

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.70
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8TH FEBRUARY, 2019**

BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY THROUGH USOF

†*70. SHRI NARANBHAI J. RATHWA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is implementing Wi-Fi hotspot-based broadband connectivity work through Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the detail of the progress made so far in this regard, State-wise; and
- (d) the amount spent on the said works during the last three years, State-wise?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF RAJYA SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *70 FOR 8TH FEBRUARY, 2019 ON “BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY THROUGH USOF”.

(a) Yes, Sir. Government has approved a proposal to implement Wi-Fi hotspot-based broadband connectivity through Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) in all Gram Panchayats (GPs) of the country and from the rural exchanges of BSNL.

(b) Government of India is connecting all 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats (GPs) under BharatNet Project. As part of the project, the Last Mile connectivity, through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology to access broadband /internet services, is to be provided at all the GPs in the country. Every GP is to be provided with, on an average, 5 Access Points (APs), of which 2 APs will be at Public places and 3 APs at Government Institutions such as at schools, hospitals, post offices, police stations, etc.

Further, a scheme for setting up of 25,000 Wi-Fi Hotspots funded by USOF using infrastructure of BSNL at rural telephone exchanges is being implemented.

(c) So far Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed at 41139 GPs. Of these, services are being provided in 10,883 GPs. State-wise details of Wi-Fi hotspots provided in GPs using USOF are placed at **Annexure-I & II.**

(d) Rs. 574.68 crore has been disbursed on Wi-Fi works during the last three years. The State-wise details are placed at **Annexure-III.**

Annexure-I

State-wise details of Wi-Fi hotspots progress in GPs using USOF

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of GPs where Wi-Fi hotspots installed	No. of GPs where Wi-Fi services are being provided
1	Andhra Pradesh	0	0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0
3	Andaman & Nicobar	0	0
4	Assam	0	0
5	Bihar	289	124
6	Chandigarh	12	7
7	Chhattisgarh	393	349
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0
9	Daman & Diu	0	0
10	Gujarat	0	0
11	Haryana	271	225
12	Himachal Pradesh	165	77
13	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0
14	Jharkhand	355	109
15	Karnataka	2209	1495
16	Kerala	701	701
17	Lakshadweep	0	0
18	Madhya Pradesh	1316	405
19	Maharashtra	871	856
20	Manipur	161	5
21	Meghalaya	0	0
22	Mizoram	0	0
23	Nagaland	0	0
24	Odisha	90	68
25	Puducherry	81	75
26	Punjab	0	0
27	Rajasthan	8661	3647
28	Sikkim	0	0
29	Tamil Nadu	0	0
30	Telangana	0	0
31	Tripura	0	0
32	Uttar Pradesh	25211	2461
33	Uttarakhand	353	279
34	West Bengal	0	0
	Total	41139	10883

State-wise details of Setting up of Wi-Fi Hotspot at BSNL Rural Exchanges under USOF Scheme

Circle	Total No. of Exchange	Total Exchanges at which Wi-Fi Provided
Assam	395	378
Bihar	895	141
Jharkhand	199	150
*NE I	129	76
**NE II	141	73
Odisha	752	280
West Bengal	989	153
East	3500	1251
Haryana	779	494
Himachal Pradesh	647	418
Jammu & Kashmir	201	154
Punjab	1195	411
Rajasthan	1645	148
UP (East)	1442	557
UP (West)	540	495
Uttarakhand	427	269
North	6876	2946
Chhattisgarh	310	189
Gujarat	1881	295
Madhya Pradesh	1778	758
Maharashtra	3800	1607
West	7769	2849
Karnataka	2111	981
Andhra Pradesh	1492	684
Telangana	910	488
Kerala	1066	710
Chennai (TD)	79	79
Tamil Nadu	1197	583
South	6855	3525
Total	25000	10571
*NE-I:- Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland		
**NE-II:- Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura		

Annexure-III.

States /UTs wise cumulative fund spent during last three years (i.e. 2015-16, 2016-17 & 2017-18) for implementing Wi-Fi hotspot based broadband connectivity through USOF.

S.No.	Name of States/UTs	Rs. in Crore
1	Assam	3.29
2	Bihar	13.55
3	Chandigarh	0.25
4	Chhattisgarh	10.49
5	Delhi	0.04
6	Haryana	7.32
7	Jammu & Kashmir	1.51
8	Karnataka	18.30
9	Kerala	8.00
10	Maharashtra	31.59
11	Madhya Pradesh	41.18
12	Punjab	8.96
13	Rajasthan	59.54
14	Uttar Pradesh	256.88
15	Uttarakhand	10.74
16	West Bengal	7.55
17	Puducherry	1.68
19	NE-I*	1.27
20	NE-II**	1.01
21	Gujarat, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu	14.65
22	Telangana	7.51
24	Odisha	8.05
25	Jharkhand	8.90
26	Himachal Pradesh	30.79
27	Andhra Pradesh	12.07
28	Tamil Nadu	9.56
Grand Total		574.68
*NE-I:- Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland		
**NE-II:- Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura		
