

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1229
ANSWERED ON:13.07.2009
UNIVERSAL SERVICE OBLIGATION FUND
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to allocate the funds to the various mobile companies through the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the amount of funds allocated to phone companies through this fund during the last three years and the current financial year; and
- (d) the number of villages which have been provided with telephone facilities in the country during the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT)

(a) & (b) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has been providing subsidy support for setting up of 7,440 Shareable Infrastructure Sites in the country for increasing the mobile services in rural and remote areas, where there is no existing fixed wireless or mobile coverage. Out of these, 5,624 towers in the country have already been commissioned under this scheme as on May, 2009. The remaining towers are likely to be commissioned by September, 2009. Besides, USOF is also likely to launch shortly second phase of setting up 10,128 additional towers to cover the remaining uncovered rural and remote areas.

(c) The mobile infrastructure scheme (Phase-I) of USOF for setting up of 7440 shareable infrastructure sites was launched in June, 2007. Under this scheme, a sum of Rs.588 crores is to be disbursed to the companies in a phased manner over their agreement period. Actual disbursement from USOF during the last three years and the current financial year is given below:-

(Rupees in Crores)

S.No. Name of Company 2006-07 2007-08 2008-09 2009-10#

1	BSNL	NIL	NIL	0.15	0.52
2	GTL	NIL	NIL	3.74	0.00
3	QTIL	NIL	NIL	0.54	0.22
4	VESL	NIL	NIL	0.06	2.75
	Total	NIL	NIL	4.49	3.49

The projected amount for disbursement for the year 2009-10 is Rs.120 Crores.

(d) A statement indicating the State-wise number of villages which have been provided with telephone facilities in the country under USOF during the last three years and the current year is given in the Annexure.