

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2773

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2014

RESTRUCTURING OF USOF

Adhikari Shri Sisir Kumar;Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to restructure the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the extent to which the telecom network has been rolled out by telecom operators particularly by private operators since inception of the fund;
- (d) whether there have been cases where private companies have scrapped major projects in remote and rural areas citing non-feasibility; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

- (a) & (b): Yes, Madam. In its meeting held on 13.06.2014, the Telecom Commission opined that restructuring of Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) is essential to invest it with capabilities to implement and manage large projects and directed that a proposal for restructuring of USOF may be brought for consideration.
- (c): Various schemes are being implemented/planned with financial support from USOF for expansion of telecom services in rural and remote areas of the country. Details of such schemes are at Annexure.
- (d): There has been no case where private companies have scrapped major projects in remote and rural areas citing non-feasibility.
- (e): Does not arise in view of (d) above.