

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 482
ANSWERED ON 3RD DECEMBER, 2025**

WI-FI ACCESS NETWORK INTERFACE (PM-WANI) SCHEME

**†482. SHRI DAMODAR AGRAWAL:
SHRI ARUN GOVIL:
SMT. SHOBHANABEN MAHENDRASINH BARAIYA:
SMT. ANITA NAGARSINGH CHOUHAN:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the Prime Minister's Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) scheme being run by the Government;
- (b) the total number of companies providing Wi-Fi services under the said 'PM-WANI' scheme at present;
- (c) the details of provisions made by the Government for providing internet services to these companies for providing Wi-Fi services in rural areas under the said scheme;
- (d) whether the Government is providing software and hardware technology as well to these companies and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Government approved the PM-WANI Scheme on 9th December 2020 to accelerate the proliferation of Broadband services through Public Wi-Fi networks across the country. The PM-WANI framework, in line with the objectives of the National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP) 2018, aims to create a robust digital communications infrastructure. The framework allows Public Data Offices (PDOs) to set up Wi-Fi hotspots, under the aggregation of Public Data Office Aggregators (PDOAs), with minimal regulatory oversight, thus encouraging local entrepreneurs to participate in the digital transformation process. As on 26.11.2025, state wise total count of PMWANI W-Fi hotspots is enclosed as **Annexure-I**.
- (b) Under PMWANI scheme, the Wi-Fi services to the customer is delivered by Public Data Offices (PDOs) who are the agents of PDOAs (Public Data Office Aggregators). As on 26.11.2025, the total number of PDOs (Wi-Fi Hotspots) currently on-board are 3,91,599.
- (c) Dept of Telecommunications introduced following key reforms on 16.09.2024 in the existing PM Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) framework to address the pressing issues relating to the proliferation of Public Wi-Fi Access Points through PMWANI:

- PDOs (Public Data Offices) were allowed to offer PM WANI through a regular FTTH connection which will reduce their cost.
- PDOs were allowed to aggregate their multiple Access point to a single backhaul towards the Internet Service Providers to create wider Wi-Fi hotspot.
- Existing home or business Wi-Fi Access Points were allowed to join the larger PM-WANI network, thereby utilizing their existing Access point as a source of revenue.
- Roaming was allowed between PDOAs enabling end users to switch between PM-WANI Wi-Fi hotspots of different PDOAs smoothly.
- PDOs were allowed to offer Mobile data offload by teaming up with existing Telecom Service Providers.
- PDOAs and App providers were allowed to send content, promotions, and branding messages to potential PM-WANI Wi-Fi users, after due user consent.

Further, TRAI released a Telecommunication Tariff (71st Amendment) Order, 2025 on 16.06.2025 related to tariff for retail broadband connectivity for Public Data Offices. This order mandates that all retail FTTH broadband plans up to 200 Mbps must be offered to Public Data Offices (PDOs) at tariffs not exceeding twice the corresponding consumer broadband price.

(d) & (e) Under PMWANI scheme, hardware & software is to be procured by PMWANI stakeholders (PDOs, PDOAs and App providers). The solution developed by the stakeholders has to be PMWANI compliant which in turn is certified by CDOT in accordance to PMWANI guidelines.

Annexure-I

S.No	State	No. of WI-FI Hotspots
1	Andaman & Nicobar	275
2	Andhra Pradesh	6074
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1017
4	Assam	1063
5	Bihar	4086
6	Chandigarh	253
7	Chhattisgarh	2839
8	Delhi	198275
9	Goa	430
10	Gujarat	11857
11	Himachal Pradesh	936
12	Haryana	18131
13	Jharkhand	1042
14	Jammu & Kashmir	2299
15	Karnataka	21834
16	Kerala	4987
17	Ladakh	601
18	Lakshadweep	1
19	Maharashtra	33084
20	Meghalaya	256
21	Manipur	21
22	Madhya Pradesh	7592
23	Mizoram	3
24	Nagaland	78
25	Odisha	3040
26	Punjab	3713
27	Puducherry	89
28	Rajasthan	2891
29	Sikkim	13
30	Telangana	4284
31	Tamil Nadu	7501
32	Tripura	310
33	Uttarakhand	980
34	Uttar Pradesh	47549
35	West Bengal	4195
	Total	391599
