

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1047  
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2007  
ALLOCATION OF USO FUND  
Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to allocate money from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) to certain mobile companies to provide phone facility in remote areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the amount allotted to various phone companies from this fund during the last three years; and
- (d) the State-wise number of villages equipped with phone facility?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Government is in the process of taking necessary action to provide support for provision of infrastructure for mobile services including Wireless Access Services like Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) using Fixed/Mobile Terminal in rural and remote areas of the country. The infrastructure shall be created in those specified areas where there is no existing fixed wireless mobile coverage. The tenders have been invited from existing Basic Service Operators (BSO), Cellular Mobile Telephone service

(CMTS) providers, Unified Access Services Licences (UASL) and Shortlisted Infrastructure Providers Category – 1 (IP-I) comprising of both private and public sector operators. A total of 7,871 towers will be set up in rural and remote areas of the country in 500 districts spread over 27 States. The District-wise, Village-wise location of these towers can be accessed on Department of Telecommunications website ([www.dot.gov.in](http://www.dot.gov.in)).

(c) The amount disbursed from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) to various phone companies during the last three years is given below:-

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl.No.	Name of the Service provider	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	197.30	1,311.00	1,744.41
2	Reliance Infocomm Limited	0.80	0.90	18.78
3	Tata Teleservices Limited	0.58	1.12	2.35
4	Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Limited	0.73	0.95	1.31
5	Bharti Infotel Limited	0.13	0.10	0.00
6	Hindustan Futuristic Corporation Limited (HFCL)	0.01	0.00	0.00
7	Shyam Telelink Limited	0.45	0.10	0.00
	Total	200.00	1,315.00	1,766.85

(d) A Statement indicating the State-wise number of villages covered by fixed telephone services in the county is given in the Annexure.