

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2547  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2021**

**LAST MILE CONNECTIVITY UNDER PM-WANI**

†2547. SHRIMATI GEETA KORA:  
SHRI JUGAL KISHORE SHARMA:  
SHRI VISHNU DATT SHARMA:  
SHRI DILESHWAR KAMAIT:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide last mile broadband connectivity through public wi-fi access points under Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network (PM-WANI) project and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the progress made by the Government under the scheme in Jharkhand, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to issue guidelines regarding the role of Honourable Members of Parliament in the functioning, monitoring and vigilance of the said scheme; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION AND  
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)**

(a) Yes, Sir. The proposal of the Department for Proliferation of Broadband through Public Wi-Fi Networks named as Prime Minister Wireless Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) scheme work has been approved by the Cabinet in its meeting held on 9/12/2020. As per the WANI framework, it is envisaged that last mile broadband connectivity will be through a network of public Wi-Fi access points. The backhaul requirement for these Wi-Fi access points to be met by internet bandwidth from the telecom service providers/internet service providers. Under the distributed architecture and unbundling of functions, the WANI eco-system consists of following players who will neither be required to take any license nor pay any license fee:

- **Public Data Office (PDO):** To establish, maintain, and operate WANI compliant Wi-Fi Access Points and deliver broadband services to subscribers.
- **Public Data Office Aggregator (PDOA):** An aggregator of PDOs and perform the functions relating to Authorization and Accounting.
- **App Provider:** To register users and discover WANI compliant Wi-Fi hotspots in the nearby area and display the same within the App for accessing the internet service.
- **Central Registry:** To maintain, in accordance with the WANI architecture and specifications, the details of App Providers, PDOAs, and PDOs.

(b) As on 04/03/2021, 33845 Wi-Fi Access Points have been installed throughout the country. Number of Access Points installed in the states of Jharkhand, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh are 276, 781 and 1375 respectively.

(c) & (d) No Sir. Department has Telecom Enforcement, Resource and Monitoring (TERM) Cell at each Licensed Service Area for this purpose.

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