GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 384
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3ᴿᴰ FEBRUARY, 2021

Wi-Fi NETWORK

384.   SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA:
            DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:
            DR. DNV SENTHILKUMAR S.:
            DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:
            SHRI SUNIL DATTATRAY TATKARE:
            SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government has recently approved the setting up of Wi-Fi Networks all over the country and if so, the details thereof ;

(b)   the number of data centres to be set up to launch the massive Wi-Fi network and the criteria fixed by the Government for setting up such data centres;

(c)   whether the Government is way behind in achieving the target of enabling internet reac to people as provided in National Digital Communication policy, 2018;

(d)   if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e)   the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

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.

           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.

(b)   The WANI framework does not involve setting up of data centres.

(c) to (e)   The National Digital Communications Policy 2018 (NDCP-2018) was notified on 22nd October, 2018 with a strategic objective of providing Broadband for all. Internet is being currently accessed mainly through mobile wireless technologies which at present cover more than 95% of the total population of the country. Setting up of public Wi-Fi Hotspots by entrepreneurs under WANI framework will further enhance the penetration of internet services in the country.

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