

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2313  
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2003  
TELECOM FUND  
RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT;Y.G. MAHAJAN

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

- (a) whether the Government have taken any decision to set up a separate telecommunication fund for the rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) by when it will be set up and the details of the terms and conditions thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI , PRADHAN)

(a) to(c): A bill to amend Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 has been introduced in Lok Sabha on 4th August, 2003 to establish Universal Service Obligation Fund to provide access to basic telegraph services to people in rural and remote areas at affordable and reasonable prices.