

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 418
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02ND APRIL, 2026**

DEPLOYMENT OF PM-WANI HOTSPOTS

418 # SHRI MITHLESH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of registered Public Data Offices (PDOs), Public Data Office Aggregators (PDOAs), and App providers since the launch of the PM-WANI scheme, State/Union Territory-wise;
- (b) the number of Public Wi-Fi hotspots made operational under the scheme so far, State wise;
- (c) the number of internet users utilizing PM-WANI hotspots;
- (d) the details of data consumed through these hotspots since its launch; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Ministry to increase the deployment of PM-WANI hotspots in rural and remote areas of the country?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN
REGION
(SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)**

- (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 418 ANSWERED ON 02.04.2026 ASKED BY SHRI MITHLESH KUMAR, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING 'DEPLOYMENT OF PM-WANI HOTSPOTS'.

(a) & (b): The number of Public Data Offices (PDOs) / public wi-fi hotspots, Public Data Office Aggregators (PDOAs) and app providers registered under the Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) scheme, as on 28.2.2026, are as under:

S. no.	States / Union Territories	Number of PDOs / public wi-fi hotspots	Number of PDOAs	Number of app providers
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	275	5	113**
2	Andhra Pradesh	6,076	21	
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1,017	4	
4	Assam	2,612	15	
5	Bihar	4,086	40	
6	Chandigarh	253	6	
7	Chhattisgarh	2,839	20	
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	0	0	
9	Delhi	2,08,946	47	
10	Goa	430	7	
11	Gujarat	11,857	25	
12	Haryana	18,474	32	
13	Himachal Pradesh	936	12	
14	Jammu and Kashmir	2,299	10	
15	Jharkhand	1,042	23	
16	Karnataka	21,842	44	
17	Kerala	5,002	16	
18	Ladakh	601	1	
19	Lakshadweep	1	1	
20	Madhya Pradesh	7,597	34	
21	Maharashtra	34,240	52	
22	Manipur	21	8	
23	Meghalaya	256	4	
24	Mizoram	3	2	
25	Nagaland	78	7	
26	Odisha	3,037	30	
27	Puducherry	89	5	

28	Punjab	3,713	26
29	Rajasthan	2,890	32
30	Sikkim	13	2
31	Tamil Nadu	7,504	31
32	Telangana	4,288	21
33	Tripura	310	8
34	Uttar Pradesh	51,590	55
35	Uttarakhand	980	22
36	West Bengal	4,206	47
Total		4,09,403	207*

*This is the number of unique PDOAs registered under the PM-WANI scheme across the country. Some PDOAs operate in more than one State / Union territory.

**App providers are registered at the national level.

(c): The total number of internet users who have accessed PM-WANI hotspots, till 28.2.2026, is 2,44,67,896.

(d): Approximately 58.64 peta bytes of data has been consumed through PM-WANI hotspots since launch of the scheme.

(e): With a view to increase the number of PM-WANI hotspots across the country, including in rural and remote areas, the following policy interventions under the scheme have been issued by the Department of Telecommunications on 16.9.2024:

(i). To enable reduction in cost and enhance viability of PDOs, they have been allowed to:—
(1) offer PM-WANI through a regular fibre-to-the-home (FTTH) connection; and
(2) aggregate their multiple access points to a single backhaul towards the Internet Service Provider

(ii). To enable generation of revenue and enhance viability:—
(1). PDOs have been allowed to offer mobile data offload service to telecom service providers; and
(2). PDOAs and app providers have been allowed to send content and promotional, and branding messages to potential PM-WANI wi-fi users, with user consent.

(iii). To enhance user access and experience:—
(1) existing home and business users have been allowed to connect their wi-fi access points to the larger PM-WANI network to enable generation of revenue and enhance viability.
(2). PDOAs have been allowed roaming among themselves to enable users to switch smoothly among PM-WANI wi-fi hotspots of different PDOAs.

Further, to reduce cost and enhance viability, on 16.6.2025, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has issued a tariff order on retail broadband connectivity for PDOs, mandating that Internet Service Providers offer all retail FTTH broadband plans with maximum speed up to 200 mega bits per second to PDOs at tariffs not more than twice the corresponding consumer broadband tariff.
