

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 893
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7TH FEBRUARY, 2018**

WI-FI FACILITY IN PANCHAYATS AND MUNICIPAL AREAS

893. SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to install Wi-Fi in all the Panchayats and Municipal areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details and the status thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the time by which the entire State of Kerala will be provided with Wi-Fi facility and the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) the funds allocated and spent for the aforesaid purposes?

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 project is being implemented to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) approximately 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. Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), the executing agency, has floated a tender on 26.12.2017 for selecting the agencies for implementing and operating the project in the country. The project is targeted to be completed in the country, including in Kerala, by March 2019. In the municipal areas, Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) are providing various telecom services including Wi-fi services as per their commercial decision.

Other steps being undertaken for providing broadband services through Wi-Fi hotspots are as under:

- i. Wi-Fi Choupals are being set up in 5,000 GPs by Common Service Centre-Special Purpose Vehicle (CSC-SPV) under Ministry Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) (Status in **Annexure-I**).

Contd.....2/-

- ii. Public Wi-Fi hotspots are being set up by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) at its 25,000 Telephone Exchanges in rural areas funded by USOF (Status in **Annexure-II**).
 - iii. As a pilot project RailTel is setting up Wi-fi hotspots in 200 rural railway stations. Wi-fi hotspots in 53 railway stations have already been provided.
 - iv. As a pilot project BSNL is setting up Wi-fi hotspots across 200 GPs in the country.
- (d) The funds allocated and disbursed for setting up of Wi-fi hotspots is as under:
- i. For the 'Wi-fi Choupal' at 5,000 GPs by CSC-SPV Rs. 100 Crore have been approved, out of which Rs. 90 Crore have been disbursed under this project from the USOF.
 - ii. For providing 25,000 public Wi-fi hotspots at telephone exchanges of BSNL in rural areas, Rs. 942.34 Crore have been approved out of which, Rs. 187.50 Crore have been disbursed under this project from the USOF.
 - iii. For providing Wi-fi services at 200 railway stations by RailTel in rural areas Rs. 27.77 Crore have been approved to be funded from the USOF. No funds have been disbursed till now.
 - iv. For providing Wi-fi hotspots at 200 GPs by BSNL Rs. 15 Crore have been approved to be funded from the USOF. No funds have been disbursed till now.

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Annexure-I

Status of Wi-Fi Choupal through CSC-SPV (as on 31.12.2017)

SL. No	STATE	No. of GPs where equipment setup /Installed	No. of GPs where service delivery commenced
1	BIHAR	282	30
2	CHANDIGARH	12	10
3	CHATTISGARH	393	134
4	HARYANA	61	61
5	JHARKHAND	355	215
6	KARNATAKA	163	91
7	MADHYA PRADESH	1316	307
8	MAHARASHTRA	117	76
9	ODISHA	90	42
10	PUDUCHERRY	81	68
11	UTTAR PRADESH	1811	124
12	UTTARAKHAND	353	281
Total		5034	1439

Contd.....4/-

Status of Public Wi-Fi hotspots being set up by BSNL at its 25,000 Telephone Exchanges in rural areas (as on 15.01.2018)

Telecom Circle	Total No. of Exchange	No. of Exchange where equipment setup /Installed	No. of Exchange where service delivery commenced
Assam	398	115	115
Bihar	950	0	0
Jharkhand	199	14	14
NE I (Tripura, Meghalaya & Mizoram)	129	35	34
NE II (Nagaland, Manipur & Arunachal Pradesh)	57	36	34
Odisha	801	42	32
West Bengal	1112	9	9
Haryana	791	124	93
Himachal Pradesh	719	140	128
Jammu & Kashmir	205	23	19
Punjab	1208	188	165
Rajasthan	1679	48	31
Uttar Pradesh East	1550	143	132
Uttar Pradesh West	873	182	161
Uttarakhand	429	89	72
Chhattisgarh	300	20	20
Gujarat	1850	85	83
Madhya Pradesh	850	47	12
Maharashtra	3800	50	50
Karnataka	2150	113	113
Andhra Pradesh	2650	50	50
Telangana		50	50
Kerala	1070	136	136
Chennai	80	20	20
Tamil Nadu	1150	50	50
Total	25000	1809	1623
