

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1080

ANSWERED ON:08.02.2017

Free Internet Facilities

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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is mulling over providing free internet facility to the consumers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the places selected for the purpose;
- (c) whether the Government has a plan to offer consumer free internet service within the net neutrality framework;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the model of free data delivery offered to the consumers within TRAI guidelines?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had floated a Consultation Paper on 'Free Data' on 19-05-2016 to address the issue of providing free Internet access to consumers and to explore model(s) that could achieve the benefits of offering 'free data' without infringing upon the "Prohibition of Discriminatory Tariffs for Data Services Regulations, 2016" of TRAI.

TRAI has submitted its recommendations to Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on 'Encouraging Data usage in Rural Areas through Provisioning of Free Data' dated 19-12-2016. The above recommendations are being examined in DoT.
