

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1943
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05th AUGUST, 2021**

PM-WANI SCHEME

1943# Shri Narhari Amin:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has launched PM-WANI Scheme to provide internet and Wi-Fi facilities in all villages of the country;
- (b) the number of villages which have been connected under the said scheme so far;
- (c) the number of villages which are yet to be connected under the said scheme; and
- (d) the number of villages of Gujarat which have been connected along with the number of villages which are yet to be connected?

ANSWER

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

(a)to(d) 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.

Public Wi-Fi through PM-WANI is a Pan India framework applicable both for rural and urban areas.

Number of Wi-Fi Access Points installed inclusive of rural and urban areas in the State of Gujarat is 1981.
