

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1224
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2004
UNIVERSAL SERVICE OBLIGATION FUND .
Singh Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan);Suman Shri Ramji Lal

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

- (a) whether Universal Service Obligation Fund was created by the Government;
- (b) if so, the average annual amount being deposited in this fund;
- (c) the amount disbursed out of this fund during 2002-03 and 2003-04 separately;
- (d) the year-wise number of villages where telephone facility has been provided during the above period by the agencies to which these funds were disbursed; and
- (e) the average amount spent per village for setting up of rural telephony?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) Rs 300 crores and Rs 200 crores have been respectively credited to the fund during 2002-2003 and 2003-2004.
- (c)&(d) During 2002-2003 and 2003-2004, the entire amounts of Rs 300 crores and Rs 200 crores were disbursed in respect of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in 5.02 lakh and 5.13 lakh villages respectively.
- (e) The average amount spent by a telephone service provider, per village for setting up of rural telephones came to about Rs.54,000 in 2003-2004