

Free Wi-Fi facility at railway stations

2391. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of railway stations in the country having free Wi-Fi facility by the end of March, 2016;
- (b) the time-limit set by Government to provide all major railway stations in the country with free Wi-Fi facility; and
- (c) whether any MoU has been signed by the Ministry with IT companies to provide and maintain Wi-Fi facility at railway stations, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Twenty One (21) Railway Stations have been provided with Wi-Fi facility till the end of March, 2016.

(b) Out of 400 Major Stations (AI and A Category), in first phase 100 Stations are targeted for completion in the current year.

(c) RailTel Corporation of India Limited, a PSU under Ministry of Railways, has entered into a collaboration with M/s Mahataa Information India Pvt. Limited (M/s MIIPL), an Indian subsidiary of Google Inc., for providing high speed Wi-Fi services at 400 AI/A Class Stations on Indian Railways.

Increase in Tatkal charges

2392. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have increased Tatkal charges substantially in all categories, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) when was the last increase in Tatkal charges effected; and
- (c) the total revenue likely to be generated by Railways as a result thereof during the current and the next financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) With effect from 01.04.2013, Tatkal charges were fixed as a percentage of fare at the rate of 10% of basic fare for second class and 30% of basic fare for all other classes subject to minimum and maximum limit. The maximum and minimum limit has been slightly rationalized with effect from 25.12.2015 as under: