

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 851
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH DECEMBER, 2017**

WI-FI DEPLOYMENT

851. SHRI V. ELUMALAI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has decided to give a major push to Wi-Fi deployment across the length and breadth of the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has decided to set up 7.5 L public Wi-Fi hotspots by the end of 2018 and if so, the details thereof, State-wise along with the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) whether the Government proposes to install three Wi-Fi hotspots per Gram Panchayat of the country and if so, the details thereof including the details of the amount of data proposed to be provided to each Gram Panchayat?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) BharatNet project is being implemented to provide broadband services in all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. Last mile connectivity, through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology, is to be provided in all the GPs (approximately 2,50,000) in the country by providing Access Points (hotspots) in each GP by leveraging the BharatNet infrastructure targeted to be provided by 31.03.2019. Last mile connectivity to all GPs through Wi-Fi to be provided through Viability Gap Funding in Public Private Partnership mode. Following steps have already been taken for providing broadband services through Wi-Fi hotspots:

- (i) Setting up of 5000 Wi-Fi Choupals by Common Service Centre - Special Purpose Vehicle (CSC-SPV) with an estimated capital expenditure of Rs. 100 crore under BharatNet project funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). Wi-Fi Choupals have been set up in 5,145 GPs by CSC-SPV under Ministry of Information Technology and service delivery has commenced in 1,214 GPs funded by USOF with an estimated capital expenditure of Rs. 100 crore. In this project 8 Access Points (Hotspots) will be installed in each GPs.

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- (ii) Setting up of 25,000 Wi-Fi Hotspots using infrastructure of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) at rural telephone exchanges with an estimated cost of Rs. 943 crore, funded by USOF. At each exchange, one access point (hotspot) with backhaul bandwidth of 2 Mbps is being provided. In addition, there is a provision for enhancement of bandwidth up to 10 Mbps, and to Access Points (hotspots) after three months of usage for up to 2500 Wi-Fi hotspots. This enhancement is proposed for up to 2500 telephone exchanges after analysis of usage data of these public Wi-Fi hotspots for three months. About 1450 Wi-Fi Hotspots have already been installed by BSNL as part of this project.
