

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1192
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16th DECEMBER, 2022**

COLLECTION OF FUNDS UNDER USOF

1192 SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of funds collected in the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) per year, in the last five years;
- (b) the annual use of the USOF in the last five years;
- (c) uses for which USOF has been put towards and in what proportion; and
- (d) in what manner the new Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF) would be different from USOF?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

(a) & (b) During 2017-18 to 2021-22 (last five years) Rs. 41,740 crore, has been collected as Universal Access Levy (UAL) under Universal Service Obligation Fund out of which Rs. 30,213 crore has been disbursed from USOF during the said period. The year-wise details of UAL collected and disbursement of Funds from USOF during 2017-18 to 2021-22 is given in **Annexure I**.

(c) USO Fund is utilized to provide access to telegraph services to people in rural and remote areas at affordable and reasonable prices. Proportion of disbursement under various USOF Schemes / Projects is as given below:

S.No.	Name of Scheme	% Share in total disbursement from USOF
1.	BharatNet (Broadband connectivity to 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats)	53%
2.	Other USOF Schemes (Mobile Tower Projects, Wi-Fi Projects, Submarine Cable Projects etc.)	47%

(d) Under the Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF), 5% of the annual collection under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) is to be provided for Research and Development of technology, product and service for the purpose of providing affordable telegraph service in rural and remote areas.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to para (a) & (b) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1192 to be answered on 16.12.2022

The year-wise details of UAL collected and disbursement of Funds from USOF during 2017-18 to 2021-22

Figures in Rupees Crore.		
Financial Year	UAL collections	Funds disbursed from USOF
2017-18	7,019	6,999
2018-19	6,912	4,788
2019-20	7,962	2,926
2020-21	9,471	7,200
2021-22	10,376	8,300
Total	41,740	30,213
