fund so far?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 2003, giving statutory status to the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), was passed by both houses of Parliament. It shall be deemed to have come into force on 1st day of April 2002. The Fund is to be utilized exclusively for meeting the Universal Service Obligation.

(c) The total amount credited to the Universal Service Obligation Fund by appropriation from the Consolidated Fund of India to date is Rs. 566.66 Crores.