

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4424
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30TH MARCH, 2022**

PUBLIC WiFi HOTSPOTS

4424. SHRI SRIDHAR KOTAGIRI:
SHRI MADDILA GURUMOORTHY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the funds allocated under the BharatNet project for setting up of public WiFi hotspots;
- (b) the number of public WiFi hotspots set up in rural areas under the Bharatnet project, State-wise, including Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) whether the Government has any data on usage of such WiFi hotspots by rural public? If so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government is planning to set up such hotspots in more public areas in the rural regions and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

- (a) As per the Cabinet approval dated 19.07.2017, Rs. 4,066 crore has been approved for providing Last Mile Connectivity, through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology, at all Gram Panchayats (GPs) of BharatNet Phase-I and Phase-II.
- (b) The State/UT-wise details of the Wi-Fi hotspots, installed at GPs in the country including Andhra Pradesh, from BharatNet network, are given in **Annexure-I**.
- (c) During February 2022, the total data consumption, including that of Wi-Fi hotspots, was 4029 Terabyte (TB) through BharatNet network.
- (d) The infrastructure created under BharatNet project can be utilized for provisioning of broadband/internet services through Wi-Fi Hotspots, Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections, leased lines, dark fibre, backhaul to mobile towers, etc.

The work of providing Wi-Fi hotspots in about 1.20 lakh GPs of BharatNet Phase-I, about 5500 GPs of BharatNet Phase-II (being connected on satellite media), and at about 1400 Digital Satellite Phone Terminals (set up at Government offices/institutions in remote areas) is implemented with funding from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

For BharatNet Phase-II (being implemented on OFC/Radio), the respective Implementing Agencies are responsible for the utilisation of the created network.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in Part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4424 to be answered on 30.03.2022

State/UT wise number of GPs where Wi-Fi hotspots installed

S. No.	State/UT	No. of GPs where Wi-Fi hotspots installed
1	Andhra Pradesh	1570
2	Arunachal Pradesh	306
3	Bihar	5344
4	Chandigarh	12
5	Chhattisgarh	3655
6	Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	36
7	Gujarat	3954
8	Haryana	5955
9	Himachal Pradesh	252
10	Jammu & Kashmir	985
11	Jharkhand	2383
12	Karnataka	5301
13	Kerala	977
14	Ladakh	172
15	Madhya Pradesh	11537
16	Maharashtra	11014
17	Manipur	161
18	Meghalaya	70
19	Odisha	2511
20	Puducherry	81
21	Punjab	7887
22	Rajasthan	8078
23	Telangana	1995
24	Tripura	574
25	Uttar Pradesh	26855
26	Uttarakhand	1251
27	West Bengal	1372
Total		1,04,288
