

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:572  
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2015  
UNIVERSAL SERVICE OBLIGATION FUND  
Adsul Shri Anandrao

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

- (a) whether the Government has imposed/proposes to impose ban on some telecom service providers from participating in future rural telephony projects supported by the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether failure of service providers to perform and deliver has adversely affected the implementation of USOF scheme and also the Digital India Programme; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 572 FOR 6th MAY, 2015 REGARDING "UNIVERSAL SERVICE OBLIGATION FUND".

(a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise in view of response to (a) above.

(c) No, Madam. Under 'Digital India', Government proposes to provide mobile connectivity to 55,669 uncovered villages which do not have mobile coverage, in a phased manner, to be funded from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). The process of award of work is yet to commence.

(d) Does not arise in view of response to (c) above.