

Wi-Fi connectivity at small railway stations

1346. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have requested BSNL to start Wi-Fi connectivity facilities at small railway stations in the country by using USO funds; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has not received any such request from Railways. However, an agreement between Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) and RailTel has been signed on 18.09.2017 to implement a pilot project to provide Wi-Fi hotspots in 200 rural railway stations with funding from USOF. In 11 railway stations Wi-Fi hotspots have been provided, in 133 railway stations work is in progress and in remaining 60 railway stations tender evaluation is in progress.

**Non-working of landline connections of BSNL
in Sarguja, Chhattisgarh**

†1347. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the landline connections of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in the rural areas of Sarguja division of Chhattisgarh are not working;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for this problem along with the action taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) by when this work is likely to be completed by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) The landline connections of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in the rural areas of Sarguja division of Chhattisgarh are working satisfactorily.

In Surguja SSA of Chhattisgarh State, BSNL has total 55 telephone exchanges (32 exchanges in the rural area and 23 in Urban area) and all are working satisfactorily. All the said exchanges are working through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) media. At present, though all the exchanges are working satisfactorily, landline including other telecom services are interrupted from time to time due to OFC damage/cut during

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.