

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2793
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH MARCH, 2020**

WANI PROJECT

2793. SHRIMATI SUMALATHA AMBAREESH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has launched a free Wi-Fi service under the project Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (WANI) and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any study and launched a pilot project in this regard and if so, the details and the findings thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received any objection from telecom companies in this regard and if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereon; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government with regard to this project in view of objection, if any, raised by the telecom companies?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had issued suo moto Recommendations on “Proliferation of Broadband through Public Wi-Fi Networks” on 9th March 2017. The recommendations inter-alia mention that a new framework should be put in place for setting up of Public Data Offices (PDOs). Under this framework, PDOs in agreement with Public Data Office Aggregators (PDOAs) are envisaged to provide Broadband services through Wi-Fi based on certain tariff.

To establish the proof of concept of Public Wi-Fi network using Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (WANI) architecture, TRAI conducted a pilot project from October 2017 to January, 2018. On completion of the Pilot project, a report was released by TRAI on 5th April, 2018.

(c) & (d) Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) and other stakeholders have made certain submissions to Department of Telecommunications in relation to recommendations made by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on the subject “Proliferation of Broadband through Public Wi-Fi Networks”. These submissions, inter-alia, include: internet services to be provided only through License, level playing field, security and perceived revenue loss to the exchequer.

This matter, including WANI based architecture and submissions received from COAI, is under examination in the Department.
