

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 529
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01ST APRIL, 2026**

WI-FI HOTSPOTS UNDER PM-WANI SCHEME

**†*529. SMT. KAMLESH JANGDE:
DR. BHOLA SINGH:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Public Data Offices (PDOs), Public Data Office Aggregators (PDOAs) and App providers registered under the Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface scheme since inception of the said scheme, State/Union Territory-wise particularly in Bharatpur Lok Sabha Constituency in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) the total number of public Wi-Fi hotspots operationalised under the scheme across the country particularly in Chhattisgarh;
- (c) whether the tourists spots under the Bharatpur Lok Sabha Constituency have also been covered under the said scheme;
- (d) the number of hotspots currently operational in Uttar Pradesh including Bulandshahr district; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to increase the number of PM-WANI hotspots across the rural and remote areas such as Bharatpur and semi urban areas of the country particularly Bharatpur, Jalore and Sirohi of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN
REGION
(SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)**

- (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 529 ANSWERED ON 01.04.2026 ASKED BY SMT. KAMLESH JANGDE & DR. BHOLA SINGH, HON'BLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING 'WI-FI HOTSPOTS UNDER PM-WANI SCHEME'

(a) As on 28.2.2026, the number of Public Data Offices (PDOs), Public Data Office Aggregators (PDOAs) and app providers registered under the Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) scheme since its inception are as under:

S. No.	States / Union Territories	Number of PDOs	Number of PDOAs	Number of app providers
1	Andaman & Nicobar	275	5	113**
2	Andhra Pradesh	6,076	21	
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1,017	4	
4	Assam	2,612	15	
5	Bihar	4,086	40	
6	Chandigarh	253	6	
7	Chhattisgarh	2,839	20	
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	0	0	
9	Delhi	2,08,946	47	
10	Goa	430	7	
11	Gujarat	11,857	25	
12	Haryana	18,474	32	
13	Himachal Pradesh	936	12	
14	Jammu & Kashmir	2,299	10	
15	Jharkhand	1,042	23	
16	Karnataka	21,842	44	
17	Kerala	5,002	16	
18	Ladakh	601	1	
19	Lakshadweep	1	1	
20	Madhya Pradesh	7,597	34	
21	Maharashtra	34,240	52	
22	Manipur	21	8	
23	Meghalaya	256	4	
24	Mizoram	3	2	
25	Nagaland	78	7	
26	Odisha	3,037	30	

27	Puducherry	89	5
28	Punjab	3,713	26
29	Rajasthan	2,890	32
30	Sikkim	13	2
31	Tamil Nadu	7,504	31
32	Telangana	4,288	21
33	Tripura	310	8
34	Uttar Pradesh	51,590	55
35	Uttarakhand	980	22
36	West Bengal	4,206	47
Total		4,09,403	207*

*This is the number of unique PDOAs registered under the PM-WANI scheme across the country. Some PDOAs operate in more than one State / Union territory

**App providers are registered at national level.

Further, as on 28.2.2026, the number of PDOs and PDOAs registered under the PM-WANI scheme since its inception in Bharatpur Lok Sabha constituency are 101 and 8 respectively.

(b) The total number of public wi-fi hotspots operational under the PM-WANI scheme across the country, as on 28.2.2026, is 4,09,403 including 2,389 in the state of Chhattisgarh.

(c) Under the PM-WANI framework, service provision is entirely market-driven, relying on local entrepreneurial initiative based on techno-commercial viability in an area. Government's role is limited to policy enablement.

(d) The number of PM-WANI wi-fi hotspots operational as on 28.2.2026 in the state of Uttar Pradesh is 51,364 including 32 in Bulandshahr district.

(e) With a view to increase the number of PM-WANI hotspots across the country, including in rural and remote areas, the following policy interventions under the scheme have been issued by the Department of Telecommunications on 16.9.2024:

(i) To enable reduction in cost and enhance viability of PDOs, they have been allowed to:—

- (1) offer PM-WANI through a regular fibre-to-the-home (FTTH) connection; and
- (2) aggregate their multiple access points to a single backhaul towards the Internet Service Provider

(ii) To enable generation of revenue and enhance viability:—

- (1) PDOs have been allowed to offer mobile data offload service to telecom service providers; and
- (2) PDOAs and app providers have been allowed to send content and promotional, and branding messages to potential PM-WANI wi-fi users, with user consent.

(iii) To enhance user access and experience:—

- (1) existing home and business users have been allowed to connect their wi-fi access points to the larger PM-WANI network to enable generation of revenue and enhance viability.
- (2) PDOAs have been allowed roaming among themselves to enable users to switch smoothly among PM-WANI wi-fi hotspots of different PDOAs.

Further, to reduce cost and enhance viability, on 16.6.2025, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has issued a tariff order on retail broadband connectivity for PDOs, mandating that Internet Service Providers offer all retail FTTH broadband plans with maximum speed up to 200 mega bits per second to PDOs at tariffs not more than twice the corresponding consumer broadband tariff.
