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| Publication: | The Business Line | Page No: | 21 |
| Place: | New Delhi | Date: | 31/7/2015 |

BSNL to invest ₹6,000 cr for 40,000 Wi-Fi hotspots, says Chairman Anupam Shrivastava

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 30

State-run telecom service provider Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) will invest ₹6,000 crore over the next three years to set up some 40,000 Wi-Fi hotspots across the country, its Chairman-cum-Managing Director Anupam Shrivastava has said.

"We are now thinking of rolling out Wi-Fi hotspot through capital expenditure model also. We are in the process of having our tender ready. We will be floating our tender and put our own equipment. We will be doing everything," Shrivastava



Anupam Shrivastava, Chairman and Managing Director, BSNL

tava told IANS in an interview. "We have a targeted to have 40,000 Wi-Fi hotspots in course of next three years. We

will be investing ₹6,000 crore for that," he said, adding: "For our initiative with the private sector, we have set a target of 250 locations in 2015-16 with 2,500 hotspots."

The company has already rolled out Wi-Fi hotspots in 70-75 locations in the country. But these have not been fully deployed by BSNL. The state-run firm has roped in private players for the majority of the work.

"When we did an analysis of BSNL, we found that we neither have 4G licence nor the money to buy spectrum. Yet we knew that 4G will be the in-thing for the future generation. We also

realised that our biggest strength is the landline structure that we have," Shrivastava said.

"But we have optical fibre network almost to the tune of 700,000 km countrywide. The natural thing that comes to us is to utilise these resources. Then we found Wi-Fi is the new technology that is coming and taking on 4G area," he added. "So Wi-Fi became our obvious choice." The Chairman explained that earlier the company was not investing on Wi-Fi roll-out and opting, instead, for a revenue sharing model with private players.