

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:571
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2009
UNIVERSAL SERVICE OBLIGATION FUND
Natarajan Shri P.R.

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

- (a) whether the Government collects contribution under the Universal Service Obligation Fund from the telecom companies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, company-wise;
- (c) whether the said fund has been fully disbursed to the rural telecom service providers in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) Universal Service Levy (USL) is collected from the telecom service providers (except pure value added service providers) to raise resources for meeting the Universal Service Obligation (USO) for providing telecommunication services in rural and remote areas of the country. Statements indicating service area-wise details of USL collected and operator-wise details of USO collections during the past three years and current financial year 2009-10 are given in the Annexure-I and Annexure-II respectively.

(c)&(d) The allotment and disbursement of USO funds during last three years and current financial year 2009-10 (upto 31st October 2009) is given below:-

Figures in Crores
Year Allotment of funds during Disbursement of USO funds
the year

2006-07	1500	1500
2007-08	1290	1290
2008-09	1600	1600
2009-10	2400 (BE)	1635.53