

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.939
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8TH FEBRUARY, 2017**

FREE INTERNET DATA

†939. SHRIMATI RANJANBEN BHATT:
SHRIMATI RAKSHATAI KHADSE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India needs over 80 lakhs wifi hotspots against 31000 presently available for Digital India;
- (b) if so, the steps Government is planning in this regard for Digital Technology to be accessible to every citizen of the country;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to provide 100 MB free data to rural subscribers in order to facilitate cashless transaction; and
- (d) if so, the number of villages proposed to be equipped with the said facility, State-wise and the time by which the same is likely to be done and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has floated on 13.07.2016 a Consultation Paper on "Proliferation of Broadband through Public Wi-Fi Networks" wherein the number of Wi-Fi hotspot in India (in 2016) has been given as 31,518. It has been further mentioned in the Consultation Paper that India requires 8 lakh additional hotspots. BharatNet Project (Phase-II) plans to provide one Wi-Fi hotspot in each Gram Panchayat.

(c) & (d) No such proposal is under consideration.
