

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1823
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28TH DECEMBER, 2018**

PROVISION FOR LAST MILE CONNECTIVITY UNDER BHARATNET

1823. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a provision has been made for last mile connectivity under BharatNet in all 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats through viability gap funding;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that every Gram Panchayat would have, on an average, five Wi-Fi access points, including three meant for public institutions;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that a tender for provisioning of Wi-Fi services has been floated by BBNL, after consultation with telecom service providers and Internet Service Providers, for wider participation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) Yes, Sir.
- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) BharatNet is being implemented to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2,50,000) in the country, with funding from Universal Service Obligation Fund. In this project, last mile connectivity, through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology, is also being provided in all the GPs in the country. Under Wi-Fi network 5 Access Points (APs) are to be setup at each Gram Panchayat (GP), of which 3 APs are to be installed at Government Institutions, such as Police Stations, Post Offices, Schools and Health Centres and 2 APs at public places. The project is modelled on Viability Gap Funding (VGF) model in which the agency selected is to provide service for 5 years.
