

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5973  
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2005  
UNIVERSAL SERVICE OBLIGATION FUND  
Manvendra Singh Shri

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

- (a) the amount sanctioned by the Union Government from the universal service obligation (USO) fund during the last three years;
- (b) the details of the organisations, institutions, to whom the money was provided;
- (c) whether the Union Government is satisfied with the achievements made under this fund vis-à-vis the amount spent;
- (d) whether the Union Government proposes to allow some more organisations, institutions to share the USO Fund; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

- (a) Rs. 300 crore, Rs. 200 crore and Rs. 1314.58 crore have been allocated for financial years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004- 05 respectively.
- (b) The details of the organisations, institutions, to whom the money was provided are given in the Annexure.
- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) & (e) The Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Rules, 2004 provide for criteria for selection of Universal Service Providers through a bidding process from amongst the eligible operators. The Basic Service Operators, Cellular Mobile Service Providers and Unified access Service Licencees or any other entities as may be specified in this behalf by the Central Government from Time to time are eligible to participate in the bidding process.

Annexure

The details of the organisations, institutions, to whom the money has been provided from 2002-03 to 2004-05

Sl. No.	Name of the Service Provider	Service Area	No. of VPTs installed for the quarter ending 31.12.2004
1	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	1398
2	Reliance Infocom Ltd.	Gujarat	3599
3	Bharti Infotel	Madhya Pradesh	592
4	Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd.	Maharashtra	2595
5	HFCL	Pubjab	55
6	Shyam Telelink Ltd.	Rajasthan	946
	Total		9185

From 2002-03 to 2004-05, BSNL and the above Service Providers have been disbursed Rs. 1805.94 crore and Rs 8.64 crore respectively from the Universal Service Obligation Fund.