

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 261
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27TH NOVEMBER, 2024**

STATUS OF PM-WANI IN THE NORTH-EASTERN REGION

261 SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details regarding the number of Public Data Offices (PDOs) that have been set up under Prime Minister's WiFi Access Interface (PM-WANI) since its inception and the number of hotspots that the Government had targeted to be set up by 2022 and 2030 respectively;
- (b) the details regarding the number of PDOs that have been set up in the North-Eastern Region (NER) since the scheme's inception and the target set for these, State-wise;
- (c) the average yearly cost charged on PDOs by Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) in the NER and the all India average cost charged on PDOs; and
- (d) whether the Government has conducted any studies or surveys examining the challenges associated with providing broadband Wi-Fi services in rural areas of the NER?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DR. PEMMASANI CHANDRA SEKHAR)**

- (a) The Prime Minister's Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) framework aims to accelerate proliferation of internet services by setting up public Wi-Fi Access points in the country with the objective of building digital India and consequential benefits thereon. The total number of Prime Minister's Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) hotspots installed in the country as on 21.11.2024 are 246993. The National Digital Communications Policy, 2018 aimed deployment of 10 million public Wi-Fi Hotspots by 2022.
- (b) Public Data Office Aggregators (PDOAs) registered under the PM - WANI framework provide internet service through their Public Data Offices (PDOs) based on their techno commercial considerations. Number of PDOs set up under the PM-WANI scheme since inception in North Eastern Region, state-wise, as on 21.11.2024, are as follows:

Serial Number	Name of State	No. of Wi-Fi hotspots
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	1017
2.	Manipur	19
3.	Meghalaya	256
4.	Mizoram	03
5.	Nagaland	78
6.	Tripura	309
	TOTAL	1682

(c) The average yearly cost charged on PDOs by Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) in the NER and the all India average cost charged on PDOs is not maintained.

(d) No such study or survey has been conducted by the Department. However, a slew of interventions in the existing PM-WANI Framework and Guidelines for Registrations has been issued on 16.09.2024 to address the issues relating to the proliferation of Public Wi-Fi Hotspots. The details are available on <https://dot.gov.in>.
