

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1404  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2018**

**WI-FI ACCESS POINTS UNDER BHARAT NET**

1404. SHRI A. ARUNMOZHITHEVAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is true that provision has been made for last mile connectivity under Bharat net in all 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats through viability gap funding and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is also true that every Gram Panchayat will have on an average, five Wi-Fi access points, including three meant for public institutions and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also true that a tender for provisioning of Wi-Fi services has been floated by Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) after consultation with telecom service providers and internet service providers for wider participation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Yes Madam
- (b) Yes Madam
- (c) Yes Madam
- (d) BharatNet is being implemented to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2,50,000) in the country, with funding from Universal Service Obligation Fund. In this project, Last mile connectivity, through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology, is also being provided in all the GPs in the country. Under Wi-Fi network 5 Access Points (APs) are to be setup at each Gram Panchayat (GP), of which 3 APs are to be installed at Government Institutions, such as Police Stations, Post Offices, Schools and Health Centres and 2 APs at public places. The project is modelled on Viability Gap Funding (VGF) model where the agency selected is to provide service for 5 years.

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