

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.2761  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.03.2020**

**WI-FI AT RAILWAY STATIONS**

**2761. DR. UMESH G. JADHAV:  
SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI:  
SHRI KOTHA PRABHAKAR REDDY:  
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA VISWANATH:**

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Union Government is aware of the fact that Google has recently made an announcement that it is shutting down its free Wi-Fi programmes in 400 railway stations across the country;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;**
- (c) the alternative steps being taken in this regard to work with other partners to continue the existing facilities in future; and**
- (d) the funds sanctioned and spent in this regard during the last five years, zone/year-wise?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND COMMERCE & INDUSTRY**

**(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)**

**(a) to (c) RailTel Corporation of India Limited, a Public Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Railways has partnered with various organizations including Google to provide free Wi-Fi services at Railway Stations so as to create digital inclusion platform. Google, in partnership with RailTel, has provided Wi-Fi services at 416 Railway Stations and they will maintain the same upto 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020, as per the agreement with RailTel. After the exit of Google, RailTel shall**

**contd.....2/-**

**continue to maintain and provide free Wi-Fi services at these Railway stations.**

**(d) No separate funds have been sanctioned by Indian Railways for this purpose. Wi-Fi services have been provided at 198 rural stations by RailTel under an agreement with Ministry of Communications under Universal Service obligation Fund (USOF). For these 198 rural stations, funds of ₹27.77crore have been provided by Ministry of Communications. Wi-Fi services have been provided at another 5430 stations till 03.03.2020, in collaboration with M/s Google, M/s Tata Trusts & M/s Power Grid Corporation of India under Corporate Social Responsibility/Charity funding.**

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