

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1346
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25th JULY, 2018**

LIGHT TOUCH LICENSING

1346. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to introduce the light touch licensing for those that register to provide public Wi-Fi services and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to allow unlicensed entities to provide the aforesaid services and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the said unlicensed entities may not have to share revenues with the Government and only need to follow rules on security, monitoring and lawful interception and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether establishing public Wi-Fi networks without licence will be illegal in view of violation of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government is considering ways to make the said programme attractive for all stakeholders in a bid to rapidly roll out hotspots across the country by the end of 2018; and
- (f) 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) to (f) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has submitted its suo motu recommendations dated 09.03.2017 to Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on the subject "Proliferation of Broadband through Public Wi-Fi Networks". These recommendations, inter-alia, state as under:

- (i) A new framework should be put in place for setting up of Public Data Offices (PDOs). Under this framework, PDOs in agreement with Public Data Office Aggregators (PDOAs), should be allowed to provide public Wi-Fi services.
- (ii) PDOAs may be allowed to provide public Wi-Fi services without obtaining any specific license for the purpose. However, they would be subject to specific registration requirements (prescribed by the DoT) which will include obligations to ensure that e-KYC, authentication and recordkeeping requirements (for customers, devices and PDOs enlisted with the PDOAs) are fulfilled by the PDOAs.
- (iii) Entities registered as PDOA need not pay any fees on a revenue share basis.

This matter is under consideration and decision, as appropriate, will be taken in due course.
