

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1683
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13TH FEBRUARY, 2019**

FREE Wi-Fi ZONES

1683. SHRI K.R.P. PRABAKARAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is going to introduce free wi-fi zones in colleges/ schools/public places etc. across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Ministry in this regard;
- (c) whether there has been any fund allocation for the purpose; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) BharatNet is being implemented in a phased manner for providing Broadband infrastructure to all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country through Universal Service Obligation Fund.

As part of this project, Last Mile connectivity is to be provided through Wi-Fi or any other suitable technology to access broadband /internet services at all the Gram Panchayats (GPs). On average, every GP is being provided with 5 Access Points (APs). Out of these, on average, 3 APs in each GP are to be mandatorily installed for providing broadband connectivity to Government Institutions such as school, hospital, post office, police station etc. at an estimated cost of about Rs. 6000 crores plus applicable taxes. Remaining 2 APs will be installed at public places in every GP, which shall be extendable for commercial purpose.
