

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3849
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH AUGUST, 2017**

PUBLIC DATA OFFICES

3849. SHRI SUMAN BALKA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up public Wi-Fi hotspot as pay-as-you-go Public Data Offices (PDOs) across the country on the lines of yesteryear's PCOs and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (b) whether the Government proposes to establish open system based Wi-Fi access network interface and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has received recommendations dated 9th March 2017 from Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on "Proliferation of Broadband through Public Wi-Fi Networks". In these recommendations, TRAI has, inter-alia, recommended for setting up of Public Data Offices (PDOs) for providing public Wi-Fi services on the model similar to the Public Calling Offices (PCOs). These recommendations are presently under examination in DoT.

(b) Based on the above said recommendations, TRAI has released a document on 7th July, 2017 inviting all interested parties to be a part of Pilot Wi-Fi project. The vision of this initiative is to establish an open architecture based Wi-Fi Access Network Interface. After submission of report / recommendation, if any, by TRAI in this regard, appropriate decision shall be taken by DoT.
