

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3748
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH AUGUST, 2017**

WI-FI HOTSPOT IN RURAL AREAS

†3748. SHRIMATI RANJANBEN BHATT:
SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering to set up Wi-Fi hotspot in the rural areas and rural exchanges of the country, especially in the State of Maharashtra and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the time by which the said project is likely to be implemented?

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) BharatNetProject is being implemented to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (approximately 2,50,000) in the country. Government has approved the revised implementation strategy of BharatNet on 19.07.2017 under which last mile connectivity for internet service, through Wi-Fi any other suitable broadband technology, is proposed to cover all the GPs by March, 2019.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is setting up Public Wi-Fi hotspots at rural Telephone Exchanges of BSNL targeted to be implemented by December, 2017. State-wise details including Maharashtra are at **Annexure-I**. Further, Common Service Centre- Special Purpose Vehicle (CSC-SPV), under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology is also setting up Wi-Fi Choupals under BharatNet in the country targeted to be implemented by September, 2017. Details including Maharashtra is at **Annexure-II**.

Contd....2/-

BSNL Rural Telephone Exchanges where Wi-fi will be set up

| S.No. | Telecom Circle/ Telecom District | No. of Rural Telephone Exchanges |
|--------------|---|---|
| 1 | Andaman& Nicobar | 44 |
| 2 | Andhra Pradesh& Telangana | 2519 |
| 3 | Assam | 400 |
| 4 | Bihar | 963 |
| 5 | Chhattisgarh | 356 |
| 6 | Gujarat | 1881 |
| 7 | Haryana | 796 |
| 8 | Himachal Pradesh | 946 |
| 9 | Jammu& Kashmir | 204 |
| 10 | Jharkhand | 293 |
| 11 | Karnataka | 2199 |
| 12 | Kerala | 1049 |
| 13 | Madhya Pradesh | 1793 |
| 14 | Maharashtra | 3832 |
| 15 | North East-I | 129 |
| 16 | North East-II | 142 |
| 17 | Odisha | 811 |
| 18 | Punjab | 1194 |
| 19 | Rajasthan | 1672 |
| 20 | Tamil Nadu | 1195 |
| 21 | Uttar Pradesh(E) | 1542 |
| 22 | Uttar Pradesh(W) | 503 |
| 23 | Uttarakhand | 315 |
| 24 | West Bengal | 1127 |
| 25 | Chennai | 80 |
| | Total | 25985 |

Annexure-II

Wi-Fi Choupals by CSC-SPV under BharatNet Scheme

| SL. No | STATE | Gram Panchayats |
|---------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Bihar | 316 |
| 2 | Chandigarh | 12 |
| 3 | Chhattisgarh | 797 |
| 4 | Jharkhand | 313 |
| 5 | Karnataka | 178 |
| 6 | Kerala | 25 |
| 7 | Madhya Pradesh | 1422 |
| 8 | Maharashtra | 137 |
| 9 | Odisha | 111 |
| 10 | Puducherry | 93 |
| 11 | Uttar Pradesh | 1268 |
| 12 | Uttarakhand | 417 |
| | Total | 5089 |
