

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1876
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.03.2018**

WI-FI AT STATIONS

1876. SHRI V. ELUMALAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is true that the Railways has decided to tap into the Universal Service Obligation Fund to bankroll Wi-Fi connectivity in 200 small railway stations and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether it is also true that the said move is part of Indian railways plans to get all its 7500 stations hooked to a countrywide free Wi-Fi ecosystems in a phased manner and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether it is also true that the RailTel had partnered with Google to set up free high speed Wi-Fi at 400 of the busiest stations in the country, which has been struck for want of a workable revenue model for stakeholders at the smaller stations; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN)

(a): RailTel has entered into an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) / DoT for providing Wi-Fi services at 200 rural railway stations.

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As per the MoU, USOF/DoT shall fund both, the CAPEX & OPEX (for 1 year) incurred by RailTel for providing the Wi-Fi Hotspots at 200 rural railway stations.

(b): The work of provision of Wi-Fi is proposed to be taken up at balance stations.

(c) & (d): The project is being executed jointly by M/s. RailTel Corporation of India Limited with a group company of Google International for providing high speed Wi-Fi services at 438 stations of Indian Railways, with option open to extend further on mutual agreement.

The work since has been completed at 301 out of 438 Railway Stations and is in progress at balance stations.
