

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 710  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2018**

**WI-FI IN RURAL AREAS**

710. DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there exists a Government scheme or programme to set up Wi-Fi in rural areas, specifically in the State of Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated for the same; and
- (c) 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) to (c) BharatNet is being implemented to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2,50,000) in the country. As part of this project, the last mile connectivity, through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology, is to be provided at all the GPs in the country, including in the State of Gujarat. The project is targeted to be completed by March 2019. Rs. 4066 Crore has been approved for providing last mile connectivity, through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology, at all the GPs in the country.

Further, the following steps have already been taken for providing broadband services through Wi-Fi hotspots in Gujarat:

- Public Wi-Fi hotspots are being set up by BSNL at its 1850 Telephone Exchanges in rural areas of Gujarat, and Rs. 70.90 crore has been allocated for it.
- Wi-Fi hotspots are being set up at 15 rural Railway Stations in Gujarat by M/s RailTel and Rs. 2.08 crore has been allocated for it.

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