

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1132
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29TH JULY, 2021**

INSTALLATION OF WI-FI HOTSPOTS UNDER BHARATNET PROJECT

1132 Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that out of 1570 Gram Panchayats (GPs) where Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed in Andhra Pradesh under BharatNet Project, only 216 have become operational;
- (b) if so, the steps taken to make others operational;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh is the second highest data consuming State in the country; and
- (d) if so, the efforts being made by the Ministry to push BharatNet in Andhra Pradesh and cover more GPs with Wi-Fi facilities?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Out of 1570 Wi-Fi hotspots installed in Gram Panchayats (GPs), 216 Wi-Fi hotspots installed in GPs (approx.) are operational in Andhra Pradesh under BharatNet Phase-I. CSC e-Governance Services India Limited (a Special Purpose Vehicle under Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology), entrusted with the task of providing Wi-Fi Access Points/Services with Government funding for Phase-I GPs, has informed that remaining Wi-Fi hotspots are facing technical issues of availability of switches and internet backhaul. Pursuant to Lockdown and movement restrictions due to COVID-19, the progress of making Wi-Fi hotspots operational has been affected. All efforts are being made in coordination with all stakeholders to make more GPs operational.

(c) As per the Licensed Service Area-wise (LSA-wise) details of wireless data consumption for the month of May 2021, received from TRAI; the total wireless data usage in Andhra Pradesh is 8,07,504 TB, which is not the second highest in the Country.

(d) In Andhra Pradesh, the implementation of BharatNet Phase-I is almost complete as out of 1683 planned GPs, 1676 GPs have been made Service Ready. Further, BharatNet Phase-II is being implemented by the State Government under State-led model. For expediting the implementation of the project, close monitoring by Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) is being done, and regular review meetings are held with the State Government/Implementing Agency. Further, State Level Implementation Committee chaired by Chief Secretary of the State has also been constituted to monitor the progress of the project and to resolve the issues in a timely manner.

As BharatNet Phase-II is being implemented in Andhra Pradesh under State-led model, the State is responsible for implementation, operations & maintenance and utilization (including providing Wi-Fi facilities) of the BharatNet Network in Phase-II.
