GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2962
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3RD AUGUST, 2016

WI-FI AT PUBLIC PLACES

2962. SHRIMATI K. MARAGATHAM:
SHRI S.R. VIJAYAKUMAR:
DR. SUNIL BALIRAM GAIKWAD:
KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:
SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRI RAMESH CHANDER KAUSHIK:
SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:
SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA:
SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government proposes to provide infrastructure facility for Wi-Fi connection in the premises of monuments and places of pilgrimage in all important cities;

(b)   if so, the details thereof along with the places already provided with such facilities, State-wise;

(c)   whether the telecom regulator has proposed a consultation paper for boosting broadband availability through Wi-Fi in public places and if so, the details thereof and the response of the telecom operators in this regard;

(d)   whether globally the number of Wi-Fi hotspots surged more than six fold within the three years preceding 2016, while the increase in India has been only 12%; and

(e)   if so, the reasons therefor along with the corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard along with the policy framework and regulatory foundation laid down for the purpose?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b)   Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) had to provide Wi-Fi facility in 21 tourist places and historical monuments across the country, identified by the Ministry of Tourism and the Archeological Survey of India. All 21 places have been provided with the wi-fi facility. The list of the places where Wi-Fi facility has been provided by the BSNL is placed at **Annexure.**

(c)   The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released a Consultation Paper on 'Proliferation of Broadband through Public Wi-Fi Networks' on 13th July, 2016. Stakeholders have been requested to submit their comments and counter comments by 10th August, 2016 and 24th August, 2016 respectively.

(d)   As mentioned in the Consultation Paper, globally the increase in number of Wi-Fi hotspots from 2013 to 2016 has been 568%, whereas India has seen an increase of 12% only (as per 'iPass Wi-Fi Growth Map').

(e) The reasons for the low progress of Wi-Fi hotspots in India shall be known after the conclusion of the consultation process initiated by the TRAI.

Status of Wi-Fi facility provided by BSNL at Tourist Sites/Adarsh Smaraks

Sl. No.	Location	Status
1	Ramakrishna Beach, Vizag, Andhra Pradesh	Provided
2	Lal Bagh, Bangalore, Karnataka	Provided
3	Brindavan Gardens, Mysore, Karnataka	Provided
4	Cubbon Park, Karnataka	Provided
5	Guruvayur Temple, Kerala	Provided
6	Upper Lake, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh	Provided
7	Orchcha Temple, Madhya Pradesh	Provided
8	Boulevard, Pondicherry, Tamil Nadu	Provided
9	Meenakshi Temple, Madurai, Tamil Nadu	Provided
10	Botanical Garden, Ooty, Tamil Nadu	Provided
11	Hussein Sagar Lake, Hyderabad	Provided
12	Jagannath Temple, Puri, Odisha	Provided
13	Har Ki Pauri, Haridwar, Uttarakhand	Provided
14	Brihadeeswarar Temple, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu	Provided
15	Hampi, Karnataka	Provided
16	Taj Mahal, Agra, Uttar Pradesh	Provided
17	FatehpurSikri, Agra, Uttar Pradesh	Provided
18	Sarnath Temple, Uttar Pradesh	Provided
19	Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh	Provided
20	Konark Temple, Odisha	Provided
21	Shore Temple, Mahabali puram, Tamil Nadu	Provided

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