

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2132
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND AUGUST, 2023**

PROGRESS OF PM-WANI SCHEME

2132. COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the progress of the PM-WANI scheme, including the number of Wi-Fi access points installed in each State, State-wise along with the detailed distribution at the district level in Rajasthan;
- (b) the details of the data-supported impact of this initiative on enhancing internet accessibility in rural areas across all States, with specific district-level data for Rajasthan;
- (c) the measures enforced to ensure the quality and reliability of services provided under PM-WANI across different States;
- (d) the challenges encountered during the scheme's implementation in various States along with the steps taken to address them and issues encountered in Rajasthan; and
- (e) the contribution of the PM-WANI scheme in reducing the digital divide across the nation, State-wise along with its effect in Rajasthan including the future expansion plans for the scheme?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) The total number of PM-WANI hotspots installed in the country as on 25.07.2023 are 148904. State / Union Territory wise number of hotspots are attached as **Annexure-I**. District-wise number of hotspots in Rajasthan is attached as **Annexure-II**.

The quality and reliability of services provided under PM-WANI, inter-alia, depend on the backhaul internet connectivity provided by Telecom / Internet service provider. The performance of internet connectivity is monitored through Performance Monitoring Reports (PMR) submitted by service providers, against the benchmark for various Quality of Service parameters laid down by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

(d) The main challenge observed in proliferation of PM-WANI in various States including in Rajasthan is financial viability for PM-WANI service providers specifically with cheaper mobile data rates. The matter was referred to TRAI and TRAI has, inter-alia, replied that the mobile data tariffs are under forbearance. The tariff forbearance with regulatory oversight exercised by TRAI has led to the establishment of well-functioning competitive market thereby leading to immense development of the Telecom sector.

(e) Contribution of PM – WANI in proliferation of Internet in the country is that the total number of unique PM – WANI users as on 27.07.2023 are 16,09,774 and total data consumed is 57.52 Peta bytes. However, such data is not maintained state wise / urban / rural wise.

Eligible entity can register on saralsanchar.gov.in portal to, inter-alia, become Public Data Office Aggregator (PDOA). PDOAs registered under the PM - WANI framework provide Internet Service through their Public Data Offices in rural / urban areas based on their techno commercial considerations.

Annexure-I

State / Union Territory wise number of PM WANI Wi-Fi Hotspots as on 25.07.2023

Serial Number	Name of State	No. of Wi-Fi hotspots
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	247
2.	Andhra Pradesh	6063
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	598
4.	Assam	874
5.	Bihar	3912
6.	Chandigarh	257
7.	Chhattisgarh	2798
8.	Delhi	40538
9.	Goa	422
10.	Gujarat	4099
11.	Haryana	3772
12.	Himachal Pradesh	934
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	1478
14.	Jharkhand	1011
15.	Karnataka	18879
16.	Kerala	4930
17.	Ladakh	371
18.	Lakshadweep	01
19.	Madhya Pradesh	7231
20.	Maharashtra	15437
21.	Manipur	19
22.	Meghalaya	147
23.	Mizoram	03
24.	Nagaland	76
25.	Odisha	2851
26.	Puducherry	89
27.	Punjab	3735
28.	Rajasthan	2816
29.	Sikkim	13
30.	Tamil Nadu	7503
31.	Telangana	4236
32.	Tripura	306
33.	Uttar Pradesh	8398
34.	Uttarakhand	949
35.	West Bengal	3911
	Total	148904

Annexure-II

District wise number of PM WANI Wi-Fi Hotspots in Rajasthan as on 25.07.2023

Serial Number	District name	Number of Wi-Fi Hotspots
1	AJMER	95
2	ALWAR	133
3	BANSWARA	3
4	BARAN	17
5	BARMER	14
6	BHARATPUR	101
7	BHILWARA	40
8	BIKANER	175
9	BUNDI	51
10	CHITTORGARH	34
11	CHURU	25
12	DAUSA	41
13	DHOLPUR	7
14	DUNGARPUR	6
15	HANUMANGARH	42
16	JAIPUR	1079
17	JAISALMER	58
18	JALORE	14
19	JHALAWAR	22
20	JHUNJHUNU	15
21	JODHPUR	136
22	KARALI	5
23	KOTA	189
24	NAGPUR	99
25	PALI	115
26	PRATAPGARH	32
27	RAJSAMAND	3
28	SAWAI MADHOPUR	54
29	SIKAR	56
30	SIROHI	35
31	SRI GANGANAGAR	49
32	TONK	13
33	UDAIPUR	58
	Total	2816
