

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1487
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH FEBRUARY, 2021**

PUBLIC WIFI CENTRES

1487. SHRI Y.S. AVINASH REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is planning to introduce Public WiFi Centres with a view to bring Broadband WiFi services to the use of people;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which these WiFi Centres are likely to be set up?

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 based on Wireless Access Network Interface (WANI) framework has been approved by the Cabinet in its meeting held on 9/12/2020.

(b) 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:

- **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.

(c) The registration of entities such as Public Data Office Aggregators (PDOAs) and APP Providers under the scheme have started w.e.f. 07/01/2021. Central Registry managed by Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT) is also operational. As on 04.02.2021, 637 Wi-Fi Access Points are operational.
