

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 337  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2021**

**GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PM WANI YOJANA**

**337 # MS. SAROJ PANDEY:**

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the guidelines for implementation of the PM Wani Yojana being run by Government; and
- (b) the changes likely to take place in the businesses and the lives of the general public after the implementation of the said scheme, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION AND  
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)**

- (a) The proposal of the Department for Proliferation of Broadband through Public Wi-Fi Networks based on Wireless Access Network Interface (WANI) framework has been approved by the Cabinet in its meeting held on 9/12/2020. A detailed guidelines have been issued by the Department in this regard. The guidelines inter-alia provide for following:
- **Public data Office (PDO):** Any entity can be a PDO. No Registration with DoT will be required. It will install WANI compliant Wi-Fi Access Points infrastructure in agreement with Public data Office Aggregator (PDOA).
  - **PDOA:** Any company registered under the Companies Act 2013 can be PDOA. PDOA has to comply with the applicable FDI guidelines for telecommunication sector.
  - **App Provider:** Any company registered under the Companies Act 2013 can be an App Provider. It has to comply with the applicable FDI guidelines for telecommunication sector.
  - For one time registration with Department of Telecommunications, PDOAs and App Providers are not required to pay any registration fee.
  - The registration for PDOA and App Provider will provide them permission for pan India operations.
- (b) Proliferation of Broadband through Public Wi-Fi networks in PDOA/PDO based model inter-alia is expected to result into following benefits:

- i. PDOs are expected to have similar effects on the economy as Public Call Offices (PCOs) did when they first came up almost twenty-five years ago.
- ii. **Increased penetration** – PDOAs will allow smaller players to provide Wi-Fi services without having to incur heavy costs. This will lead to an exponential increase in the number of PDOs and Wi-Fi hotspots in the country. With increasing reach in urban and especially rural areas, more and more people will be able to access Wi-Fi networks.
- iii. **Increased employment** - Introduction of PDO/PDOA based model for public Wi-Fi provision can develop like a small-scale industry and just as in the case of PCOs, shop owners and micro-entrepreneurs will be able to start this business. Setting up of a PDO will require a small infrastructure cost and it can be run along with other businesses. This arrangement will encourage village level entrepreneurship and provide strong employment opportunities, especially in rural areas.

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