

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2429  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST, 2018**

**BSNL TELEPHONE EXCHANGES IN RURAL AREAS**

†2429. SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS:  
SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has prepared any action plan to provide public Wi-Fi facility at 25,000 telephone exchanges of BSNL in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the State-wise details of the said villages along with the details of villages of Rajasthan and Maharashtra in which the public Wi-Fi facility is proposed to be provided;
- (c) the State-wise details of rural telephone exchanges of BSNL equipped with Wi-Fi facilities;
- (d) the number of rural telephone exchanges at which public Wi-Fi facility is proposed to be provided by the Government till 2019;
- (e) whether the Government has prepared any scheme to meet this target; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) Yes, Madam. Wi-Fi hotspots are being set up by using the infrastructure of BSNL at its 25,000 Telephone Exchanges in rural areas at an estimated cost Rs. 943 crore, funded by USOF.

(b) to (d) Details are at **Annexure-I**.

(e) & (f) On the basis of list of rural Telephone Exchanges ascertained by BSNL, this scheme has been approved in DOT. The funds have been provided by USOF to BSNL for the implementation of scheme. Wi-Fi facility has been setup in 4482 exchanges.

Contd...2/-

## (Annexure-I)

S.No.	State	Villages where public Wi-Fi facility is proposed under the USOF Schemes	Rural telephone exchanges of BSNL equipped with Wi-Fi facilities under the USOF Schemes	Number of rural telephone exchanges at which public Wi-Fi facility is proposed to be provided by the Govt. under the USOF Schemes
1	Assam	398	279	119
2	Bihar	950	9	941
3	Jharkhand	199	65	134
4	North East I*	129	66	63
5	North East II*	57	57	0
6	Odisha	801	122	679
7	West Bengal	1112	20	1092
8	Haryana	791	188	603
9	Himachal Pradesh	719	234	485
10	Jammu & Kashmir	205	64	141
11	Punjab	1208	410	798
<b>12</b>	<b>Rajasthan</b>	<b>1679</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>1531</b>
13	UP (East)	1550	251	1299
14	UP (West)	873	271	602
15	Uttarakhand	429	153	276
16	Chhattisgarh	300	80	220
17	Gujarat	1850	278	1572
18	Madhya Pradesh	850	166	684
<b>19</b>	<b>Maharashtra</b>	<b>3800</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>3576</b>
20	Karnataka	2150	392	1758
21	Andhra Pradesh & Telangana	2650	334	2316
22				
23	Kerala	1070	450	620
24	Chennai Telecom District	80	50	30
25	Tamil Nadu	1150	155	995
	<b>Total</b>	<b>25000</b>	<b>4466</b>	<b>20534</b>

\*NE-I: Mizoram, Tripura & Meghalaya

\*NE-II: Nagaland, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh

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