LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 409
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3RD FEBRUARY, 2021

PM WANI PROJECT

409.   DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR:
        SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR:
        SHRI NISITH PRAMANIK:
        DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY:
        SHRI BHOLA SINGH:
        SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
        SHRI RAJA AMARESHWARA NAIK:

        Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government has proposed to launch Prime Minister Wi-Fi access network interfaces (PM Wani) and if so, the details thereof;

(b)   whether the Department of Telecommunication (DoT)has constituted five working groups with industry representation to minimise hiccups in rolling out PM Wani and if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether the Government is targeting a four-fold increase in public Wi-Fi access points to 2 million by the end of 2021 and if so, the details thereof; and

(d)   the other steps being taken by the Government in this regard so far?

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 named as Prime Minister Wireless Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) framework has been approved by the Cabinet in its meeting held on 9/12/2020.

As per the PM-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) No, Sir. However, five industry led working groups are working on various aspects of the framework.

(c) At present about 5 lakh Wi-Fi access points are working in the country. Setting up of public Wi-Fi access points by entrepreneurs under the PM-WANI framework will further enhance the deployment of Wi-Fi access points.

(d) A detailed guidelines have been issued by the Department for operationalising the PM WANI framework. An online system for free registration of entities (PDOAs and App Providers) has been implemented by the Department. The registration of a PDOA will provide it permission for pan India operations.

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