

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.607  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2019**

**UNIVERSAL SERVICE OBLIGATION FUND**

†607. SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to allocate funds from the Universal Service Obligation Fund to mobile companies in remote areas in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the allocation made from the said fund to various companies during the last three years; and
- (d) the state-wise number of villages equipped with phone facilities?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &  
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS  
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)**

(a), (b) & (c) Subsidies are provided to mobile companies for mobile connectivity in inaccessible, rural and remote areas of the country including North Eastern Region, Left Wing Extremism Affected areas, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). Details of subsidy disbursed to various mobile companies from USOF under different projects during the last three years is enclosed as **Annexure-A**.

(d) The State-wise number of villages, equipped with phone facilities under the USOF is enclosed as **Annexure-B**.

**ANNEXURE –A**

Subsidies disbursed to various mobile companies from USOF under different projects during the last three years

**Rs. in crore**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Mobile Companies</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>
1.	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	678.85	1560.83	923.18
2.	Dishnet Wireless Limited	0.93		
3.	Reliance Communication Limited	0.01		
4.	Reliance Infocomm Limited		2.53	
5.	Tata Teleservices Limited	0.53		

## ANNEXURE –B

The State-wise number of villages, equipped with phone facilities under the Universal Service Obligation Fund

Sl. No.	States	Number of Villages
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	352
2.	Andhra Pradesh	14872
3.	Telangana	10235
4.	Assam	24692
5.	Bihar	38941
6.	Chhattisgarh	18328
7.	Gujarat	18054
8.	Haryana	6678
9.	Himachal Pradesh	17408
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	6385
11.	Jharkhand	28821
12.	Karnataka	27451
13.	Kerala	1372
14.	Madhya Pradesh	51986
15.	Maharashtra	40654
16.	Meghalaya	5300
17.	Mizoram	704
18.	Tripura	858
19.	Arunachal Pradesh	2810
20.	Manipur	2174
21.	Nagaland	1263
22.	Odisha	45215
23.	Punjab	12065
24.	Rajasthan	39568
25.	Tamil Nadu	15492
26.	Uttar Pradesh	97852
27.	Uttarakhand	15381
28.	West Bengal	37571
	<b>Total</b>	<b>582482</b>

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