

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3583
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND JANUARY, 2019**

WI-FI HOTSPOT IN RURAL AREAS

3583. SHRI SANKAR PRASAD DATTA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering to set up Wi-Fi hotspot and rural exchanges in the rural areas of the country, especially in the State of Tripura and West Bengal and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) the time by which the said project is likely to be implemented?

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)

I. For setting up Wi-Fi hotspots in the rural areas, the following steps have been taken:

- (i) BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country. As part of BharatNet project, the Last Mile connectivity, through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology to access broadband /internet services, is being provided at all the GPs in the country including Tripura and West Bengal. On an average, 5 Wi-Fi Access Points (APs) are being provided at each GP. Of these, 3 APs are to be connected to Government Institutions such as Police Stations, Schools, Hospitals, and Post Offices, while 2 APs will be available for public use.

CSC-SPV has been assigned the setting up of Wi-Fi hotspots at 25,000 GPs in Uttar Pradesh, 3243 GPs in Himachal Pradesh, 1178 GPs of Tripura and 3407 GPs of Karnataka. In Rajasthan, Wi-Fi provisioning at 10,000 GPs is being done through the State Government / RISL. For the remaining GPs, BBNL has floated a tender for selection of agencies. APO

has been issued on M/s TCIL for implementation in around 62,000 GPs and the selection of agencies in the balance GPs, including West Bengal, is under process. So far, Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed at 39,379 GPs and of these, services are being provided in 10,943 GPs.

BharatNet project is targeted to be completed by March 2019.

- (ii) BSNL has also been assigned the setting up of Wi-Fi hotspots at its 25,000 rural telephone exchanges in the country and Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed at 12144 rural exchanges.

II. No proposal is under consideration of the Government to set up rural exchanges.
