

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2579
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH AUGUST, 2021**

PM-WANI PROJECT

†2579. SHRI BASANTA KUMAR PANDA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide last mile broadband connectivity to the people through public Wi-Fi access points under the Prime Minister WiFi Access Network Interface(PM-WANI) project and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the progress made by the Government under the scheme so far in the State of Odisha;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to issue guidelines regarding the role of Hon'ble Members of Parliament in the implementation, monitoring and vigilance of the said scheme; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) 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 on 9/12/2020. As per the PM-WANI framework, last mile broadband connectivity will be through a network of public Wi-Fi access points. The internet backhaul requirement for these Wi-Fi access points is to be provided by internet bandwidth from the telecom service providers/internet service providers.

PM-WANI eco-system consists of following players who will neither be required to take any license nor pay any fee to the government:

- **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) As on 28/07/2021, 48799 Wi-Fi Access Points have been installed throughout the country. Number of Access Points installed in the state of Odisha is 1133.

(c) & (d) Department has Field units at each Licensed Service Area (LSA) for this purpose. However, Hon'ble Members of Parliament can play an important role in proliferation of PM-WANI based broadband connectivity across the country.
