GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.85 TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.07.2018

WI-FI AT STATIONS

85. SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE: SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: SHRI KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL: DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE: SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV: SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL: SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has taken a decision to provide free wi-fi at all railway stations and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of stations, where free wi-fi has been provided as on date and the target fixed for the same;
- (c) whether the Union Government has collaborated with Google and Department of Telecommunication in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of source of funding for the world's largest wi-fi project?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN)

(a): Ministry of Railway has decided to provide free Wi-Fi facility at all stations except Halt stations, without involving any expenditure on Railways' account.

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(b): Against the target for provision of Wi-Fi at 100 stations in 2016-17, 200 stations in 2017-18 & 500 stations in 2018-19, 707 stations have been provided with Wi-Fi facility as on date.

(c) & (d): RailTel has entered into an agreement with M/s Mahataa Information India Private Ltd. (MIIPL) (a group company of M/s Google Inc.) for providing Wi-Fi facility at "A1" and "A" category of stations.

(e): The cost of providing Wi-Fi at "A1" and "A" category of stations where RailTel has entered into agreement with M/s Mahataa Information India Private Ltd. (MIIPL) is shared by RailTel and M/s MIIPL.

RailTel has been advised to follow revenue sharing model for "B" & "C" category stations also.

Department of Telecommunication has been approached to provide funds under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for Wi-Fi at D & E category stations.

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