

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1087

ANSWERED ON:02.03.2016

Wi-Fi in Rural Areas

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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating any scheme to provide complete convergence of Wi-Fi facilities in the rural areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any data is available with the Government regarding villages having total Wi-Fi facilities;
- (d) if so, whether the Government has given any financial cooperation in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the details regarding the cities, public places and religious places having total Wi-Fi facilities?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (e) Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is implementing National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project to connect all Gram Panchayats (approx.2.5 lakh) in the country through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) utilizing existing fibers of public sector Undertakings (PSUs) viz. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) and Rail Tel for providing broadband connectivity. In order to review the implementation of NOFN Project, a Committee was constituted on 14th January, 2015. The Committee submitted its report on 31st March, 2015. One of the recommendations of the Committee is that at least one hour of free Wi-Fi usage per day for each resident of the GP should be provided by the identified community Wi-Fi service provider.

In addition, BSNL has provided Wi-Fi services at over 300 locations with more than 860 Hotspots all over India including the rural areas. The details of number of Hotspots installed by BSNL in villages, cities/public/religious places are at Annexure. BSNL would be providing free Wi-Fi services, for first 15 minutes once in a month per user. BSNL is in the process of setting up Wi-Fi Hotspots in the country on revenue share model at selected locations including rural areas on the basis of its techno-economical considerations.