

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3952  
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2014  
DIVERSION OF USOF  
Rathwa Shri Ramsinh Patalyabhai

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

- (a) whether Universal Service Obligation Fund meant for rural telephony is being directed towards other flagship projects;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government to ensure that funds for USOF is not diverted to any other purpose?

**Answer**

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

- (a) No. The USO Fund is not being directed towards other flagship Programme.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) The USO fund is being utilized exclusively for meeting the Universal Service Obligation as per provision made under clause 9B of the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 2003. This has also been confirmed by the Ministry of Finance vide their letter no. F-2(35)-B (AC)/2009 dated 03rd May 2012 (copy enclosed) in response to observation/ recommendations of PAC of 49th Report saying that the funds transferred to USOF are only available for USO activities and expansion of rural telephony.